

Southeast Missouri State University

Department: Department of Theatre & Dance **Course No.:** TH 417

Title of Course: Voice for the Actor II **New**

I. Catalogue Description and Credit Hours:

Advanced study and awareness using the voice as a primary tool of theatrical expression, as well as an introduction and use of the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet). (3 credit hours)

II. Prerequisites: TH 317; or consent of instructor

III. Purposes and Objectives of the course:

- To explore the range of the vocal instrument through exercises and performance—culminating in an advanced understanding of vocal qualities, strengths, and weaknesses.
- To further expand the use of voice as a primary instrument of performance.
- To achieve a more advanced understanding about the connective relationship between voice and body.
- To analyze more complex and diverse texts for vocal performance.
- To further expand knowledge of literature appropriate for performance.
- To further learn about one's personal voice through careful analysis of others.
- To more fully explore the human vocal system, including its components, and the vocal process.
- To enhance the regimen of vocal warm-ups and maintenance.
- To explore advanced techniques designed to help with relaxation, breathing, resonance, projection, and articulation to assist in freeing the actor's voice for the stage to its utmost effectiveness and flexibility.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will research, analyze, and create roles from plays.
- Students will demonstrate proper use of speech and the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as it pertains to acting by participating in examinations and quizzes and show improvement in vocal clarity, precision, range, and power by presenting impromptu materials, as well as prepared exercises and performances, consistent with fourth-year National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) standards.
- Students will critique, examine, and defend their creative choices.

V. Expectations of Students:

- Students will demonstrate more advanced knowledge of speech biology.
- Students will demonstrate more advanced knowledge of speech mechanics.
- Students will demonstrate improvement in vocal clarity, precision, range, and power.
- Students will model college-level discipline and deportment with regards to assignments, exercises, participation, and attendance.

- Students will read-for-mastery each textbook and supplementary reading assignment.
- Students will engage in all class discussions as well as prepare and perform in-class, workshop exercises as assigned.
- Students will dress appropriately for full participation in physical vocal-workout exercises.
- Students will prepare and take regularly scheduled exams, quizzes, a variety of performance-based evaluations, and a final examination/performance.
- A recording device or recording capability on your computer is necessary as well as the ability to listen to sound samples on your computer or other device.

VI. Course Outline:

- **Week #1:**
 - Introduction to the course; Ensemble Exercises; Assign Journals
 - Introduction of Laban Effort Exercises
- **Week #2:**
 - Review of the Progression; Laban Exercises
 - Exercises - Body Awareness, Touch of Sound, and Amplification
- **Week #3:**
 - Exercises - Jaw, Tongue, Soft Palate
 - Laban Review
- **Week #4:**
 - Exercises - Power Breathing, Lower and Upper Sinus
 - Exercises: Laban
- **Week #5:**
 - Introduction to IPA; Introduction to the Vowel Tree; Assign text
 - Exercises – IPA; Exercises - Vowel Tree
- **Week #6:**
 - Exercises/Quiz – IPA; Exercises - Vowel Tree
- **Week #7:**
 - Vowel Review; Laban Exercises
 - Performance I: Monologues
- **Week #8:**
 - Exercises – IPA/Quiz; Exercises - Consonants
- **Week #9:**
 - Exercises/Quiz – IPA; Exercises - Skinner Front Vowels
- **Week #10:**
 - Exercises – IPA; Exercises - Skinner Front Vowels
- **Week #11:**
 - Exercises/Quiz – IPA; Exercises - Skinner Front Vowels
- **Week #12:**
 - Performance II: Classical Soliloquy
- **Week #13:**
 - Exercises from Assigned Script
 - IPA Test: Translation
- **Week #14:**

- Exercises - Skinner Mid-Vowels
- Exercises - Skinner Back Vowels
- **Week #15:**
 - Exercises - Skinner Back Vowels
- **Week #16:**
 - Exercises - Skinner Back Vowels / Submit: Journals
 - Performance III: Monologue (Realism) / Submit: Growth & Progress Paper
- **Week #17:**
 - Performance III: Monologue (Realism) / Critique Session

VII. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

- *Actor Training the Laban Way* by Barbara Adrian
- *Freeing the Natural Voice*, by Kristin Linklater
- **Additional Materials:**
 - A hand held mirror
 - A 3-ring binder
 - Erasable pencils
 - Water

VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation

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| ● Growth/Progress Paper | 10% |
| ● Performance: Monologue | 10% |
| ● Performance: Classical Soliloquy | 10% |
| ● Performance: Monologue (Realism) | 10% |
| ● IPA Translation | 10% |
| ● Journal | 10% |
| ● IPA Quizzes | 20% (5% each) |
| ● Participation | 20% |

Supplemental Texts:

- *Speak with Distinction* by Edith Skinner
- *Finding Your Voice* by Barbara Houseman
- *Tackling Text [And Subtext]* by Barbara Houseman
- *Voice and Diction* by Jon Eisenson
- *Fundamentals of Voice and Articulation* by Lyle Mayer
- *The Dialect Handbook* by Ginny Kopf
- *A Course in Phonetics* by Peter Ladefoged
- *The Actor Speaks* by Patsy Rodenburg
- *The Right to Speak* by Patsy Rodenburg
- *Speak With Distinction* by Edith Skinner
- *Speaking Shakespeare* by Patsy Rodenburg
- *Freeing Shakespeare's Voice* by Kristin Linklater
- *The Use and Training of the Human Voice* by Arthur Lessac

- *The Actor and the Text* by Cicely Berry