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THTR 316.01: Physical Performance Skills II

Jillian Campana

University of Montana - Missoula, jillian.campana@umontana.edu

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School of Theatre & Dance
College of Visual and Performing Arts
Physical Performance Skills II/THTR 316
Spring 2014

Mondays and Wednesdays 12:40-2:00 McGill 125

Dr. Jillian Campana McGill 216 243 5846 jillian.campana@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 9:30-11 and Fridays 12:30-2.

Purpose

Physical Performance II is for those considering a career in the performing arts. This workshop class deals with the actor's body and makes use of the mask as the tool with which to free the body and therefore the actor's instincts.

Outcomes: *in this course the actor will*

- Stimulate his or her imagination;
- Place greater emphasis on physical actions;
- Incorporate the entire body into the acting process;
- Explore different types of masks and mask techniques; and,
- Rid himself or herself of self-conscious mannerisms.

Content

Weeks 1-3: THE NEUTRAL MASK

Weeks 4-6: THE CHARACTER MASK

Weeks 7-9: THE COMMEDIA MASK

Weeks 10-14: THE SMALLEST MASK

Student Responsibilities

- Attend every class period;
- Participate fully in every exercise;
- Practice/rehearse techniques outside of class;
- Bring water to class;
- Leave the baggage behind when you enter the studio;
- Take risks- know what you need to work on and don't always take the safe route;
- Support your peers – be kind, appreciative and thoughtful;
- Wear appropriate attire to class (unless it is for a role);
- Respect the space, your classmates, yourself and the work.

Evaluation

Your semester grade will be based on the following: Active participation; Attitude toward the process, your work and the work of your peers; Demonstration of skills and techniques taught; Writing; and, Solo and scene work.

- Participation/Attitude: 40%

- Writing/Research/Exams: 10%
- Performances 40%
- Growth: 10%

You will receive a grade for the day on a scale from five to zero on the following scale.

- 5 The student was actively participating in class, obviously well prepared, and positively engaged with the material and fellow classmates.
- 4 The student was present, prepared and participating but lacked the focus and was not fully engaged
- 3 The student was present and participating but not prepared. The student lacked focus and talked with peers during class.
- 2 The student was unprepared and not engaged in the exercises or with the classmates.
- 1 The student's attitude was poor, participation was weak and disruptive
- 0 The student was absent

Text

The Moving Body, Jacques Lecoq

Commedia del Arte, John Rudlin (optional)

You are also required to purchase a red nose.

Attendance and Promptness

No student can miss more than one week of class. For every subsequent absence your grade will be lowered a full letter grade. Tardiness in excess of 10 minutes will be considered a complete absence, and every two instances of tardiness—of whatever duration—will equate to one absence. Please be sure to visit the restroom before class and during breaks.

Personal Electronic Devices

Please silence all personal electronic devices in class.

Assignments

The main performance pieces and writing assignments for the class will be:

- Mask interview and solo performance
- Commedia research and scene
- Solo clown performances: getting stuck
- Group clown performance
- Continuation of Physical Performance Journal
- Final Performance

Procedure/Policy

You are expected to abide by the following departmental regulations. There is no eating, drinking, or gum chewing during the class. Please let me know in writing if you have a medical exception to this

policy. Water in a capped container is acceptable. Absolutely no weapons, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre classes, as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class and rehearsals with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in classes, rehearsals, and performances 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.

Movement Clothes

Please wear clothes that you can move in to class: tight-fitting and restrictive clothing and anything too revealing (showing skin) will not be acceptable. Jeans, hooded sweatshirts, hats, and hair that cover the face are detrimental to proper evaluation by the instructor, so remove them before work commences. Be prepared to work barefoot. If you must wear socks, please use those that have slip resistant padding. For your own safety and others, please remove all jewelry before class. Small studs may be placed in piercings, but no distracting dangling spangles will be allowed.

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.

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.