Southeast Missouri State University

Department: Department of Theatre & Dance Course No.: TH 330

Title of Course: Acting III New

I. Catalog Descriptions and Credit Hours of Course:
An advanced Stanislavski and RSC-based exercise/scene-study course designed to give actors assistance in handling period texts, particularly those written by William Shakespeare. (3 credit hours)

II. Prerequisite(s):
TH 115; TH 120; or consent of instructor.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:
• To give actors assistance in handling both verse and prose in period texts, particularly those written by William Shakespeare;
• To expose students to specific exercises which address the difficulties of combining a Stanislavski-based contemporary approach with the demands of heightened language and style.
• To further incorporate the use of self-evaluation as a primary means for improvement;
• To enhance actors’ rehearsal and performance technique in handling both set speeches/soliloquies and scene-study.

IV. Expectations of Students:
• To attend all classes and participate fully in all discussions and exercises;
• To complete all outside assignments in a timely fashion and to the best of their ability;
• To maintain a productive and collegial environment;
• To remain open and respectful of new and conflicting ideas;
• To respectfully challenge existing thought and accepted ideas;
• To take risks with all creative and intellectual endeavors.

V. Course Outline:
Week 1 The Two Traditions: Elizabethan & Modern Acting
Week 2 Shakespeare’s Sonnets
Week 3 Using the Verse
Weeks 4 – 5 Using the Prose & Set Speeches & Soliloquies
Week 6 Shakespeare in Production
Weeks 7 – 8 Workshop & Presentation of Scene Study #1
Weeks 9 – 10 Contemporary Shakespeare
Weeks 11-12 Workshop & Presentation of Scene Study #2
Weeks 13 – 15 Rehearsal of Elizabethan Showcase
Final Elizabethan Showcase
VI. **Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:**
- *Playing Shakespeare*, by John Barton
- *Shakescenes*, edited by John Russell Brown
- *Acting with Style*, by John Harrop & Sabin R. Epstein
- *Shakespeare without Fear*, by Joseph Olivieri

VII. **Basis for Student Evaluation:**
- Participation (20%)
- Sonnet (5%)
- Scene Study #1 (20%)
- Analysis/Journal #1 (5%)
- Scene Study #2 (20%)
- Analysis/Journal #2 (5%)
- Elizabethan Showcase (25%)