THEATRE PRACTICUM  
#597  
Spring 2015

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Office Hours  
Available by appointment. Call or email as above. Mentorship is an essential element of the instructional technique in the MFA program; make it a point to make an appointment.

Course Goals  
To challenge the student actor with the demands of performing in a fully produced classical play in a large venue (500 seats).

Course Description  
After three semesters of working as a cohort in classes, and experiencing a “bare-bones” production as a first year culmination, and a fully-produced “realism” play with a professional director, the second year students move to their next challenge: a Shakespeare production in the SDA’s Bing Theatre. This Spring, Michael Arabian will direct AS YOU LIKE IT. The performances begin in early March, 2015.

The initial impetus of the training and education in the MFA program has i) emphasized a personal connection between the actor and the material (text, choreography, sound, movement, etc) to be interpreted, and ii) asked the students to utilize these practices to satisfy the demands of an existing realistic play from the 20th Century. Now the bar is raised again. Dealing with Shakespeare’s story, characters, and language requires a further application of the core elements of the training - voice, body, imagination - in an experience that will tax the skill level of the student to a greater degree than ever.

Stepping into a role (or several roles) in the given play, they must authentically meet the challenges of voice, movement, text analysis and acting while simultaneously incorporating the vision of the director and the practical and imaginary landscape created by a team of designers. A successful experience continues the actor on a trajectory towards their third year thesis project. A problematic experience alerts the student and their core faculty to the techniques that need strengthening in the final semesters.

Assignments
Each actor is given a role the play and must attend required rehearsals which are held afternoons and/or evenings Monday through Friday and on Saturday mornings (approximately 20 to 25 hours a week). Because we are scheduling rehearsals so that they don’t interfere with classes, the rehearsal times are determined each semester. Each actor is responsible for learning the text for each role, doing the appropriate research, and coming to rehearsal on time and prepared to work.

**Final Exam** is the performance of the play.

**Grading & Evaluation**
A is excellence; B is good to adequate; C is failure.

**Attendance**
Acts of nature, severe illness, and emergencies are the only excuses and must be documented.

**Text:**
AS YOU LIKE IT by William Shakespeare

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**Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

**Academic Conduct**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards: [https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/](https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/)

Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, [http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/).

**Student Conduct**

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity [http://equity.usc.edu/](http://equity.usc.edu/)

or to the Department of Public Safety [http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us](http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us).

This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person.
The Center for Women and Men
http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/
provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html

provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu/will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.