

**New York University  
Tisch School of the Arts**

**Department of Drama**

**at**

**PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS THEATER SCHOOL**

**Syllabus**

**Acting Musical Theatre Practicum 2010/2011**

**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 processes rooted in the ancient and classical traditions. Second semester continues with the study of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century acting processes. 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**

Weeks 1-8: Ancient Theatre Practices: Mask, early Greek theatre, theatre of ritual and religion, theatre of the Middle Ages

Week 8: Short individual conferences

Weeks 9-13: Classical Theatre Practices: commedia dell'arte, Shakespeare and classical text techniques

### **Semester 2**

Weeks 1-3: Naturalism, Stanislavski and the followers he inspired

Weeks 4-7: 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Theatre Innovations-Brechtian, Poor Theatre, Butoh, Viewpoints, and others

Week 8: Short individual conferences

Week 9-13: Musical Theatre

## **Course Policies**

Students must participate fully in training exercises, improvisation work and rehearsal as well as in discussion of the work performed and presented by themselves and their classmates. Research assignments and readings will be completed on schedule and presentations made in class will be comprehensive and edifying. Allocate time outside of class to prepare for rehearsal researching, learning lines, scoring script. Attend class dressed for rehearsal in clothing that is similar to that which will be worn in performance.

## **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.