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THTR 415.01: Physical Performance Skills III - Stage Combat

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College of Visual and Performing Arts, School of Theatre and Dance

**Physical Performance Skills III/THTR 415 STAGE COMBAT Fall 2014
MASQUER AND MONTANA THEATRES Mondays and Wednesdays 11:10-12:30**

Dr. Jillian Campana

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Office Hours: Mondays: 11-12 / Tuesdays and Fridays 9-10 or by appointment

THE VICTIM IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL

AIM: The purpose of this course is to introduce the actor to stage fighting techniques as well as safety procedures and methods. In this class the actor will learn basic and intermediate unarmed stage combat movements including fight choreography. The actor will also learn the basic weapons techniques of rapier sword combat.

OUTCOMES: *At the end of the semester the actor will:*

- Have a clear awareness of his or her movement proprioception;
- Understand the links between stage and film violence and actor safety;
- Know how to hit a target at a distance;
- Demonstrate a variety of knaps;
- Have gained a proficiency in slaps, falls, rolls, punches, jabs and pulls;
- Understand the basic footwork, cuts and parrys for rapier; and,
- Be able to choreograph a safe and believable unarmed and rapier fight

CONTENT and TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Week 1:	August 26 and 28	conditioning work, drill, safety	
Week 2:	September 2 and 4	slaps	
Week 3:	September 9 and 11	punches	
Week 4:	September 16 and 18	punches and kicks	
Week 5:	September 23 and 25	kicks	VIDEO ASSIGN 1: SEPT 23
Week 6:	Sept 30/Oct 2	falls, rolls, and throws, chokes, grappling	
Week 7:	October 7 and 9	unarmed fight assignment	
Week 8:	October 14 and 16	rehearse and film	VIDEO ASSIGN 2: OCT 14/16
Week 9:	October 21 and 23	unarmed stage combat choreography	
Week 10:	October 28 and 30	Halloween performance	
Week 11:	November 6	begin rapier	ELECTION DAY
Week 12:	November 13	rapier	VETERANS DAY
Week 13:	November 18 and 20	rapier	
Week 14:	November 25	choreograph final	THANKSGIVING
Week 15:	December 2 and 4	choreography and rehearsal	
Final:	Friday, December 12 10:10-12:00	PERFORMANCE	

EVALUATION: *Your semester grade will be based on the following:*

- Active participation and attitude toward the process, your work and the work of your peers 20%
- Demonstration of skills and techniques taught- safety and believability; 20%
- Participation and growth in conditioning and drill work 20%
- Choreography and scene performances 20%
- Video Products and vocabulary quizzes 20%

VIDEO WORK: You will be making three videos with a partner that demonstrate how to safely and believably fight on stage or screen.

QUIZZES: There will be a few quizzes that will cover vocabulary terms taught, safety rules, and attack and parry placement,

MOODLE and SELF STUDY: There are a number of days this semester when I will not be present. For most of those days there will be a short video lecture on Moodle as a well as an assignment.

TEXT: Bring a clean notebook to take notes in. We spend the last 10 minutes of every class writing.

POLICIES:

You must wear appropriate movement attire to class, sweat pants or sweat shorts are a necessity. Well fitted clothing works best for stage combat. If you do not have the appropriate attire you will not be able to participate. In addition no jewelry will be allowed and finger nails should be kept short during the unarmed work.

No food or drink is allowed in the room. Definitely bring a water bottle to every class.

Take off your shoes immediately upon entering the room. You will set up your own classroom at the top of class. Everyone will have a job and it is expected that these tasks are accomplished by 11:15 each day. At 11:15 we will convene on the perimeter of the mats and begin the work.

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 http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/theatredance/about/handbook>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.