

GRADES 9-12 INTRODUCTION TO THEATER PERFORMANCE/DRAMA MAJOR I
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

This introductory acting course is designed for students interested in learning how to act and perform in theater, television and film. Students will develop acting skills through improvisation, scene work, theater games and exercises, and group play building. Students will be required to memorize and perform monologues and scenes. Students will also learn the essential mechanics of script development through improvisational material, group writing, and analysis of proven works. Our students will use *Drama* to explore profound issues, current events and their own lives. This class will require participation in rehearsals and performances both during and after school.

Learning Experiences: *(from the student's perspective)*

- Through improvisations, script and scene work, creative writing and movement drama enables me to experience the inspiration and power of the arts
- Through dramatic work I recognize and nurture my creative and aesthetic talents
- I use drama to explore real and imaginary situations, helping me to understand my world.
- I have developed confidence and skills in creating and presenting drama which explores real and imaginary situations, using improvisation and script.
- It is a powerful mode that can draw me into an experience; it is a tool to help move learning experience from stagnate lectures into participative, doing phases
- I have created and presented scripted or improvised drama, beginning to take account of audience and atmosphere.
- I can respond to the experience of drama by discussing my thoughts and feelings. I can give and accept constructive comment on my own and others' work.
- I build empathy skills through collaborative improvisation, writing and scene building.

Content Outline

Term 1

Drama Concepts/Skill Based Games: Rules of Improvisation; Short Comic Improvisation; Monologue work; Impersonation; Theme; Setting; Plot; Character; movement; image work

Term 2

Scene Work: Playing simple actions; Objectives; Obstacles; Long Form Improvisation; introduction to basic skills

Term 3

Theatre Concepts: Psychological concepts; Script Study; Scene Analysis; Pantomime; Playing actions; Subtext; Improvisation for the stage; Audition work

Term 4

Writing and Performance: Monologue writing; group script writing; vocal work; diction; volume; pitch; blocking; rehearsal; performance; criticism

Resources Used:

- *Improve With Improv*. Brie Jones. Meriwether Publishing Ltd. 1993
- *Comedy Improvisation, Exercises and Techniques for Young Actors*. Delton T. Horn. Meriwether Publishing Ltd. 1991
- *The Ultimate Improv Book, a Guide to Comedy Improvisation*. Edward J. Nevrumont. Meriwether Publishing Ltd. 2001
- *Playing: An Introduction to Acting*. Paul Kuritz

