

ACTING I

Teacher	David Block	
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Room	48	

CLASS DESCRIPTION: This class will introduce the student to the basics of acting including: the history of theatre, exercises and improvisations, acting terminology, performing monologues, and scene work.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. To familiarize the student with the theatre as part of the western cultural tradition.
2. To provide the student with an historical context for different styles of theatrical presentation.
3. To acquaint the student with theatrical terminology.
4. To strengthen the students' abilities to be aware of their surroundings and fellow performers.
5. To familiarize the student with theatrical literature.
6. To provide students with actual theatre practice to prepare them for future experiences on stage.

CLASS TOPICS:

- Theatre History
- Theatre terminology
- Speech Exercises
- Improvisation
- Characterization
- Individual and Small Scene Work

Note: During the class we will take part in readings, improvisations, theatre games, and other activities. Your involvement in these activities will determine your class participation grade.

Extra Credit: Extra credit is available to students on the class webpage located at <http://mr.blocksclass.com>. Other options for extra credit will be available to students on a periodic basis as provided by the teacher. Extra Credit will NOT be available to students for extra work at the end of the semester, etc. Students should avail themselves of extra credit when it is provided as it may not be an option later on.

Auditions: Students are required to audition for **one** production. This may be for a school production or for community theatre. Students will write a reaction to their audition.

Theatre Reviews: Students are required to attend two dramatic performances and write reviews of these performances during the semester. Each of these reviews should follow the provided format. Students may attend school performances or may choose to attend performances in the community. Students may do two additional theatre reviews before the second-to-last week of the class for extra credit. Reviews are due within one week of the attended performance. Reviews **MUST** be typed.

THEATRE REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

Each student must complete two theatre reviews for class. You may optionally do two additional reviews for extra credit. Each review must be done using the following format.

1. Go to a theatrical performance. The performance must be either a drama or musical. Dance performances, or other performance art type events are not appropriate for the purposes of this class. If you are unsure whether a performance qualifies for this assignment, ask the Mr. Block. School plays may be used.
2. Watch the performance with a critical eye. You may decide to take written notes during the performance. Please be aware of others in the Theatre as you do this. Do NOT make your note taking a distraction for others who are enjoying the performance.
3. After you have finished watching the performance you should write your review. Do so as soon as possible so your memory of the event is fresh in your mind.
4. Reviews are due within one week of the performance.
5. In your review, please be sure to supply the following information:
 - Title of the performance
 - Time, Date and Location of the performance
 - Author of the play
 - Director's name
 - Names of lead actors
 - A synopsis of the plot
 - Description of set, lights, costumes and other technical aspects of the performance
 - Critical review of one actor's performance
 - Critical review of the quality of the play overall
 - Whether or not you would recommend the performance for othersYour response to these items should be in complete sentences and paragraphs. Higher marks will be given to those students who use an essay format.
6. Your review must be typed. Use 1" margins, normal size fonts and please double space. Your name should be in the upper right hand corner.
7. Attach your ticket stub or a program to the finished review.

ALL REVIEWS ARE DUE:

**FIRST SEMESTER – DEC 4
SECOND SEMESTER – MAY 7**

**PLAN AHEAD FOR THESE DUE DATES.
DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!!**