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DRAM 313.01: Physical Performance Skills II

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Spring Semester 2007

Drama 313, Section 1, Physical Performance Skills II, 2 credits

Professor Noah Tuleja

McGill 212C , noah.tuleja@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-3:00 or by appointment

When and Where:

Mondays, Wednesdays: 9:10-11:00

MCG 125

Texts & Materials:

Class Handouts

Journal

Appropriate Movement Attire

Course Description:

This course builds on the skills taught in Physical Performance I. It focuses on physical characterization: exploring weight, rhythm, tempo and kinesthetic relationship by using various movement techniques including Laban, animal study, and Suzuki.

Course Objectives:

Through the use of a workshop setting the student will:

- Help create a professional and generous place in which to work.
- Discover how to locate and free physical blocks in order to release energy and facilitate a natural flow in movement.
- Cultivate the connection between the actor's imagination and the physical life of the character.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop strong characters, using different physical techniques as the genesis for creation.

Content:

This course will focus on the unique path each actor takes as he or she works towards creating strong and supported physical characterizations by exploring the relationship between the psychological and physical reality of any character.

Through a series of exercises and explorations, each student will prepare two fully realized characters for performance using animal study and Laban techniques. There will also be one full class group generated project that will use an epic poem as the source material.

Expectations/Requirements:

Active Participation - each student is expected to commit to all exercises and assignments with interest and concentrated effort.

Respect - all students must respect themselves, their classmates, their classroom environment and the acting process.

Supportive environment - all actors in this class must strive to create an open and safe atmosphere that allows each student to risk without fear of embarrassment, remorse or caution.

Each student will be responsible for consistent in-depth, reflective self-analysis in the form of a journal, which must be brought on the second day of the semester.

Each student will be required to present four characterization projects and one short demonstration during the course of the term.

Missing a performance day means an "F" on that project. The student has one week to make up the performance and it is his/her responsibility to schedule the make-up date at a time that is convenient to the professor. After the week has passed, there will be no opportunity to make up the work.

Written work must be received on time. All late work will drop by a full letter grade for each day late and will not be accepted after a two-day late period.

There is NO EXTRA CREDIT in this class.

Policy/Procedure:

Evaluation:

The final semester grade will be a reflection of the student's effort, progress and development of skills covered. There will be regular evaluation of the student's work including, but not limited to:

- Participation and attendance
- Effort
- Self-analysis
- Clear understanding of principles and practices taught
- Clarity and strength of performance choices
- Ability to incorporate direction and coaching
- Written work

Attendance:

Actors must attend all classes and be on time, unless otherwise noted.

MISSING CLASS WILL AFFECT YOUR GRADE. Two tardies equal one absence and more than two absences will lower your grade by one full letter. If a student does miss class it is their responsibility to find out what was covered from a fellow classmate.

- No eating or gum chewing. You are encouraged to bring a bottle of water, but other beverages are not acceptable.
- No weapons, drugs, or alcohol are allowed on campus or in the classroom. Failure to heed this rule will result in expulsion from the class and possibly the university.
- Actors must wear appropriate movement attire to class, unless otherwise instructed.
- Actors must regularly check the departmental callboard located in the PARTV building between the scene shop and the offices.

"If you have any specific learning needs please make an appointment to meet with me."

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

All Drama/Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the Department of Drama/Dance Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.sfa.ymt.edu/drama/index.html>.