

ADVANCED THEATER MOVEMENT

Syllabus

Bologna

An actor's training must center around the fact that every thing the actor does is seen and interpreted by the audience. Physical movement is central to the actor's expression: in silence or voice, in motion or in stillness. An actor's body must be well-tuned and under his/her control. The actor must not be trapped by his/her physical mannerisms and limitations. This course will teach stage movement for actors as a skill needed to help create and understand characters for the stage.

Course Objectives:

- *To help students learn and develop a basic understanding and the ability to execute the fundamental principles of physical movement for the stage.
- *To help students learn the importance exercise, posture and nutrition play in maintaining a lifelong healthy body.
- *To help students learn the appropriate dress and appearance for a theater movement class and why it is important to their ability to move comfortably in class.
- *To help students learn basic theater class discipline and safety and why it is important to a successful learning environment.
- *To learn about the theatrical history of pantomime, juggling, acrobatics, Commedia dell 'Arte and clowns and how they relate to theater today.
- *To help students become aware of and appreciate the role famous mimes, actors and stunt men and women have played in the history and development of theater and film.
- *To continue to allow students to gain experience, understanding and appreciation of theater and theater movement by encouraging them to attend live theatrical performances.
- *To provide students opportunities to improve their reading and writing skills

through theater related research reports and written theater critiques.

*To help students become more familiar with their ability to choreograph fight sequences by providing opportunities to create stage combat scenes as well as theatrical fencing scenes. Their stage performance skills will improve through the performance of self and teacher choreographed and directed scenes.

Attendance and Participation:

Your attendance and active participation at each class IS EXPECTED. You will lose points for unexcused absences, tardies and lack of participation. Two points will be taken off your score for each day one of these attendance or participation infractions occurs.

Assignments:

1. Participate in all warm-up and conditioning exercises. These will be subjectively graded by the teacher and will make up twenty points of your total points of 200.
2. Participate to the best of your ability in all classroom activities. We will be working in the areas of mime, circus clowns, acrobatics and tumbling, juggling, stage movement, dance based movement, stage combat and theatrical fencing
3. Attend one live (not a recorded or televised) theatrical performance each quarter for a yearly total of four. This could be any type of play or musical. You are to write a critique of the performance you see, following the format I have given you. These reviews are worth ten points.
4. Complete written research reports on given topics. These reports may be hand written, typed or done on a word processor. Each report must include a Title Page and a Bibliography. You will turn in four reports this year, one due the week before the end of each quarter. Each report will be worth twenty points out of two hundred in determining your grade.
5. Choreograph and perform for the class one scene using stage combat and one scene from a classic play using theatrical fencing. The stage combat scene will be done with a partner and without dialogue. The fencing scene will be done with two or more actors and will require memorization of lines. Each choreographed piece

is worth ten points.

6. Read assigned chapters and articles provided by the teacher. Participation in class discussions of these assignments, completion of quick writes, worksheets and vocabulary and spelling exams is part of the course work.

7. At the end of each quarter, write a self- evaluation in which you express how you feel you did and what you learned and accomplished. You will also reflect on what you need to work on to improve in this class and as a performer in general.

8. Participate in the learning and performance of one "Brown Bag" performance. This exhibition of skills learned will be performed in front of an audience in the spring. Participation in this "Brown Bag" is required.

Dress Code:

It is your responsibility to follow the dress code for the class. You will receive a copy of the dress code that lists, in detail, what you are to wear. You will lose two points each day you do not or improperly dress out.

Attitude:

Your attitude in class is important to your development and success as an actor or any career choice. Your class etiquette, concentration, improvement and how well you accept constructive criticism on your performance technique, will be taken into consideration in determining your final grade.