

**Southeast Missouri State University
Fall 2012**

Department: Theatre & Dance
Title of Course: Senior Portfolio

Course Number: TH 488

I. Catalog Descriptions and Credit Hours of Course:

Senior-level audition/portfolio class exploring various audition/interview techniques and strategies. Also examines various entrepreneurial skills to help launch early careers. (3 credit hours)

II. Prerequisite:

BFA or BA in Theatre Major; Completion of 90 credit hours.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- To provide students with the necessary tools to launch their post-graduate careers in theatre/film/television;
- To explore various portfolio preparation techniques;
- To investigate various interview situations and techniques;
- To provide students with raw facts about professional theatre/film/television and a career in acting;
- To develop for each student a post-graduation marketing plan;
- To provide students with senior-level training to be competitive when auditioning/interviewing for graduate schools, internships, and commercial theatre/film/television;
- To prepare students to successfully make the transition from the rural Midwest into a major metropolitan area and the competitive professional market;
- To prepare students for full participation in the local senior showcase;
- To prepare performers for full participation in the New York Showcase and designer/technicians for the University/Resident Theatre Auditions and Interviews.

IV. Expectations of Students:

- To attend all classes and participate fully in all discussions and exercises;
- To fully participate in all discipline appropriate theatre and dance master classes presented by professional faculty and outside guest artists;
- To complete all outside assignments in a timely fashion and to the best of their ability;
- To maintain a productive and collegial environment;
- To remain open and respectful of new and conflicting ideas;
- To respectfully challenge existing thought and accepted ideas;
- To take risks with all creative and intellectual endeavors.

V. Course Outline:

WEEK #1 (3 classroom hours)

Scheduled Activity	Due
The Business of Theatre, Film, & Television	

WEEK #2 (3 classroom hours)

The Business (cont.) / Personal Marketing & Business Plans	
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WEEK #3 (3 classroom hours)

Professional Headshots, Resumes, & Portfolios	Turn in Material #1
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WEEK #4 (3 classroom hours)

Workshop Audition/Presentation #1	
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WEEK #5 (3 classroom hours)	
Workshop Audition/Presentation #1	
WEEK #6 (3 classroom hours)	
Workshop Audition/Presentation #1	Present Audition/Presentation #1 Turn in Material #2
WEEK #7 (3 classroom hours)	
The Business (cont.) Networking Strategies, Unions, Transitioning from College, Launching Your Career	
WEEK #8 (3 classroom hours)	
Careers in the Performing Arts	Union Presentations
WEEK #9 (3 classroom hours)	
Workshop Audition/Presentation #2	
WEEK #10 (3 classroom hours)	
Workshop Audition/Presentation #2	
WEEK #11 (3 classroom hours)	
Workshop Audition/Presentation #2	Present Audition/Presentation #2 Turn in Material #3
WEEK #12 (3 classroom hours)	
Cold Reading & Interview Technique	Union Presentations Submit Business Plan
WEEK #13 (3 classroom hours)	
Cold Reading & Interview Technique	
WEEK #14 (3 classroom hours)	
Workshop Audition/Presentation #3	
WEEK #15 (3 classroom hours)	
Workshop Audition/Presentation #3	
WEEK #16 (3 classroom hours)	
Workshop Audition/Presentation #3	Present Audition/Presentation #3
FINAL	
Presentation Final Portfolios	Submit Term Papers

VI. Source Material:

- *Acting Professionally (7th Edition)*, by Robert Cohen
- *The Business of Theatrical Design*, by James Moody
- Readings as assigned

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

- Audition or Design/Tech Presentation I 15%
Actors - 2 60-second dramatic monologues &
2 60-second comedic **OR** 32-bars of a song
Designers/Technicians – Portfolio Presentation Materials
- Audition or Design/Tech Presentation II 15%
Actors - 2 new 60-second dramatic monologues &
2 new 60-second comedic **OR** 32-bars of a song
Designers/Technicians – Portfolio Presentation Materials
- Audition or Design/Tech Presentation III (200 pts) 20%
Actors - 2 new 60-second dramatic monologues &
2 new 60-second comedic **OR** 32-bars of a song
Designers/Technicians – Portfolio Presentation Materials
- Marketing & Business Plan 10%
1-Year Plan / 5-Year Plan / 10-Year Plan
- Professional Headshots & Resumes 10%
- Participation in Master Classes 10%
- Term Paper & Presentation on Unions (AEA, SAG, AFTRA, USA, or USITT) 20%
15-page paper; Chicago Style; Times New Roman; 12-point; double-
spaced; 1” borders; Endnotes; Bibliography, 10 legitimate sources

Participation:

Participation is determined by each student’s positive contributions to classroom discussions and full commitment to exercises as assigned. Cooperation and a willingness to learn, as well as civility toward one another and toward the professor, also determine your participation grade.

Final Grades:

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| A = 900 – 1,000 | Excellent work with mastery of the acting techniques and an excellent ability to invent. Excellent effort. |
| B = 800 – 899 | Good work with a solid grasp of acting techniques with strong effort to invent. No technical problems with superlative effort. |
| C = 700 – 799 | Competent work with basic understanding of basic acting techniques but there are technical problems that should be addressed. Average effort to invent. Adequate effort. |
| D = 600 – 699 | Poor work with a failure to master basic acting techniques, lacking technical and inventive skills. Poor effort in completing projects. |
| F = 0 – 599 | Lacking understanding and practice of basic acting techniques. Failure to do work. Poor attitude. Inadequate preparation. |

VIII. Miscellaneous**Disabilities**

The Counseling Programs at Southeast MO State University make every attempt to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If a student has a diagnosed disability or believes he or she has a disability that might require “reasonable accommodation” on the part of the instructor or the program, the student needs to contact the Campus Assistance Center at the University Center, Room 302, (573) 651-2273, TDD 651-5927, or visit their website at <http://www6.semo.edu/lec/disabilities/htm>. As a part of the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is the responsibility of the student to disclose a disability prior to requesting “reasonable accommodation.”

Modification of Syllabus

It is the professor’s prerogative to change or modify this syllabus at any point in the semester.

Bibliography

- Alburger, James R. *The Art of Voice Acting*. 3rd ed. Burlington, MA: Focal Press, 2007.
- Carlson, Steve. *Hitting Your Mark: Making a Life – And a Living – As a Film Actor*. 3rd ed. Hollywood, CA: BookLocker.com, Inc., 2011.
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- Conte, David M. and Stephen Langley. *Theatre Management: Producing and Managing the Performing Arts*. Hollywood, CA: Quite Specific Media Group, Ltd., 2007.
- Farber, Donald C. *Producing Theatre: A comprehensive and Legal Business Guide*. 3rd ed. Pompton Plains, NJ: Liimelight Editions, 2006.
- Gleason, Paul G. and Gavin Levy. *Acting for Love & Money*. Colorado Springs, CO: Meriwether Publishing Ltd., 2010.
- Goldberg, Jan. *Great Jobs for Theater Majors*. 2nd ed. New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 2005.
- Gordon, Sandra R. *Action! Establishing Your Career in Film & Television Production*. New York: Applause Theatre & Cinema Books, 2002.
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- Logan, Tom. *Acting in the Million Dollar Minute*. Pompton Plains, NJ: Limelight Editions, 2005.
- Long, Robert Emmet, editor. *Producing the Theatre Business: Working in the Theatre*. New York: Random House, 1996.
- McGaw, Charles, and Kenneth L. Stilson and Larry D. Clark. *Acting is Believing*. 11th ed. Boston: Wadsworth Publishing/Cengage Higher Learning, 2012.
- Moody, James L. *The Business of Theatrical Design*. New York: Allworth Press, 2002.
- O’Neil, Brian. *Acting as a Business: Strategies for Success*. 3rd ed. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2005.
- Stein, Tobie S. and Jessica Bathurst. *Performing Arts Management*. New York: Allworth Communications, Inc., 2008.
- Stevens, Steve with John D. Cady. *So You Want To Be in Show Business: A Hollywood Agents Shares the Secrets of Getting Ahead Without Getting Ripped Off*. Nashville, TN: Cumberland House Publishing, 2005.
- Vogel, Frederic B. and Ben Hodges. *The Commercial Theater Institute Guide to Producing Plays and Musicals*. Milwaukee, WI: Applause Theatre & Cinema Books, 2006.