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THTR 484.01: Advanced Acting - Professional Skills

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THTR 484
Advanced Acting: Professional Skills

Professor Greg Johnson
CRN 34411
3 Credits
School of Theatre & Dance
College of Visual and Performing Arts

Term: Spring 2017

Time: TUESDAY & THURSDAY 9:40- 11:00 am

Location: Masquer Theatre

Office Hours: ; Thursdays 11-noon

Description:

This studio class is designed specifically for the acting student who is pursuing a professional career as an actor. It assumes that the actor has already advanced to a level of proficiency in his/her training that would equip him/her to perform as an actor in a professional environment.

The focus of the class is the professional life of the actor. It is designed to present the "raw facts about careers in acting," that is to examine the myriad aspects of a professional career. We will explore how to get the job rather than what to do when you have the job. This is not a course that will develop acting technique, but introduce you to the complex world of professional acting. The course should be sub-titled, "REALITY," as it will focus on you as an actor and how you fit into the "system" that we call the profession.

Objectives:

To help you clarify and define your goals as a professional actor.

To help you create a plan for establishing yourself as a working actor by an examination and discussion of the professional life of an actor.

To help you enhance your casting skills for employment through selecting and honing audition material as well as assembling a resume and picture.

To help you understand the business aspect of show business.

Text:

Acting Professionally (7th Edition) by Robert Cohen.

Note: In addition, various articles, essays, and trade publications that relate to specific topics with which we deal in class will be assigned.

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

SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE:

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>.

Risk: There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop, 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.

Class Etiquette: 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. When class has ended, please return space to its original condition (in other words, **clean up** after yourselves). Lastly, **electronic devices are to be stowed away** during class unless permission has been given to access them.

Guests: 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 the instructor's consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

DISABILITY SERVICES:

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.

Graded Course Requirements:

Written Exercises (Resumes, Letters of Introduction, etc.) (15%)
Presentation of Audition Monologues (40%)
Participation (20%)
Research Project and Presentation on Professional Theatre (20%)
Written Self Evaluation (5%)

Note: As this class is based on participation, attendance is requisite. The collaborative and creative processes of theatre are the foundation of our class. **No unexcused absences will be allowed.**

Calendar:

Tuesday	24 January	Introduction
Thursday	26 January	Guest Artists from <i>BAREFOOT IN THE PARK</i>
Tuesday	31 January	"The Way It Is"
Thursday	2 February	"What You Will Need"
Tuesday	7 February	"Your First Decisions"
Thursday	9 February	Goals and Objectives
Tuesday	14 February	"Establishing Yourself"
Thursday	16 February	"Establishing Yourself"
Tuesday	21 February	Monologue Selection/Monologue Criteria
Thursday	23 February	In-Class Monologue Work- Auditions Round One
Tuesday	28 February	In-Class Monologue Work- Auditions Round One
Thursday	2 March	Pictures, Bios, and Resumes
Tuesday	7 March	Pictures, Bios, and Resumes Presentation
Thursday	9 March	Presentations/Critiques- Monologue Round One
Tuesday	9 March	"The Casting Room"
Thursday	14 March	Guest Speaker
Tuesday	16 March	Interviews, Call Backs and Cold Readings
	19-25 March	SPRING BREAK
Tuesday	28 March	Job Offers, Negotiations, Contracts, Work Conditions, and Business Questions
Thursday	30 March	In-Class Monologue Work- Auditions Round Two
Tuesday	4 April	In-Class Monologue Work- Auditions Round Two
Thursday	6 April	Musical Theatre Auditions
Tuesday	11 April	In-Class Monologue Work- Auditions Round Two
Thursday	13 April	Present/Critique Monologues- Round Two
Tuesday	18 April	Presentation/Critique Musical Audition- Round Three
Thursday	20 April	Techniques/Coaching/Rehearsal Etiquette
Tuesday	25 April	Presentation of Projects
Thursday	27 April	Presentation of Projects
Tuesday	2 May	Overview/ Final Paper: Personal Reflection Due