

Cal State University, Northridge
Summer Academic Enrichment Program
Drama Workshop
Summer 2005
Instructor: Ms. Stacey Meltzer
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Course Overview

Philosophy: “No matter what the class, personal situation, or career, an individual with good teamwork skills, strong communication skills, and a high level of integrity will surely succeed!”

- **Stacey Meltzer**

Students will be trained in voice, movement, improvisation, acting, character/plot analysis, and teamwork/cooperation techniques. They will also be exposed to various aspects of performance careers in the entertainment industry. The workshop ends with a free, one-night only public performance on the CSUN campus.

Course Description

Class time will be spent learning and practicing performance and communication techniques, as well as understanding theatre terminology and entertainment careers. Once roles for the show are cast, most of the class time will be spent rehearsing for the full-scale performance. Some additional rehearsals will be necessary (not to exceed six additional rehearsals, plus two dress rehearsals); students/parents will receive advance notification of such rehearsals.

Course Objectives

- Identify expectations, obstacles, and tactics experienced in a theatrical setting.
- Learn to create and perform pantomimes.
- Interpret and practice various oral interpretations of dialogue and speech.
- Use appropriate posture, voice, and eye contact in performance pieces.
- Perform improvisation pieces.
- Define and identify theatre terminology, stage areas and blocking directions.
- Analyze characters, conflict, and plot in a play.
- Learn basic dance terminology and movements.
- Rehearse and perform a full-scale theatrical production (including pre-production, production, and marketing phases).
- Explore career options in the artistic and technical areas of the entertainment industry.

Course Materials

All reproduced materials (handouts, worksheets, lists, scripts) will be provided by the teacher/SAEP. There will be no additional cost to students for printed materials.

Students/parents are expected to provide their own inexpensive costume pieces and props for the full-scale production. I will send home a “Wish List” of other needed materials and services, and I thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance.

Each student needs a **3-inch binder with pockets** (for work handed back); the number of dividers needed will be determined after we know the number of scenes in the play we will be performing (by week 2) – I’ll keep you posted. Students will also need plenty of **white lined paper** for taking notes (not the notebook kind with the fuzzy edges) and **writing utensils (both pens and pencils)**.

Homework, Classwork and Test policy

Each student can expect 45-60 minutes of homework each night, either writing or practicing lines/blocking/learned techniques.

Assignments may be neatly hand written on worksheets. However, if the teacher cannot read the student’s writing, an answer may be marked “wrong.” Students can feel free to re-create the worksheet on the computer, filling in his/her correct answers, but such re-creation is not required. I expect all assignments to be completed. Missed/late assignments can be made up/turned in, **only if the student has an excused absence** on the due date. If a student knows in advance that he/she will be absent, prior arrangements for missed work should be made with the teacher. If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, that assignment **must be turned in on the day the student returns to class**.

There will be several written and demonstrative quizzes on theatre terms and performance techniques. If students are absent on a test day, the student must make up a quiz/performance within the time set forth by the teacher.

Grading

Students are mainly assessed on enthusiastic/energetic class participation in exercises and rehearsals. In addition, various homework assignments and in-class work will be graded (worksheets/quizzes). “Active” participation includes learning one’s lines and blocking in a timely manner, certainly by the “off-book” (meaning no more scripts in hands at rehearsals) date. Obviously, for the benefit of the individual, and of the group as a whole, the teacher expects all assignments to be completed. The first assignments are the “Getting to Know You” and “Getting the Autograph of ...” worksheets, which will be completed during the first day of class. If a student will be missing the first day of class, alternate assignments/arrangements should be discussed with the teacher, but missing students must make up the work.

Class participation:	50%
Quizzes:	10%
In-class graded performances:	30%
Worksheets:	10%
“Getting to Know You”	
“Getting the Autograph of ...”	
“Character Analysis”	

Cheating

“taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own” – dictionary.com

The consequence of the first offense will be a student-teacher conference, a call home, notification to the SAEP office, and a zero on the assignment. The second offense will be a drop from the course.

Also considered cheating is copying from a fellow student, whether on a homework assignment or a quiz. The consequences are the same as above.

Student/ Parent Agreement

Please have the bottom portion returned to your teacher tomorrow with all necessary signatures.

I look forward to working with you this summer, and I know you will have a fun, valuable, and memorable experience.

Let’s put on a show!

Theatrically,

Stacey Meltzer

 We have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.

Student name _____

Student signature _____

Parent name _____

Parent signature _____