

New York University  
Tisch School of the Arts

Department of Drama

at

PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS THEATER SCHOOL

Syllabus  
Acting Support Fall 2011

**Instructor**

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**Texts**

Plays (to be determined) for scene work  
Research materials related to these plays

**Materials**

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

**Course Descriptions/Objectives**

This is a one semester advanced acting class that explores process from the outside in as well as from the inside out utilizing tools that encompass naturalistic technique and post modern methods to train artists to bring dynamic naturalism to their work on stage and screen. Through Viewpoint training, improvisation, research and guided rehearsal, students investigate multiple approaches for creating a role, devising staging, deepening emotional connection within the context of monologue and scene study. Texts include contemporary and classic drama as well as student devised works. Students are encouraged to work on self generated projects (C.O.W. pieces) to explore strategies and process. Goals of this class are to impart a thorough understanding of the actor's process and responsibilities; to craft work that is multileveled, detailed and well researched; to build performances that are unselfconscious and fully rooted in the individual artist's personal truth.

**Calendar (Subject to adjustment)**

9/16-10/7: Modern drama monologues. Ensemble training and physical acting techniques. Research project.  
10/14-11/11: Scene 1 from contemporary drama and monologue work in class. Research project, script score project. Self-diagnosing acting process needs. Rehearsal strategies.  
11/18-12/14: Scene 2-could be C.O.W. projects, classical drama, musical or contemporary dramas. Research and score project.

## **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.