



# How to Grab the Attention of Your Students and Keep them Interested

## A Master Class in Working Creatively with Learning Disabled Students

With

**Christopher Davies**

**Artistic Director - Bamboozle**

*“This has been a real eye-opener for me and a liberating learning experience. The atmosphere has been truly non-judgemental and the outcomes far exceeded my expectations. You can nurture and challenge at the same time – how is that done? Thank you.”* Laura Guthrie – theatre designer and facilitator. Nottingham.

As a freelance practitioner you will know that getting the attention of the students in your group, and keeping it, is key to a successful session. In fact it is the single most important skill we need. No amount of wisdom and brilliant ideas will help us if no-one is listening! We have all had times when we become frustrated because we can't get the attention of the group.

### So how do we do it?

The single most powerful way that I have come across to grab students' attention and keep hold of it is to use a role – that is someone pretending to be a character. This master class will show you how you can do that. And much more.

Before I tell you the details of what you can expect to get out of the course have a look at what other practitioners say:

*“Dear Christopher. I wanted to write and tell you how amazing the training week with Bamboozle was. In this industry I often find myself drowned by having to work in a million places at once, mixing with teachers and pupils for just a couple of minutes before reeling off the same stale old workshop .....*

***I can't tell you how much this week has helped me ... it has changed my approach to my students and has re-lit the fire for teaching again ... that is priceless. You are both inspiring individuals. Thank you!*** Arjunan Manuelpilla – workshop leader and poet. London.

***"During the master class we explored creative and non-judgemental techniques in a very safe and relaxed group learning environment. We then got to apply what we'd learned in a "real-life" situation during the course. It was an absolutely invaluable experience for me."*** Nicole Arkless – facilitator and actor. Hitchin.

## **During the six days you will learn:**

- ways that we can ensure that we build rapport with our students – this is a crucial part of engaging with the group and is very, very simple once you know how
- one of the best kept secrets of engaging a group of students – how to get them hanging off your every word
- ways you can keep total control of the drama and of the students
- how to find out what students are most likely to respond to
- ways to give students real decision making input very early in the session
- the impact that saying very little can have on how a group of students respond
- how to give students access to drama on many different levels
- how your students can achieve more - by you doing less
- ways of deepening your work with a role
- the keys to the relationship between facilitator and role – and what to do and not do in order for it to give you the outcomes you want
- ways to use an inexperienced person [maybe a member of staff who has never done anything like it before] as a role and still get great results
- how to combine theory with practice immediately and receive clear and honest feedback
- how to use advanced language strategies to get students to engage with you in situations where attention, let alone engagement, seemed impossible
- how to work with different levels of understanding and ability within the same group
- ways to build tension and anticipation in your sessions
- simple ways to create an atmosphere whether you are in a purpose built theatre studio or a standard classroom

- how to use the full range of your voice to create immediate impact
- how you can relax and perform at your best

## Key elements of the Master Class

- **Practical Sessions.** You will lead two sessions with students who have learning difficulties. One as facilitator and one playing a role. These sessions will be discretely filmed. You will have your own copy of the DVD to keep and refer to.
- **Tutorials.** After each of your practical sessions you will have a tutorial with me. Tutorials will be audio recorded and you will receive a copy of the audio to keep so that you can refer to it after the master class.
- **Observe others working.** For many of us it is a rare treat to be able to observe and learn from other skilled colleagues. Being a class teacher can be a lonely business. During this week you will observe or be part of eight practical sessions led by other facilitators. This will give us all a mass of ideas to develop with our classes.
- **Watch a session.** During the course you will watch a DVD of a session led by me and Sue Pyecroft, Director of Production and Design at Bamboozle. In it we use a puppet as a role and create a story with a group of learning disabled students.
- Spend six days with **like-minded practitioners and teachers** who are all excited and committed to working with students who have learning disabilities.
- The opportunity to **examine your own practice** in a supportive environment and to fine tune your workshop/teaching skills.

## Booking your place

There are **only eight places** on the Master Class. We have kept numbers restricted so that you receive lots of individual coaching and I am able to give any questions you have plenty of time and consideration. **We expect the places to go quickly** so suggest that you book immediately to secure your place.

## Dates and Venue

The Master Class 2019 will take place in Leicester (venue tbc) **21-26 January 2019.**

## FREE Audio Training CDs

As part of the Master Class I will send you three free audio CDs which were recorded at the National Theatre/Bamboozle Training Week.

***Remove the Judgement – Remove the Fear*** explains the non-judgemental approach and how it can enable students to engage with learning effortlessly.

***Questions that Empower*** shares strategies that enable us as teachers to ask students questions that enable them to answer without the fear of getting it wrong.

**Structuring a Workshop** explains a process for structuring a lesson or workshop.

The first audio CD will be sent to you as soon as you book your place.

**It may be that you have now decided to sign up for this master class, in which case, skip the next bit – but if you are still undecided, have a look at what Nicole got out of it:**

*“The master class entirely changed my perspective of working with groups of people. What was so important about this course was that it covered both the practical details on how to create an environment and use a character and how to approach the group that you're working with. There were a lot of useful and easily usable techniques and ideas explained and explored.*

*We also learned a different approach to dealing with a group which was the steepest learning curve from my perspective and has been the biggest influence on the way I work with people. The non-judgemental approach is subtle and has the greatest effect when used in a group teaching/learning environment.*

*I have used it as a parent and seen my children play more creatively, read more easily and value themselves more fully.*

*I have used it to teach French to groups of pre-schoolers and, much to the surprise of key-workers, it was the so-called "difficult" kids who seemed to be captivated and who thrived.*

*The biggest area of influence for me has been on my work with Bamboozle. The more work I do the more I see the value of the non-judgemental approach.*

*During the master class we explored creative and non-judgemental techniques in a very safe and relaxed group learning environment. We then got to apply what we'd learned in a "real-life" situation during the course - groups of students from local special schools came along and we got to try out our workshops on them. It was an absolutely invaluable experience firstly because, whether as an performer or facilitator (we did both), we were still in a very safe learning environment, secondly our sessions were filmed so that we could watch them afterwards with Christopher and talk about what we'd done, how it had worked and how we could improve our techniques in future. Seeing oneself in action is so useful - one's perceptions can be so different from reality! We had the chance to "fail", for a workshop to fall flat on its face, and for it not to matter at all - which was an effective way of demonstrating that desired outcomes can be discarded if necessary in favour of more exciting, engaging and fruitful possibilities; something which has proved invaluable to me”.*

Nicole Arkless.

## Want more details?

If you would like to discuss anything concerning the content of the course please give me a ring on 07779 248978 and I will be glad to talk anything through with you. You can also get in touch with Nicole Arkless on 07876 031022 who has completed this course herself and will be happy to provide you with any further information.

Many thanks,

***Christopher Davies.***

## How to book your place

You can reserve your place straight away and take advantage of the **Early Bird Offer** for just **£497** [Save £100 - 15% off]. **Price after 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 is £597.**

Please reply to this email or contact us at Bamboozle HQ:

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And we will send you the necessary course registration information.