



## "POETRY PERFORMANCE CLINIC"

Many poets craft and sculpt beautiful words which when left on the page gather dust and die a death. Poems are meant to be lifted off the page, recited out loud, shared with others as an oratory tradition and social enjoyment.

Poets often fail to consider the performance element of delivering their words to an audience – from mumbling into a book or microphone, monotonous intonations, no contact with the audience, to battling stage fright, erratic and unplanned breathing patterns, as well as a distinct lack of characterisation and storytelling.

The “Poetry Performance Clinic” is a three part workshop designed for poets to gain the understanding and confidence to deliver verse in an engaging and dynamic way. It takes place in an informal, playful and relaxed atmosphere in order to build up their own performable portfolio.

## Part I – “Sounds Good” (Projection)

**Punctuation** – full stop, comma, dashes, ellipses, question mark, exclamation mark

**Pauses** – emphatic, metrical, caesural, suspensory, sense, emotional

**Modulation** – stress, volume, pace, tempo, pitch, inflection, tone

**Projection** – breath control, diaphragm breathing, articulation, diction

**Resonance** – mouth, throat, nose, head, chest

## Part II – “Looks Good” (Posture)

**Posture** – spine, grounding, balance, stance, attitude, confidence

**Gesticulation** – gestures, body punctuation, actions

**Reading** – managing notes, keeping place, lifting from page

**Audience** – relationship, distance, engagement, eye contact

**Microphone** – technique, effects, relationship

## Part III – “Feels Good” (Performance)

**Mood** – tone, atmosphere, flavour, ambience

**Themes** – subtext, context, motifs, message

**Rhythm** – meter, stanzas, blank verse, stress, rhyme

**Characterisation** – first/third person, emotional journey, narrator/character voice, ticks, signatures

**Figures of Speech** – alliteration, onomatopoeia, antithesis, similes, metaphors, personification

