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DRAM 111A.01: Acting for Non-Majors I

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*University of Montana's Department of Dance and Drama
Drama 111/Acting for non-majors
MWF 11:10- 12 Noon
Part- MASQUER Theater
Autumn, 2000
Sarah D'Angelo, Instructor
243-4481
Office hours by Appointment*

PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to give you a hands-on introduction to the art form and discipline of acting and live theater. The experiences and skills explored during this semester will also be useful to you outside of the classroom environment. This work will help you to deepen your ability to communicate and respond more effectively to the numerous interpersonal encounters that will occur during your life span! Acting is the art of being human and by committing fully to the class work we are about to begin, your perspectives, values and attitudes about yourself, your background, other people and the world you have experienced will begin to transform!

OUTCOME

By committing fully, the student will achieve:

- A demonstrated confidence in basic interpersonal skills. *Life skills* will enhance your ability to interact with honesty and integrity in any given situation.
- A means of discovering a solid foundation beginning with the student's own personal values, attitudes and experiences and moving beyond, by studying created character (s) for the purpose of live performance.
- A system of preparation to gain ease and comfort essential to engaging fully in a live performance.
- An opportunity to attend live theater, enabling the student to observe other actors work and experience the "do's and don'ts" of audience etiquette.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance & Prompt Arrival - 35%

(Three strikes you're out – or at least down)

If you miss more than three classes, your grade will drop a whole letter grade. This includes mental health days, vacations, illness, family emergencies, and any other reason. Please be on time. In professional theatres, late arrivals are seated when it is appropriate during the action and when it is least disruptive to the audience. I may not be so accommodating...

Production Attendance – 10%

If you miss a show for any reason, your grade will be reduced by one letter grade.

Writing Assignments – 20%

There will be at least TWO writing assignments that will be evaluated and returned to you. The assignments will entail specific topics covered in class. Correct grammar usage, spelling and punctuation will be considered along with the content and quality of the expressed ideas in accordance with University standards.

Performance & Participation -35%

You will be required to participate in class activities, assignments and performances.

Effort- 35%

Students of Drama 111 must commit fully in order to benefit from the skills explored in this course.

POLICIES

Safety

This class will entail physical activity. Please use sensible caution to avoid injury to yourself and **others**. Please, no animals. **NO WEAPONS** or real glass. No smoking, no flame or fire, no aggressive physical contact. No nudity. No touching, kissing or hand holding without **prior discussion and the consent of your scene partner**.

Respect

I wish to create an environment in which we can all feel our personal boundaries and feelings will be honored. I will vigorously penalize anyone who breaches this policy—intentionally or “unintentionally”. Bear in mind that we may not be familiar with your brand of humor. Respect for university property also falls under this clause and will be enforced.

Under the Influence

Drugs and alcohol use/influence during class or rehearsal time will not be tolerated.

No food, water or drinks are allowed in the theater.

Late work will not be accepted. This includes late or unprepared class performances.

Please wear appropriate attire- you will be moving around.

Drama 111 is a performance-based class, and grading can be subjective. A majority of your grade will be based upon attitude, preparation, effort and RESPECT.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course will be divided into four sections: