Introduction to Theatre

Curriculum Plan

Grade Levels: 9-12 Number of Students: 30

Spaces Required: Theatre Classroom

Philosophy of Theatre Education:

As a teacher, I want to help my students fall in love with learning and the beauty of Theatre. As an artist, I want to instill in them the understanding that Theatre is a tool used to change not only themselves, but the world. My classroom is a safe and open space where students are encouraged to build trust with their classmates and become vulnerable in their performance. I want to build a bond with my students upon trust and the mutual understanding that no one is without their quirks - including their teacher! My students are encouraged to make bold choices with confidence and creativity. I believe that Theatre is a cross-curricular subject and that skills developed in Theatre will be relevant in life as a whole, beyond high school. Through hard work and determination, my students will gain confidence and compassion in their work and performance. My students learn that belief is a powerful thing in Theatre, and that belief in themselves is one of the most important things that Theatre can teach them. Above all, I want my students to understand that I will not let them fail. Theatre is a place to grow, and I want to foster that growth in an environment of acceptance and belief.

Indiana Academic Standards in Theatre Covered in this Course:

- 9-12.RT.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of technical theatre texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions.
- 9-12.RT.2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; trace the text's explanation or depiction of a complex process, phenomenon, or concept; provide an accurate summary of the text.
- 9-12.RT.3 Follow precisely a complex multistep procedure when performing technical theatre tasks, attending to special cases or exceptions defined in the text.
- 9-12.RT.4 Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain- specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific technical theatre context relevant to grades 9-12 texts and topics.
- 9-12.WT.2b Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

Curriculum Plan

- 9-2.WT.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- 9-12.WT.7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a
 question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the
 inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating
 understanding of the subject under investigation.
- **H.1.1: PROFICIENT** Discover how our individual cultural experiences affect an artist's work in the theatre.
- **H.2.1: PROFICIENT** Identify various dramatic forms, production practices, and theatrical traditions.
- **H.3.1: PROFICIENT** Articulate understanding of a play using elements of dramatic structure (plot, character, theme, language, music, and spectacle).
- **H.4.1: PROCICIENT** Evaluate how well the text or production met its intended objectives.
- **H.6.1: PROFICIENT** Construct imaginative scripts and collaborate with actors to refine scripts so that the story and meaning are conveyed to an audience.
- **H.7.1: ADVANCED** Formulate a design concept from an existing play that reflects an apt interpretation of its text, style, and atmosphere.
- **H.8.1: PROFICIENT** Recognize and develop the voice and body as the actor's primary instruments.
- **H.8.1: ADVANCED** Convey a character through specific physical and vocal choices.
- H.8.3: ADVANCED Create a character by combining, modifying, or adapting various observations.
- **H.8.4: PROFICIENT** Build characters and portray situations through improvisation.
- **H.10.2: PROFICIENT** Recognize the responsibilities and the importance of individual theatre patrons in the community.

Course Description:

This class introduces students of all skill levels to the basics of theatre. We discuss plays in the context of the societies that created them through history and design technical elements based on an analysis of the script. Introduction to Theatre is a pre-requisite for all advanced theatre classes.

Course Outline:

- Acting
 - The Actor's Toolkit: Voice, Body, Mind
 - Improvisation
 - Character Building
 - Open Scenes
 - Monologues

Introduction to Theatre

Curriculum Plan

• Theatre History

- Greek and Roman Theatre: Antigone
- Medieval Theatre: cycle plays
- English Renaissance: Shakespeare, The Winter's Tale, A Midsummer Night's Dream

Script Analysis

- Beginning, Middle, and End
- Beat Analysis
- Pixar Story Structure
- Triggers and Heaps

Design

- Set Design
- Lighting Design
- Costume Design
- Sound Design

Playwriting

- The 5 W's of Playwriting
- Given Circumstances/World of the Play
- Stasis A & B
- Storyboarding

Class Textbooks & References:

- Ball, David. *Backwards & Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays*. Carbondale & Edwardsville: Southern Illinois University Press, 1983.
- Goldfarb, Alvin and Edwin Wilson. *Living Theatre: A History of Theatre*. 7th ed., W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2017.
- Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Edited by Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine, Washington Square Press, 1993.
- Shakespeare, William. *The Winter's Tale*. Edited by Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine, Washington Square Press, 2009.
- Sophocles. Antigone. Translated by Robert Bagg and James Scully, Harper Perennial, 2011.

Curriculum Plan

Assignment Point Allocation:

- Acting: 100
 - Elevator Breakdown Outline 10
 - Open Scenes 20
 - Presentation 15
 - Reflection 5
 - Monologues 70
 - "A day in the life..." Character Journal 15
 - Character Analysis Worksheet 5
 - First Presentation 20
 - Second Presentation 20
 - Reflection 10
- Theatre History: 100
 - Greek Theatre and Antigone Quiz 25
 - Medieval Theatre Quiz 25
 - English Renaissance, Shakesepare, and *Midsummer* Test 50
- Script Analysis: 60
 - Beginning, Middle, and End Analysis of Antigone 20
 - Pixar Breakdown of The Winter's Tale 20
 - Pixar Breakdown of A Midsummer Night's Dream 20
- Design: 175
 - Antigone Sound Design 65
 - Concept Statement 15
 - Research Playlist 15
 - Key Moments 10
 - Sound Collage 25
 - Pageant Wagon Set Design 25
 - The Winter's Tale Lighting Design 25
 - Research Images 5
 - Colored Renderings 20
 - A Midsummer Night's Dream Costume Design 60
 - Research Images 5
 - Collage 10
 - Sketches 15
 - Colored Renderings 30

Curriculum Plan

- Playwriting: 175
 - 5-Minute Scene 100
 - 5 W's of Playwriting 10
 - Pixar Story Outline 10
 - Rough Draft 1 15
 - Rough Draft 2 15
 - Final Scene 50
 - Staged Reading/Workshop of Rough Draft 2 25
 - Memorized Presentation of Final Draft 50
- Midterm: 50
 - Metacognitive Journal Entry 50
- Final Exam: 100
 - Performance Reflection 50
 - Theatre History Questions 25
 - Portfolio 25
- Journals: 160
 - Week 1 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 2 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 3 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 4 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 5 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 6 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 7 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 8 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 9 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 10 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 11 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 12 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 13 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 14 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 15 Journal Entries 10
 - Week 16 Journal Entries 10
- Total Points Available: 1000

Weekly Ensemble Points: 80

5

- Week 1 5
- Week 2 5
- Week 3 5
- Week 4 5
- Week 5 5
- Week 6 5
- Week 7 5
- Week 8 5
- Week 9 5
- Week 10 5
- Week 11 5
- Week 12 5
- Week 13 5
- Week 14 5
- Week 15 5
- Week 16 5

Curriculum Plan

Grading System:

Α	95-100%	950 – 1000	С	79-82%	790 – 829
A-	93-94%	930 – 949	C-	77-78%	770 – 789
B+	91-92%	910 – 929	D+	75-76%	750 – 769
В	87-90%	870 – 909	D	72-74%	720 – 749
B-	85-86%	850 – 869	D-	70-71%	700 – 719
C+	83-84%	830 – 849	F	0-69%	Less than 700

Daily Topic Outline:

Timeline	Unit	Topic	Activity	What's Due Today?
Day 1	Introductions	Syllabus Review & Names	Alliterative AdjectivesDo You Want to Buy a Duck?	
Day 2	Introductions	Safe Spaces	Safe Space Pledge"I am"The Human KnotTrust Circle	
Day 3	Introductions	The Mechanics of Ensemble Work	Trust Circle (if not done last class)The Machine	
Day 4	Introductions	Warming up the Actor's Body	 Party Time Get Down, Get Funky, Get Loose Movie and TV Charades 	Titles of favorite movies and TV shows
Day 5	Introductions	Touring Our Theatre Spaces	 Auditorium Tour Review of Safety Information "Who just did that?" 	 Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)

Day 6	Acting	The Actor's Toolkit	 "What's 'Good' Acting?" Discussion Introduce Actor's Tools 	
Day 7	Acting	Body Awareness	 Spatial Awareness Exercises (i.e. yoga/Pilates) Mirrors "Simon Says" Stage Directions 	
Day 8	Acting	Voice Work	Vocal Warm-upsProjectionArticulationExercisesTongue Twisters	
Day 9	Acting	Mindfulness	MeditationPurseZip, Zap, Zop3 in 5	
Day 10	Acting	Partnering	Mind MeldMirrorsMinefield	 Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 11	Acting	Character Building	 Character Quirks Character Worksheets Creating the Character's Physicality Creating the Character's Voice 	Identify at least 2 quirks of your "everyday character"
Day 12	Acting	Improvisation	Elevator Breakdown	Elevator Breakdown Outline (In-Class) (10)

Day 13	Acting	Open Scenes	 Discussion of Open Scenes Assign Scenes and Scene Partners Rehearsal Time 	
Day 14	Acting	Open Scenes	Presentation of Open Scenes	Open Scene Presentation (15)
Day 15	Acting, Theatre History, & Script Analysis	Antigone	 Discussion of Historical Context and Greek Theatre Introduce Beginning, Middle, and End Analysis Introduce Monologues 	 Open Scene Reflection (5) Read Sophocles' Antigone Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 16	Acting & Script Analysis	Monologues	 Choose Monologue from Antigone Review Slating Begin Beat Analysis of Monologues 	Top 2 Choices of Monologues from Antigone with page numbers
Day 17	Acting & Script Analysis	Monologues	Character WorksheetsRehearsal Time	BME Analysis of Antigone (20)
Day 18	Acting	Monologues	Rehearsal Time Character Interviews w/ Instructor	 Character Analysis Worksheet (5) "A day in the life" Character Journal (15)
Day 19	Acting	Monologues	First Presentations (off-book/calling line)Peer Feedback	• First Presentation (20)

Day 20	Acting	Monologues	 First Presentations (off-book/calling line) Peer Feedback Rehearsal Time 	 Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 21	Acting	Monologues	Second Presentations (MEMORIZED)	Second Presentation (20)
Day 22	Acting	Monologues	Second Presentations	
Day 23	Design & Theatre History	Sound Design	 Greek Theatre & Antigone Quiz Introducing Sound Design Discussion of Greek Chorus Assigning Scenes from Antigone 	 Read Ch. 2 of Living Theatre Monologue Reflection (10) Greek Theatre & Antigone Quiz (25)
Day 24	Design & Script Analysis	Sound Design	 Discussion of Concept Begin Sound Design Research Playlist Write Concept Statement 	Concept Statement (15)
Day 25	Design	Sound Design	 Identify Key Moments in Scene Introduce Sound Collages 	 Research Playlist (15) Key Moments – due at the end of class (10) Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 26	Design	Sound Design	Work Day for Sound Collage	

Day 27	Design	Sound Design	Work Day for Sound Collage	• Sound Collage DUE @ 11:59 pm (25)
Day 28	Theatre History	Medieval Theatre	Lecture and Discussion of Medieval Performance	
Day 29	Theatre History	Medieval Theatre	 Discuss Cycle Plays Simulate Outdoor Theatre Audience Experience 	Read Ch. 5 of Living Theatre
Day 30	Theatre History & Design	Medieval Theatre & Set Design	 Introduce Set Design Pick Stories for Pageant Wagon Design BME Analysis for Story Brainstorming and Collecting Research Images 	 Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 31	Design	Set Design	Work Day for Pageant Wagon Design	 Pageant Wagon Set Design – due at end of class (25)
Day 32	Theatre History	English Renaissance & Shakespeare	 Medieval Theatre Quiz Begin Shakespeare Discussion and English Renaissance Lecture The Winter's Tale Cartoon Summary Video 	 Read Ch. 7 of <i>Living Theatre</i> Medieval Theatre Quiz (25)

11

Day 33	Theatre History	English Renaissance & Shakespeare	 Discuss The Winter's Tale in Historical Context Break The Winter's Tale into BME (as a class) 	Read Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale
Day 34	Script Analysis	Pixar Structure	 Introduce the Pixar Story Structure Trigger and Heap Demonstration Discuss Given Circumstances and Stasis A & B 	Read Ch. 1-2 from Backwards & Forwards
Day 35	Script Analysis	Pixar Structure	Practice the Pixar Story Breakdown with Familiar Stories	 Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 36	Design	Lighting Design	 Introduce Lighting Design Introduce Lighting Design Project Research and share examples of effective theatrical lighting design Assign Scenes for Design Project 	Pixar Breakdown of The Winter's Tale (20)
Day 37	Design	Lighting Design	Work Day for Concept and Research	Rough idea of a concept for the design
Day 38	Design	Lighting Design	Work Day for Rendering	Research Images (5)

Day 39	Design	Lighting Design	Work Day for Rendering	Colored Renderings – due at end of class (20)
Day 40	Theatre History & Acting	Shakespeare	Shakespearean Insult Battle	 Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 41	Acting	Ensemble Building & Characterization	 "Tug of War" (imaginary rope) Park Bench Mafia	
Day 42	Acting	Ensemble Building	MinefieldCounting BlindPeople to People	
Day 43	Acting	Developing Empathy	Empathy Map	
Day 44	Acting	Mindfulness	Breathing Meditation	
Day 45	Acting	Metacognition	Introduce MetacognitionWrite Metacognitive Journal	 Metacognitive Journal Entry (50) Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 46	Theatre History	Neoclassical Rules for Theatre	 Discussion of Neoclassical Rules in Playwriting Discuss how Shakespeare broke those rules 	Read Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream

Day 47	Script Analysis	Untangling A Midsummer Night's Dream	 Identify the 3 separate groups of characters Identify BME of each of these storylines Find points of intersection 	
Day 48	Script Analysis	Who's Story is this Anyway?	 The Protagonist Predicament Separate into groups to debate based on the top 2 characters that the class thinks could be the protagonist 	Pixar Breakdown of A Midsummer Night's Dream (20)
Day 49	Script Analysis	Who's Story is this Anyway?	Debate PrepResearch and Group Work Day	
Day 50	Script Analysis	The Great Debate	 Debate: Who is the protagonist of A Midsummer Night's Dream? Winning team gets 2 E.C. points on their English Renaissance, Shakespeare, and Midsummer Test 	 Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 51	Theatre History	Review Games	Jeopardy	
Day 52	Theatre History	Assessment	English Renaissance, Shakespeare, and Midsummer Test	• English Renaissance, Shakespeare, and Midsummer Test (50)

14

Day 53	Design	Costume Design	 Introduction of Costume Design Introduction of Costume Design Project Assign Character and Time Period Research Time 	
Day 54	Design	Costume Design	Work Day for Collages	Research Images (5)
Day 55	Design	Costume Design	Work Day for Collages	 Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 56	Design	Costume Design	Presentation of Collages	Collage (10)
Day 57	Design	Costume Design	Work Day for Sketching	Sketches - due at end of class (15)
Day 58	Design	Costume Design	Choose a Sketch to RenderWork Time for Rendering	
Day 59	Design	Costume Design	Work Day for Rendering	
Day 60	Design	Costume Design	Presentation of Final Colored Renderings	 Colored Renderings (30) Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)

Introduction to Theatre

Day 61	Playwriting	Scenes	Introduce Playwriting ProjectThe 5 W's of Playwriting	
Day 62	Playwriting	Scenes	 Discussion among peers about 5 W's and brainstormed endings Begin Pixar Story Outline of Scenes 	 5 W's of Playwriting (10) Brainstorm two different endings for your scene
Day 63	Playwriting	Scenes	Work Day for Writing	Pixar Story Outline (10)
Day 64	Playwriting	Scenes	Work Day for Writing	
Day 65	Playwriting	Scenes	Work Day for Peer Editing	 Rough Draft 1 (15) Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 66	Playwriting	Scenes	Work Day for Rewriting	
Day 67	Playwriting & Acting	Scenes	Rehearsal Time	Rough Draft 2 (15)
Day 68	Playwriting & Acting	Scenes	Rehearsal Time	
Day 69	Playwriting & Acting	Scenes	Staged Reading/Workshop	Staged Reading/Workshop of Rough Draft 2 (25)

Introduction to Theatre

Day 70	Playwriting & Acting	Scenes	Staged Reading/Workshop	 Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 71	Playwriting & Acting	Scenes	Staged Reading/Workshop	
Day 72	Playwriting	Scenes	Work Day for Rewriting	
Day 73	Playwriting	Scenes	Work Day for Rewriting	
Day 74	Playwriting & Acting	Scenes	Rehearsal Time	Final Scene (50)
Day 75	Playwriting & Acting	Scenes	Rehearsal Time	 Weekly Ensemble Points (5) Weekly Journal Entries (10)
Day 76	Playwriting & Acting	Scenes	Rehearsal Time	
Day 77	Playwriting & Acting	Scenes	Memorized Final Presentations	Memorized Presentation of Final Draft (50)
Day 78	Playwriting & Acting	Scenes	Memorized Final Presentations	
Day 79	Playwriting & Acting	Scenes	Memorized Final Presentations	

	Final Exam	Final Exam	Performance	Portfolio (25)
Day 80			Reflection	 Performance
			 Theatre History 	Reflection (50)
			Questions	Theatre History
				Questions (25)
				Weekly Ensemble
				Points (5)
				 Weekly Journal
				Entries (10)