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DRAM 111A.03: Acting for Non-Majors I

Kathryn Carter

University of Montana, Missoula

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DRAMA 111 - Acting for Non-Majors

Instructor –Kathryn Carter

Drama/Dance office – 243-4481

Office hours by appointment only

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this course is for you, the student, to gain a basic understanding of the discipline of acting. This course is designed to give you a hands-on, working knowledge of the performance process. This includes an application of the creative process as well as an understanding of how creativity impacts daily life. This course will also give you a basic understanding of the presence of theatre in society. It will strive to empower you as an individual to communicate more freely and more creatively within your own life – personally as well as professionally.

OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, the acting for non-majors student will achieve:

- An improved ability to communicate effectively with others
- A respect for, and an appreciation of the nature of theatre, including both performance and spectator skills
- An enlightened ability to analyze and interpret theatrical stories, and
- A basic understanding of the nature of theatre and acting.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE

As this course is primarily a studio course, attendance is vital. Once a studio class is missed, it is gone forever and cannot be made up. Full participation in and attendance at ALL classes is expected. Sitting out the day's work is the same as an absence. More than one week of class absence, (three hours), will result in the drop of one full letter grade. A second full week of class absence, (six hours), will result in another full letter grade drop. After this point, a letter will be dropped for each subsequent class absence.

PRODUCTION DATES

The Last Night of Ballyhoo

October 10 – 14, 17 - 21

The Heiress

November 7 – 11

The Diary of Anne Frank

December 5 – 9, 12 - 16

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

You will be required to write two formal papers of 3-4 pages maximum. The actual topics of each paper will be announced in appropriate timeliness to when each is due.

PERFORMANCE PROJECTS

You will be required to do at least four final performances throughout the semester. There will also be practice performances for all of the final performances. (This means you will have to perform more than four times for the class.) The actual assignments for the performances will be thoroughly explained before they are due.

PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

- **NO WEAPONS OF ANY KIND, REAL OR FAKE
WILL BE ALLOWED IN ANY CLASS PROJECTS!!!!!!**
- Due to the physical nature of the class, students should be aware that a risk of injury is possible if the work is not completed cautiously and carefully.

This leads us to the third unit, which is **character study and analysis**. This unit will allow the student to use what he/she has learned during the improvisation unit and to take it a step further. The student will learn to create a character using some elements from him/herself as well as some qualities that will be suggested to them. The student will also be able to create a character analysis.

The last unit is **Scene study**. In this unit, the student will find a scene from a play...not a movie, a play, and perform it through a series of workshops in the classroom as well as some rehearsal time outside of class. The character analysis learned in the third unit will here be employed. This should leave the student with the ability to better interpret theatrical literature as well as a better understanding of the process of acting with a text.

FINAL EXAM TIME: TBA