

# **THE NEUTRAL MASK**

## **the silence before the drama**

*A lecture-presentation  
with  
Giovanni Fusetti*

The journey of movement theatre begins with the Neutral Mask and ends with the Red Nose.

The Neutral Mask doesn't have any dramatic expression, and allows the actor to explore a state of pure presence, in the here and now of space. With this mask the actor explores the state of neutrality that exists before the action. The Neutral Mask has no memory and no projects, it lives in the present, and allows the actor to explore the most efficient movement state: the economy of movement.

Once the actor has discovered this space, s/he becomes like "a white page, ready to be written on in the future dramas-" Jacques Lecoq.

Through the Neutral Mask the actor discovers a state of physical presence, calm and openness to space. It's a challenge because in terms of movement, no-body is neutral: every-body carries themes that are profoundly expressive embodied in everyday movement. There is a web of "non-neutral attitudes" and physical and emotional "background noises" within each person's movement and physical presence. If observed through the reference of the Neutral State, this web appears like painting/markings on a white sheet. They are "dramatic" in the etymological sense. They contain a drama: an action.

For this reason the Neutral Mask is the basis for all theatre masks. It allows us to understand how each character development is based in an unbalance from neutrality.

During this lecture Giovanni Fusetti will explore the key steps in the pedagogic work with the Neutral Mask, from the awakening of the mask to the journey in nature, until the edge of drama.

*For enquiries and booking please contact Giovanni Fusetti  
email: [giovanni.fusetti@helikos.com](mailto:giovanni.fusetti@helikos.com)*