**ADVANCED ACTING**

**#420B**

**Spring 2017**

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**Office Hours**

Available by appointment.

**Course Description and Overview**

Compile, prepare, direct and present the SDA professional showcase both in New York City and Los Angeles. This work will be supported with the help of my colleague Andy Robinson (who created the current MFA program) to include some physical exercises and improvisations based on the impulse, imagery/imagination, and body isolation work of Jerzy Grotowski and Michael Chekhov.

**Course Objectives**

To develop and empower each actor's awareness and presence, and give the students their first professional experience. This includes the beginning of practical tools to manage what the business outside of school is looking for (and expecting) from the newly graduated BFA trained actor and their craft.

**Required Readings and Supplementary Materials**

As many plays, screenplays, television shows, novels, short stories etc. which might be good material for you to present in your showcase.

**Attendance, Tardiness, Absences**

We expect the highest level of commitment from B FA actors. Lateness is not tolerated without prior notice. Unexcused absences are not permitted. Communication with the instructor is essential in case of emergency or illness. Violation of these requirements will result in disciplinary measures.

**Description of Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments**

Mid-term grades will be based solely on practical work.

Final course grades will be based on 75% practical work and 25% attitude, participation, and attendance.

A = Work of excellent quality

B = Work of good quality

C = Work of average quality

D = Work of poor quality

**Class Meetings**

M,W Noon-1:50pm

Location: DRC Massman

**Final Exam**

Showcase

**Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown**

Weeks 1 and 2: Discuss course objective and begin collecting material

Weeks 3 and 4: Independent work on bringing material in to show the class.

Weeks 5 – 14: Edit, rehearse and finalize material.

Week 15: Travel to New York. Tech and Present Showcase 4/17-4/21

Week 16: Tech and Present showcase in Los Angeles 4/25 – 4/26

**Final Examination Date**

The above is your final

**DATES TO NOTE**

Martin Luther King’s Birthday Monday, January 16th

Presidents’ Day Monday, February 20th

Spring Recess Sunday - Sunday, March 12-19

**Final Note: Participation in the New York and Los Angeles showcase is by invitation only. Students with disciplinary or probationary records are not guaranteed a place in these culminating events. Only exemplary and professional standards of discipline, artistry, behavior, and collaboration will result in an invitation to participate in the NY and LA showcase.**

**School of Dramatic Arts Private Teaching Policy**

A faculty member holding a full-time appointment may not accept for private instruction where a fee is charged any student who is currently enrolled in any USC School of Theatre course. This policy is established for your own protection as well as for that of the student, since the appearance of a conflict of interest is immediately established if the student studies privately with you for a fee at the same time that you will be called upon to give that student a grade in a course taught within the School or cast that student in a School production. It is in the best interests of all concerned to not even suggest the possibility of a conflict of interest. This policy is in keeping with the University’s Code of Ethics, established March 2004, which states that we “recognize that the fundamental relationships upon which our university is based are those between individual students and individual, professors; thus, such relationships are especially sacred and deserve special care that they not be… exploited for… personal gain.”

**Statement for Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP: http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\_index.html, (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *SCampus*, the Student Guidebook, ([www.usc.edu/scampus](http://www.usc.edu/scampus) or [http://scampus.usc.edu](http://scampus.usc.edu/)) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

**Statements 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/>. 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/>.

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/> or to the *Department of Public Safety*<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/*](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.