

THEATRE I – H/ THEATRE II – H (AM)
9:15 - 11:05

By end of year, students will be expected to:

- demonstrate progress & understanding of truthful, believable acting in monologue & scene work
- be able to present their work in a professional manner
- articulate & execute basic vocal & physical techniques
- demonstrate a personal warm up
- have a wider grasp of current theatre trends and some theatre history

Each week, students will have training in acting, movement, voice & speech. Technical theatre and theatre history will also be covered in support of actor training.

Material to be covered will include (one section per quarter):

- physical storytelling
- Shakespearean sonnets
- modern & contemporary monologues
- modern & contemporary scenes

Movement, voice, and speech work will accompany each section in support of acting study.

For the year, to be examined each quarter:

- Students will keep a notebook of handouts, notes, scripts, and reading assignments. Notebooks will count as one minor grade for the quarter. Reading assignments count as separate major grade.
Students will read of their choosing for eight weeks:
1 book = four weeks
1 play = two weeks
1 article = one week
Students may mix and match to equal eight weeks worth of reading. Topics may include acting, movement, voice, theatre business, technical theatre, theatre history, etc. A one-to-two page summary of the reading will be kept in the notebook. At the end of each quarter, we will discuss highlights from the readings. Students may get the material from our libraries, public libraries, from their own purchase/ collection (with approval) and from magazines BACKSTAGE, DRAMATICS, & AMERICAN THEATRE.
- Students will write a self-evaluation paper each quarter (one minor test grade), with one-on-one teacher evaluation first & third quarters.

Typical Theatre Performance Schedule

Monday – Physical training & Acting
Tuesday – Vocal Training & Acting
Wednesday - Vocal training & Acting
Thursday – Physical training & Acting
Friday - Acting warm ups/ Games & Acting

This schedule is a basic structure. Some weeks we may split the class into smaller groups for in-class rehearsals or technical study. Be ready for anything!

Scene work is homework – it is your responsibility to schedule time with your scene partner outside of class. Often, rehearsal space will be available at the FAC after school during the week. Please check with us first to be sure.

Performance Dates

The following dates are scheduled performance dates:

**Monday, December 5 - call @ 6pm
GO @ 7pm**

Friday, December 16 – Showcase (AM & PM during class)

**Monday, April 16 – call @ 6pm
GO @ 7pm**

Friday, May 11 – Showcase (AM & PM during class)

There may be performances added during the year, and you will be given as much advanced notice as possible. You should take advantage of every performance chance you get – AUDITION FOR OTHER STUFF!! Our performances are on Mondays so as to conflict with as little as possible. Performances count as tests, and you are expected to participate. If a conflict arises, please let us know as far in advance as possible, as your scene partners and crewmembers are counting on you. We will try to have all technical rehearsals during class, but if we need to schedule a technical rehearsal after school, you are expected to be present. **All performances begin at 7pm** (showcases take place during normal class time). We will not seat late-comers so tell your family and friends to BE EARLY! Tickets are a suggested donation of \$5 (or more!) and free for FAC students.

Dress Code

Because our training is so specific, there are a few clothing requirements, mainly for safety purposes. For movement and voice, you need BLACK movement clothing that is close-fitting yet modest. Pants must allow the foot and ankle to be shown, and short shorts should be worn with leggings underneath. You will need a good pair of sneakers, socks that can get torn up (preferably white ankle socks), and bare feet. Wal-mart sells 12-packs of cotton socks for cheap! Buy a pack and leave it here! Long hair must be pulled back and loose jewelry removed.

We have lockers here! Bring your stuff and a lock and leave it here so you always have it. Again, be ready for anything. Being prepared with the correct clothing is a part of your grade – either 100% or 0%. You either have the right stuff or you don't – you're either prepared or you are not.

Rules

1. Take care of yourself.
2. Take care of each other.
3. Take care of the space.
4. Always give 100%.
5. THINK FIRST!
6. No one rule is more important than the other.

Grading

Because theatre doesn't happen without you showing up, daily participation and performance work weigh the most.

60% Daily Participation, Rehearsals, and Performances & Reading

40% Papers, Research, and Written Tests

Field trips, local shows, etc.

Occasionally we will take a field trip during class. For example, we may go see a local theatre, meet local theatre professionals, or see a dress rehearsal or production. You will know in plenty of time, and any class time missed at your home high schools will be excused. Often, we have guest artists come visit with us during class. Very often, we will schedule group outings outside of class which are completely optional. These are usually to see performances at local theatres in the evenings.

In order to get you more experience, we will sometimes have after school opportunities for you. A guest director may want to work on a project with you, using our space and resources. You may participate in the work of our local theatres (acting, crewing, etc). These opportunities are excellent ones and will be completely optional. However, with any extra project, whether here or elsewhere, please follow through with your commitments. You represent the Fine Arts Center with your work. No outside commitments are more important than your daily class work here – stay focused and stay healthy!!

We expect you to go see stuff!! You are here to study the art of theatre, and this means you need to see as much of it as possible. Local theatres, universities, other high schools, out-of-town theatres are all great options. Often local theatres call us asking for help. This is an excellent way for you to gain more experience, and we encourage you to take the opportunity as long as it does not conflict with your projects here. Please ask us if you have questions.

You also need to attend as many events here at the FAC as possible. The more you invest yourself here, the better your education will be. And we build our audiences by going to see other folks' performances. Support your FAC peers!

ENJOY YOUR YEAR AT THE FINE ARTS CENTER!

Your Contract for Theatre

We have high expectations here at the Fine Arts Center, as explained in your syllabus. Please sign below, and have your parents sign as well, so that we know you fully understand your commitment to the Theatre Department.

Do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.
Thanks!

(Your signature)

(Date)

(Parent or guardian's signature)

(Date)

THEATRE II/ III/ IV - H
1:30 - 3:20

There is one over-arching goal for the year:

For each student to make money using his/her skills as an actor.

How will we do this?

That is the makeup of the class.

Students will learn about:

- The business of acting
- How college does/ does not prepare an actor for the business
- How the “art” compares to the “business”
- What daily/ weekly training should be done
- In what other ways actor skills can be used

We will look at:

- Theatre & camera work locally
- Theatre & camera work in the southeast region
- Theatre & camera work in other regions
- Theatre & camera work nationally & in the large markets

To support our research, we hope to:

- Create an actor showcase of scenes & monologues
- Have agents/ casting directors/ directors/ producers see our showcase
- Interview as many industry professionals as possible, including actors, directors, designers, producers, writers, agents, & casting directors

We plan to conduct these interviews by any means possible: over the phone, in person at the FAC, in person on location, via Skype, over email, etc. Ideally, these interviews will be seen/ heard by all PM acting students during class time or on field trips.

The reason for doing this study:

Given our economic environment, the question of majoring in theatre (more specifically, acting) is a valid one. Some may even go so far as to question going to college immediately. What job opportunities realistically exist for the theatre major, for the actor? Or for the non-major with theatrical interest and talent? How might a year spent pre-college looking at the realities of life as an actor prepare one for more specific study and experience beyond high school? The goal of making money is a bit open-ended on purpose. As an actor in the southeast, one must get creative and be resourceful. And better our young actors learn that now – because it isn’t any easier after school or in a larger market. You don’t just get paid to do plays because you enjoy it! Let’s give them the opportunity to fail while they still have each other, our support, and the excuse of “it’s a school assignment.” Of course, some of them might actually reach the goal ...

THE PLAN

(yes, there is one ... sort of)

1st Semester – Research & Preparation

Weekly training to include movement, voice, and speech, as well as working on monologue and scene work (and whatever else shows up!)

Working theatrically & on-camera both individually and with scene partners

Topics:

- Theatre – How American theatre works & why

Broadway & off-Broadway (& off-off Broadway)
Who the heck works there?

What are regional theatres? Where are they? How do I work there?
What is the history of regional theatre in America?

What about theatre in the southeast?
Can I get paid?
- Business - headshots
Resumes
Agents/ casting directors – the major players
Cover letters
Interviews
Auditions & callbacks
The unions
Networking
Marketing – you’re a small business
- On-Camera - the differences from theatre
Scene work
Auditioning
- Voice over - What is it?
How do I get into the market?
Making a reel
- Showcase - choosing material based on “type”
Putting together a way to show our class
Students formulate a plan to make money with their skills

2nd Semester – Putting the plan in action

Weekly training in movement, voice & speech to continue as needed

With the majority of our research and preparation complete, we will then focus on:

- Audition monologues & Scenes
- The Actor Showcase
- Recording on-camera & VO material for “reels”
- Having actual headshot/ resumes
- Going on auditions

*Should an actor decide to do an individual actor showcase or other theatrical project (to make \$) we will arrange the space for an evening performance. They will split the earnings with the theatre department, and will pay for things as needed.

BOOKS & REFERENCE MATERIALS :

Some to be bought with fee \$, others we supply & are optional to purchase on your own. All of these you eventually want in your personal library. The magazines do have student-priced subscriptions. Makes great birthday gifts for actors!!

- *How to Sell Yourself as an Actor* by K.Callan
- *TCG Theatre Directory* (latest version)
- *The Actor’s Guide Southeast* by Nan McElroy & Melissa Ohlman-Roberge
- *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*
- *The Business of Show Business* by Rozanne Gates
- *Audition* by Michael Shurtleff
- Magazines BACKSTAGE, AMERICAN THEATRE, DRAMATICS
- Various websites, including: Upstate Onstage
Theactorsguide.com
Theactorsguidetoeverything.com
Audition posting websites

By year’s end, students:

- Will have performed in an actor showcase & other possible projects
- May have camera or VO “reels”
- Will have headshots & resumes
- Will have a much greater understanding of the business of acting
- Will have an understanding of individual training for body & voice
- Will have individual monologue “packages” ready for auditions
- May have actually made some money with their skills
- Will definitely have made connections in the southeast region
- Will have lots of good stuff to go on our websites!!!

Performance Dates

The following dates are scheduled performance dates:

Monday, December 5 - call @ 6pm

GO @ 7pm

Friday, December 16 – Showcase (AM & PM during class)

Monday, April 16 – call @ 6pm

GO @ 7pm

Friday, May 11 – Showcase (AM & PM during class)

***I expect we will add dates as we get further along in our project. These dates will be planned as a group and will be as accommodating as possible.**

Performances count as tests, and you are expected to participate. If a conflict arises, please let us know as far in advance as possible. **All performances begin at 7pm** (showcases take place during normal class time). We will not seat late-comers so tell your family and friends to **BE EARLY!** Tickets are a suggested donation of \$5 and free for FAC students.

Rules

Our rules are very simple:

7. Take care of yourself.
8. Take care of each other.
9. Take care of the space.
10. Always give 100%.
11. THINK FIRST!
12. No one rule is more important than the other.

Grading

Also simple. Because theatre doesn't happen without you showing up, daily participation and performance work weigh the most.

60% Daily Participation, Rehearsals, and Performances

40% Papers, Research, and Written Tests

Field trips, etc.

We may take field trips this year to see colleges, see out-of-town performances, or support our study of the business. These field trips will be planned well in advance. I also encourage you to **see as much theatre as possible**, locally and beyond. We will try to arrange times to see local theatre together, but these will not be field trips and will be optional.

You may participate in the work of our local theatres (acting, crewing, etc). **AUDITION FOR STUFF.** These opportunities are excellent ones and will be completely optional. However, with any extra project, whether here or elsewhere, please follow through with your commitments. **You represent the Fine Arts Center with your work.** No outside commitments are more important than your daily class work here – stay focused and stay healthy!!

You also need to attend as many events here at the FAC as possible. The more you invest yourself here, the better your education will be. And we build our audiences by going to see other folks' performances. Support your FAC peers!

ENJOY YOUR YEAR AT THE FINE ARTS CENTER!

***One final note. This type of study is rarely given in college or graduate school. Most actors are put out into the world with great training and little business sense. At first glance, it may seem that we aren't doing much because we aren't "doing a play." But you will quickly learn that we will be working our tails off. And what you will be learning here is the reality of working as an actor. This year's advanced class has the right make up for this study – I have no doubts. So gather your courage, enthusiasm, and positive outlook – you're gonna need it.**

YOUR THEATRE CONTRACT (yes, this is a CONTRACT)

We have high expectations here at the Fine Arts Center, as explained in your syllabus. Please sign below, and have your parents sign as well, so that we know you fully understand your commitment to the Theatre Department.

Do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.
Thanks!

(Your signature)

(Date)

(Parent or guardian's signature)

(Date)