THTR 520E ADVANCED ACTING
Units: 4
Spring 2021—T/TH—3:00pm – 5:50pm

Location: ONLINE

Instructor: David Warshofsky (He/Him)
Office: DRC 120 or Zoom
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**
Contact Info: warshofs@usc.edu (323) 646-9525 (mobile)

Course Description

*"*In order for the actor's *instrument* to have the kind of presence that commands the attention of an audience, the actor has to create a field of energy wherein the *instrument* can function*."*

--Andy Robinson

Compile, prepare, direct and present the SDA professional showcase both in for casting directors, agents and managers primarily in New York City and Los Angeles. This is the students formal entry point into the professional world and due to COVID-19 restrictions will be delivered entirely ONLINE.

Learning 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 (regardless of how the profession currently manifests itself) the business outside of school is looking for (and expecting) from the newly graduated MFA trained actor and their craft.
- Incorporate the knowledge and practice each actor has into a dynamic video presentation including lighting, sound and editing.

Recommended Preparation:

- *As many plays, screenplays, television shows, novels, short stories etc. which might be good material for you to present in your showcase.
- The completion of the five previous semesters of MFA Training

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required
Highest speed internet available, most recent lap top available, external microphone and camera, uncluttered well-lit space to work in.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials
*See Above

Description and Assessment of Assignments
Reading, Table Work, Research, Rehearsal, Blocking, and Delivering video footage of all possible showcase
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Grading Breakdown
A   work of excellent quality
B   work of good quality
C   work of average quality
D   work of below average quality

Your grade is assessed according to

Class Work – 50%
Midterm – 25%
Final – 25%

Additional Policies
Some of our classrooms are retrofitted with camera and micrphones that will enable myself to teach
remotely from the studio while the students are at home, or vice versa once we can begin to re-introduce in
person training. This also enables an actor who is sick and needing to stay at home (during COVID or in the
future) to never have to miss class. The following will be discussed on the first day of class:
- Do you have discussion norms for communications in your class?
- Do you expect a certain type of professional attire and behavior for students during synchronous
  sessions? If so, do you provide an explanation of the expectations?
- Are students allowed to log-in to the class using their phone?
- Who should students contact if they have technical issues during the class?
- Do you require students to mute their microphones when they are not speaking?
- Do you require students to enable their webcam, so they are visible in the course?
- Do you allow students to eat during the class?
- Can students use technology other than their computers during the sessions?
- Do you recommend a certain physical environment for the student to take part in the synchronous
  session? Consider noise levels, background objects and artwork, pets, family members.
- Do you specify how/if the chat box will be used during the session?
- Have you identified a process for students taking turns speaking?
- How can students indicate they have something to say?
- Do you have a plan for managing and addressing conflict in a synchronous environment?

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

WEEK	FIRST CLASS	SECOND CLASS
1	Discuss course objective	Begin collecting material
2	Independent work.	Independent work
3	Table Work	Table Work
4	Research	Research
5	Edit, rehearse and finalize material	Edit, rehearse and finalize material
6	Edit, rehearse and finalize material	Edit, rehearse and finalize material
7	Edit, rehearse and finalize material	Edit, rehearse and finalize material
8	Edit, rehearse and finalize material	Edit, rehearse and finalize material
9	597 Film Project	597 Film Project
10	597 Film Project	597 Film Project
11	Showcase Tutorials	Showcase Tutorials
12	Edit Video	Edit Video
13	Edit Video	Edit Video
14	Lock Final Cuts	Deliver Product
15	Field The Business	De-Brief

SDA PRODUCTIONS

SDA productions are courses and therefore do not supersede any other courses in which you are enrolled. When in an SDA production, students must not register for evening classes that conflict with regularly scheduled rehearsals. In short, being involved in an SDA production is a curricular assignment and must be treated as any other curricular assignment.

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 Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. 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.

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 GFS 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for DSP and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 814-4618 (Vidoe Phone), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

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. See the university's site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

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Support Systems:
Campus Support & Intervention (CSI) – (213) 740-0411
Campus Support & Intervention is an office within Campus Wellbeing and Crisis Intervention. We are a team of professionals here to assist students, faculty, and staff in navigating complex issues. Whether you are here seeking support for yourself or someone else, we are available to help you problem solve, understand options, and connect with resources. https://uscsa.usc.edu

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255
Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center
For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: https://titleix.usc.edu/

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086
Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support
Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. https://titleix.usc.edu/

The Office of Disability Services and Programs
Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Diversity at USC
Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information
Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.
Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu