

GRADES 10-12 INTRODUCTION TO THEATER PERFORMANCE/DRAMA MAJOR III

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

This advanced level course is designed for students interested in a comprehensive study of acting. Students will study the Stanislavski based method and process acting, and apply character development techniques to scene work. Significant time will be spent studying and preparing roles from plays that have shaped modern and contemporary drama and musical theater. Particular attention will be paid to developing strategies and preparing for college drama auditions. This class will require participation in rehearsals and performances both during and after school. Students will be required to participate in a minimum of one extra-curricular major production over the course of the school year.

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

- I can create, develop and sustain a realistic or stylised character through the use of voice, movement and language.
- I can demonstrate sensitivity, precision and depth in the portrayal of a character, conveying relationships and situations in a variety of settings and to different audiences.
- Acting and directing can provide valuable lessons for dealing with the ambiguous nature of a partially ordered world.
- Through scene work I develop an understanding of the responsibilities of the director.
- I explore and resolve theatrical production challenges.
- I understand and use the principles of blocking.
- I understand the process of selecting and analyzing a dramatic text.
- I am directly involved in my own learning activity and the activity corresponds in some way to the world outside the classroom, and as the learner I have a great deal of control over my learning experience.
- I have a concrete experience; I make observations and reflect on my experience; I formulate abstract concepts and generalizations; and I test the implications of new concepts in new situations. Experiential education
- I engaged in this creative learning setting and I experience the complexities of real-life scenarios in a safe environment.
- I study major philosophical movements and their impacts on theatrical production.
- I study and perform scenes from great works of drama.

TERM 1

Acting: Begin work on a classic plays (Greek and Renaissance). Review of Improvisational work; Text Study; Circumstances; Beats; Action; The Obstacle; Script development performance and discussion.

TERM 2

Scene Study: Study and perform scenes from Ibsen, Shaw, Chekhov. There should be a particular focus on technique and process.

TERM 3

Scene Study continues: Students will transition to the study and performance of Ground Breaking twentieth century plays.

TERM 4

Acting: Scene study; Play development for performance on camera and stage; Subtext; The Arc; Transitions; Performance. In conjunction with Drama II students, original material will be developed.

Resources Used

- *Fundamentals of Play Directing*. Alexander Dean and Lawrence Carra. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. 1980
- *Tips, Ideas for Actors*. Jon Jory. Smith and Kraus Inc. 2000
- *Six Great Modern Plays*. Dell Publishing Company. 1956
- *The Actor's Book of Scenes from New Plays*. Eric Lane and Nina Shengold. Smith and Kraus Inc. 1988.
- *The Stanislavski System*. Sonia Moore. Penguin Books 1984
- *The Book of Scenes for Acting Practice*. Marshall Cassady. National Textbook Company 1985.