



COMMEDIA REBOOTED

**OLD MASKS, NEW SASS
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

COMPREHENSIVE LESSON AND UNIT PLANS



**SEE
PLAY
MAKE**



**@makeascenetheatre
makeascene.com.au**

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A MESSAGE FROM ROSA



Grazie! Thank you for purchasing **Commedia Rebooted** online and on-demand! By doing so, you're not only giving your students an accessible window into the weird and wonderful world of *Commedia dell'Arte*, but also supporting a small independent theatre company and its family of creatives.

This resource has been years in the making - shaped by practice, play and passion - but also by the many artists who shared their talents along the way. Theatre is a collaborative art form and none of this would have been possible without this outstanding *compagnia*! I

would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to Make A Scene over the years — especially those who worked tirelessly on this resource, trusting the method in my madness and with the collective drive to make Commedia great again and again! (see credits below).

I also wish to honour the lineage of Commedia practitioners and teachers who have influenced my artistic path - from my first encounter with Commedia at Venezia InScena to my studies in Padua with Giovanni Fusetti — which was made possible through the Italian Australian Foundation and International Specialised Skills Institute Fellowship Grant.

I hope this resource sparks a fire for Commedia in your students and fills your classroom with much joy and LOLS - online and IRL!!

Buon divertimento!

Rosa Campagnaro

Rosa Campagnaro
(Founder & Artistic Director)

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Designed for teachers, students, actors, directors and the commedia-curious! Our goal is to demystify and simplify this fascinating and fun form of theatre so anyone, anywhere, anytime can...

SEE. PLAY. MAKE.

Through these bite-sized tutorials, you'll get all the tools, tricks and techniques you need to create your very own contemporary Commedia that's relevant to today's world and most importantly, fun!

VIDEO: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO!](#)

SEE:

our professional actors workshop the various characters, perform in full-length commedia shows and feature in BTS documentaries.

PLAY:

with tailored exercises and activities to explore and develop character.

MAKE:

your own commedia with our many improvisation and scenario starters.

FLIP YOUR CLASSROOM!

These lessons are designed for you to save time and boost classroom engagement! Assign videos for homework to cover the theoretical component and then use class time for what really matters - practical work and play!



The lesson plans are designed to complement the video tutorials and shows and we have made recommendations (see Unit Planners) on how you might deliver a course. However, you may want to **choose-your-own-adventure** and the sequence in which you go through the modules is up to you and dependent on your individual classroom needs.

You may use this as an introduction to comedy, slapstick or Commedia dell'Arte. It may kick-start your **IB, HSC, VCE Drama** or **Theatre Studies** courses. This resource includes activities to extend senior students so as to acquire a better understanding of Commedia dell'Arte and the actor's process for developing characters and telling stories. Likewise, many of the activities, exercises and shows are **suitable and adaptable for primary or junior secondary** students. We recommend, however, that you review all material – including written excerpts and videos – before setting lessons.

APPROPRIATION OR CELEBRATION?

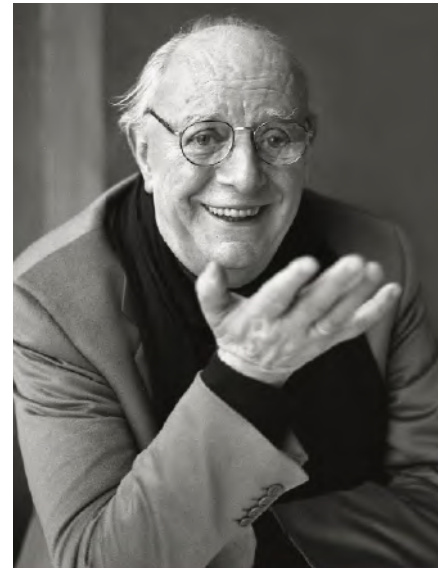
Commedia is a historically and culturally rich traditional Italian art form that deserves to be reclaimed and celebrated – in your classroom!

Let's begin by honouring the lineage of Commedia practitioners and pedagogues who **rejuvenated the form in the mid-20th century**.



Amleto Sartori — artist, poet, sculptor, and teacher — revived the lost art of Commedia leather mask-making in the 1940s. His passion for sharing Commedia masks with the world was boundless; he freely gave his designs and creations to **Jacques Lecoq**, **Dario Fo** (Il Piccolo Teatro) and **Carlo Mazzone-Clementi**. Sartori's original masks can be viewed at the Sartori Museum in Padua — and they're well worth the visit!

Lecoq, Fo and Mazzone-Clementi were **instrumental in the revival of Commedia** — a form we often call “traditional” today. But calling it that is debatable, because this iteration was essentially a reconstruction, inspired by a rich mix of influences:



Dario Fo



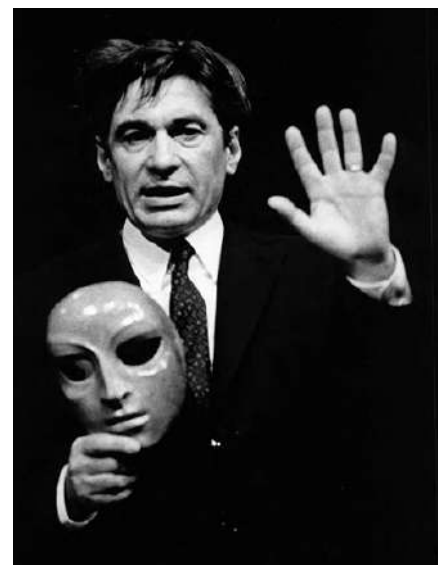
Rosa & Giovanni with Sartori's Arlecchino sculpture
at the International Mask Museum in Padua

- Jacques Callot's 16th-century etchings
- The rustic plays of Ruzante, who wrote in the Paduan dialect and captured everyday 16th-century Italian life
- The rediscovery and reconstruction of original Commedia masks by Amleto Sartori
- The creation of new character types and masks by Dario Fo and Carlo Mazzone-Clementi, based on their keen observations of people in mid-20th-century Italy

Sartori passed his craft on to his son Donato, who later trained **Newmi Newman** — a long-time *Make A Scene* collaborator, mask-maker, and dear friend based in Bali, Indonesia.

In 1957, Carlo Mazzone-Clementi — with a suitcase of Sartori masks — travelled to America to share the Italian Commedia tradition. He later established the **Dell'Arte School** in Blue Lake, California, which has trained thousands of teachers and performers.

Meanwhile, Jacques Lecoq taught Commedia dell'Arte at his theatre school in Paris, inspiring countless artists and pedagogues who went on to teach and evolve the form worldwide.



Jacques Lecoq

TABLE OF CONTENTS

We recommend you follow the modules in this order,
otherwise you're welcome to choose your own adventure!

MODULE 1. AN INTRODUCTION TO COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

Lesson Plan 1. INTRO TO COMMEDIA: START HERE

Video 1.1: A Bit of History (1:24)

Video 1.2: What Tha? Is Commedia: A Brief Introduction. (4:08)

- Make A Scene ensemble brainstorm Commedia dell'Arte conventions

Video 1.3: Word Salad: Some Terminology (3:40)

MODULE 2. MASCHERA UNMASKED: AN INTRODUCTION TO MASK

Lesson 2. MASCHERA UNMASKED: HISTORY, TRICKS & TIPS

Video 2.1: Maschera Unmasked: A Brief Introduction (7:51)

Video 2.2: Mask Ritual & Attitudes (3:30)

Video 2.3: Mask Hit! Everything is Dangerous! (2:33)

Video 2.4: Mask Hit & Respond! Good Banter! (3:02)

Video 2.5: Commedia Masks: Show & Tell (7:09)

MODULE 3. POETIC BODY: AN INTRODUCTION

Lesson Plan 3. POETIC BODY: SAY NOTHING, MEAN EVERYTHING

Video 3.1: Introduction & Exercise: Clay & Sculptor (6:38)

MODULE 4: MIMODYNAMICS: AN INTRODUCTION

Lesson Plan 4. MIMODYNAMIC LIKE NOBODY IS WATCHING

Video 4.1: Introduction & Exercise: Mimodynamic Like Nobody is Watching! (4:48)

Video 4.2: Mimodynamic the Mask (8:42)

MODULE 5: CHARACTERS & MASKS PLAYLIST*

* Each character video is accompanied by a comprehensive Lesson Plan

Lesson Plan 5.1. ZANNI - COMMEDIA'S ORIGINAL MINIONS (BUT HUNGRIER)

Video 5.1a: Introduction & the Actor's Process (12:25)

Video 5.1b: IMPRO: Break, Enter & Cheese (7:11)

Lesson Plan 5.2. ARLECCHINI - LOVEABLE TROUBLE AND ACCIDENTAL HEROES

Video 5.2a: Introduction & IMPRO: My Kitchen Fools! (10:03)

Video 5.2b: The Actor's Process (2:49)

Video 5.2c: IMPRO: Texting Drama! - Lazzo of the Translator (2:46)

Video 5.2d: Truffaldino's Conflict (from *The Servant of Two Masters*) (0:59)

Lesson Plan 5.3: COLOMBINA - COMMEDIA'S HEROINE AND BEND-&-SNAP SASS QUEEN

Video 5.3a: Introduction & the Actor's Process (5:59)

Video 5.3b: Smeraldina (aka Colombina) in Action (from *The Servant of Two Masters*) (3:49)

Lesson Plan 5.4: BRIGHELLA - COMMEDIA'S TWO FACED 2-EYE-C

Video 5.4a: Introduction & the Actor's Process (5:50)

Video 5.4b: IMPRO: FasterChef (6:13)

Video 5.4c: Brighella's Specials (from *The Servant of Two Masters*) (1:48)

Lesson Plan 5.5: PULCINELLA - COMMEDIA'S LUCKY CHARMER

Video 5.5a: Introduction & the Actor's Process (1:48)

Video 5.5b: IMPRO: Charmed, I'm Sure (1:48)

Lesson Plan 5.6: THE LOVERS - WED AT FIRST SIGHT, HOT MESS AT SECOND, CAMERA READY AT THIRD!

Video 5.6a: Introduction & the Actor's Process (7:37)

Video 5.6b: MAFS Commedia Style (7:50)

Video 5.6c: Silvio & Clarice Lovers' Tiff (from *The Servant of Two Masters*) (2:30)

Lesson Plan 5.7: IL CAPITANO - COMMEDIA'S BIG MEATHEAD ALPHA MATE

Video 5.7a: Introduction, the Actor's Process & IMPRO: I Am the Real Capitano! (17:40)

Video 5.7b: Satirical podcast: "The Men Are Talking" Ep. 1 (5:45)

Video 5.7c: Satirical podcast: "The Men Are Talking" Ep. 2 (3:17)

Lesson Plan 5.8: IL DOTTORE - COMMEDIA'S PROFESSOR KNOW-NOT-MUCH

Video 5.8a: Introduction, the Actor's Process & IMPRO: Press Conference (12:47)

Lesson Plan 5.9: PANTALONE: COMMEDIA'S CASHED-UP CRANKY BOOMER

Video 5.9a: Introduction, the Actor's Process & IMPRO: Where Do You Keep Your Money? (9:15)

Video 5.9b: IMPRO: I'm Sooo Poor! (3:18)

Lesson Plan 5.10: LA STREGA: COMMEDIA'S SPOOKY WITCHY FEMINIST ICON

Video 5.10a: Introduction & La Strega in *Venice in Love* (3:44)

MODULE 6: LAZZI & SLAPSTICK

Video 6.1: Lah-Zoh? Lazzo? Let's Call the Whole Thing a Joke (1:08)

- Make A Scene ensemble brainstorm Commedia dell'Arte conventions

Video 6.2: Enjoy Your Trip (3:21)

Video 6.3: Farts to Motorbikes (from *The Servant of Two Masters*) (1:10)

Video 6.4: Itchy & Scratchy & the Poetic Body (3:21)

Video 6.5: Zanni Dropping Stuff (from *The Servant of Two Masters*) **(0:33)**

Video 6.6: LOLs 2 SOBS (2:30)

Video 6.7: Shoo Fly Don't Bother Me & The Rule of Three! (3:21)

Video 6.8: Sniffles, Surprises & Farts (3:21)

Video 6.9: The Multi-Multi Talented Muso (from *Pinocchio*) **(0:56)**

Video 6.10: Wobbly Walk of a Topsy Fool (3:21)

Video 6.11: Whacks & Smacks for Stage (7:15)

ASIDE NOTES:

Video: IC in the Classroom

Video 3.1: Poetic Body: Introduction & Exercise: Clay & Sculptor (6:38)

Video 4.1: Introduction & Exercise: Mimodynamic Like Nobody is Watching! (4:48)

Video 4.2: Mimodynamic the Mask (8:42)

Video: Venice in Love - Behind The Scenes (13:34)

Video: The Servant of Two Masters - Behind The Scenes: Development & Cast Interviews (23:16)

SHOWS:

VENICE IN LOVE

Video: Venice in Love - Full Show (53:14) + Teachers' Resources

Video: Venice in Love - Behind The Scenes (13:34)

THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS

Video: The Servant of Two Masters - Full Show (1:45:10) + Teachers' Resources

Video: The Servant of Two Masters - Behind The Scenes: Development & Cast Interviews (23:16)

CREDITS



These resources have been written and compiled by Rosa Campagnaro and produced by Make A Scene. Copyright 2026.

Additional resource compilation and design by Holly Robin.

Commedia Rebooted

Workshop ensemble and Venice in Love performed by: Owen Hasluck, Josh Merten, Mary-Jade Owusu Ansah, Julia Boyd and Holly Robin.

Venice in Love created by Rosa Campagnaro and Christian Bagin. With Holly Robin as Assistant Director and Choreographer and Isaac Valentine on Design maintenance.

Videography and editing by Robert Minitier. www.robertminiter.com

Website design & development by Sean Montalto. www.4tcmedia.com.au

Music licensed through upbeat.io

The Servant of Two Masters

Adapted and directed by Rosa Campagnaro and starring Christian Bagin, Sharon Davis, Irene del Pilar Gomez, Roby Favretto, Darcy Kent, Lelda Kapsis and Freya Pragt.

Performed at La Mama Theatre as part of the 2016 VCE Theatre Studies Playlist.

Videography and editing by Phil Speers.

Playscript available for purchase through Currency Press: [The Servant of Two Masters – Currency Press](#)

Pinocchio

Created by Rosa Campagnaro, Christian Bagin and Jasper Foley.

Performed by Jasper Foley at La Mama Theatre as part of the 2018 VCE Theatre Studies Playlist.

Primary School version performed by Afsaneh Torabi

Videography and editing by Jacob Edmonds.

Fooling in Love: A Modern Bromance

Created by Rosa Campagnaro and Christian Bagin. Featured on the 2026 VCE Playlist

Photographs & Illustrations

- Alex Motta (studio character images)
- Lisa Businovski (The Servant of Two Masters production images)
- Karen Thorn (original performance sketches and illustrations)
- All other images and thumbnails sourced online.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch via info@makeascene.com.au if you have any questions, quibbles or quandaries!



Make A Scene acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we create and perform, and the Traditional Custodians of Country across Australia where we share our work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and recognise that sovereignty was never ceded — always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.