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DRAM 111A.04: Acting for Non-Majors I

Kate Czajkowski

University of Montana, Missoula

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Drama III-Acting for Non-Majors
Autumn 2000
Instructor: Kate Czajkowski

Drama IIIA, section 4
Meeting Place: Masquer Theater
Final Exam: TBA
Office Hours: By Appointment Only (See me after class or put a note in my mailbox.)
Email: TBA

Course Purpose: The purpose of this course is to provide an understanding of the theater as it pertains to both the performer and the spectator. This course will focus on the techniques of the actor in order to enhance your communication skills, arouse curiosity in the people and space around you, as well as helping you to discover the pockets of creativity that live within yourself and your world. Finally, this class is designed for people with interests outside the theatre world, so it will focus on providing skills that will strengthen you in whatever occupation or path you choose.

Outcomes: Throughout this semester the student will receive:

- an understanding of the actor's craft.
- a stronger belief in their own skills as a communicator and performer.
- knowledge of the creative process.
- a greater awareness of their physical and emotional life.
- the opportunity to experience live theater.

Requirements: EFFORT, RISK and RESPECT are the most important elements of this course. It is expected that everyone approach each class, assignment, and performance with effort and enthusiasm. You will be asked to take risks in this class and to be non-judgmental and supportive of the risks taken by others. As actors, all of you must respect yourself, your classmates/ scene partners, your instructor, and the space in which we work. Every great performance hinges upon risk, commitment and passion, which are impossible to develop in an environment which is uncomfortable or uninviting. I simply will not tolerate mockery or prejudice in this class.

Performance Attendance: You are required to see all three of the drama department's shows this semester. The fee you paid for this class covers the cost of admission to each performance. It does not, however, reserve you a ticket. You must visit the Box Office in person Monday-Friday between 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to pick up your tickets. You need to identify yourselves as being in Kate Czajkowski's class and present your GRIZ CARD. Shows tend to sell out in the last nights of a run, so plan ahead and get your tickets early.

THE LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO runs October 10-14 & 17-21
in the Masquer Theater. All shows are at 7:30 p.m.

THE HEIRESS runs November 14-18 in the Montana Theater. All
shows are at 7:30 p.m.

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK runs December 5-7, 9 & 12-16 in the
Montana Theater. All shows at 7:30 p.m. plus a matinee on Dec.16 @ 2p.m.

Written Requirements: I am not going to require that you write formal papers in this class, instead you will make journal entries after each time you perform in front of the class. More detailed guidelines for these entries will be handed out at a later date. At the end of the semester you will use these entries to track your development in the form of a two page self exploration essay. In addition to the journal assignment, I will be asking you to write a 2 minute monologue which you will then perform for the class.

Attendance: (here's where it gets harsh folks)

BE HERE. This is a studio class, therefore attendance is vital. You are allowed to miss a weeks worth of class (a.k.a. 3 hours). Beyond that, each day missed will result in your final grade being lowered by one letter grade. These 3 freebie days include both excused and unexcused absences (even if you are an athlete and are missing class for a game day). If you foresee yourself missing more than 3 class periods throughout the semester and cannot deal with a grade reduction, then this is not the class for you. Also, it is not acceptable to miss a day that you are scheduled to perform. That is disrespectful to your classmates and will result in a failing grade for that particular performance.

Don't be late!!! Three tardies (arriving after attendance has been called) is equal to one absence.

Safety:

1. No weapons (real or fake), no glass or any dangerous materials are to be used onstage. Use creativity and common sense when choosing your props.
2. Due to the physical nature of this course, everyone must remain careful and aware in order to maintain a safe working environment.
3. Do not come to class in a chemically altered state.
4. Students are encouraged to wear comfortable, movement friendly clothing.

Finally, be bold, let loose, have fun and take care of each other. We will undoubtedly witness moments of magic during this semester. I anxiously await your brilliance.