

New York University  
Tisch School of the Arts

Department of Drama

at

PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS THEATER SCHOOL

Syllabus

New Music Theater Collaborative  
Acting 2011/2012

**Instructor**

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**Texts**

Assigned readings  
Plays (to be determined) for scene work  
Research materials related to the plays

**Materials**

Props, costumes, set pieces, musical elements necessary for scenes

**Course Descriptions/Objectives**

This two semester advanced acting class explores the history of actor process through study of techniques that include mask, ancient Greek theatre, commedia dell'arte, classical performance traditions, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century naturalism, and the innovations of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century theatre artists. We investigate processes that energize performance from the outside in as well as from the inside out. Students practice multiple approaches for creating a role, devising staging, deepening emotional connection within the context of monologue and scene study.

First semester is devoted to the study of movement and processes rooted in the ancient and classical traditions culminating with their application to naturalistic works and texts. Second semester begins with heightened text work and continues with the application and study of these techniques as applied in the modern music theater. Texts studied include ancient, classic and modern drama and musical theatre scripts and scores and selected scholarly readings. Goals of this class are to impart a thorough understanding of the actor's process and responsibilities; to deepen knowledge of the applicability of historical theatrical practices in today's work; to craft roles that are multileveled, detailed and well researched; to build performances that are unselfconscious and fully rooted in the individual artist's personal truth.

## **Course Calendar/Schedule (subject to adjustment)**

### **Semester 1**

9/12-10/7: Ancient Theatre Practices: Mask, early Greek theatre

10/14-10/28: Commedia dell'arte

10/31-11/11: Movement studies

11/14-12/2: Chekhov and naturalism

12/5-12/16: New Musicals Workshop rehearsal

### **Semester 2**

1/23-2/17: Shakespeare

2/20-3/9: New Musicals Production rehearsal

3/19-4/6: Musical Theatre scenework

4/9-4/30: Final Presentation rehearsal

## **Course Policies**

1. Participate fully in training exercises, improvisation work and rehearsal as well as in discussion.
2. Research assignments and readings will be completed on schedule and presentations made in class will be comprehensive and edifying.
3. Allocate time outside of class to prepare for rehearsal researching, learning lines, scoring script.
4. Work will be off-book by specified dates.
5. Costume, prop and set elements to be provided by each individual will be present for every rehearsal and performance of class work-no miming.
6. Attend class dressed for movement/rehearsal including proper shoes.
7. Missed rehearsal work in class will be made up outside of class on your own time.
8. Make contact with classmates/instructor prior to absence.

## **Grading**

- A:** Work is exceptional in every way. The student applies techniques studied in classwork, works collaboratively, is attentive and prepared, participates in discussion of work, willing to take big risks, surprises peers and instructor with repeated evidence of unique personal vision that demonstrates artistry.
- A-:** Work is excellent. The student applies techniques studied in classwork, works collaboratively, is attentive and prepared, participates in discussion of work, willing to take big risks,
- B+:** Work is very good, The student exhibits a strong understanding of skills and of their applicability in classwork, works collaboratively, is attentive and prepared, participates in discussion of work, is willing to take big risks.
- B :** The student exhibits a strong understanding of and application of skills and techniques in classwork, is collaborative, is attentive and prepared, participates in discussion of work, is willing to take big risks.
- B-:** The student fulfills the requirements of the assignments and collaborations, is attentive and prepared, collaborative, participates in discussion of work, is willing to take risks.
- C+ and lower:** Is determined by attendance and quality of participation in class work.