

## Project information

This project consisted of a series of theatrical workshops with professional actors and with Warwick students from different departments. It aimed to bring together professional theatre practice with academic research into historically-responsive performance, making the resultant dialogue and process accessible to Warwick students. It gave students the opportunity to engage with PaR approaches, both practice-based and practice-led, since the work has the potential to result in ideas and discoveries that could have operational significance in the making of new performance work.

I ran a series of 6 workshops in London with professional actors, exploring historically-responsive theatre practice and documenting the process. I then brought the approaches to Warwick to workshop with students from the Theatre, History and English departments. The work involved sharing a selection of the exercises and activities with a group of student volunteers, who then devised their own work based around the themes and approaches.

The project was well-received and generated interest in the research, as well as fostering new inter-disciplinary learning opportunities, and sparking new collaborations.

The project mostly attracted PhD and Masters students, suggesting that future similar schemes might wish to look at targeted ways of attracting more undergraduate students to sign up.

Participants joined a mailing list to stay in touch for updates on the research and future workshop opportunities.



## Feedback

Feedback from the student participants was very positive. Some examples:

Thanks a lot for this wonderful experience. I attended this workshop because it is free and I would like to try something new. And it turns out to be great! Everything in the workshop is new and exciting for me, either the warm-up activities or the short show at the end. I had a great time! The thing that impresses me most is the extent I can use my physical performance to express my emotions or a complex idea. I know it may sound very ordinary, but as a literature student who is used to reading or writing texts it is a totally different form to express myself by using the body. I hope there can be more workshops like this, and I am thinking about joining a drama society to further explore my interests.

Aviva Wang, Masters student, English

I decided to attend the workshop because I wanted to learn more about using theatre methods (traditional and contemporary) to explore the movement of the body and the kind of narratives that we can create through that movement. The exercises we did in the workshop really helped me to access this in a very physical and embodied way, which was invaluable in offering an interdisciplinary dimension to my own PhD project in Body and World Literature. The ideas about the four humours as influencing how we read Shakespeare were particularly interesting to me, as well as the poses we did in relation to them. All in all, I enjoyed the workshop!

Jenny Mak, PhD student, English

