

## **Phonetic Pillow Workshop at the Collective Acting Studio**

At: The Laundry, Hornsey Road Baths, 2 Tiltman Place, **London** N7 7EE

**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am - 5:30 pm**

**Cost** - £180 for three days, £150 for students and Linklater Teacher Trainees

**Led By** - Professor and Designated Linklater Teacher **Robin Christian-McNair** of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

Louis Colaianni's Phonetic Pillows, inspired by Kristin Linklater's Sound & Movement progression, are a uniquely visceral, creative, and embodied approach to learning the International Phonetic Alphabet for the actor. Using various games, some borrowed from Linklater, Robin will introduce (or re-introduce) participants to the International Phonetic Alphabet, in the form of symbol-shaped pillows. We will work from the premise that each pillow vibrates with the sound it represents, and these sounds have the sway to move the bodies of those working and playing with them. With this initial, imaginative leap, participants see, touch, and give expressive voice and physical gesture to each phoneme.

- Experience phonetics freshly, inspired by Kristin Linklater's Sound and Movement work
- Explore the intrinsic pitches of vowels
- Explore the resonating ladder, using Kristin's "ZOO WOH SHAW"
- Access a "remembered voice" from a formative time
- Physicalize an accent

Please wear comfortable clothes that you can move in. Bring a notebook with a pencil or pen.

Please bring a piece of text you've learned by heart – perhaps a short monologue or poem.

This workshop is hosted by Mary Irwin and Gemma Maddock, co-course leaders of the MFA Linklater Teaching Practice (Voice & Theatre Arts) at Rose Bruford College. The workshop is open to Designated Linklater Teachers, Linklater Teacher Trainees, and anyone in the wider voice and acting community who is interested in the work. Please feel free to pass this invitation along to anyone you think might be interested.

We will work from 10:00am - 1:00pm each day, break for lunch from 1:00-2:30, then the afternoon session will run from 2:30 – 5:30. There is a kitchen at the Collective if you'd like to bring your lunch, and there are plenty of neighborhood food options. While we would prefer that participants are present for all three days of the workshop, it will be possible for you to dip in and out if need be.

The Nearest tube station is Finsbury Park. The Collective Acting Studio is about a 10-15-minute walk from the station.

Please contact Mary Irwin at [maryirwinvoice@gmail.com](mailto:maryirwinvoice@gmail.com) to register, or with questions.

## **About Robin Christian-McNair**

Robin Christian-McNair is Professor of Voice, Speech, and Accents at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, ranked #3 of the best acting BFA conservatories in the world by the Hollywood Reporter for 2023.

Robin has taught and trained at some of the top acting conservatories in the United States; The Actor's Studio (MFA Program), Rutgers, and New York University. She was co-chair of Voice and Speech at HB Studio. Other professional teaching includes The Lee Strasberg Institute and Purchase College. She has an MFA from Rutgers, Mason Gross School of the Arts, and certifications in the Linklater Voice Method, Feldenkrais, and Phonetic Pillows. She is an Assistant faculty member with Theatrical Intimacy Education, and a Member of SAG, AE, and VASTA. She has taught voice and speech workshops in the US and abroad, including a Linklater Voice workshop to a group of professional actors in Taipei, Taiwan.

Her recent professional coaching credits include *Cabaret*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Kinky Boots*, *Once*, and *Sweeney Todd* at the Hangar Theater; *A Christmas Carol*, *Having Our Say*, *Our Town*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Romeo and Juliet* at Triad Stage and the North Carolina Symphony. She has also coached *My Children, my Africa*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Closer* at Zachary Scott Theatre and Third Coast Theater Repertory.

Robin is a passionate and experienced teacher and coach who is dedicated to helping actors develop their voices and speech skills to their fullest authentic embodied potential. She is also a highly skilled and knowledgeable professional with a deep understanding of the Linklater Voice Method and Louis Colaianni's Phonetic Pillows.

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/lifestyle/lifestyle-news/the-best-drama-schools-2023-ranked-1235514676/>

<https://www.theatricalintimacyed.com>

<https://www.uncsa.edu/drama/undergraduate/index.aspx>