**INTERMEDIATE DIRECTING**

**CTPR 532 – Fall 2021**

**Instructor: Jeremy Kagan**

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**Section#: 18635 D**

**Units: 2**

**THU 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM**

**SCE STAGE 2**

**the eTextbook – KEYS TO DIRECTING –** [**WWW.KEYSTODIRECTING.COM**](http://WWW.KEYSTODIRECTING.COM/) **$25.00**

The class will also provide an opportunity to work directly with actors from USC’s MAF program. You will be required to use these actors for at least one role in your scenes.

**Course Description:**

This class is a practicum in directing actors for all forms of cinematic expression.

The class is also an experiential application of a variety of directorial skills and tools that are used aesthetically and professionally to create effective performances whether dramatic or comic.

The class is a production class in a “lab” type structure where each student will make three digital films. The first is a one minute video “sketch” to explore sight and sound to elicit emotion. The second piece is a 5-minute scene exercise with two actors, and the third project is another 5-minute exercise with three or more actors.

The teacher will lead the class in an in depth examination of the rehearsal process as the scenes are presented and offer alternative ways of achieving affect in directing actors.

**Learning Objectives and Outcomes:**

To experience what a director does to translate a script into a living entity of moving images through motivating performance.

To learn various techniques of casting actors.

To experience in depth the rehearsal process.

To experience leadership qualities motivating others.

To examine use of camera and sound for effective presentation of performances.

To understand and experience how editing can effect the actor’s performance.

**Prerequisites:**

16 students will be admitted to the class. Each student must have taken the Core Courses 507 and 508.

**Required Readings and Supplementary Materials:**

**Suggested Readings:**

Elia Kazan’s lecture on Directing printed by the DGA

A Sense of Direction, William Ball, Drama Book Publishers Improv, Keith Johnsotne, Routledge.

Boleslavski’s 6 Lessons on Acting, Weston’s Directing Actors,

Checkov’s On The Techniques of Acting,

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4. Also during the semester each student will bring in two scenes from movies or TV shows or other cinema that they admire and present storyboards and camera placement floor plans that allow them to study how a good scene was shot and edited. These clip analysis will be continually presented through the semester.

Meisner’s On Acting, Clurman’s On Directing, and

The 5 C’s of Cinematography and Katz’s Shot by Shot.

**Description and Assessment of Assignments:**

1. Each student will make a one-minute exercise dealing with an emotion.

2. Each student will do a film (using digital equipment) of five minutes to come from copywriter-cleared exiting material like plays, or short stories or scenes from novels or graphic stories. Scenes from already produced movies are acceptable but not preferred.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Students may not use copyrighted material to 'adapt' scenes without the permission of the author. No adaptations of copyrighted material may be used without the permission of the author or the author's estate. No scenes from plays, movies or books may be adapted or used without permission of the author's estate.

If you wish to use such scenes, you must apply to the authors, or the license holders of the copyrighted material for their adaptations.

Permission for such use will likely be granted if the students ask which should be done well in advance.

You may use the materials already included in the many books, such as *101 scenes for actors*. There are many of these books, which include scenes, which may be suitable for this purpose without attendant copyright issues.

**Fair Use:** students may use copyrighted material only in the classroom. This means if you do not have permission what you make only can only be shown in class and not on any social media, which may be an issue with some of your actors who expect to potentially show their work.

Each student will cast and rehearse the scene before presenting the scene in class “off book” with appropriate props and wardrobe. These scenes are to be NO MORE THAN 5 MINUTES. This is a strict rule.

These first scenes will be with only two characters. Two weeks later they will bring in the shot and edited version of the scene.

3. Their next project is also five minutes. As above the scene will be rehearsed in class and two weeks later the edited version will be presented. But in this exercise the students will be working with three of more actors.

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532 Schedule and Topics – SCE Stage 2

Fall 2021

Based on 15 classes – Jeremy Kagan

**Class 1 — August 26, 2021**

Topics: Introduction to 532, Housekeeping, CASTING

**Class 2 — September 2, 2021**

Topics: DIRECTING TECHNIQUES – Intentional Directing

**Class 3 — September 9, 2021**

Topics: DIRECTING TECHNIQUES – Attitudinal Directing - Character Creation

**Class 4 — September 16, 2021**

Topics: REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES

The professor will work online with two actors using zoom

**Class 5 — September 23, 2021**

FIRST PROJECT – one minute film presenting an emotion utilizing any filmic technique (from found footage online, to whatever can be created by the students within their limitations)

**Class 6 — September 30, 2021**

EXERCISE – Group A rehearsal scene: five-minute scene with two actors

Group C scene analysis from movie or TV show

**Class 7 — October 7, 2021**

EXERCISE - Group B rehearsal scene: five-minute scene with two actors

Group D scene analysis from movie or TV show

**Fall Recess -- October 14, 2021**

No Class

**Class 8 — October 21, 2021**

EXERCISE - Group C rehearsal scene: five-minute scene with two actors

*Group A presents filmed scene they brought into rehearsal – 5 minutes*

Group E scene analysis from movie or TV show

**Class 9 — October 28, 2021**

EXERCISE - Group D rehearsal scene: five-minute scene with two actors

*Group B presents filmed scene they brought into rehearsal*

Group A scene analysis from movie or TV show

**Class 10 — November 4, 2021**

EXERCISE - Group E rehearsal scene: five-minute scene with two actors

*Group C presents filmed scene they brought into rehearsal*

Group B scene analysis from movie or TV show

Group C present clip analysis 2.

**Class 11 — November 11, 2021**

Group A rehearsal scene: five-minute scene with three or more actors

*Group D presents filmed scene they brought into rehearsal*

Group C scene analysis #2 of from movie or TV show

**Class 12 — November 18, 2021**

Group B rehearsal scene: five-minute scene with three or more actors

*Group E presents filmed scene they brought into rehearsal*

Group D scene analysis #2 of from movie or TV show

**Thanksgiving — November 25, 2021**

No Class

**Class 13 — December 2, 2021**

Group C rehearsal scene: five-minute scene with three or more actors

Group E scene analysis #2 from movie or TV show

Group D rehearsal scene: five-minute scene with three or more actors

**Class 14 — December 9, 2021**

Group A scene analysis #2 from movie or TV show

Group E rehearsal scene: five-minute scene with three or more actors

Group B scene analysis #2 from movie or TV show

NOTE THAT WE WILL ADD ANOTHER CLASS PROBABLY ONLINE TO SEE THE EDITED SCENES OF E GROUP

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**Grading Breakdown**

Grading will be determined by evaluation of the exercises and learning over the semester as reflected in the student’s understanding and expression of the concepts taught in the class.

% of Grade

Assignment

5%

1 minute scene

40%

2 people scene

40%

3 people scene

10%

clip analysis

5%

class participation

**Production Division Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class. Two unexcused absences will result in a student's grade being lowered by one full letter (IE: A becomes B). A third unexcused absence will result in a student's grade being lowered by one, additional full letter (IE: B becomes C). A student's grade will be lowered by one full letter for each additional unexcused absence. Two late class arrivals equate to one full absence.

In order for an absence to be excused, the student must have approval from the professor and provide documentation at the next attended class session.

If a student misses class due to an emergency, the student must contact the professor prior to class or contact the Production Office at 213-740-3317.

**Your timely attendance is required and a sign of your commitment to your word and integrity. So if you are late more than twice there will be a consequence in your grading.**

**SAFETY & RESTRICTIONS**

**All students are expected to abide by SCA Safety Guidelines. Violations of any of the safety guidelines may result in disciplinary action ranging from confiscation of footage to expulsion from the University.**

**MAKE SPECIAL NOTE of policy regarding the use of minors, cars, or weapons which requires the employment of a studio teacher or an off-duty police officer.**

*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 Instructor (or D.A.) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301, and is open 8:30am-5:00pm Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.*

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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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” https://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.](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct)

**Support Systems:**

*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. https://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. [http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://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. https://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: <http://sarc.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. https:// 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://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs*

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. http:// dsp.usc.edu

*Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710*

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/

*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. https://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, [http://emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu/)

*USC Department of Public Safety – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime*.

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Covid Safety Compliance Understanding and Agreement

Due to concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19 in California and around the world, USC and the School of Cinematic Arts (SCA) have taken a strong stance regarding the need for safe and mindful behaviors among all members of the SCA community. Medical authorities agree that even the young and healthy are capable, if infected, of becoming ill, or of being non-symptomatic, unconscious vectors of the disease’s spread.

The health and wellbeing of all community members has to be our paramount concern as we return to learning and collaborating together. We understand that attentiveness to the concerns of all SCA community members – students, staff and faculty, including those with underlying health conditions -- is simply an extension of the key principle of creative collaboration that has guided our school for decades. We’re all in this pandemic together and need to behave accordingly.

All of SCA’s production work, whether “Virtual” or “in-person, will be governed by rules laid out in each course syllabus. Compliance with these regulations will be monitored by faculty in conjunction with SCA designated Covid Monitors. The rules follow the guidelines in SCA-Covid Production Protocols, which follows SAG/DGA and other industry protocols, and are being interpreted by a SAG-certified SCA Covid Advisor.

Students indicate their agreement to abide by these regulations by enrolling in the production program fall semester 2021.

SCA Fall 2021 Production Protocols

As of 08/17/21

Vaccination

• Only fully vaccinated individuals or approved exempt USC students are allowed to

participate on SCA productions. This applies to all members of the cast and crew —

including but not limited to extras, production assistants, stunt coordinators, make-up

artists, studio teachers, etc.

• An individual is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving a single dose of

the Johnson & Johnson vaccine or two weeks after receiving the second dose of the

Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the World

Health Organization.

• At least 7 days before the start of production, the Student Producer must obtain proof of

vaccination from every member of the production team — crew, cast, and anyone else

present on set.

• The Student Producer must submit proof of vaccination to the Lead SA and Lead Faculty

of the class before the start of production.

• USC students who are unable to receive a Covid-19 vaccine because of approved medical

contraindication, disability, or sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance,

may seek an accommodation by which they are tested a minimum of 3 times per week in

lieu of vaccination. This applies only to USC students who have received an approved

exemption from the University.

Testing

• All cast and crew must provide the Student Producer a copy of a negative Covid-19 PCR

lab-based test taken within 72 hours of the start of shooting.

• Any unvaccinated USC student who has received an approved exemption from the

University must show proof to the Student Producer of three (3) negative PCR lab-based

Covid-19 tests taken within the week prior to the start of shooting.

• The Lead SA and Lead Faculty must be given proof of all negative Covid test results

prior to the start of shooting.

• If any individual tests positive for Covid-19, that person will not participate in the

production and will immediately inform the Student Producer and the University by

contacting the USC COVID-19 hotline at 213-740-6291 or covid19@usc.edu.

• NOTE: If the individual who tested positive for Covid-19 used the USC Student Health’s

Pop Testing program, you do not need to notify the University, as positive results are

automatically followed-up with contact-tracing interviews.

• The Student Producer must immediately inform the Lead SA and the Lead Faculty of the

class of any positive test results and will make certain that the individual who tested

positive immediately contacts the USC COVID-19 Hotline.

Symptoms

• If during production, any individual has any symptoms related to Covid-19, they must

report the symptoms immediately to the Student Producer, who will inform the Lead SA

and Lead Faculty of the class.

• The individual will immediately get tested, self-isolate, wear a mask, and practice social

distancing. This individual will not return to the production unless they have a negative

Covid-19 test 72 hours prior to returning to the set and then another negative test 36-48

hours prior to returning to the set.

Masking

• During shoot days, all personnel must always wear a mask while on set. Performers in

the film will only remove masks on set during takes and rehearsals.

Meals

• All meals will be eaten outdoors, away from the shooting area. Individuals may remove

their masks for eating or drinking, and they will maintain a social distance of at least six

feet from other cast and crew members.

• All meals must be in individually packaged servings, and beverages will come in

individual bottles. No shared or buffet-style food or drinks will be allowed. Cast and

crew have the option of bringing their own meals, as long as they are not shared with

other cast and crew members.

Cast and Crew Limitations

• The number of cast and crew members on CTPR 294, 310, 507, and 508 productions

must not exceed a total of 10 people on set on any production day. The number of cast

and crew members on CTPR 290 productions must not exceed a total of 7 people on set

on any production day.

• All SCA productions are encouraged to limit on-set intimacy and stunt work.

Casting, Rehearsals, and Production Meetings

• All SCA productions are encouraged to cast performers who are above 12 years old. If

you have a minor on your set, the minor, the guardian on the set, and the studio teacher

all need to follow testing protocols.

• All casting must be done remotely by video conference. Production meetings and

rehearsals should be done remotely whenever possible.

• If you have an in-person production meeting, individuals must wear face masks at all

times. If you have an in-person rehearsal with an unmasked actor, they must produce a

current negative Covid test. Everyone must follow proper health and hygiene protocols

and attempt to maintain social distancing.

Student Producers

• Although Student Producers are responsible for ensuring that SCA Safety Protocols are

strictly followed by all cast and crew members, it is incumbent on all key crew to make

sure these rules and regulations are followed.

• Student Producers are responsible for submitting all the necessary Covid-related

documentation — including proof of vaccination for all cast and crew members and proof

of negative test results for all cast and crew members — to the Lead SA and Lead Faculty

prior to the start of production.

• If all the necessary Covid-related documents are not submitted to the Lead SA and Lead

Faculty prior to the start of production, the project will not receive a greenlight and will

not be allowed to begin production.

Violations of Covid Protocols

• If any of the Covid-19 safety protocols are violated, the SCA production may be

suspended or shut down immediately and students could potentially receive a failing

grade for the project.

USC Covid-19 Resource Center

• For the latest Covid-19 information, updates, and support for the USC community, visit

the USC COVID-19 Resource Center at https://coronavirus.usc.edu/

SCA COVID Advisor

• David Maquiling will be on staff to answer any questions regarding COVID

compliance. There will be a COVID Production Protocols Seminar recording for

students and faculty to view on SCA Community. David can be reached at

maquilin@usc.edu