

Introduction to Acting

Course Description:

This one trimester course is for students who have an interest in furthering their knowledge of acting techniques as well as some of the history of the modern theater. This class will involve much class participation as it explores the role that the “self” plays in acting, as well as the ability to perform in front of an audience. This class is a theater credit, and will require both memorization and performance. All interested students grades 9-12 may enroll.

Course Objectives:

This course is a great introduction to the exploration of self and theatre. This class will require reading, writing, group work, memorization, and performance. Students will gain confidence in their abilities to analyze character, read and perform Shakespeare, and will ultimately become better public speakers as a result of the class.

Course outline:

Week One

Class outlines

Getting to know you

Beginning Improv

Starting at the beginning: what do we know?

Weeks Two through Five

History of Drama

Theatrical Terms

Using the Instrument: Voice

Being in Control: Body

Three Minute talks: Bad Habits

Weeks Six and Seven

Musical Pantomime

Monologue preparation

Movie

Weeks Eight through Ten

First memorized performance: monologues

Read Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Cast final scenes

Weeks Eleven and Twelve

Final: Rehearsal and Performance

Ongoing Activities

Improv games

Team Building Activities

Appreciating Performers

Student Objectives:

The Student will...

- 1) Read and comprehend both contemporary and Shakespearean plays.
- 2) Make character choices based on textual evidence.
- 3) Memorize text.
- 4) Participate in group work.
- 5) Take responsibility for individual projects.
- 6) Use the craft of performance to convey meaning.
- 7) Reflect on performance process in both oral and written forms.

Activities-Tasks-Experiences-Assignments:

- 1) Reading and analyzing two plays. (C.1, C.2, C.3, P.2, P.3, R.1, R.3, R.4)
- 2) Group project on theatre history. (C.2, C.3, P.2, P.4, R.1, R.2, R.3)
- 3) Using correct theatre vocabulary in context. (P.2)
- 4) Participating in improvisation and team building. (P.1, P.2, P.3, P.4, R.4)
- 5) 3-minute talk in front of class in stressful situation. (P.1, P.2, P.4, R.4)
- 6) Responding to character in written form. (C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, P.2, P.3, R.1, R.3, R.4)
- 7) Memorizing and performing a monologue. (C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, P.1, P.2, P.3, P.4, R.1, R.2, R.4)
- 8) Developing and performing a pantomime set to music. (C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, P.1, P.2, P.3, P.4, R.1, R.2, R.4)
- 9) Performing a scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. (C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5, P.1, P.2, P.3, P.4, R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4)
- 10) Reflecting on the performance. (R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4)

Standards Addressed:

All Michigan Merit Curriculum Standards for the Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts will be covered in this class.