



# The Mask is an Actor

## Using Performance Masks



A Presentation for  
Directors, Drama Teachers, and Performers

by

**Alyssa Ravenwood**

**April 24**

**3:30pm EST**

Audiences experience intense excitement and emotional involvement during masked performances unlike any other productions. Alyssa Ravenwood award-winning mask maker, theatre director, and performer, will discuss how to effectively use masks. Her popular workshop, "Physical Theatre Bootcamp" is employed by theatre companies and drama teachers to learn physical performance techniques to stage Commedia and other masked productions. Audiences react to a masked performance with unique exuberance. Masks touch a particular place in us. Masks awaken a child-like enthusiasm and wonder. Directors often ask if wearing a mask will limit the emotional expression of their actors. The opposite is true. Masks heighten emotional range. This presentation includes a discussion of the power of masks and training exercises and techniques needed to use a character mask effectively.

To register for this and other April events, please go to

<https://sites.bu.edu/womenandmasks/events/schedule-for-april-weekend/>. Please visit

<https://sites.bu.edu/womenandmasks/> for more information about the conference.

This free conference is made possible by the following **Boston University** programs, entities, and initiatives: The Center for the Humanities, the College of Fine Arts, the School of Theatre, the School of Visual Arts, the Online Masters in Art Education, the Arts Initiative's Indigenous Voices Series, the African Studies Center, the Kilachand Honors College, and Cinem'Afriq. We are grateful for their support. We are grateful for their support. We also wish to thank UNIMA-USA for their endorsement.