THE CLOWN IN POPULAR CULTURE

With a special tribute to ‘the king of clowns’, Joseph Grimaldi

Friday 25th March 2022
9.45am (for 10am) to 4pm
The Bloomsbury studio, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AH
Tickets: £10 / £5 Students
Tickets can be purchased in advance via The Bloomsbury Theatre:
www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/whats-on/clown

Tickets will include a cold buffet lunch courtesy of Brunel Catering: http://brunelcatering.co.uk/
Vegetarian options available. Drinks will be available at The Bloomsbury Theatre bar.

Project Leader: Dr Marta Niccolai (UCL/SELCS/Italian)
Please bring proof of purchase with you on the day.
Public domain art collection: www.metmuseum.org

An event exploring the prominent and controversial figure of the clown between tradition and innovations.
Talks by academics and professionals followed by a tribute to Joseph Grimaldi (the London based Anglo-Italian clown, known as ‘the king of clowns’).

PROGRAMME

9.45 A.M. REGISTRATION

PART 1: THE CLOWN BETWEEN TRADITION AND INNOVATION

10.00 a.m. Clowning for mind, body and soul (Louise Peacock, De Montfort University)
10.20 a.m. Sad, Scary and Sadistic Clowns in Films (Joana Jacob Ramalho UCL/SELCS)
10.40 a.m. Political clowns and the buffoons of international politics (Louise Peacock, De Montfort University)
11.00 a.m. Q&A

11.15 A.M. – 11.35 COFFEE BREAK

PART 2: THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING A CLOWN

11.40 a.m. In conversation with Martin Burton (Clown International’s Director of Zippo Circus)
12.40 p.m. Q&A with the public

Please turn over…
PART 3: JOSEPH GRIMALDI TRIBUTE

14.00 – 14.20 p.m. Introduction to the period, Dickens and adaptation (Penny Culliford, writer).

14.30 – 15.30 p.m. Staging of a one-off, 60 minute performed reading complete with music & sound effects of the audio play entitled: ‘Grimaldi’s Last Act’, written by Penny Culliford, directed by Anthony Shrubsall and performed by Edmund Dehn. Music by Zelida Gordon. Adapted from the ‘Memoirs of Joseph Grimaldi’ by Charles Dickens. The work has been commissioned by Tricolore theatre company.

(GRIMALDI SINGS HOT CODDLINS):

RI-TOL ID-DY ID-DY ID-DY, RI TOL ID-DY ID-DY RI TOL LAY.

15.30 – 15.45 p.m. A Q&A session involving the company discussing their various roles, taking questions from the audience.

15.45 – 16.00 CLOSURE

Event organised by Dr Marta Niccolai, UCL Lecturer (teaching) and director of SELCS Theatre projects at UCL www.ucl.ac.uk/european-languages-culture/news-events/theatre-projects in collaboration with Nadia Ostacchini, a UCL Italian Dept alumna and Artistic Director, actress and producer of Tricolore Theatre company www.tricolore.org.uk with the generous sponsorship of the British Italian Society: www.british-italian.org and Struts & Frets Theatre: www.strutsandfrets.org.uk. Special thanks to Gemma Sharp (SELCS/Italian) for being our official photographer today!