Thea 540 Becoming the Actor's Director (Directing Section)

Professor: Tom McNally

Class Days: Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday

Classroom: Frasier 102

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Course Description: Students learn effective directing and coaching strategies for the field of theater arts and secondary drama. Additionally, students will participate in hands-on, tactical methods of how directors can integrate good staging techniques with superior coaching processes.

Course Objectives:

1. To examine and participate in proven approaches of directing techniques from the point of view of the blocker/coach.
2. To strengthen skills in actor/director vocabulary.
3. To enlarge the number of successful, visual communication techniques in directing.
4. To learn the benefits of using the essential action/physical life score system.
5. To learn how to apply the best active acting technique processes to the rehearsal.

Course Requirements:

- Perfect class attendance, and responsible for all lecture notes given in class.
- Active, positive participation in all director/actor exercises
- Prepare daily actor/director exercises

Course Calendar:

Monday, July 6th (10-12:30, 1:30-4:30) (PM lab assignments)
- Lecture: Becoming the Actor's Director/Handout: Analyzing a Scene
- Essential Action Improvisations
- Learning how to use Physical Life activities as a staging source
- Example scene tape/discussion of A Doll’s House (UNC Production)
- Benefits of Essential Action/Physical Life Score System
- Assign 10-line scenes & start rehearsals

Tuesday, July 7th (10:30-12:30, 1:30-4:30) (PM lab assignments)
- Presentations and critiques of 10-line scenes (off-book)
- Hand in scored scripts of 10-line scenes
- Lecture/Demo: Groundplan, Composition, Props, Picturization (with handouts)
• Connecting actor/director communication via exercises in: Purpose, Obstacle, Tactics, Circumstances, Relationships, Character and Orchestration (with handouts)
• Assign Orchestration/Change Motion Exercise

Wednesday, July 8th (10:30-12:30, 1:30-4:30)
• Presentation of Orchestration/Change Motion exercises & One Thought, One Idea, Putting-It-Together Exercise
• Meisner Tape: Listening as Acting Key (Silverberg)
• Hagen Approach: Destination/Circumstances
• Pinpointing Acting Variety via Shurtleff Steps (Handouts) (On-feet exercises)

Suggested Reading List: (No required texts)

  Play Directing (Francis Hodge, Michael McClain) – UNC Bookstore (Barnes & Noble)

  Acting: The Active Process (Tom McNally) – Greeley Book Stop

  Challenge for the Actor (Uta Hagen) – Greeley Book Stop

  Audition (Michael Shurtleff) – Greeley Book Stop/ UNC Bookstore