

Fitzmaurice Institute Newsletter

Fitzmaurice Voicework, the Fitzmaurice Institute, and the trem community



We're Listening

Welcome to the first Fitzmaurice Institute newsletter! In this and future issues, we'll do our best to speak to the diverse membership of the trem community, update you on the Institute, and inspire your spirited response.

The impulse to form the Institute is both simple and audacious: *to support current and future tremers, and be of service in the world, in ways that really matter.* Since doing this depends on our collaborating with each other, we started a dialogue with the trem community last year at our Symposium in NYC.

We're Listening (cont.)

Catherine introduced the Institute's first directors. The directors then asked the tremms who were there, *In your wildest dreams, what do you want the Institute to be, and what challenges do we need to face?* People passionately and incisively spoke up—in group settings and in private conversations—and we learned so much that was surprising and helpful.

The purpose of the dialogue was to move us toward a shared clarity about what the Institute really is and what it needs to do—clarity we can *feel*. We're confident that an ongoing dialogue within the trem community (adequately destructured and structured) will also lead to something much more dynamic: it will help us connect with each other. It will help us touch our longing for deeply fulfilling work and play, and clarify what support we need and can give each other to honor that longing.

Through listening—to oneself and others—a shimmering truth emerges.

— Ancient communication proverb

Since the Symposium, the Institute's directors have been hearing from the whole trem community—over 150 of you so far. If you haven't yet given any input, we want you to know that it's never too late to share your hopes, your likes, your dislikes, or anything else. The directors' messages—with space for your voice—are still online. We hope you'll jump in.

Link: www.fitzmauriceinstitute.org/temppage

Password: freedom

If giving feedback through our website makes you want to have a tantrum, send an email.

If giving feedback by email makes you want to pull out your hair, talk to one of us.

— Ancient communication poem



With the feedback we've gotten so far, the Institute's directors are now drafting the *vision, purpose, goals, and priorities* for the areas we are directing. Here's what this means:

Purpose: Why does this area of the Institute exist?

Vision: What do we hope will happen as a result of the work of this area? The vision should be bold.

Goals: Goals are specific, attainable, have a timeline, and are intended to lead us toward the vision.

Priorities: What are the immediate, year-long, and long-term priorities for action for this area?

We're Listening (cont.)

Once we do this, we'll ask for your feedback. The ultimate goal is to have these articulations bring together the voices of the whole community—coming partly from each director, partly from the tremers, and partly from me and Catherine. This planning, along with listening and adjusting as we go, will guide the Institute's actions.

Thank you for doing the work you do, thanks for taking the time to read this, and thank you for contributing your voice.

— Saul Fitzmaurice Kotzubei, Director of the Fitzmaurice Institute

Strengths to Recognize and Build On

To open the conversation to all of us, we're sharing the feedback about the Institute we've received from tremers so far (while respecting the privacy of those who gave it). The next two sections summarize key and frequent pieces of feedback. If something important is missing, let us know!

At this point, we're switching voices to speak from the perspective of the tremers giving feedback:

Many of us are grateful for our affiliation with Fitzmaurice Voicework, Catherine and our other teachers, and fellow tremers—and for how this has affected our teaching, artistic, and personal lives. We also expressed hope for what's to come. Here are the most common experiences we voiced:

- The work I did in the certification program deeply affected me, and was practical, and continues to unfold for me.
- I feel a strong connection to Fitzmaurice Voicework, but I also feel a sense of autonomy rooted in my individual experience of this and other work.
- When I'm with other tremers, I feel a palpable feeling of "coming home." I'm hungry to have more opportunities to connect.
- I'm excited about the growing international presence of the tremers.
- I'm passionate about the work I do, and FV is an important part of my work.
- I want to be a part of the Institute's work—I feel huge desire to collaborate with other tremers by exploring different aspects of FV and its applications, creative projects, social action, writing, pedagogy, research, and much more. I want to participate, and I want to help!
- I like reading and responding to anecdotes and questions through the trem-list and Facebook. I'm also looking forward to ways this could be better.



Our Strengths (cont.)

- I loved being led in a sequence by Catherine (through the website's audio recordings). I'm eager for more teacher resources, including curricula, exercises, and other tools for my classroom or practice.
- My anticipation for the book is almost overwhelming!

And Challenges We Need to Face

Speaking from the perspective of the tremas who gave feedback:

We openly shared our questions, concerns, and longings related to this community. Here are some of the most common points we shared:

Certification Status: Beyond developing the best possible training for new teachers, how and when will the Institute clarify the process for changes in certification status for existing tremas?

- How do Assistant Teachers become Associates?
- How do Associates become Masters?
- How is the Institute handling recertification requirements to help me stay current with the work?

Training: We want training in a variety of aspects of FV and its applications:

- What kinds of courses is the Institute going to offer for ongoing training? In what formats?
- How will the Institute foster excellence in the teaching of FV—including providing training in safety and responsibility for teachers—without becoming rigid?
- Will the Institute offer courses to the public in a variety of subjects, skill levels, formats, and lengths?



Disconnection and Lack of Communication: Some of us feel isolated from the community, or are concerned about a lack of connection with the Institute. Some of us feel that the leaderships' lack of clarity or poor communication have contributed to unnecessary confusion, pain, and mistrust. In addition to questions covered elsewhere in this part of the newsletter, here are the most urgent questions we voiced:

Challenges We Need to Face (cont.)

- How can we create regional gatherings and trainings so we can share our work and have time with other tremers?
- Where are the Master Teachers and other teachers I worked with and care about who used to have major roles in the trainings?
- If I don't teach FV exclusively, don't teach voice, or don't teach at all, how might the Institute be relevant to me?
- How and when will there be more diversity and inclusion in who is trained, in the trainers, and in the leadership?
- How will the Institute avoid becoming impersonal?

Finances: Many of us had questions or concerns related to finances:

- Will the Institute be a for-profit or non-profit organization? How will it generate income and spend its money?
- Might there be money to support my teaching in areas I want to serve or to bring teachers to my area?
- Will there be scholarships available for my ongoing FV training?
- Will there be money for students and communities that don't have the resources to receive FV training?

Vision / Direction: Many of us have questions about the leadership and direction of the Institute:

- Will the vision of the Institute (and the language used to describe it) resonate with me?
- Will the Institute emphasize a single purpose of FV: practical voice training, creative expression and performance training, therapeutics and healing, or something else?
- How will the Institute increase exchange with other voice and non-voice traditions?
- What role will research studies, science, and pedagogy play in the Institute?
- What professional development opportunities will there be for me and other tremers?

How Can the New Website Serve You?

While the Institute is in a planning phase, we have already begun developing the new website. It will have many new tremers-only features: trem forums, resources section that includes FV teachers' manual and tools for teaching/applying/practicing FV, multimedia archive, etc. It will also have new features for the public: search for FV teachers who offer private instruction, certification program description, and more.

We also want to hear from you: what would really serve you in the new website? Let Ryan O'Shea know at ryan@fitzmauricevoice.com. (Ryan is a fellow trem and Saul's and Catherine's assistant.)

Photo and Image Request



We need more great photos and images for the new website!!! A few of you sent in photos already. Thank you! We still need many more.

If you have or know of anything that you think may be wonderful—you and/or your students doing the work, or something that reminds you of aspects or sensibilities of the work—please, please, please send them to Ryan at ryan@fitzmauricevoice.com.

To help inspire (but not limit) you, we've sprinkled photos throughout the newsletter.

Credit goes to Associate Teacher Sille Arendt for the photos of treds (except where noted).

Upcoming Event Dates

This summer, there are a few Fitzmaurice Institute sponsored events to tell you about:

5-day workshop in Manhattan

June 11-15, 2016

With Catherine, Master, Associate, and Assistant Teachers. Two spaces are available; feel free to share the information, or join yourself! More at www.fitzmauricevoice.com/calendar.htm or email info@fitzmauricevoice.com.

Cert XV begins in Barcelona

**June 27-July 29, 2016 AND
June 23-July 28, 2017**

The second European Certification!
A few spaces are available.

Email info@fitzmauricevoice.com for more information.



Upcoming Event Dates (cont.)

The Fourth International Freedom and Focus Conference, in Dublin!!!

July 14-18, 2016 (plus July 13 & 19 for certified FV teachers)

You can still register as a participant. More info at www.freedomandfocus.org.

Trem Classes and Workshops

Check out the current website (www.fitzmauricevoice.com) to see what's happening.

Email Ryan at ryan@fitzmauricevoice.com with details about your classes and workshops. Let's share our work with the world!

2017 FV Teachers' Symposium Planning

Planning is underway for the upcoming 2017 Teachers' Symposium. It's looking likely that it will take place in June 2017. Noah Drew, our Director of Community Development, would love to get your thoughts about what kind of Symposium would best serve you.

He'll be sending out an email with a couple of possible scenarios and a couple of brief questions in a week or two.

Tell Us Your Story



In future issues, we're going to begin featuring updates on individual tremors. We'd love to hear about your professional and personal milestones, teaching discoveries, or anything else. Our hope is to feature a few tremors in each newsletter. Please send your updates to Ryan at ryan@fitzmauricevoice.com.

Photo credit goes to Associate Teacher Catalina Medina.

Book Update

Hopefully you've seen the intro chapter by Catherine (the link is at the bottom of this page). Catherine and Saul are working on the book more regularly now. They've completed the first draft and are meeting 2-3 times a week on the first major revision. We'll update you periodically, and while it won't be overnight, the book is coming!

Voice Masters

A few months ago, Saul asked for your submissions for *Voice Masters* -- vignettes that lovingly poke fun at voice teaching in general or Fitzmaurice Voicework in particular. Here is the 2nd *Voice Masters* vignette, courtesy of **Associate Teacher Robin Gordon**

And inhale. I want to offer you an invitation to consider the possibility that maybe, and maybe not (and maybe yes-both-and), the next breath you take in your own time and listening to what your body wants—or choose not to take because you have permission to do what you perceive is the right thing for you to do (and you are the expert on you so you know better than anyone what is right for you to do)—might suggest that you are alive... If you haven't exhaled yet, please do so now.



Please, please regale Ryan (ryan@fitzmauricevoice.com) with your own *Voice Masters* vignettes!

Some Gifts for You...

Here are a couple of gifts for you (technically a sort of re-gifting): Want to get out your mat and have Catherine lead you through a couple of deconstructing sequences? Want to read the first draft of the intro to her book?

Link: www.fitzmauriceinstitute.org/bonus-page

Password: freedom

A lot more good stuff is coming...

Feedback or Suggestions?

Anything you'd like to tell us about this issue or you'd like to see changed for the next one (coming this summer)? Have mad skills—editing, design, or other creative or technical skills—that you'd like to offer for the newsletter (or the new website)? Anything else you want us to know?

Tell us here:

Link: www.fitzmauriceinstitute.org/newsletters

Password: freedom

Or feel free to contact one of us directly. Looking forward to hearing from you!

The Fitzmaurice Institute *

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* The Fitzmaurice Institute is made up of each and every trem. Beginning with the next newsletter, other members of our community will also be recognized.

Trems pictured in newsletter (left to right):

Page 1 (**Christopher DuVal** - 2012), page 3 (**Chad O'Brien** - 2014), page 4 (**Bonnie Johnson. Sara Matchett** - 2012), page 6 (**Helena Walsh, Marta Fiol, James Spencer** - 2014), (**Cathryn Robson, Christine Mottram, Hilde Naedts** - 2014), page 7 (**Catalina Medina** - 2010)