



Heartfiire Centre For Speech And Drama Presents

The Creative Life of Consonants and Vowels Workshop

Language is made of consonants and vowels. Yet we understand these sounds to be no more than abstract noises in clusters that convey agreed to meanings and we utter them accordingly. In this manner the words of our mother tongue or secondary languages are passed on through osmosis in our early years and later through our education systems. Even when we turn our attention to great and inspiring language, beyond an instinctive sense that some sounds are more pleasing to our ears, some more grating or unpleasant, we assume that the affect that spoken language has on us is related only to the speaker's quality of voice.

Yet so called primitive humans experienced speech as wielding magic power that could create, destroy and wound or heal. Certain sounds and syllables were sacred and were used as mantra that could open portals into other states of consciousness. Gradually, as the human race became increasingly attuned to material reality, our consciousness of what speech is also shrank into the understanding of its physical production and transmission. And so, if we think of speech at all, it is as waves produced by breath as it vibrates the vocal chords, shaped further into consonants and vowels within the mouth then amplified within the sinuses, to travel over space, vibrate the ear drum of a listener and finally translated in that listener's brain into the signals it has learned to recognize.

Yet, while this is true at its own level, what if it were possible to consciously experience that the divine creative powers, that first shaped realities beyond the universe of time and space and at last condensed them into time and space, are what find expression in our human speech as consonants?

And what if it were possible to consciously experience that these divine creative powers are not merely abstract forces but conscious beings whose inwardness articulates its nuances in those same vowels in which our human souls, born of their substance, articulate the spectrum of our inwardness?

If you are teachers with the task of introducing consonants and vowels to children, Heartfiire's integrated Chekov acting/Steiner speech and eurythmy methodology will provide you with the first simple steps along the way towards this lofty goal, letting you rediscover the joy and wonder we experienced as children in the sounds we make. And from these simple steps, whether you are teachers and/or performers, your ability to express yourselves through drama, poetry and story, will continue to evolve as you learn to infuse your speaking with the supersensible dimensions of yourselves and of the universe. This introductory workshop will be a first step on this wondrous and majestic Journey