MASK IMPROVISATION - Imagination, Play, & Transformation in Acting
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Abstract
A Theatrical Mask Acting Workshop (No previous experience necessary - for the actor and non-actor alike. - anyone can participate!) What happens to you when you put on a Mask? This familiar and powerful talisman of Halloween and Theatre holds endless possibilities and can open many doors in your heart and imagination. Does your imagination wake up? Do you feel that sense of play and fantasy we all felt as children? There is creative and transformative power in that place. This is an active on-your-feet creative acting workshop using Theatre Masks. Often surprising, enlightening, revealing and hilarious. Through the use of various forms of Theatrical Masks you will get to play, create and expand your imagination. Develop an awareness of how your body communicates story, and how Masks can liberate your imagination and transform you into unexpected and fascinating characters. Some of the traditional forms of Mask explored as a group will be Metaphysical Mask, Larval Mask and Character Masks.

Faculty Biography
Christopher Shaw is an Assistant Professor of Theatre practice in Acting and Directing at USC School of Dramatic Arts. A professional actor with a long career in professional theatre, Mr. Shaw has performed in NYC at Playwrights Horizons, Circle in the Square, NY Public Theatre & The Minetta Lane Theatre and in Los Angeles at The Kirk Douglas (CTG), The Geffen Playhouse, Pacific Resident Theatre and The Echo Theatre Co, as well as across the United States at various notable Regional Theaters. Film and TV credits include "Dogfight", "Bella Mafia", "Monsters" & "Shaughnessy". Mr Shaw teaches privately as well as at USC, and has directed various productions for USC School of Dramatic Arts. He has studied Mask for actors and actor training with various masters of the craft in NYC, Italy, France, and Los Angeles.