

THEATRE I
9:15 - 11:05

The goal of this class is to gain an understanding of the many genres of theatre using historical timeline as a guide. Students will read plays and present scenes and monologues from those plays. Everything will be presented fully realized (acted off-book with specific, thoughtful choices, and fully designed to specifications). There will be a short written exam with each section.

The first semester will cover Greek theatre, Medieval, and Elizabethan theatre (Shakespeare). The second semester will include commedia del arte, modern European theatre, and contemporary American theatre. A physical and vocal exploration will accompany each genre. Students will learn a variety of vocal and physical warm-ups, ultimately designing their own. Students will study the Linklater vocal progression, basic anatomy, yoga, Suzuki, Viewpoints, Laban, modern dance and stage combat (unarmed).

The work progresses generally through IMAGE WORK and PERSONALIZATION, CHARACTER WORK, and ACTION PLAYING. The ultimate goal is to present five to ten minutes of well-crafted, well-executed, truthful, thoughtful material.

TECHNICAL THEATRE I

Students learn the basics in lighting, scenic, sound, costume design, and stage management. Students are expected to crew productions, both for the theatre and the other performing arts departments at the Fine Arts Center. As a technical student, you can count on being at the FAC after school often.

We will use the following textbooks:

The Harcourt Brace Anthology of Drama – W.B. Worthen
Scene Design & Stage Lighting – Parker & Smith

THEATRE II/ III/ IV

1:15 - 3:05

THEATRE II-H

This class is project based. Students study college/ business prep, including auditioning, presenting, and interviewing. We will look at how to choose a college/ career path, different aspects of the business, and the vocabulary associated with the business. Monologue work is examined.

Other projects may include scene work, one-acts, or full productions of different genres. Topics include Greek theatre, Shakespeare commedia del arte, early realism (Chekhov, Ibsen), European drama (Spanish, German, French), world drama (Japanese, African), contemporary American, or original material. All projects will be fully designed. The importance of a personal warm-up is built upon.

Students are expected to take on one extra year-long assignment related to theatre management, i.e. designing publicity material, maintaining the Theatre department's spaces, writing articles for the FAC newsletter, etc.

THEATRE III-H

This class builds upon Theatre 2 H. Students are expected to be leaders, and the work demanded becomes greater as students gain experience. Theatre 3 students will propose an independent project, which must be accomplished by the end of the year. Topics may include: playwriting, directing, design, solo performance, etc.

THEATRE IV-H

Same as Theatre 3 H. Students are the most specialized here and are given the most responsibility. An independent project must be completed.

TECH II/ III/ IV-H

Students study advanced topics and head crews. You are expected to crew and design FAC theatre productions as well as other performances at the FAC. As a technical student, you can count on being at the FAC after school often.

All Theatre students

Typical Theatre Performance Schedule

Monday –	Physical training
Tuesday –	Vocal Training
Wednesday -	Physical training & Acting
Thursday –	Vocal training & Acting
Friday -	Physical training & Acting

This schedule is a basic structure. Some weeks we may be all together for a lecture or presentation. Often, we overlap or split the class into smaller groups for in-class rehearsals or technical crews. Be ready for anything!

Scene work is homework - it is your responsibility to schedule time with your scene partner outside of class. Often, rehearsal space will be available at the FAC after school during the week. Please check with us first to be sure.

Scheduled performance dates are listed on our calendar. Performances count as tests, and you are expected to participate. If a conflict arises, please let us know as far in advance as possible, as your scene partners and crewmembers are counting on you. You can expect to have a few evening rehearsals as far out as two weeks prior to any given performance. We occasionally present an unscheduled “informance” (i.e. after a guest artist residency) and these are not graded.

Dress Code

Because our training is so specific, there are a few clothing requirements, mainly for safety purposes. For movement and voice, you need movement clothing that is close-fitting yet modest. Pants must allow the foot and ankle to be shown, and short shorts should be worn with leggings underneath. You will need a good pair of sneaker, socks that can get torn up (they will!), and bare feet. Wal-mart sells 12-packs of cotton socks for cheap! Buy a pack and leave it here! Long hair must be pulled back and loose jewelry removed.

For technical theatre, you need clothing that is not too baggy, that is protective, and that can get dirty. You need a good pair of sneakers or work boots and a pair of work gloves. Wal-mart or Lowe’s has inexpensive pairs for as little as \$5. Long hair must be pulled back and loose jewelry removed.

We have lockers and laundry facilities here! Bring your stuff and a lock and leave it here so you always have it. Again, be ready for anything. Being prepared with the correct clothing is a part of your grade - either 100% or 0%. You either have the right stuff or you don’t – you’re either prepared or you are not.

Rules

Our rules are very simple:

1. Take care of yourself.
2. Take care of each other.
3. Take care of the space.
4. Always give 100%.
5. THINK FIRST!
6. No one rule is more important than the other.

Grading

Also simple. Because theatre doesn't happen without you showing up, daily participation and performance work weigh the most.

- 40% Daily Participation and preparedness
- 40% Performances and Presentations
- 20% Homework, Quizzes, Written Tests

You will also be expected to keep a notebook for any handouts, articles, notes, or scripts we give you. Please keep it up-to-date, as it is one test grade per nine weeks.

Field trips, etc.

Occasionally we will take a field trip during class. For example, we may go see a local theatre, meet local theatre professionals, or see a dress rehearsal or production. You will know in plenty of time, and any class time missed at your home high schools will be excused. Often, we have guest artists come visit with us during class. Very often, we will schedule group outings outside of class which are completely optional. These are usually to see performances at local theatres in the evenings.

In order to get you more experience, we will sometimes have after school opportunities for you. A guest director may want to work on a project with you, using our space and resources. You may participate in the work of our local theatres (acting, crewing, etc). These opportunities are excellent ones and will be completely optional. However, with any extra project, whether here or elsewhere, please follow through with your commitments. You represent the Fine Arts Center with your work. No outside commitments are more important than your daily class work here – stay focused and stay healthy!!

We expect you to go see stuff!! You are here to study the art of theatre, and this means you need to see as much of it as possible. Local theatres, universities, other high schools, out-of-town theatres are all great options. Often local theatres call us asking for help. This is an excellent way for you to gain more experience, and we encourage you to take the opportunity as long as it does not conflict with your projects here. Please ask us if you have questions.

You also need to attend as many events here at the FAC as possible. The more you invest yourself here, the better your education will be. And we build our audiences by going to see other folks' performances. Support your FAC peers!

ENJOY YOUR YEAR AT THE FINE ARTS CENTER!