



A.R.M.E.S. Drama

Arts Reaching Middle & Elementary Schools

A division of the **Fine Arts Center**,

Housed at the **Sterling School, Charles Towne Center**

99 John Mc Carroll Way, Greenville, SC 29607

Syllabus & Special Dates

2011-2012

Course Name Drama-for-life

Instructor Kathryn J. Ballou Ph.D.

Sterling School Office Number 355-4480

New Fine Arts Center Office Number 355-2550

Dr. Ballou's Cell 864-230-2214 **ARMES Classroom:** 355-7520

E-Mail Address katballou@charter.net or, dr.kat@mac.com

kballou@greenville.k12.sc.us

Class Times and Location

All drama classes are held at the Sterling School, Room 614

Elementary Class: Monday & Wednesday, from 3:05 - 4:25 PM

Combo Class: Tuesday & Thursday, from 3:05 - 4:25 PM

Middle School Classes: Monday & Wednesday 4:30 - 6:05 PM

Tuesday & Thursday from 4:30 - 6:15 PM

Required Text Books Students will make their 2011-12 drama text book from notes and the handouts they collect. Each student should have a three ring binder (.5 in.). Complete with notebook paper, three color highlighters, whiteout, pencil and pen. Also students will want 1 script covers.

Course Description The after-school ARMES Drama program is an action oriented, experiential dramatic arts course taught using a wide variety of activity units. Each activity unit is designed to challenge and excite artistically gifted children. The performance based classical curriculum teaches and reinforces good life and learning skills. Students' ability to communicate and think are exercised with every activity. As the student moves through the program his/her self-confidence soars. Parents often report seeing their child grow into natural leaders with the ability to direct themselves and others to successful outcomes.

Objectives The Drama Program attempts to give artistically gifted students the cognitive, emotional and behavioral life skills that they will need to fulfill their childhood dreams.

2011 – 2012 ARMES Drama Themes

The class will focus around these central questions:

Who am I?

What is Voice?

What is Art? (Theatrical/Film)

And

What can/will I do with my artistic voice?

Course Requirements

A) Attendance and Tardy Policy Class time is extremely limited so attendance is critical. The course moves at a rapid pace, simply being late or leaving early can be problematic for both the program and the student. Three unexcused tardy or early dismissals equals one unexcused absence. (See policy.)

B) Classroom Rules and Expectations Class rules are very simple. A student must try, *while remembering to be kind, and focused on a goal.* The process of teaching tenacity is profoundly important to a pre teen's development and if it can be taught while the learner remembers the importance of kindness and teamwork, then this program feels it has been successful.

C) Supplies Necessary for Course

.5 inch three ring notebook, with clear plastic outside cover and inside pockets
Notebook paper, 5 sheets graph paper, pen, pencils, sharpener, glue stick and
3 highlighters (different colors)
paper ring protectors
Notebook pocket holder
1 report covers with inside pockets

Theatre Tickets!

I would like the kids to see all of these plays but accumulated ticket prices is becoming very expensive. So you could look at it this way.

“Required for Elementary”

Mousetrap, Saturday, September 10 2:00 PM

Also” Recommended for Elementary”

Peter Pan (no dinner night families will attend on their own schedule.)

Foxfire (Dinner night on Thursday, November 10th**)

“Required for Middle School”

Mousetrap, Saturday, September 10

Elephant Man, (Dinner night, Thursday, October 20th at 8:00 PM**)

Also “Recommended” for Middle

Peter Pan (no dinner night families will attend on their own schedule.)

Foxfire (Dinner night on Thursday, November 10th**h)

“Required for Production”

Mousetrap, Saturday, September 10

Elephant Man, (Dinner night, Thursday, October 20th at 8:00 PM**)

Stones In Your Pocket (Dinner night, Thursday, December 8th at 8:00 PM**)

Merchant of Venice (Cast Party and dinner out! Saturday, March 31)

Also “Recommended” for Production

Peter Pan (no dinner night families will attend on their own schedule.)

Foxfire (Dinner night on Thursday, November 10th **)

** All 3 of these nights with the help of parents, we will provide the kids a dinner and time to do their homework before leaving for the theatre (From Sterling.) TRANSPORTATION must be of the parents making.

D) Assessment Information and Grading Scale A students stage performance and their ability to complete projects is the real assessment tool in this program, however we also send home early winter progress reports and a final evaluation which determines a students continued placement in the program.

E) Snack Club Elementary students may arrive up to 10 minutes early and participate in a snack time with their peers. Sterling Middle School Students who are in homework club may get a snack at 3:00 ONLY. There will be no middle school Snack Club at 4:25 PM. The snacks are 100 percent donated by you parents. We try to keep it healthy, low sugar and no caffeine. Snacks are available on the honor system. All snacks will be consumed in the Café. The only consumable in our classroom is water in a bottle. **We will need a parent every day from 2:55 – 3:15.** This parent will help serve the selected snack and will clean up after snack club. If we can not get parent support for this the middle school students will go without a snack. Snack club will meet café. NO FOOD IS allowed in the classroom except for special occasions. **PLEASE Sign up before you go!**

F) Field Trips and Attending Performances Attending field trips and seeing the performances of other ARMES classes are important elements of the curriculum. **Each event: seeing other class events, performances, field trips, work calls, workshops, and extra rehearsals, are considered as two class sessions.**

G) Homework Club: Is only for those students who otherwise would be unable to attend ARMES. **A student MUST HAVE HOMEWORK or PROVIDE SELF with reading materials.** This is NOT a social time, or play time, this is a time of **silent study**. Students are on their honor to do their homework. If a student requires discipline the parents are called. Students will remain in the back of the drama room (room where instruction is going on) at all times during Homework club. There are only 4 spaces per class. If more students request this service than we have space for, the family will be referred to the Sterling After School Program, where the fee for two days is \$30.00 per week. All students who want to attend homework club must register, only four kids per class can be served, if we get more requests we will hold a lottery. **Parents with a child in homework**

club must enter the building to pick their child up. Homework club will move to what ever room Dr. Kat is teaching from, so there will be times you will have to look for your child. A student who consistently (3 times) has nothing to do in homework club will be removed from said club.

H) Drop off for Students arriving before 3:45 PM: You need to approach the school via Farris Road, if you come in La Grand or McAlister from the north you will find yourself in a traffic jam that could prevent you from dropping off your child on time. As you approach the school from Farris on McAlister you will see a drive that goes along the South side of the building. This is the kindergarten drop off and pick up. You will PARK (Please do NOT get in the drop off line) and drop your child in the back and they will go through the fence and enter the building at the end of the hall. When your child has entered the building you may leave. Our classroom/office is on that ground floor hall, down the hall on the left, room 516. Students should arrive between 3:00 PM and 3:10 PM, class starts on time at 3:15 PM.

ALL STUDENT Pick up will be in the front of the building. Students will be dismissed at 4:35 PM, they will wash and put away their water bottles and will go to the front of the school (they will never be there before 4:40). **ALL Students will wait in the small glass room in front of the office.** **When a students sees their carpool they will then and ONLY THEN may exit the building.** IF you are the last carpool to pick up, and the student(s) in the carpool has found them self alone, they **MUST** report back to the drama instructor and parents must enter the building, sign in, and walk to the drama class room to notifying the instructor that you have come for your child or carpool. Please do not call my cell, honk the horn, or call the classroom.

Middle School Drop off and Pick up will be in the front of the School. Students should arrive no earlier than 4:15 PM and no later than 4:25 PM. They should use the restroom and fill their water bottle, waiting quietly in the hall for the elementary class to dismiss. **Pick up of M/W Middle school students should be between 6:10 PM and 6:15 PM.** Class is dismissed at 6:05 PM but students need to wash their water bottles and clean up before they leave the building, the big kids **will also wait IN the building until they see their carpool.** **Pick up of Production students should be between 6:20 PM and 6:30 PM.**

I) Cell Phones: During Homework club and at all times students are at Sterling a student should not have their phones out. Phones must be set to vibrate only and can only be answered if it is a parent with a message. **If I catch a child texting at any time I will collect their phone and keep it for one week.** If a child needs to use their phone, they first must ask permission.

J) Water Bottles: Each child needs a water bottle, if they want to carry it back and forth that is fine, but with their name on the bottle they may also leave it here at ARMES.

Carpool information is not available at this time.

Field Trips, Work Calls & Special Events

Stories, Skits & Song! Poetry Word Tour (All Students and Families) **This Saturday, September 10th, 10:00 AM.** Experience **Carl Sandburg's Farm** as never before. Students and parents rejoice and soak up the beauty of late summer on the farm! **Meeting in the parking lot at the farm** you will have enjoyed the drive up as never before: We ask you on the ride to collect words, sing songs and enjoy the beauty of one of America's Ten most scenic stretches of highway. Poetry skills learned in SCHOOL will come into play today! Students will write a poem as a reflection of their morning! These reflections will be shared in groups and skits will be prepared for presentation in the outdoor theatre. Time for a quick picnic before everybody wants to head over to the **Flatrock** theatre to see **MOUSETRAP at 2:00 PM.** Then around 4:00 PM we will all head home. TRANSPORTATION must be family organized. If you were one of the few BRAVE ones who attended last year in the cold, you may choose to just see the play! And if students HAVE seen the play and know the twist they may choose just to do the morning of hiking and playmaking. If you do not attend the play you will be required to READ the play.

Popcorn Film Nights: Production students will stay late until 7:30 PM to view several classic film versions of Romeo and Juliet (*students will need signed permission slips, to see these films, students without signed permission slips will be asked to cover their eyes during the brief nudity in Zeffirelli's classic version of R & J*). **September 29, and October 6th.**

Work Calls

Middle School CLEAN OUT AND UP!

Saturday, October 8th 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The Outside Stage Closet needs to be CLEANED!

Costume CLOSET NEED to BE Organized, Sprayed with Febreeze and LABELED!
PROPS / Backdrops (YET TO BE DETERMINED) for films Need to be MADE.

ALL CLASSES Production PUT-IN

Saturday, February 25, 2012

From 10:00 – 3:00 PM

This one will involve painting! And Kindergarten ART! Students will make the "Art" Work for Elizabeth Sue's Classroom Walls. Would be grand if we could have a team build us a couple of usable free standing Doors!

Theatre Nights Out

All Students

The Mousetrap at the Flat Rock playhouse NC. Students \$24, Adults \$34
Saturday, September 10th from 10 – 4 PM A snow storm, eight are stranded, there murder among them. No one is above suspicion. Millions have been delighted by the longest-running show of the modern era. Prepare to be fooled by Agatha Christie, the "Queen of Crime" herself. Just don't reveal her famously kept secret ending!

Production & Middle School Students

Elephant Man at the Warehouse Theatre: Student 20\$ Adult 30\$

Thursday, October 20th at 8:00 PM**

An award winning Broadway play before the story was turned into the movie, this tale of compassion and grace tells the true story of John Merrick, an extremely deformed and abused freak-show attraction, as he reclaims his humanity.

Production Students Only

Stones In Your Pocket at Warehouse theatre on Student 20\$ Adult 30\$

Thursday, December 8th at 8:00 PM **

Join Charlie Conlon and Jake Quinn on the set of a Hollywood film on location in County Kerry, Ireland. Through the lens of these two men we meet a host of filmmakers and local characters in the riotously funny comedy. Stones is that rare play that loves to have a rollicking good time while delivering a powerful dose of humanity. Themes of real life vs reel life, this social commentary is as funny as it is universal and heartwarming.

Merchant of Venice at the Warehouse Theatre on

Saturday, March 31. This will be the CAST PARTY for Romeo & Juliet. All who see ARMES' Production of Romeo & Juliet are invited to attend the Dinner and Show. Artistic Director of Warehouse theatre will meet the students prior to the show. Shakespeare. Shylock. Greed. Revenge. Love and betrayal. This seldom seen play by the finest playwright to grace this earth, has seen numerous revivals of late. Come see why this story of an Italian merchant and the courting of his love is a perfect story for us to remember today.

Two Extra Plays for ALL ARMES Drama Students!

Foxfire at Greenville Little Theatre on (Student \$18, Adult \$26)

Thursday, November 10th at 8:00 PM **

"This beautiful play is the homespun story of an elderly couple in the Appalachian Mountains and features live bluegrass music. The battle between real estate development and heritage takes the audience on a funny, touching and magical journey."

Peter Pan at the Peace Center running (Tickets \$45 - \$75)

Tuesday, November 1 – Sunday, November 6

There is not family dinner night for this show. Families are simply encouraged to attend. Tony Award nominee Cathy Rigby takes flight in an all new production of Peter Pan. Discover the magic all over again in this two time Emmy award winning production.

Theatre Workshop (All Students/Parents Invited to see FUN event!)

Monday, November 21, 2010 ALL STUDENTS ATTEND THE MONDAY CLASSES! Theatre Workshop! Groups of 40 will work together with costumes, and props to create a Play in One Day!! Students attend during their normal class time, except all students come on Monday the 21nd. (Free)

Old Fashion Holiday Celebration & Nasty Santa (All Students)

December 14 and 15, during normal class times, students will spend time rejoicing and participating in holiday traditions from all over the world. We'll finish the year with a quick round of Nasty Santa. (Students bring a \$10 gift.)

ARMES Drama's 2012 FILM Festival

Once again the ARMES Drama program looks at film and how it can be used to make an important statement? Ask an important question? Or persuade others to make an action. Elementary students will write, produce and edit Public Service Announcements. While Middle school students will use their voice to tell a true story through a documentary or a docudrama! The best Films will be submitted to ETV for local broadcasting, while the Documentaries will be also be submitted to the Greenville Film Festival. Production students will be showing film they have been creating for their multimedia production of "Filming Romeo & Juliet". Also we (hopefully) will see some work from past ARMES Students who are currently working in the film business. **Wednesday, January 18, Thursday, January 19th at 5:30 PM.** Submissions to Greenville Film Festival due Fri. January 27. Possible attendance of Greenville Film Festival on the 24th 25th of February, evening sessions only.

Elizabeth Sue and Her Kindergarten Pals And Hollywood Meets Elizabeth Sue!

Monday/Wednesday Elementary & Tuesday/Thursday Combo!

It is said that everything we ever needed in life we learned in Kindergarten. That may be true. In these two delightful plays the kids return to their younger days and we enter the wild wacky world of Elizabeth Sue. Inspired by my years teaching these young balls of energy; out of the mouths of babe's comes truth, wrapped in humor. These tots and their unique points of view will delight all. Both shows will be shown on **Monday, March 19 5:30 – 7:30 PM (Elizabeth Sue and Her Kindergarten Pals), (Hollywood Meets Elizabeth Sue)**. There will be NO elementary CLASSES on Tuesday March 20th (PTA). Then on **Wednesday, March 21 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM** both plays will run followed by cake and milk.

There will be NO ELEMENTARY Drama the week of March 26 – 29th. Instead kids will be asked to attend ***Legend of Sleepy Hollow*** and ***Filming R & J.***

Legend of Sleepy Hollow Or Spoon River

Monday/Wednesday Middle

Both of these plays involve looking at life in the retrospect. Students will select which play they want to bring to life. **Invited Dress Tech will be held Monday, March 26th at 5:30 PM.** And **OPENING on Wednesday, March 28th at 5:30 PM.** *Followed by a Cake and Milk Reception.*

Filming R & J

Production

Franco Zeffirelli's great grand children have come to America to remake their grandfathers' classic movie Romeo and Juliet. Only the twins want to film their movie using only i pods focused deeply in on the eyes of the actors. "Shakespeare through the eyes into the souls of the actors." This multi media production cleverly and with much humor demonstrates that even today with all of our technology we are still very much like the human characters Shakespeare created in the late 1500's. **Invited Dress Tech, Tuesday, March 27th @ 5:30 PM,** and **Opening Night, Thursday, March 29th at 5:30 PM. Performance for Sterling, Friday, March 30 at 9:00 AM.** *Cast Party Dinner and Show will be on Saturday, March 31 at a location TBA and the Warehouse Theatre. Anybody that saw R & J is invited to the cast party. Everybody goes Dutch.*

Last Class of the Year - Classes will end this year on Wednesday and Thursday, **May 2nd, and 3rd.** **If a student wants to continue in the program for next year they must re-audition.** Auditions for returning students will be held during normal class times on **Monday and Tuesday, May 7th & 8th.**

Auditions for Next Year: Returning Students who want to be considered for a second, third or fourth year in drama must attend auditions during their normal class times on **May, 7th & 8th.** Students who do not participate in this returning process will not be considered for the next year. It will be assumed that students who do not attend these auditions are not planning to return. In the event of illness students will be allowed to come in for a make up audition. Students not wanting to return should not attend.

Graduation, Awards and Drama Party with a Survival Twist! (Everybody, bring a friend and a parent.) **Saturday, May 5 at 5:00 PM.** In addition to party games, cake and fun, students will receive their final report cards, next year's placement and yearly ARMES awards.

**Middle Schoolers and all 2nd Year Students
Travel to Dr. Kat's Farm for
Pony Rides and Bar-B-Q**

No Swimming, Lake has been restricted by the city of Pickens
Sunday, May 27th, from 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM

