

**THTR 131A Introduction to Advanced Theatrical
Production for BFA Students**

Units: 2.0

Term: Fall 2023

Day: Thursday

Lecture Time: 8:00AM-9:50AM

Lecture location: PED 114E

Lab time: Fridays 10 am-12:50 pm

Lab Locations: SDA Shops & Theaters

Crew assignments – dates and times: TBD

Instructors:

Duncan Mahoney: Head of Technical Direction

Office: TTL 102

Office Hours: by appointment

Contact: dmahoney@usc.edu 213-743-1968

Scott Faris (he/him): Head of Stage Management

Office: JEF 202

Office Hours: by appointment

Contact: scottfar@usc.edu 917-825-2739

**Noel Nichols (they/she): Associate Professor of Sound
Design**

Office: BIT 3 (Bing Light Booth)

Office Hours: by appointment

**Contact: noel.nichols@usc.edu 623-249-1650
(text preferred)**

Course Description

Introduction to the non-performance areas of theatrical production (administrative, design, and technical fields) through hands-on participation in USC School of Dramatic Arts productions. Through lectures and related projects, the course will also provide an overview of the design process in the areas of Scenic, Lighting, Costume and Sound Design, as well as in the role of the Stage Manager in a production. Material will be geared for the BFA & BA with emphasis in Production student.

Learning Objectives

Learn the basics of stage crew and shop operations through lectures, readings, research, hands-on projects, and practical experience. Apply the creative process of areas of theatrical design and production through labs and in-class projects.

Each THTR 131 student will participate in a variety of production practicum sessions during the two semesters of the class.

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-Requisite (s): None

Concurrent Enrollment: None

Recommended Preparation: Acquire the reading materials and familiarize yourself with them.

Course Notes:

Lecture review sheets will be made available on Blackboard for certain lectures. Supplementary reading materials may be posted on Blackboard for particular lectures. Most quizzes and exams will be available only on blackboard, bring an appropriate device to lecture or the exam period to access them

Communication

Students will use their USC email addresses for all communications. It may be possible for SLACK to be used as a channel for this project. There will be weekly production meetings in addition to the meeting times of the class.

USC Technology Support Links

[Zoom information for students](#)

[Blackboard help for students](#)

[Software available to USC Campus](#)

Classroom norms

- Please present yourself professionally, i.e. dressed properly, sitting up.
- Turn your phone on silent and leave it face down on the table or out of sight.

Sharing of course materials outside of the learning environment

USC has a policy that prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

SCampus Section 11.12(B)

Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or

in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

Covid Updates

Continuously updated requirements for the latest COVID-19 testing and health protocol requirements for USC can be found on the [USC COVID-19 Resource Center](#).

Zoom etiquette

["Netiquette" or "internet etiquette," describes the recommended communication and behavior of online communication. Having a [Zoom netiquette policy](#) for your course can help minimize the chances of miscommunication and perceived disrespect. It is also recommended that you encourage students to contact you with questions or concerns about complying with a policy. For instance, if a student is unable to keep their camera on during the synchronous Zoom session, encourage them to contact you prior to the class session.]

Academic Integrity

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the [USC Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

- (Gillette) Seventh Edition - Theatrical Design and Production, An Introduction to Scenic Design and Construction, Lighting, Sound, Costume, and Makeup by J. Michael Gillette
- Stage Management Basics, 2nd Edition, by Emily Roth, Jonathan Allender-Zivic & Katy McGlaughlin, Routledge/Focal Press
- (BH) Backstage Handbook, Paul Carter, Broadway Press;

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Class Meetings: All students will attend Thursday morning lectures headed by Production and Design Faculty. Students **must** attend every weekly lecture. The two semesters will be divided into five-week segments covering all areas of theatrical production. There will be lectures about every production element employed in the theater. **Quizzes will be given every class to assess understanding of the material covered in the reading and previous lecture. Makeup Quizzes will not be allowed.**

THTR 131A Labs as scheduled in the syllabus will take place in TTL, Costume Shop and SDA Theaters as assigned. **All lab sessions are critical to attend as they will cover safety topics and effective use of equipment in each of the shops/theatres. Training in each production area will only be offered on that particular Friday. If you miss your regular lab session you need contact the head of the appropriate production lab and schedule another session at their convenience to complete your training.**

Crew Practicum Assignment: Upon completion of your Dossier [THTR 131a Dossier](#) **(Please complete by 8/29/23)** you will be assigned to a crew on one of the SDA Fall productions. You will report to the stage manager, who will make specific assignments, supervise you, evaluate your work, and make grading recommendations.

Grading Criteria:

Grading is based on satisfactory completion of both the academic and practical requirements of the course. The grades in each area will be added together for the final letter grade, which is awarded based on the following percentages (A>94%>A->90%>B+>87%>B>84%>B->80%>C+>77%>C>74%>C->70%>D+>67%>D>64%>D->60%>F)

Academic requirements – 40%

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Quizzes	100 each	25
Final Exam	150	15
Totals	40	40

Grades for quizzes and exams are based on the percentage of questions answered correctly.

The quizzes will be graded by each segment's professor. If you have specific questions about your grade, please consult first with the professor who gave you the exam.

Academic assessment:

- Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class.
- There will be no “make-up” quizzes or exams

- Required reading is due **on** the listed date: always bring your books to class for reference during discussions. There will be a quiz on the reading for that week or on the content covered in the previous week's lecture.
- Turn off all cell phones during class sessions unless you are actively using it to take a quiz or exam.
- If you have more than one device (phone or computer) on during examinations, or if you have any additional website open other than the Blackboard exam, you will be asked to leave the room and you will fail that exam.

Final Exam:

The Final Exam will be administered on Tues 12/12/2023 at 4:30-6:30pm which is the Mandatory Final Exam Meeting Time.

Please note that per University policy, the instructors are unable to schedule an alternative time for you to take the exam. If you have questions you can contact the USC Testing office at 213-740-7166. Please note it is your responsibility to contact the testing office if you have multiple exams on one day in advance to ensure you can take your final exam.

Running Crew Assignment Requirements – 35%

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Participation & Preparation	10	10
Professionalism	10	20
Rehearsal Process	10	30
Public Performance	5	40
TOTAL	35	35

- Points will be subtracted for lateness without a call to the SM
- Points will be subtracted for not attending.
- If you are ill or injured and cannot attend a rehearsal or performance inform your stage manager ASAP. A doctor's note will be required for verification. Depending on the duration of the illness you may need to complete another crew assignment.

If you are removed from a crew or the shop due to poor behavior, or if you do not complete your crew assignment, you will fail the course. The assessment of the performance of assigned tasks is based on your being there to perform those tasks at all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Absence from an entire rehearsal or performance will severely impact grading of the practicum portion of the class.

- The use of any device to photograph or capture any portion of the rehearsal process is strictly prohibited with the exception of that which will facilitate production work as determined by the appropriate faculty.
- Phones should be silenced when backstage.
- When you are engaged in the crew assignment, the crew assignment must be given top priority. This means that you should not be talking on your phone or texting or watching media on any your devices when your attentions are needed to execute presets or cues.

Proper attire is required for tech & dress rehearsals and performances. Long-sleeved black shirts, long black pants, dark socks and **sturdy closed toe and heel shoes** will be required for your dress rehearsals and performances. **Sturdy closed toe and heel shoes** should be worn and long hair should be pinned or tied back when you are in the theatre.

Crew Assignment Schedule: You will attend the following times for your scheduled show. You will get more specific information from the stage manager of your show but the general schedule for all assignments except ASM is as follows:

Proper crew attire required at all times during tech

Tuesday (1 week before opening)	6:00PM-10:00PM Meet and Greet (musicals only)
Wednesday (1 week before opening)	6:00PM-10:00PM Meet and Greet (plays only)
Wednesday (1 week before opening)	6:00PM-10:00PM Tech (musicals only)
Thursday	6:00PM-10:00PM Tech
Friday	6:00PM-10:00PM Tech
Saturday	10:00AM-6:00PM Tech
	10:00AM-10:00PM (musicals)
Sunday	10:00AM-6:00PM Tech
Monday	6:00-11:00PM Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday	6:00-11:00PM Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday	6:00-11:00PM Final/Photo Dress
Thursday (opening)	6:00PM Call for 7:00PM Perf.
Friday	6:00PM Call for 7:00PM Perf.
Saturday	1:00PM Call for 2:30PM Perf.
	6:30PM Call for 8:00PM Perf.
Sunday	1:00PM Call for 2:30PM Perf.
	5:00PM – TBD for Strike

Note: Some shows will play for a 2nd week. Please check your show's schedule.

Shop Lab Requirements - 25%

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Attended all Training Labs	15	15
Lab practical exam	10	10
TOTAL	25	25

Lab Etiquette: Intentionally unsafe work practices and other such “horseplay” can result in serious injury to yourself and others. Such activities will not be tolerated and will be addressed by a penalty ranging from a reduction in the assigned grade to removal from the class. If you cause injury to another person through an intentional act, you may also be liable for criminal and civil penalties.

Proper attire is required for lab sessions. Safety glasses (ANSI Z87.1+) **must** be on at all times when power tools are in use, hearing protection should be used for noisy jobs, and dust masks are available for dusty jobs. **Sturdy closed toe and heel shoes and long pants/skirt must be worn.** Natural fiber clothing should be worn, and long hair **must** be pinned or tied back. Lab assignments may involve paint, grease, and dust. **Do not wear clothes you want to keep clean and unstained.** You may wish to bring work clothes to change into.

Lab Session Scheduling: Lab work will be from 10-12:50 am on Friday. Don’t schedule yourself for any other events during this time. **Read the syllabus and check Blackboard to see where each lab is scheduled. Any last-minute changes will be announced on Blackboard.** Make sure you write your name legibly on the sign-in sheet.

SDA PRODUCTIONS, ISPS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SDA productions, ISPs and Extracurricular Activities* will not excuse you from any class work. There will be no exceptions made for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, homework or lack of class participation resulting from your involvement in any of the above. Your grade will reflect your work in this class, independent from work in any other class or activity.

*Activities that have been officially sanctioned by the larger university (such as marching band, song girls, or varsity sports) are exempt. You must submit official documentation to your professor regarding your participation in an event prior to your absence.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

Week 1 **Duncan Mahoney, Head of Technical Direction – Intro to Scenic production**
8/24/23 **Topics for Week 1:** Class structure, shop safety, hand and measuring tools, basic power tools, NFPA diamond signs

Reading before your lab:

The syllabus. (Gillette) Theatrical Design and Production: pp. 188-209, 236, BH 1-46; "Safety is Specific" on BlackBoard

Assignment: Contact your family scheduler for things you need to do.
Complete your Dossier online [THTR 131a Dossier](#), by Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2023

Crew assignments will be posted on Friday, September 1, 2023 by 5:00PM. Check the Crew Folder in Blackboard for Posted Crew List. It is **mandatory** that you check Blackboard and inquire if you do not find your name on the crew list. **If your name does not appear on the Crew list, there is a problem**

Lab: The first of five shop training labs begins Friday in TTL with Tool

Training:

- Learn how to operate portable and stationary wood working power tools
- Learn how to operate portable and stationary metal working power tools
- Learn where hand and power tools are kept in the TTL

Attendance at the Company Meeting in the BING THEATRE on Monday, 8/22/23 at 5pm is mandatory (barring class conflicts).

Week 2 **Duncan Mahoney, Head of Technical Direction – Scenic production II**
8/31/23 **Topics for Week 2:** power tools, fasteners: nails, staples, screws, & bolts

Quiz on Week 1 Topics

Reading for today: (Gillette) Theatrical Design and Production: review pp.188-209; Read 221-234. Recommended: BH 49-83

Lab: The second of five shop training labs is Friday in the Bing Theatre:

- The Basics of focusing lighting instruments: ellipsoidal, Fresnel
- DMX and Basic Programming of the Ion Board
- Introduction to the Clearcom System
- How to work the Fly Rail
- Safe use of the personnel lifts

Reading for next week:

Stage Management Basics (second addition) by Roth, Allender-Zivic & McGlaughlin:

- Chapter 1, pp. 3 – 9 — The Traits of a Stage Manager
 - (SKIP CHAPTER 2 — THE THEATRE)
- Chapter 3, pp. 21 – 30 The People
- Chapter 4, pp. 31 – 33 The Stage Management Team

**Week 3
9/7/23**

**Scott Faris, Head of Stage Management – Lecture 1
Quiz on Week 2 Topics from Professor Mahoney**

Topics for Week 3:

- Welcome to 131A
- The world of SDA
 - Theatres
 - Staff
 - ISPs — time management in your first year
- DPS for emergencies
- Your journey as Stage Managers, TD's & Designers — what's ahead
- What does a stage manager do?
- Traits of a Stage Manager
- The Cast of Characters
- The SM Team

Reading for next week:

Stage Management Basics, second addition by Roth, Allender-Zivic & McGlaughlin

- Chapter 6, pp. 41 – 74 Pre-Production
- Chapter 7, pp. 75 – 92 Promptbook and Paperwork
- Chapter 8, pp. 93 – 100 Meetings & Communication

Lab: The third of five shop training labs is Friday in the Costume Shop:

- Learning how to operate an iron and steamer
- Basics of buttons, snaps, hems, general stitching
- Identifying washable fabrics from Dry Cleaning fabrics
- How to operate the washing machine and dryer

Assignment: Meet Stage Managers for Fall Shows

Next week, the SDA Stage Managers will meet with crew members in THTR 130 who are assigned to *all Fall Productions*. If you are doing a crew assignment in this semester, you are expected to attend **Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 9:35AM in THH 210 (Taper Hall)** to meet your SMs. The Stage Managers will review:

1. The Tech Schedule including Meet and Greet, Tech, 10 out of 12s, Costume Crew Schedules, Dress Rehearsals and Performances.
2. Expectations of crew members – attire, behavior, checking in and out with SMs, what each area may be asked to do; i.e., mopping, dimmer check, sound check, props preset, laundry and mandatory participation in strike.
3. SMs will ask crew to sign off on the correct spelling of names for the programs and will get contact phones, emails. **Put your SM's phone number into your phone!**

Week 4 **Scott Faris, Head of Stage Management – Lecture 2**
9/14/23 **Quiz on Week 3 Topics**

Topics for this week:

- Pre-Production
- Promptbook
- Communication

Reading for next week:

TDP 227-228, 286-315, Chemical Safety handout on BB.
Recommended: BH 132-140.

Lab: The fourth of five shop training labs is Friday in the Massman Theatre

- Basic Sound System information
- How to turn on the Sound Computer – basic information on QLab
- Basic information on the Massman Lighting system
- Safe ladder usage
- Troubleshooting and repair of lighting equipment

Week 5 **Duncan Mahoney, Head of Technical Direction – Scenic production III**
9/21/23 **Topics: Paint, glue and chemical safety**

Reading for today: TDP 227-228, 286-315, Chemical Safety handout on BB.
Recommended: BH 132-140.

Quiz on Week 4 Topics

Lab: The fifth of five shop training labs in the TTL:

- Scenic Painting overview
- Mixing paint, storing paint
- Cleaning brushes and rollers
- When is a mask recommended? Required?
- Masking and Painting straight lines
- Highlights/Shadow or texture effects

Practicum:

THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ESCARIOT – BING THEATRE

Meet and Greet:	Mon., 9/18/23	6-10PM
Tech:	Tues., 9/19/23	6-10PM
	Wed., 9/20/23	6-10PM
	Thu., 9/21/23	6-10PM
	Fri., 9/22/23	6-10PM
	Sat. 9/23/23	10AM-6PM
	Sun., 9/24/23	NO REH

**Week 6
9/28/23**

Duncan Mahoney, Head of Technical Direction – Scenic production IV
Topics: Rigging

Reading for today: TDP. 59-68, 229-235. Recommended: BH 84-107

Reading before Lab: TDP. 209-221, Recommended: BH 120-130

Quiz on Week 5 Topics

Lab: This lab will be held in TTL and cover Lumber as a material:

- How to differentiate hardwoods and soft woods
- Types of common dimensional lumber used in theater
- Types of sheetstock used in theater

Practicum:

THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ESCARIOT – BING THEATRE

Tech:	Mon., 9/25	6-11PM
Dress Rehearsals:	Tues., 9/26	6-11PM
	Wed., 9/27	6-11PM
Performances:	Thurs., 9/28	6-11PM PHOTOS

Fri., 9/29	7:30PM OPEN
Sat., 9/30	2:30 & 8PM
Sun., 10/1	2:30PM

NOTE: Performance call times are 90 minutes before curtain times.

Reading for Stage Management lecture 3 next week:

Stage Management Basics (second edition) by Roth, Allender-Zivic
McGlaughlin

- Chapter 9, pp. 101— 106 Rehearsals — STOP AT “DURING REHEARSAL”
- Please make note of:
 - Take blocking p. 108
 - Spike marks, p. 116
 - Clean up and close down space, p. 120
 - Prompting, p. 121
- Chapter 10, pp. 127 – 141 Prior to Tech (STOP AT “PAPER TECH & DRY TECH”)

Week 7 Scott Faris, Head of Stage Management – Lecture 3

10/5/23 Cumulative Quiz on the Shop Practices Unit

Review reading:

Topics for Week 7: Rehearsals

- Rehearsals
- Pre-production

Reading for next week:

Stage Management Basics (second edition) by Roth, Allender-Zivic &
McGlaughlin (Routledge/Focal Press)

- Chapter 10, pp. 142 – 147 Prior to Tech (continued)
- Chapter 11, pp. 149 – 162 Technical and Dress Rehearsals

Reading before Lab: TDP 237-246, BH 111-120

Lab: This lab will be held in TTL and cover metal as a material:

- Types of metal in common use in theater

- How metal is sized and sold
- The difference between tube and pipe
- Methods and hardware used to join metal

Practicum:

THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ESCARIOT – BING THEATRE

Perfs continue:	Mon., 10/2	7:30PM
	Tue., 10/3	NO PERFORMANCE
	Wed., 10/4	6-10PM REH
	Thu., 10/5	7:30 PERF
	Fri., 10/6	7:30 PERF
	Sat., 10/7	2:30 & 8PM
	Sun., 10/8	2:30PM*

**followed by mandatory strike

NOTE: Performance call times are 90 minutes before curtain times.

DANCE NATION – SCENE DOCK THEATRE

Meet and Greet:	Thurs., 10/5	6-10PM
Tech:	Fri., 10/6	6-10PM
	Sat., 10/7	10AM-8PM
	Sun., 10/8	NO REH

PLEASE NOTE: DANCE NATION continues tech the following week.

Week 8 **Fall Recess: No Class on Thursday, No Lab on Friday**
10/12/23

NOTE: Practicum continues this week!

DANCE NATION – SCENE DOCK THEATRE

Tech continues:	Mon., 10/9	6-10PM
	Tue., 10/10	6-10PM
	Wed., 10/11	6-10PM
	Thur., 10/12	FALL RECESS
	Fri., 10/13	FALL RECESS
	Sat., 10/14	FALL RECESS
	Sun., 10/15	NO REH

Week 9
10/19/23

Scott Faris, Head of Stage Management – Lecture 4

Quiz on SM lectures and reading from Week 7 Topics

Topics for Week 9:

- Types of tech
- Tech rehearsals
- Dress rehearsals

How to be a good ASM:

- Preparation for tech rehearsal
- Tech rehearsal period
- Dress rehearsals
- Support your SM

Lab: This week's lab will be held in TBA and cover Stage Management topics

- Stage Management skills
- Headset technique
- Theatre safety

Practicum:

DANCE NATION – SCENE DOCK THEATRE

Dress Rehs:	Mon., 10/16	6-11PM
	Tues., 10/17	6-11PM
	Wed., 10/18	6-11PM PHOTOS
Perfs:	Thurs., 10/19	7:30PM OPEN
	Fri., 10/20	NO PERFORMANCE
	Sat., 10/21	2:30 & 8:00PM
	Sun. 10/22	2:30PM

NOTE: Performance call times are 90 minutes before curtain times.

HIT THE WALL – MCCLINTOCK THEATRE

Meet and Greet:	Mon., 10/16	6-10PM
Tech:	Tue., 10/17	6-10PM
	Wed., 10/18	6-10PM
	Thurs., 10/19	6-10PM
	Fri., 10/20	6-10PM
	Sat., 10/21	10AM-10PM
	Sun., 10/22	NO TECH

PLEASE NOTE: HIT THE WALL continues tech the following week.

Practicum:

PIPPIN – BING THEATRE

Meet and Greet:	Mon., 10/16	6-10PM
Tech:	Tue., 10/17	6-10PM
	Wed., 10/18	6-10PM
	Thurs., 10/19	6-10PM
	Fri., 10/20	6-10PM
	Sat., 10/21	10AM-10PM
	Sun., 10/22	NO TECH

Week 10 **Noel Nichols, Assoc. Professor of Sound Design Lecture 1**

10/26/23 **Topics: Nuts and Bolts of Sound - REMOTE (Zoom)**

- What is Sound Design?
- Sound Reinforcement – plays vs. Musicals
- Design considerations – how to match sound design with the visual areas?
- Nature of sound – frequency, intensity, decibels (show the math), hertz
- Basic Acoustics – timbre, phase

Reading for today: (Gillette) Theatrical Design and Production
Chapter 21, pp. 523-539 Sound Design and Technology

Reading before lab: TDP 284-285, 338-344, BH 141-149

Lab: This week's lab will be held in TTL and cover other materials used in scenic and properties construction

- Types of foam in use in theater
- Flame retardancy concerns for foam and fabric
- Types of plastic in use in theater
- Common types of fabric in use in theater

Practicum:

DANCE NATION – SCENE DOCK THEATRE

Dress Rehs:	Mon., 10/23	6-11PM
	Tues., 10/24	6-11PM
	Wed., 10/25	6-11PM PHOTOS
Perfs:	Thurs., 10/26	7:30PM OPEN
	Fri., 10/27	7:30PM
	Sat., 10/28	2:30 & 8:00PM

Sun. 10/29 2:30PM**
**followed by mandatory strike

NOTE: Performance call times are 90 minutes before curtain times.

Practicum:

HIT THE WALL – McCLINTOCK THEATRE

Tech continued:	Mon., 10/23	6-10PM
	Tues., 10/24	6-10PM
	Wed., 10/25	6-10PM
	Thurs., 10/26	6-10PM
	Fri. 10/27	NO TECH
	Sat. 10/28	10AM-10PM
Sitzprobe:	Sun. 10/29	10-6PM

Practicum:

PIPPIN – BING THEATRE

Sitzprobe:	Mon., 10/23	6-10PM
Dress reh:	Tue., 10/24	6-11PM
	Wed., 10/25	6-11PM
	Thurs., 10/26	6-10PM PHOTOS
Perfs:	Fri., 10/27	7:30 PM OPEN
	Sat., 10/28	2:30 & 8:00PM
	Sun. 10/29	2:30PM

NOTE: Performance call times are 90 minutes before curtain times.

PLEASE NOTE: PIPPIN continues performances the following week.

Week 11 Noel Nichols, Assoc. Professor of Sound Design Lecture 2

11/2/23 Topics: More Nuts and Bolts of Sound - in MCC 110

- Basic sound system components and definition of each item: Microphone, Mixer, signal processing, amplifier, loudspeaker
- Recording and Playback Equipment – Live Recording, Prerecorded sources, Mixdown
- Broad intro to Pro Tools and Digital Audio Workstations
- Playback Software; Q-Lab
- Midi, Digital vs. Analogue sources and storage media
- Microphone types
- Speaker types

Reading for today: (Gillette) Theatrical Design and Production
Chapter 21, pp. 539-545 Sound Design and Technology

Lab: This week's lab will be held in BIT and cover really cool sound stuff

- Cool sound topics TBD

Practicum:

HIT THE WALL – MCCLINTOCK THEATRE

Dress Rehs:	Mon., 10/30	6-11PM
	Tues., 10/31	6-11PM
	Wed., 11/1	6-11PM PHOTOS #1
	Thurs., 11/2	6-11PM PHOTOS #2
Perfs:	Fri., 11/3	7:30PM OPEN CAST A
	Sat., 11/4	2:30 & 8:00PM
	Sun., 11/5	2:30PM

NOTE: Performance call times are 90 minutes before curtain times.

PLEASE NOTE: HIT THE WALL continues performances the following week.

Practicum:

PIPPIN – BING THEATRE

Perfs:	Mon., 10/30	7:30PM
	Tue., 10/31	NO PERF
Reh:	Wed., 11/1	6-10 BRUSH UP REH
Perfs:	Thur., 11/2	10AM STUDENT MAT
	Fri., 11/3	7:30PM
	Sat., 11/4	2:30 & 8:00PM
	Sun., 11/5	2:30PM**

****followed by mandatory strike**

**Week 12
11/9/23**

**Noel Nichols, Assoc. Professor of Sound Design, Lecture 3
Topics for Week 3: Sound Design Arc- in MCC 110**

- Commitment, Analysis, Research, Incubation, Selection, Implementation, Evaluation
- Design Timeline for sound
- Research techniques for Sound Designers
- Best practices for sharing cues with Directors and Designers

- Roles in Sound Design: Designer, Production Sound Engineer, A2, Assistant Designer
- The SDA Design Criteria & Timeline

Reading for today: (Gillette) Theatrical Design and Production Chapter 21, pp. 546-551 Sound Design and Technology

Reading: (Gillette) Theatrical Design and Production Ch. 2, The Design Process, pp. 22-36

Lab: This lab is TBD

Practicum:

HIT THE WALL – MCCLINTOCK THEATRE

Perfs:	Mon., 11/6	7:30PM
	Tues., 11/7	6-10PM BRUSH UP CAST Z
	Wed., 11/8	7:30PM OPEN CAST Z
	Thurs., 11/9	7:30PM
	Fri., 11/10	NO PERFORMANCE
	Sat., 11/11	2:30 & 8:00PM
	Sun. 11/12	2:30PM CLOSE**

****followed by mandatory strike**

NOTE: Performance call times are 90 minutes before curtain times.

PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE – SCENE DOCK THEATRE

Tech:	Mon., 11/6	6-10PM
	Tues., 11/7	6-10PM
Dress:	Wed., 11/8	6-11PM
	Thurs., 11/8	7:30PM OPEN
	Fri., 11/9	NO PERFORMANCE
	Sat., 11/11	2:30 & 8:00PM
	Sun., 11/12	2:30 & 8:00PM**

****followed by mandatory strike**

****Call times are at least 90 minutes before curtain times**

Week 13 **Noel Nichols, Assoc. Professor of Sound Design, Lecture 4**
11/16/23 **Topics for Week 4: Design Considerations – Musicals - in MCC 110**

- Sound Design for Musicals Pt. 1

Lab: This week's lab will be held in the costume shop

- Learn how to operate a sewing machine

- Complete a simple sewing project

WEEK 14
11/23/23

NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING RECESS

Week 15
11/30/23

Noel Nichols, Assoc. Professor of Sound Design, Lecture 5
Topics: Design Considerations; Musicals 2 - in MCC 110

- Sound Design for Musicals Pt. 1

Cumulative Journal on the Sound Design Unit weeks 1-5 Due by Friday 5pm

Lab: This week's lab will be held in TTL and will feature a lab practical exam
Attendance is mandatory.

Final Examination Date is Tuesday 12/12/23 at 4:30-6:30pm

Final will cover material in the reading, material covered in lectures and labs, and practical knowledge gained in the course of your crew 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 Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from OSAS. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. OSAS is located in GFS 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for OSAS 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.

Health and Participation in Class

You are expected to complete your Trojan Check screener daily and, as your instructor, I may ask you to show your daily screening in class. Your health and safety, and the health and safety of your peers, are my top priorities. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, or if you discover that you have been in close contact with others who have symptoms or who have tested positive, you must follow the instructions on Trojan Check. My hope is that if you are feeling ill or if you have been exposed to someone with the virus, you will stay home to protect others. I will ensure that you can continue to participate in class remotely so that your education is not disrupted.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, USC requires that face coverings (masks) be worn indoors including in classrooms. Face coverings must cover your nose and mouth and be worn throughout the class session. A mask with a valve is not considered an adequate face covering and should not be used, as it can expel exhaled air, increasing the risk to others. Eating or drinking during class is prohibited because of the risk posed by removing your mask for these activities. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in your being asked to leave the classroom immediately. Requests for accommodations related to the face covering and eating/drinking policies should be directed to the Office for Student Accessibility Services (<https://osas.usc.edu/>).

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion + Intimacy in Theater Consent Culture Statement:

Through our pluralistic approach of diverse pedagogies, methodologies, ideologies, and modalities of artistic expression, we invite(engage) and challenge students to expand their breadth and depth of knowledge, complexity, and range of the human experience. Even though we nurture, guide, and challenge our students to embrace the unknown or unfamiliar and step outside of their comfort zones through storytelling/art, we aim to practice effective strategies and offer tools to students mindful of their physical, psychological, social, and emotional wellbeing. In alignment with professional and industry standards, we will integrate core principles and techniques of Intimacy in Theater and Building Cultures of Affirmative Consent. This will provide agency, offer resources and support to the teachers, students, directors, and staff to establish healthy boundaries of consent when working on material that is physically, intimately, or emotionally charged content in both the classroom and production.

SDA Student Support & Reporting Form:

To facilitate a supportive environment of accountability, SDA has created an internal system of reporting for students to address issues/concerns and to offer feedback or suggestions for improvement. This mechanism provides a pathway for reporting and offering feedback without fear of retaliation or judgment. Any submission filed through this form will be reviewed and processed accordingly through SDA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

To file a report, please visit: <https://bit.ly/SDAstudentreporting>

Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.