

Certificate of Advanced Studies in the Art of Giggle doctoring

The transformative power of using living arts in healthcare



Introduction

The advanced studies program focuses on the role of Giggle Doctors in healthcare contexts, particularly within hospitals and children's facilities.

The professional performing artists directly engage with pediatric patients, their surroundings, and the medical team, utilising artistic modalities such as improvisation, magic, music, storytelling, and clowning to establish authentic connections tailored to individual vulnerable people.

Functioning as representatives of the Foundation, Giggle Doctors adhere to high presentation standards and actively contribute to fulfilling the values of the Theodora Foundation.

Central to this program is the exploration of improvisation and clowning, as fundamental skills.

But also, knowledge in necessary hospital protocols is part the program.

This program equips participants with the skills needed to work in the dynamic and impactful role of Giggle doctors in healthcare environments.

To whom it is adressed

The CAS ArtGiD is aimed at international professional artists* in the field of contemporary performing and scenic arts (e.g. physical theatre, Clown, dance, performance).

Learning Content

In this CAS participants will explore Clowning as an Art Form and will enter into its essence and significance. This exploration allows one to gain an appreciation for various forms of humor and refine a repertoire of comedic skills.

The proposed improvisation techniques will provide meaningful connections with oneself, partners, and the child (audience), all while committing to embodying the new found Giggle doctor character and his actions.

In parallel with this learning path, participants go into Body Awareness and Emotional Expression. Here, the focus shifts towards cultivating a profound understanding of body movements, emotions, sensory perception, and the profound impact of body language within clowning.

The exploration into Clowning unfolds a multitude of endless possibilities of play. Participants are encouraged to embrace the boundless potential for creativity and spontaneity within the realm of clowning in hospital.

Methodology

It is structured on a **dual basis**:

- Theoretical contents taught in collaboration with the Accademia Teatro Dimitri – ATD. NB: Theoretical content in this context refers to the basic subjects for practical work in the field, in line with the philosophy and approach of the Theodora Foundation.
- Giggle doctor practice organised locally under the direction of the Programme Managers (PMs) and Artistic Coordinators (ACs). NB: *GD practice is related to contents that derive from the international modules and that are rehearsed in group.*

The theoretical and practice modules are organised alternately with traineeship visits on the field, followed by observations, to apply the learnings.

Theodora Academy will organise the international training sessions (Verscio) and the Finals session (Lonay): information will be sent to PMs and ACs in due time.

The local modules are organised locally but follow the corporate curriculum in order to keep the connection with the contents taught during the international modules.

15 days of international training (including classes, tutoring, presentation of the final personal research and nomination) and minimum 6 days of local training to liaise with the local team, schools, partners, etc. ♦ **21 days of training.**

Minimum 12 practical visits (with a senior GD / or AC) + 2 days follow-up ♦ **14 visits on the floors** (it is a minimum and can be adapted to the needs).

10 days of self-study (personal research). The time dedicated to the research and writing of the dissertation is the responsibility of the aspiring GD and is not paid (for training contracts based on traineeship model).

TOTAL: 45 days of theoretical and practical training, that represent an amount of **360 hours** of training, the equivalent of **12 ECTS credits**.

Language

The international modules in Verscio and Lonay are taught in English. Local modules are taught in the local language.

Selection Process and status of the aspiring Giggle Doctor:

The selection process is organised locally. The auditions and the choice of the aspiring GDs are under the responsibility of the local management (PMs and ACs).

The Theodora countries follow the selection criteria standards emitted by the Theodora International Artistic Council (IAC) and use them with the appropriate evaluation forms to make their choice.

Daniel Bausch from ATD will attend the local auditions at least for the first year (could be extended). Attendance of the emotional supervisor/psychologist during the auditions (if available) is recommended.

If an aspiring GD does not meet the evaluation criteria after the 11 days in Verscio the teachers will contact the correspondent ACs and PMs to make a decision about continuing or not the initial training process.

The aspiring GDs are not employed but trainees (different traineeship or training agreement are possible according to the local laws and regulations). Whatever type of contract is chosen, it must contain an agreement on training objectives (form will be shared by Theodora Academy). NB: this agreement also contains the form for the periodical evaluations.

Aspiring GDs can leave the initial training process and/or the management and teachers can decide to stop the initial training process at any time if the global and individual training objectives are not met.

The aspiring GD pays a penalty if he decides to leave the initial training before the end of the process. The aspiring GD pays a penalty if he decides not to join the Theodora Foundation for at least 2 years after the training.

If Theodora decides to stop the collaboration, the aspiring GD does not pay a penalty.

The initial training contract and the employment contract that starts after nomination should enclose a non-compete clause at least for 6 months.

Teachers

- Daniel Bausch – Continuous training Manager at Accademia Dimitri
Main teacher - Improvisation, space, rhythm, scenarios.
- Emmanuel Sembely – Specialised in the art of clowning in healthcare and trainer
Main teacher - Integration, play and clowning, pleasure, inner energy, consciousness of the audience, give the best, entries and exits.