

School District of Springfield Township

Springfield Township High School Course Overview

Course Name: Theatre I

Course Description

Theatre I offers an introduction to acting and play production. Students develop and refine physical characters as they interpret assigned scripts. Students build and apply their peer and self critiquing skills as they plan and prepare a final production. This performance-based class focuses on the development of a full length play performed at the end of the semester during the school day.

Unit Titles

Unit One: Getting Started – Choosing a Play - Production and Directing Decisions

Unit Two: Acting Choices

Unit Three: Performing in Public

Essential Questions

1. How does an actor develop skills for an effective performance?
2. In what ways can an actor communicate to and entertain an audience?
3. How does stage blocking tell the playwright's story?
4. How does blocking define character?
5. How does an actor develop physical character from cues in the script?

Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings

Unit 1: Getting Started – Choosing a Play - Production and Directing Decisions

- Individual selection and interpretation of a script is what makes a theatrical performance a creative, effective form of communication.

Unit 2: Acting Choices

- Character development and direction are essential parts of any scripted play.
- Acting is a skill that is developed through practice, critique and experience.
- Well developed, defined characters are integral to a successful theatrical experience for an audience.

Unit 3: Performing in Public

- Performance is the primary goal of all scripted theatrical endeavors.

Key Competencies/Skills/Procedures

Unit 1: Getting Started – Choosing a Play - Production and Directing Decisions

- Evaluate and make production choices while choosing scripts and casting
- Organize responsibilities within performance group

- Analyze script to determine appropriate and available resources for set design and stage layout
- Design and direct blocking for assigned scene or scenes
- Guide actors to help determine appropriate character choices using appropriate critiquing techniques

Unit 2: Acting Choices

- Interpret and analyze character/characters
- Apply appropriate physical elements to assigned character (voice, facial expressions, body alignment, gesture, movement)
- Sustain physicality throughout a scene
- Respond to critiques both verbally and with character adjustment on the stage

Unit 3: Performing in Public

- Prepare all production elements needed for performance (set, costume, make-up, props)
- Correspond with anticipated audience through advertising or invitation
- Finalize performance through final critiques and adjustments
- Perform on designated days for an appropriate audience
- Evaluate final performances through discussion critiques

Core Vocabulary

Unit 1: Getting Started – Choosing a Play - Production and Directing Decisions
script, set design, direction, stage directions, blocking, balance, emphasis, focus

Unit 2: Acting Choices
physical character, interpretation, improvisation, energy, style, voice, body alignment, gesture, movement, projection

Unit 3: Performing in Public
critique, advertise, presentation, control, discipline, response

Core Resources

A variety of scripts which vary by semester

Pennsylvania State Standards Guiding Course

PA State Arts and Humanities Standards:

9.1. Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts

- 9.1.8 A. Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
- 9.1.8 B. Recognize, know, use and demonstrate a variety of appropriate arts elements and principles to produce, review and revise original works in the arts.
- 9.1.8.C. Recognize and use fundamental vocabulary within each of the arts forms.
- 9.1.8. G. Analyze the effect of rehearsal and practice sessions.
- 9.1.8. H. Incorporate the effective and safe use of materials, equipment and tools into the production of works in the arts at work and performance spaces.
- 9.1.8. J. Analyze and evaluate the use of traditional and contemporary technologies for producing, performing and exhibiting works in the arts or the works of others.

9.3. Critical Response

- 9.3.8.A. Know and use the critical process of the examination of works in the arts and humanities.
- 9.3.8. B. Analyze and interpret specific characteristics of works in the arts within each art form
- 9.3.8.D. Evaluate works in the arts and humanities using a complex vocabulary of critical response.

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