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# THTR 484.01: Advanced Acting - Professional Skills

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**THTR 484**  
***Advanced Acting: Professional Skills***

Professor Jere Hodgkin  
CRN 32535  
3 Credits  
School of Theatre & Dance  
College of Visual and Performing Arts

**Term:** Spring 2016 **Time:** 9:40- 11:00 am Tuesday/Thursday **Location:** PARTV 195  
**Office Hours:** 1:00- 3:00 Wednesday; 2:00- 3:00 Thursday; and by appointment

**Description:**

This studio class is designed specifically for the acting student who is pursuing a professional career as an actor. It assumes that the actor has already advanced to a level of proficiency in his/her training that would equip him/her to perform as an actor in a professional environment.

The focus of the class is the professional life of the actor. It is designed to present the "raw facts about careers in acting," that is to examine the myriad aspects of a professional career. We will explore how to get the job rather than what to do when you have the job. This is not a course that will develop acting technique, but introduce you to the complex world of professional acting. The course should be sub-titled, "REALITY," as it will focus on you as an actor and how you fit into the "system" that we call the profession.

**Objectives:**

To help you clarify and define your goals as a professional actor.

To help you create a plan for establishing yourself as a working actor by an examination and discussion of the professional life of an actor.

To help you enhance your casting skills for employment through selecting and honing audition material as well as assembling a resume and picture.

To help you understand the business aspect of show business.

**Text:**

*Acting Professionally* (7<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Robert Cohen.

Recommended:

Note: In addition, various articles, essays, and trade publications that relate to specific topics with which we deal in class will be assigned.

**Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).

**School of Theatre and Dance Policies:**

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

*Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.*

**Graded Course Requirements:**

- Written Exercises (Resumes, Letters of Introduction, etc.) (15%)
- Presentation of Audition Monologues (40%)
- Participation (20%)
- Research Project and Presentation on Professional Theatre (20%)
- Written Self Evaluation (5%)

Note: As this class is based on participation, attendance is requisite. The collaborative and creative processes of theatre are the foundation of our class. **No unexcused absences will be allowed.**

**Calendar:**

Tuesday	26 January	Introduction; "The Way It Is"
Thursday	28 January	Outside Research
Tuesday	2 February	"What You Will Need"
Thursday	4 February	"Your First Decisions"
Tuesday	9 February	Outside Research- Monologues
Thursday	11February	Goals and Objectives
Tuesday	16 February	"Establishing Yourself"
Thursday	18 February	"Establishing Yourself"
Tuesday	23 February	<i>All My Sons</i> AEA Actors
Thursday	25 February	Monologue Selection/Monologue Criteria

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Tuesday	1 March	In-Class Monologue Work- Auditions Round One
Thursday	3 March	Outside Monologue Work
Tuesday	8 March	In-Class Monologue Work- Auditions Round One
Thursday	10 March	Pictures, Bios, and Resumes
Tuesday	15 March	Pictures, Bios, and Resumes- Presentation
Thursday	17 March	Presentations/Critiques- Monologues Round One
Tuesday	22 March	"The Casting Room"
Thursday	24 March	Interviews, Call Backs and Cold Readings
Tuesday	29 March	Interviews, Call Backs and Cold Readings
Thursday	31 March	Job Offers, Negotiations, Contracts, Work Conditions, and Business Questions
Tuesday	5 April	SPRING BREAK
Thursday	7 April	SPRING BREAK
Tuesday	12 April	In-Class Monologue Work- Auditions Round Two
Thursday	14 April	In-Class Monologue Work- Auditions Round Two
Tuesday	19 April	Musical Theatre Auditions
Thursday	21 April	Present/Critique Monologues- Round Two
Tuesday	26 April	Techniques/Coaching/Rehearsal Etiquette
Thursday	28 April	Presentation/Critique Musical Audition- Round Three
Tuesday	3 May	Presentation of Projects
Thursday	5 May	Presentation of Projects; Personal Reflection Due