

INTRODUCTION TO ACTING

TA-20-01 – 5 Units Summer 2015
Tues/ Thurs
1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Studio C100

Dor Cosby Atkinson
Office: J112
Meetings by appointment
doratkinsonucsc@gmail.com

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to the craft of acting for the stage. Our work and play aims to develop your skills in imagination, relaxation, observation, and concentration - engaging your voice, mind, and body. This includes solo work, work with a partner or small groups, and work as an ensemble. The class introduces analysis of text, character development, and scene study. Activities include discussions, acting games and warm-ups, improvisations, reading assignments, writing assignments, rehearsals outside of class with a partner, presentations, and in-class performances.

This is an experiential class in which your success depends greatly on your attendance and your active class participation. Show up on time, and be prepared! By fully engaging in the class assignments and projects, you will gain access to skills and concepts that can be applied throughout your life and career in any field.

REQUIRED TEXTS

A Director Prepares, by Anne Bogart
Sanford Meisner on Acting, by Sanford Meisner
An Actor Prepares, by Constantin Stanislavski

These books can be purchased at the Bay Tree Bookstore or on Amazon.com, where used copies are available.

You will also be required to read two plays that will be assigned on Day 3 of class. You will memorize and present a scene and a monologue. *Please know that it is illegal to make printed copies of published plays.*

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND CLOTHING

- JOURNAL. Please bring a journal every day to class. Pick a notebook *only* to be used for this class. Make sure your name is in the journal. Please write legibly. If you are unable to write legibly, please type up your journals, print, and staple. *Journals are due on Day 8.*
- PEN, PAPER & FOLDER. Always bring something to write with. Bring a folder for handouts.
- COMFORTABLE CLOTHING TO MOVE IN. Every day, please wear comfortable clothes. Sweats/ comfortable pants that cover the knees, sneakers, socks, and T-shirt. Skirts, shorts, and tight jeans not recommended. Remove loose jewelry and bring a sweatshirt or jacket. We often will work barefoot.
- WATER BOTTLE. Have your own water available, and take bottles out with you at the end of class.
- NO GUM. Spit out gum before class. NO FOOD. Energy bars or similar snack OK during break.

PERFORMANCE ASSIGNMENTS

- Personal Daily Activity
- Independent Activity
- A 2-minute, two-person, dramatic scene from a contemporary American play
- A 1 minute monologue

Rehearsal outside of class is required. For scenes and monologues, minimum 10 hrs of rehearsal is suggested.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- Journal. This includes several assignments, including: in-class observations, out-of-class assignments, notes, and responses to the reading.
- Final Paper. This is a Personal Process Reflection paper.

EVALUATION AND EXPECTATIONS

Participation/ Attendance

Theatre is one of the most collaborative of the arts, and actors must be able to rely on each other or there is no performance. (Those of you in team sports will understand this.) In class, student actors depend on each other to show up, as an ensemble and especially for scene work and partner work. Therefore **attendance is mandatory**.

Your participation is 25% of your final grade, and this includes attendance. This grade will be based on active class participation, active listening and contribution to discussion, punctuality and preparedness, visible commitment to the task at hand and to classmates, and growth in the areas of self-discipline, risk-taking, vocal and physical awareness and emotional involvement.

An actor's body is his/her instrument. Treat your instrument well – take care of yourself and stay healthy! If you have a serious injury, joining us in class to observe but sitting out of rigorous physical activities is encouraged. If you are very sick and possibly contagious you should stay home, but you must notify the teacher within 24 hours of your absence.

Please note:

- Students with more than 1 absence will be ineligible to receive an A in this class.
- Three times late to class is equal to one absence.
- **NEVER be late or absent on a day that you are scheduled to perform! You and your partners will receive a zero on the assignment if one of you are absent.**

Respect

Respect the space and respect each other.

Respect the space. We want to have a safe, clean, creative space in which to work. When you come in the door, come in quietly and leave your business outside. Your cellphone is turned OFF at the beginning of class and remains off for the duration of class. (If you have an emergency situation in which you must turn on your phone during the break, please let me know.)

Take off your shoes. Put backpacks off to the side and make journals and pens accessible. Find yourself some space on the floor. Stretch out your body, release tension, and work on becoming present. Keep conversation to a minimum while warming up. Take the time to get into your own space and let go of the worries of the day.

Respect each other. One person speaks at a time. Stay present and alert. Listen fully to your fellow actors, in body and mind. Speak in the first person when you give another actor feedback. Make statements like: “I observed...” “I felt...” “I noticed...” Share your experience. Avoid judgment or assumptions – FIND OUT.

You are responsible for keeping yourself and your partners physically safe at all times, in class and in rehearsal. If you are encountering any problems feeling safe or comfortable, with other students or for any other reason, please let the instructor know outside of class time.

Honor System

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited either from a published source or from another student.

Summer Session Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of the Summer Session. Contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu for more information

Bring energy! Commit fully! And have fun – it’s called a “play” for a reason!

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Day 1 – Tues June 23

HMWK: Outside Journal Entry #1: Eye Contact with 3 people. Observe self. Observe someone else.
OJE #2: Read *An Actor Prepares*, by Stanislavski – Chapter 6: Relaxation of Muscles

Day 2 – Thurs June 25

HMWK: OJE #3: Read *An Actor Prepares*, by Stanislavski – Chapter 3: Action
Bring in Daily Activity

Day 3 – Tues June 30

Daily Activities

HMWK: Outside Journal Entry #4: Read Objectives essay by William Ball (handout)
Memorize scenes and monologues (assigned in class). Pick up plays from the library. Read plays.

Day 4 – Thurs July 2

Daily Activities Continued

HMWK: Outside Journal Entry #5: Read Sanford Meisner, Chapters 2, 3, and 4
Bring in independent activities on Tuesday
Rehearse scenes and monologues

Day 5 – Tues July 7

Independent Activities

HMWK: Outside Journal Entry #6: Read *A Director Prepares* by Anne Bogart - Terror Essay
Rehearse scenes and monologues

Day 6 – Thurs July 9

Independent Activities Continued

HMWK: Outside Journal Entry #7: Scene Score
Rehearse scenes and monologues

Day 7 – Tues July 14

Scenes

HMWK: Outside Journal Entry #8: Your Rehearsal Process
Rehearse scenes and monologues

Day 8 – Thurs July 16

Scenes Continued

Journals DUE
Scene Intentions DUE
HMWK: Last opportunity to rehearse monologues
Final Papers Due on Tuesday

Day 9 – Tues July 21

Monologues (Final)

FINAL PAPERS DUE

Day 10 – Thurs July 23

Monologues Continued (Final)

Potluck/ Reflection

GRADING

Class Participation	25%
Daily Activity and Independent Activity	25%
Journals and Final Paper	25%
Scenes and Monologues	25%