

INTRODUCTION TO ACTING

TA-20-01 – 5 Units Summer 2018
Mon/ Wed
6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Studio B100

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Meetings by appointment
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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

Our class reader is available at the Bay Tree Bookstore.

You will also be required to read one full play. These plays are available at McHenry Library. (Please note: Scenes and monologues from online sources are NOT acceptable material.) From these plays, you will memorize, rehearse, and present a scene.

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. Sweats/ comfortable pants that cover the knees are great. Skirts, shorts, and tight jeans may not allow you to move freely. Remove loose jewelry and hats. You may want a hoodie or long sleeved shirt that you can take off. We 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 Narrative
- Personal Daily Activity
- Independent Activity
- A 2-minute, two-person, dramatic scene from a contemporary play
Rehearsal outside of class is required. For scenes, 8-10 hrs of rehearsal is recommended.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- Personal Narrative
- Journal. **This includes:** 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 be familiar with this. In class, student actors depend on each other's energy and commitment, as an ensemble and especially for scene work and partner work. Therefore **attendance is mandatory.**

Your participation is 20% of your final grade, and this includes attendance. This grade will also be based on active and engaged 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 commitment, self-discipline, risk-taking, vocal and physical awareness, and emotional involvement. If you are late to class you will lose points for lateness. If you are absent, for any reason, you will lose that day's participation points.

Please note: 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.

So stay healthy! An actor's body is his/her instrument. Treat your instrument well. Take care of yourself so you can show up ready and alert. 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 then you should stay home, but you must notify the teacher within 24 hours of your absence.

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, come in quietly and leave your business outside. Your cellphone should be turned off at the beginning of class and remain for the duration of class. (This is to avoid interrupting activities and performances, and to allow you the space to be fully present.) 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, relax your body and mind, and work on becoming present. Keep conversation to a minimum. Get into your own space and let others do the same.

Respect each other. As we watch each other on stage, make observations with compassion. We are here to help each other learn and grow. One person speaks at a time. 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..." Avoid judgment or assumptions. Respect your acting partner by making yourself available for rehearsals outside of class time, and working collaboratively in a considerate and cooperative manner.

You have the right to feel safe and respected. You are responsible for keeping your acting partner physically safe at all times, in class and in rehearsal. If you are encountering any problems feeling safe and respected, with other students, your scene partner, or for any other reason, please let the instructor know as soon as possible.

Honor System

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited either from a published source or from another student. Any assignment that includes plagiarized material from another source will receive a zero and academic sanctions may result.

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.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Day 1 – Mon June 25

HMWK: Outside Journal Entry #1: Eye Contact with 3 people. Observe the interaction. Bring in Personal Narrative (handout).

Day 2 – Wed June 27

Personal Narratives

HMWK: OJE #2: Read *An Actor Prepares* by Constantin Stanislavski

OJE #3: Observe and journal on an Activity you do Daily. Bring it in to class (no props.)

Day 3 – Mon July 2

Daily Activities

HMWK: OJE #4: Read *Objectives* essay by William Ball

Day 4 – Wed July 4 DAY OFF - HOLIDAY

HMWK: OJE #5: Read *Sanford Meisner* chapters

I will email you your scene/ play assignment and partner. Pick up your play from the library. Read the whole play.

Day 5 – Mon July 9

Daily Activities Continued

HMWK: OJE #6: Read *A Director Prepares* by Anne Bogart - Terror Essay

Bring in independent activities on Wednesday (bring in any objects you may need)

Rehearse scenes

Day 6 – Wed July 11

Independent Activities

HMWK: OJE #7: Scene Score

Rehearse scenes

Day 7 – Mon July 16

Independent Activities Continued

HMWK: OJE #8: Your Rehearsal Process

Rehearse scenes

Day 8 – Wed July 18

Scenes (Final Project)

Journals DUE

HMWK: Final Papers due next Wednesday; Rehearse scenes

Day 9 – Mon July 23

Scenes Continued (Final Project)

HMWK: Final Papers Due on Wednesday; Rehearse scenes

Day 10 – Wed July 25

Scenes Continued (Final Project)

FINAL PAPERS DUE

Potluck/ Reflection

GRADING (100 points total)

Class Participation and Engagement (20 points = 2 pts per class)	20%
Personal Narrative (10 pts), Daily Activity (10 pts), Independent Activity (10 pts)	30%
Scene (15 points)	15%
Written Assignments: Journals (20 points) and Final Paper (15 points)	35%

Acting assignment points are based on commitment, effort, and focus; a demonstration that one has rehearsed outside of class time with full engagement; willingness/ openness to trying new approaches; and the gradual application of acting tools learned in this class.