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THTR 120A.02: Introduction to Acting I

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THTR 120A.02 INTRODUCTION TO ACTING 3 Credits Autumn 2022
Tuesday and Thursday 4:00-5:20 **MISSOULA COLLEGE 122**

Andy Taylor

Andrew3.taylor@mso.umt.edu PARTV 198

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

Students will get an introductory overview of the process of becoming an actor through exercises in movement and voice work, concentration and group building, script analysis, effective storytelling and finding your “voice.”

Course Outcomes:

On completion of this course students will:

Have an understanding of useful first steps and exercises an aspiring actor can undertake.

Have better vocal facility and power to engage an audience.

Have an understanding of and develop more facility in verbal and non-verbal story telling.

Understand how an actor creates a character and their function in a particular story.

Perform in class for their peers in both scripted and unscripted scene work.

Choose and perform a memorized monologue in class.

Make adjustments suggested by instructor on your monologue to perform at a later class.

Understand how to make an effective “self-tape” for casting purposes.

Have a rudimentary understanding of the basic elements involved in the profession of acting.

Required Texts:

All texts required for class will be available on Moodle or distributed by instructor.

Work for Assessment:

80% -- attendance and in-class contribution, participation, effort, attitude, and respect.

20% --Written assignments, two reviews of fall productions at the UM Dept of Theatre and Dance, a journal of reflections on classwork and outside observations.

Ground Rules:

It is your responsibility to keep up with your attendance. The “stuff” of acting happens in the room. If you are encountering any health or related issues that affect your attendance, please contact Andy Taylor about this as soon as possible.

Please feel free to ask and answer questions inside and outside class. If you have any questions about how you are doing, contact me by e-mail, or arrange to see me during office hours.

Introduction to Acting, Fall 2022 Syllabus: (always subject to change)

Week 1: Introduction to acting, awakening your senses

Week 2: Physical and vocal exercises; Hamlet’s advice to the players

Week 3: Sing with your whole body; active observation and participation

Week 4: Scenes with no words; “Blank scenes”

Week 5: Approaching a script; mining the text

Week 6: All good scenes are a battle; winning that battle

Week 7: The elephant in the room

Week 8: Monologues in class

Week 9: Let’s try that again

Week 10: Scenes with a partner

Week 11: More scene work, more elephants

Week 12: A solid self tape, representing yourself

Week 13-15: Solving story problems, guiding and teaching yourself, the inner split screen

Final: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 3:20-5:20pm Missoula College Room 122

COURSE POLICIES

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 www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php.

SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE:

- **Handbook Practices & Procedures:** All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/theatredance/about/handbook>.
- **Class Etiquette:** Please limit your **eating or drinking** during the class. Please let me know in writing if you need a medical exception to this policy. **Liquids in a capped container** are acceptable. Absolutely **no weapons**, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom. When class has ended, please return space to its original condition (in other words, **clean up** after yourselves). Lastly, **electronic devices are to be stowed away** during class unless permission has been given to access them. It is crucial to the success of the course that you stay directly engaged during class. Please check with me if you feel you need an exception to this rule. Further, you may use your laptops and devices for all in-class assignments or project work, so bring them to class.

DISABILITY SERVICES: The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide a fully accessible learning environment for all students.

STUDENT WELLNESS:

The School of Theatre & Dance recognizes that theatre and performance content and processes can provoke; therefore, during the course of a class or rehearsal, students can choose to remove themselves from activities should they feel a threat to their well-being. Please communicate with your instructor and/or stage manager as soon as you can, prior to or after leaving.

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, and cross-cultural challenges can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in the university setting. For helpful resources, please contact the Curry Health Center Counseling department at 406-243-4711 or schedule an online appointment through the health portal: www.umt.edu/hportal. For a crisis or for after-hours care, you can contact: the emergency rooms at St. Patrick Hospital or Community Medical Center; the National Suicide Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255; or the Crisis Text line: text MT to 741-741.