

Acting 1 for Theatre Syllabus

Brownwood High School, 1st, 2nd & 7th Periods

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About the Course

Through self and collaborative exploration, students will develop skills in all aspects of acting. During this course students will investigate stagecraft, voice, movement, text, improvisation, and performance within focused units of study. Students will be assessed and evaluated through rubrics, portfolios, self-reflection, group-reflection, and quizzes. The class will participate in the Texas Thespians State Contest in November as well as a culminating showcase performance at the end of the year.

Course Objectives

This course will be focused on the basics of acting listed above. The student will become more confident in not only their acting skills, their movement and vocal quality but their public speaking skills in general. The course will be broken into the following areas:

- Ensemble Building: What is acting? Why study acting? What defines “ensemble”? Collaborative Games
- The Space: How do we define a theatrical space? How is that space best utilized? Tour, Types/Directions
- The Voice: How does an actor use breath support and vocal techniques to engage an audience? Why is warming-up important? Warm-ups, Breath Control, Care, Alexander Technique (posture and tension release), Centering, Voice Types, Open Scenes
- Character: How do you build a character outside of yourself? How do you find truth as an actor and character? Character Building & Process of Drama.
- Movement & Physical Theatre: What are the physical tools utilized to become an engaged actor or actress? How can we tell stories with and without using words? Mime & Pantomime, Laban Technique, Stage Combat.
- Improvisation & Storytelling: How can an actor communicate a story through imagination, objective, and sequencing? Listening and Awareness Games, Story Building, Fairy Tales
- The Text: How do given circumstances and events inform the actor/character? Given Circumstances, Events, Interpretation and Dynamics, Script Scoring
- Performance: How do all elements combine to find truth and believability on stage? Audience and Fourth Wall, Scripted Scenes, Rehearsing.

Attendance and Participation

It is crucial that you attend and participate fully in each class. Many of our experiences will be group experiences! It is expected that students will come prepared for class. Your attendance, even if you are not presenting, is especially important since you will be expected to analyze and critique other students in a constructive and positive way.

Participation: Students are expected to be fully engaged during class, participate in discussions, provide feedback and ask questions. Your participation will affect your grade for this course. **NO GUM ANYTIME!**

Grading

Your grade will be based on the following:

40% Assessment (both written and performance assessment are included here)

30% Active Class Participation

20% Written Assignments and Projects

10% Musical/ Play Attendance and Critique *see explanation below

*Musical/Play Attendance is required each semester. There are myriad production companies in Brownwood who perform both musicals and straight plays. You will attend and critique one show each semester. High School, College, and Community Shows are acceptable. These should be full productions (not reviews) and the paper is due no later than the last day of instruction before finals. All available shows are posted to our class website, so you know the dates! Don't wait until the last minute to do this!

Required Materials

Appropriate Comfortable Attire (that is Brownwood High School Dress Code Appropriate, never skirts or dresses)
Tennis Shoes, Jazz and/or Character Shoes
1" Black View Binder
8 Tab Dividers

Discipline Policy

We do not expect to have disciplinary issues in this class. If, however, we become concerned about your participation or your behavior, we will call your parents at the first sign of trouble. NO GUM ANYTIME!
ALWAYS HAVE WATER!

Dates to put on your calendar NOW:

Oct 9-12 Musical Auditions for 2017 Musical "Lil Abner"
Oct 27-28 Theatre Haunted House Fundraiser
Nov 11 Cabaret Fundraiser 7:00 p.m. (Mandatory class participation grade)
Nov 16-18 Texas Thespians State Contest in Grapevine
Nov 29 & 30 Elementary Musical Performances
Nov 30 7:00 Christmas Parade (Float for the Musical)
Dec 4-5 JV One Act Play Auditions
May 17 Drama Fest 17' (Mandatory class participation grade)

Class Outline

This is a general idea of what we will be doing this year. Disclaimer: This is the FIRST Directing for Theatre Theatre Class taught at Brownwood High...Mrs. Lee reserves the right to change things if she feels inspired to do something different! Students will be given a detailed schedule at the beginning of each 6-weeks.

6 weeks 1: "Getting to Know You"

Students will receive basic vocal, dance, and acting techniques that will help them find their "character" while enhancing their voice, dance, and acting. Groups and pieces will be auditioned for Texas Thespians Contest.

6 weeks 2: "I Hope I Get It"

Students will again receive intensive vocal and movement coaching, and prepare an audition binder. This 6-weeks will also have guest lecturers and performances.

6 weeks 3: "As Time Goes By" and "Magic to Do"

Students will gain an understanding of the chronology of Theatre, as well as dabble in technical aspects of the theatre (Sound, Lighting, Costumes, Makeup)

6 weeks 4: "All I Need Is One Good Break"

Students will gain an understanding of the world of professional theatre. With an emphasis on Regional, Repertory, Off-Broadway and Broadway requirements, Audition Process, Touring, rehearsal and performance schedule as well as information on Actors Equity and what it means for them in Texas and beyond.

6 weeks 5: "Put on a Happy Face A.K.A Empty Chairs and Empty Tables"

This 6 weeks we will place emphasis on making Comedy comedic as well as meeting the demands of Theatrical dramas. Students will work on the Stanislavsky method of acting and how emotional recall plays a part in developing well-rounded emotional characters.

6 weeks 6: "Applause"

This 6-weeks we will combine what we have learned throughout the year and present a showcase for anyone to come see! Performers will be chosen from workshops done throughout the year, both solo and company numbers. Everyone will have a place!

Please return this page by the first Friday of classes, signed by the student and the parent. I have read the Musical Theatre Class Syllabus for 2017-2018, and understand what is expected of my student.

Student (print)_____ Student (signature) _____ Date_____

Parent (print)_____ Parent (signature) _____ Date_____

Parent Contact Phone #: _____

Parent Contact Email: _____