

Fail Better Productions has been Company in Residence at CAPITAL since April 2008 and this paper will report and reflect upon the pedagogic and artistic nature of the project. Our work has included:

- An ensemble of Warwick students performed the world premiere of a new translation of Federico Garcia Lorca's Play Without a Title (now published by Oberon Books) at The CAPITAL Centre and the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry (now featured on itunes-U).
- Interdisciplinary practical workshops for over 600 students exploring a wide range of texts (from Beckett to Shakespeare, from Gogol to Ovid, from Soren Kierkegaard to Sarah Kane).
- The development of a new work for the stage, The Persephone Project to be performed as part of the forthcoming New Work Festival with students as collaborators.

Student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive:

- In recent surveys, 100% of European Theatre students and 90% of Literature in the Modern World students rated their experience of a Fail Better workshop 'Excellent' or 'Good' (in most cases the former).
- Members of the student ensemble reflected, after the Lorca project: 'an incredible experience and journey of discovery'; 'I have enjoyed every minute of this process and have felt so lucky to be part of it'; 'it's been amazing to work with a professional company – thank you CAPITAL – I learnt an enormous amount'; and:
- 'The ensemble nature of the company also permitted a fantastic degree of collaborative work, allowing the possibility for the cast to sculpt a significant amount of the action around the script ourselves. The flexibility and interpersonal dexterity of the director facilitated this and was fantastic. In short, an eye-opening experience; one which has inspired me and which I hope to repeat.'

The first year of the Residency culminated in the New Work Festival, and since then Fail Better have been planning their second year at the Centre which will include three strands of activity: interdisciplinary learning events, innovative theatrical production and practice-as-research.