



Theatre 2023-24 Syllabus

Faculty: Mr. Todd Ritter, Level 1 and 4
Josh Mullins, Level 2 and 3
Dr. Stephanie Poxon, CFA Director

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- Come each day filled with a sense of joy.
- Unless you hurt someone physically or emotionally, do not apologize.
- Turn your phones off and put them in your bags before the start of class.

Course Offerings:

Students can expect strenuous work in the following areas in each level of classes, making appropriate adjustments for proficiency levels:

- Acting: an understanding of concentration, stage vocabulary, personal identification, monologues, contemporary scene study, staging, character studies, vocal development.
- Movement: a knowledge of the physical areas of the stage, the use of the body in characterization, vocabulary, dance techniques and vocabulary, warm-up routines, and an understanding how the body functions as a tool for the actor.
- Improvisation: an exploration of the actor's personal identification with the factors of space and environment, development of qualities unique to his/her own being, ensemble work, development of creativity and movement, pantomime, slow motion, sound projection and simple staging.
- Creative Writing: the process of creative writing for use on the stage, radio or broadcast, promotional materials, and ensemble theatre pieces.
- Dramatic Literature: a survey of dramatic literature from Greek drama to the present day, various reading selections, and critical theory.
- Performance: the study and rehearsal of specific work as a result of classroom curriculum performed for a variety of audiences, preparation process and performance experience.

Class Expectations:

Students are expected to practice the following qualities at all times:

- Respect for others on and off the stage
- 100% participation at the appropriate times
- Remaining on task during independent and group work without constant supervision
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Come to class prepared to work, listen, and learn, with all appropriate materials
- Avoid interrupting the class or others with inappropriate talking or talking out of turn
- Listen to and follow directions given to you by your instructors

Your contributions to the positive learning environment aid in your learning as well as the learning of the entire class. This includes staying attentive to class activities as well as fully participating in all activities.

Guest Artists: We often ask professionals in our area to come to work with you so that you benefit from their expertise and experience. You are expected to show them total respect and your 100% willingness to learn from their experiences. You are also expected to know the information that they are bringing to you. You will want to take notes on this information, as it will be included on tests.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

At the start of class, students are required to put their phone out of sight and away (purse, backpack, locker, etc.) Phones will only be used when allowed by the instructor and must be put away afterwards. Failure to do so will result in parental contact and/or administrative intervention.

Grading:

*From the CFA student handbook:

“You have been chosen for a Specialty Center! We expect you to excel in your CFA classes. A CFA grade below a B will initiate a conversation about your commitment and dedication to your achievement in the arts. ...A grade point average (GPA) is calculated only on classes that students are enrolled in each grading period. **The minimum GPA expectation for all students is 2.7.** ...It is imperative that students and parents understand the importance of academic and artistic achievement.” Page 6

Categories: These are the basic category guidelines. Certain assignments may be weighted differently depending on rigor. Any difference in category to an assignment will be announced.

35% - Tests, Projects, Performances AND Theatre Logs:

- Tests & Projects: Projects will be given throughout the year, use your time wisely. You will be tested on any information given in class during that time period. Test questions may and will be repeated over the course of the semester so review prior tests in order to stay ahead in class.
- Performance: This is a performance-based class, therefore a significant part of your grade will be based on your performances. Grading will be based on performance quality, personal growth and attitude. **Please note that rehearsals and performances are part of the curriculum, and therefore are mandatory.**
- Theatre Logs: You must turn one log in PER QUARTER. I will no longer accept a theatre log from a performance that occurred more than 3 weeks prior to date it was turned in. **THEATRE LOGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE TURNED IN THROUGH SCHOOLGY.** Obviously, tickets and programs will not be needed until we return to live performances. ALSO, if you have cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and at least a B in my class by the end of MP3, you will be **EXEMPT** from your MP4 theatre log if you turned in the previous 3 Theatre Logs! You may turn one in if you think it will help your final grade.

Due Dates: MP1: Sept. 5, MP2: Nov. 8, MP3: Jan. 26, MP4: April 8

30% - Quiz:

- Quizzes may be announced or UNannounced. Quizzes will only cover the current unit of study.

25% - Classwork/Daily Grades

- Daily Grades: Class participation is vital. I will be looking for not only participation, but also attitude and dedication. Merely showing up for class does NOT constitute an “A.” A weekly average will determine your grade.

10% - Homework/Independent Practice

- Due to the nature of a performance based class, homework is not issued frequently. BUT when it is assigned, I expect it to be completed ON TIME.

Attendance Policy –

All make up assignments must be completed within three school days, if it is an excused absence. In order to get an excused absence note from attendance, you must bring a parent note within three school days. If you bring a note on day two, you only have ONE day to make up work. If you do not bring a note it is an unexcused absence, and you will receive a zero for that assignment. You will also receive a zero for that day as your daily grade. **It is the student's responsibility to show your instructor your note.**

From the CFA Handbook (Page 5) In addition, attendance during the school day is mandatory during showcase tech week. Students are not permitted to sleep in or come to school late during Showcase Tech Week or Showcase Performance days. If a student is absent during Showcase Tech Week/Performance days, we will need a note from an attending physician to verify the absence. Otherwise, the student may not be permitted to perform in the Showcase.

Supplies

All levels should have workout clothes in their locker at **all times**. This includes sneakers, shorts, T-shirt, sweatshirt, and sweatpants when it gets cooler. In an effort to defray the cost of classroom supplies, I'm asking everyone to bring in a box of tissues and each level to bring the following:

Level 1 – A box of dry erase markers

Level 2 – A box of dry erase markers

Level 3 – Two plastic tubs of baby wipes

Level 4 – Two plastic tubs of baby wipes

Levels 3 and 4 should purchase a makeup kit that they will use over the next two years when we get back to school. I am going to spend the summer finding the best deal for either a simple kit or more advanced student kit. Price range will be between \$20-\$80 depending on the purchase. I also recommend picking up a cheap fishing tackle box to use as a makeup box. It works just as well as the fancy department store makeup boxes (maybe even better) and it is much cheaper.

Summer Assignments

We're going to make this REAL easy this summer. We would like everyone to see a live performance. The play or musical you see this summer will count as your MP1 Theatre Log which will be due within the first 2 weeks we return to school. The MP1 Theatre Log will be turned in through Schoology. I have included a paper copy. If you are a senior find a NEW monologue. It doesn't need to be memorized. However, seniors who are wishing to audition at VTA should get started ASAP. Seniors, I would also like you to complete the "I'm a Senior, Now What" assignment which is attached.

Theatre Log

2023-2024 Edition

During the school year, you will turn in your theatre logs through Schoology. The summer theatre log can be done on paper or via computer. There is a lot of theatre happening this summer and Dogwood Dell is FREE!

Answer questions in **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

Name of Theatre: _____

Title of Show: _____

Playwright: _____

Please score the following elements on a scale from 1-10. One is lowest and 10 is the highest.

1. Set Design- 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10
2. Light Design- 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10
3. Costume Design- 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10
4. Sound Design- 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10
5. Performance- 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10
6. Overall look and feel of the production- 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10

Total Score: _____ /60

What character did you relate to the most? Why?

If they were holding auditions for another production of this show, would you audition? Why or why not? If you were to audition, who would you want to audition for?

If you were to cast this show, who would you cast and in what roles would you cast them? You can either use actors here in the CFA department or you can use celebrities. Why would you cast them in those roles? You should cast all of the major characters.

What was the setting of the show? What technical elements did they use to place the audience in that setting (lighting, set, sound, costumes)? Were they clear in establishing the setting? **Elaborate on at least TWO of the following: lighting, set, sound, or costumes.**

What was the weakest technical element? Why?

In which facility did you see the production? What are your thoughts on the venue itself?
What's a show that you would like to see in that space? Why that production?

Do these responses match your review score? Why or why not?

So I'm a Senior... now what?!?

In order to help you prepare for the possibility of college, please complete the following worksheet. The more effort you put into this process, the better off you will be in the fall.

1. Prepare a theatrical resume. There are many examples on the internet, attached is a basic template.
2. What monologues do you already know? Think about what you'd be comfortable pulling out in case of an emergency audition where you have very little time to prepare. Now list them here.

3. Priorities: You will be asked to write many personal essays as you apply to schools. This is the beginning of brainstorming for that eventuality. Consider these two questions and answer thoroughly.
 - A. What do I want in a school?
 - B. What do I want for my future?
4. List 3 for each category and what are their requirements for auditions
 - A. Reach schools
 - B. Best fit schools
 - C. Safety schools

Your Name

Phone number

Email address

Vocal Range (ex: alto) (only list vocal range if you are a singer)

(Usually you list projects chronologically backwards...so your most recent show should go first on your list within each category. Also, do not list "PLAY TITLE" "Role" etc...I just listed those so you know what categories to create)

THEATRE

PLAY TITLE	Role/Position	Theatre Company	Director
THREE DAYS OF RAIN	<i>Nan/ Lina</i>	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Carrie Baker
LEMON MERINGUE FAÇADE	<i>Susan</i>	New Perspectives Theatre Co.	Jackie Alexander
PERICLES	<i>Thaisa</i>	Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre	James B. Nicola
CINDERELLA	<i>Cinderella</i>	Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre	Claudia Lively

FILM

FILM TITLE	Role	Production Company	Director
CHRONIC TOWN	<i>Bartender</i>	Grey Jumper Productions	Tom Hines

TELEVISION

SHOW TITLE	Role	Network	Director
GUIDING LIGHT	<i>Inmate (u/5)</i>	CBS	Susan Strickler

COMMERCIAL

PRODUCT/ BRAND	Role	Production Company	Director
LARSON'S JEWELERS	<i>Voiceover</i>	Tanana Valley Television	Mike Martinez
BREWSTER'S	<i>Patron</i>	Tanana Valley Television	Mike Martinez

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

BA THEATRE/ ENGLISH expected May 2011

Studies include: Acting, Voice/ Speech (dialects: British, Irish, New York) Singing, Stage Combat, Mask, Clown, Dance (ballet, jazz), Camera Acting.

REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Improvisation Workshop, May 2005

LATHROP HIGH SCHOOL

High School Diploma, June 2001

SPECIAL SKILLS

Improvisation, Burp on Demand, Sports (Marathon Running (NYC 2003, LA 2002), Lacrosse (NCAA Championship Team), Soccer, Driver's License, Juggling, Tumbling.

Template by Kade Mendelowitz and Carrie Baker, Theatre UAF

2023-2024

Mark your calendars! Stagecraft events are listed in bold.

August

21 First Day of School

September

5 MP 1 Theatre Log Due

14 FCFA Ice Cream Social

October

31 Drama Club, VTA – Norfolk (Oct. 26 – 29) Tentative

November

3-4 CFA Fall Showcase 7:00 Show (Tech Week Oct. 30 – Nov. 2 Times TBA)

8 MP 2 Theatre Log Due

9 CFA Open House

15 Audition Workshop 6:00 (Seniors ONLY)

December

14-16 Drama Club Musical 7:00

January

13 CFA Auditions

26 MP 3 Theatre Log Due

February

2 CFA Experience Day

6 Symposium Day

15 –17 Drama Club – Play 7:00 Show

March

1-2 Dance Showcase

15-16 Theatre Showcase (Tech Week Mar. 11-14 – Times TBA)

19-21 NYC Trip (Tentative Dates – Info to follow)

April

1-5 SPRING BREAK

8 MP 4 Theatre Log Due

19-20 Musical Theatre Showcase

26 Senior Visual Art Showcase (Art Works Gallery)

May

3 Senior Theatre Showcase (Seniors ONLY)

10 Senior Musical Theatre Showcase and Visual Arts Showcase

14 New Student Orientation

17 Senior Dance Showcase

21 CFA Senior Awards

31 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

This is now a Google Form and can be filled out at <https://forms.gle/eY3QpKuTX1R3FY96A> or use the following QR code. Thanks!



Parents and Guardians,

In an attempt to increase communication, and since some of my students occasionally forget to mention important dates, I am asking that you read my syllabus and submit this form acknowledging your acceptance of the dates and policies within. This is an extraordinary time for us all. It is my plan to make your child's education as "normal" as possible. Events will arise and problems will occur. Communication is crucial to solve these issues. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and I promise to do the same. My email is teritter@henrico.k12.va.us.

A note on class readings and discussions.

Theatre is a reflection of the events happening all around us. Sometimes these reflections, in the form of plays or class discussion, will focus on mature, difficult, and potentially challenging topics. Readings and discussions might trigger strong feelings—anger, discomfort, confusion, excitement, humor, and even boredom. Some of us will have emotional responses to the readings; some of us will have emotional responses to our peers' understanding of the readings; all students should feel responsible for creating a space that is both intellectually rigorous and respectful. Above all, be respectful – even (and especially) when you strongly disagree. Although students are never *required* to read anything aloud, know that at times the language may be of a mature nature. We try our best to make sure that readings reflect the level of instruction, but sometimes, the language is unavoidable. Parents, if you ever have a question about the content of the plays that are read in class, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Student Name Email Address Cell Phone

Parent/Guardian Name Email Address Preferred Phone #

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Student Signature Date