

# School District of Springfield Township

## Springfield Township High School Course Overview

### **Course Name: Theatre II**

#### **Course Description**

In Theatre II students produce and direct one act plays or scenes. Students in this class work in small groups to select or write plays or scenes they will produce. Students are responsible for their entire production. Acting, directing, set design, costuming make-up and advertising are all parts of the students' decision-making process. Students present their performances at the end of the semester.

#### **Course Prerequisites**

A minimum final grade of "B" in Theatre I or Broadway Musical Ensemble

#### **Unit Titles**

Unit 1: Advanced Directorial and Production Choices

Unit 2: In Depth Acting Choices

Unit 3: Monologues and Auditioning

Unit 4: Performing in Public

*Note: Theatre II is a dynamic course that responds to the needs of the group. Additional projects such as playwriting, storytelling, puppetry or other performance genre may become part of the curriculum as the students respond to their interests, needs or creative ideas from our school district community.*

#### **Essential Questions**

1. How does an actor develop skills for a credible, masterful performance?
2. How does a director interpret a script in order to tell the playwright's story as well as add his/her own artistic style?
3. How does a director make choices that capture an audience's attention and engage them throughout an entire script?
4. How does a director make directorial choices that delineate the characters in the script?
5. How does an actor develop a monologue performance to perfect intricate psychological and physical character?

## **Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings**

### Unit 1: Advanced Directorial and Production Choices

- Individual selection and interpretation of a script is what makes theatrical performance a creative, effective form of communication.
- Directorial interpretation has great impact on the final theatrical performance.
- Directorial decisions establish a director's style and illustrate his/her interpretation of a script.
- Directorial choices impact the degree of audience engagement.

### Unit 2: In Depth Acting Choices

- Character development is an essential part of any scripted play.
- Credible acting is a skill that is developed through practice, critique and experience.
- Well defined, developed characters are integral to a masterful theatrical performance.

### Unit 3: Monologues and Auditioning

- Monologue performance is an essential part of a serious acting student's repertoire.
- Monologue study refines character development skills.
- It is essential for all actors to understand the audition process and expectations.
- All actors must develop skills to relax and perform to their best potential under stressful circumstances.

### Unit 4: Performing in Public

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

## **Key Competencies/Skills/Procedures**

### Unit 1: Advanced Directorial and Production Choices

- 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
- Interpret script to determine appropriate design and direction for assigned scene or scenes
- Direct actors to project appropriate character choices which reflect chosen directing style
- Apply appropriate critiquing techniques to refine character development

### Unit 2: In Depth Acting Choices

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

### Unit 3: Monologues and Auditioning

- Interpret and analyze character/characters
- Apply appropriate physical elements to assigned character (voice, facial expressions, body alignment, gesture, movement)
- Sustain physicality throughout a monologue
- Respond to critiques both verbally and with character adjustment on the stage
- Establish expectations of an audition
- Master material and characterization of audition piece
- Apply concentration, focus and relaxation methods

### Unit 4: 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: Advanced Directorial and Production Choices

*script, set design, direction, stage directions, blocking, balance, emphasis, focus, rising action, climax, form, motivation, conflict, design, objective, level*

### Unit 2: In Depth Acting Choices

*physical character, interpretation, improvisation, energy, style, voice, body alignment, gesture, movement, projection, cue, concentration, articulation, conflict, diction, level, motivation, objective*

### Unit 3: Monologues and Auditioning

*motivation, articulation, concentration, climax, diction, gesture, level, objective, projection, style, energy*

### Unit 4: Performing in Public

*Critique, advertise, presentation, control, discipline, response*

## **Core Resources**

A variety of scripts which vary by semester

## **Pennsylvania State Standards**

*Note: Theatre II takes a more in depth look at the artistic choices introduced in Theatre I. Several standards addressed in Theatre I are refined and/or extended in this course.*

**PA State Arts and Humanities Standards:**

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

9.1.12 A. Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.

9.1.12 B. Recognize, know, use and demonstrate a variety of appropriate arts elements and principles to produce, review and revise original works in the arts.

9.1.12.C. Integrate and apply advanced vocabulary to the arts forms.

9.1.12. G. Analyze the effect of rehearsal and practice sessions.

9.1.12. 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.

9.1.12. 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

9.3.12.A. Explain and apply the critical process of the examination of works in the arts and humanities.

9.3.12. B. Determine and apply criteria to a person's work and works of others in the arts.

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Approved--chr