



## **Beginning Drama**

**2023-2024**

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*“What E’er Thou Art, Act Well Thy Part.” ~ Shakespeare*

### **Course Description**

This class is designed to help you soar beyond the ordinary and unlock the extraordinary within yourself! Prepare to embark on a captivating journey into the realm of drama, where the focus is not only on honing your acting skills but also on cultivating essential life skills such as empathy, being proACTIVE, developing a well-rounded character, and the art of being present.

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive exploration of dramatic arts, emphasizing the cultivation of skills that extend beyond the stage, such as:

- Communication Skills
- Collaboration and Teamwork
- Confidence and Self-Esteem
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Creativity and Imagination
- Discipline and Time Management
- Critical Thinking
- Cultural Awareness
- Leadership Skills
- Body Language and Non-Verbal Expression
- Problem-Solving

In the spotlight, we discover the extraordinary in ourselves, each other, and the world around us!

### **Units**

The course includes [number] units:

#### **Term 1: Presence in Life & on Stage**

- Unit 1: Theatre Crash Course
- Unit 2: Energy: the Actor’s Superpower
- Unit 3: Active Listening

#### **Term 2: Character Development**

- Unit 4: Understanding Your Character
- Unit 5: Tactics & Objectives
- Unit 6: Elements of Character Building

#### **Term 3: How We React**

- Unit 7: Stop Talking
- Unit 8: To Act or ReACT?
- Unit 9: Curiosity Saved the Cat!

#### **Term 4: Putting it All Together**

- Unit 10: Methods of Acting
- Unit 11: The Transformative Power of Theatre
- Unit 12: Audition Workshop

## **Course Assignments**

In this class, students will complete several kinds of assignments. However, the 3 categories of assignments that will be graded are listed below:

Class Participation. Since this class is highly skills-based, attendance during and participation in class are important to your success. You will be awarded a grade for your willingness to participate in class activities and discussions.

Class Assignments. Acting is all about getting out of your comfort zone. You will be given many assignments in class that will help you to take your skill sets to the next level. Although this class has little to no homework, it is important to stay on top of your memorization and preparations for your next class performance.

Term Performances. Each term, you will be given a performance in the form of a monologue, partner scene, or group scene. Our class lessons will help prepare you to give a confident and engaging performance.

## **Course Outline**

### **Term 1: Presence in Life & on Stage**

#### **Unit 1: Theatre Crash Course**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- What's so cool about Theatre anyway?
- How can I be successful this year?

Unit Project:

- Syllabus Quiz

#### **Unit 2: Energy: the Actor's Superpower**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- What are the 3 circles of energy?
- How can I be present on and off the stage?

Unit Project:

- Sonnet Performance

#### **Unit 3: Active Listening**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- Why is listening more important than speaking?
- How do I actively listen on and off the stage?

Unit/Term Project

- Partner Scenes Performance

### **Term 2: Character Development**

**Unit 4: Understanding Your Character**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How do I understand who my character is?

Unit Project

- Characterization Reflection

**Unit 5: Tactics & Objectives**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- The power of your choices
- Who am I even talking to?

Unit Project

- Tactics & Objectives Reflection
- 4th Wall Reflection

**Unit 6: Elements of Character Building**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How do I build a well-rounded character on and off the stage?

Unit/Term Project

- Monologue Performance

**Term 3: How We ReACT****Unit 7: Stop Talking**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- Why you shouldn't underestimate the power of body language.

Unit Project

- Listening/Responding Activity

**Unit 8: To ACT or ReACT**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How do I respond when I'm under pressure?

Unit Project

- Reaction Reflection

**Unit 9: Curiosity Saved the Cat!**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How to ask the right questions
- ...and what to do with the answers

Unit/ Term Project

- Group Scenes Performance

**Term 4: Elements of Character Building**

**Unit 10: Methods of Acting**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- Which acting method is right for me?
- What can we learn from experts?

Unit Project

- Methods of Acting Quiz

**Unit 11: The Transformative Power of Theatre**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How can Theatre transform my life?

Unit Project

- Personal Strengths Reflection

**Unit 12: Audition Workshop**

Essential Questions / Discussion Topics

- How can I put everything we have learned together?
- How can I do my best in my auditions?

Unit/Term Project

- Project Title: Audition Workshop

**Grading: Term Point Breakdown**

Class Participation	200 Points
Class Assignments	300 Points
Term Performances	500 Points
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TOTAL	1000 Points

**Grading: Scale**

A = 100% - 94%	C = 76% - 74%
A- = 93% - 90%	C- = 73% - 70%
B+ = 89% - 87%	D+ = 69% - 67%
B = 86% - 84%	D = 66% - 64%
B- = 83% - 80%	D- = 63% - 60%
C+ = 79% - 77%	F = 59% - 0%

**Strategies for Success**

- Demonstrate strong effort.
- Make significant or frequent contributions to the class.
- Push yourself outside your comfort zone.
- Work on your memorization on a daily basis.
- Complete and submit all assignments on time, unless otherwise excused by the instructor.

- Do not require more than one warning from faculty or administration to improve specifically identified misbehavior.

**Instructor Contact Information**

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