

STAGE DIALECTS/ACCENTS: TH 447

University of Alabama, Department of Theatre and Dance

Fall 2019, 2:00 – 3:15, Tuesdays and Thursdays in Rowand-Johnson Room 236

Allison Hetzel, Associate Professor of Acting and Voice

Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework (2008)

Master Teacher of Archetypes for Actors (2015)

Office 247 – UA Safe Zone and Safe Harbor

Campus Mailbox: Room 115 Department Office

Office Phone (205) 348-3127

Email: ahetzel@ua.edu - **This is the best way to reach me!**

Office Hours: Most Mondays 11:00 – 11:50; I am also available by appointment; please contact me before any issues escalate.

Required Text: *Accents and Dialects for Stage and Screen* by Paul Meier, Hard Copy with CD's or a downloadable iTunes version.

Other recommended materials: CD player to listen to Dialect CDs, a recording device to record your own vocal progress, most of your phone do have a simple recording device, a digital recorder is much higher quality. A recording device is also needed for the Graduate students to record a real - life dialect or accent character study.

Helpful web sites:

<http://www.dialectsarchive.com>

IDEA – International Dialect of English Archive

<http://www.paulmeier.com/ipacharts/>

Helpful charts

www.visualaccentdialectarchive.com/

VADA -Video sources of speakers

http://www.yorku.ca/earmstro/speech/speech_intro/quizzes.html

<http://www.yorku.ca/earmstro/speech/dialects/rp/index.html>

Online resources for review or fun

Course Description: TH-447 Stage Dialects (3 hours): Study of stage dialects for the performer.

Course Objectives/ Learner Centered Outcomes: To become familiar with six dialects/accents. The student will learn how to approach working with dialects on stage as well as how to gather resources and for future dialects. Students will work on in-class exercises, drills and presentations.

Attendance policy: Attendance is mandatory! After **two** unexcused absences. ***Each additional absence will lower your final grade, by a half of a letter grade (50 points).*** Absences will not be excused without documentation and verifiable cause. My preference as an instructor is to be contacted **prior** to any absence by email. You must also contact your acting partner (if applicable) if you must be absent. Please consider the penalties of absences in relation to the

class grade, before missing class. In this acting class your attendance and participation is mandatory, class exercises and projects are essential for your artistic enrichment. Remember if you are an absent actor in the professional world you will be replaced with another actor!

What this means is:

- **After four absences total, you cannot earn a grade higher than a B after 100 points are deducted from your total final points. (If you were working at an A level)**
- **After six absences total, you cannot earn a grade higher than a C after 200 points are deducted from your total final points. (If you were working at an A level)**
- **To earn the total 200 points for attendance you must attend all classes, participate and be present.**
- **Each student is given two absences to be ill, have car trouble, and oversleep or to be somewhere else – I do not excuse these items.**
- **Please contact me about your own hospitalization, a death in the family or religious holidays these must be verifiable for an excused absence. As well as any University documented absences.**
- **I will contact you if you are failing the class (this is often a result of too many absences or poor class work and conduct) and you will not be able to successfully complete the semester without a failing grade.**

Late or Missed work will not be accepted without prior notification and arrangements.

Performances are an important part of this class if you are not prepared to perform on a date that you are scheduled to perform, your final grade will be lessened each class period afterwards until the acting project is presented.

Tardiness: Three instances of lateness equal one absence. Please be on time this is crucial!
Very Crucial!

Disabilities: To request disability accommodations, please contact Disabilities Services at phone Number 348 – 4285. After initial arrangements are made with this office, please set up an appointment to see me.

Academic Misconduct: All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, misrepresentations, and abetting of the above. The Academic Misconduct Policy will be followed in any such case. This policy is outlined in the student affairs handbook, which can be obtained from the Student Life office in the Ferguson Center.

Important Website to Know

<http://ua.edu/uact/>

UAct: The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations,

illegal discrimination, harassment, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

Class Guidelines

- **Treat fellow classmates with respect.**
- **Embrace a positive attitude along with positive energy this will strengthen your acting work in and out of this class.**
- **Please dress in attire that is comfortable and will not constrict your movement**
- **No eating in class**
- **Bringing a water bottle to class is HIGHLY recommended**
- **Cell phones should be turned off and put away when you enter the classroom, any phone ringing/beeping/vibrating and, any attempts to make or receive a phone call or text message during the class will result in one tardy. I do NOT want to see your phones during class time this means NO TEXTING, please.**
- **Hats and or sunglasses should not be worn during class, while costume pieces are welcomed**
- **Gum chewing is NOT permitted, this will hinder vocal quality**
- **Tongue and lip jewelry will need to be removed when performing**
- **A friendly reminder that this IS NOT a good semester to get a piercing in the tongue, nose, or lip**
- **This is a great semester to QUIT Smoking, and please avoid Vaping**
- **Touch will be an element of this class as part of the semester; actor alignment and partner work will be explored during the semester.**

All written assignments should be typed: double spaced with 12 pt. Times New Roman font

TH 447 Course Requirements:

- **Cockney: Key Sentence & Exercises 25 Pts**
- **Cockney Monologue Presentation 75Pts**
- **Irish: Key Sentence & Exercises 25 Pts**
- **Irish Monologue Presentation 75 Pts**
- **Standard British: Key Sentence & Exercises 25 Pts**
- **Standard British Monologue Presentation 75Pts**
- **New York: Key Sentence & Exercises 25 Pts**
- **New York Monologue Presentation 75 Pts**
- **French: Key Sentence & Exercises 25 Pts**
- **French: Monologue Presentation 75 Pts**
- **Dialect Real-Life Character Study Presentation 100 Pts**
- **Class Participation, Professionalism, Attendance 200**
- **Final Performance Exam 200pts** Presentation of your four best dialect monologues from the semester, each worth 50 points.
- **Grade Scale:** 1000 – 900 = A, 899 – 800 = B, 799 – 700 = C, 699 – 600 = D, 599 – 0 = F

Departmental Productions: Theatre Majors are expected to attend the UA performances!
Please show your support to the Department of Theatre and Dance as well as your colleagues.

Departmental Theatre and Dance Productions:

- **Link to Showtime's and Dates can be found at** <https://theatre.ua.edu>
- **Ticket Information and Packages Please See the Box Office or** ua.tix.com

The River, September 23-27, 29 Allen Bales Theatre (AB) no show 9/28

Intimate Apparel, October 1-6, Gallaway Theatre (GT)

Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre, October 8-11, Morgan Hall (MH)

Dance Alabama, November 12-15, MH

The Pirates of Penzance, November 11-17 AB no show 11/10

The Importance of Being Ernest, November 19-22, 24 GT no show 11/23

Class Calendar

Subject to Change

AUGUST

Week 1

TH 8/22 Orientation to the Course/Text Book and Discussion

Week 2

TU 8/27 Discussion & Review of Destructuring and Restructuring/ Dialects and Accents
Discussion (Fitzmaurice Voicework- please dress for floorwork)

TH 8/29 Begin Cockney

Week 3

SEPTEMBER

TU 9/3 Short Cockney Exercises (Cockney Hygiene Tips) with Improvisation & Games

TH 9/5 Continue Cockney (Workshop, Drill, Show Pieces for Feedback)

Week 4

TU 9/10 Present Pieces/ Conclude Cockney

TH 9/12 Begin Standard British, Received Pronunciation (RP)

Week 5

TU 9/17 Standard British Exercise (Proper Manners) with Improvisation & Games

TH 9/19 Continue Standard British (Workshop, Drill, Show Pieces for Feedback)

Week 6

TU 9/24 Present Pieces/ Conclude Standard British

TH 9/26 Begin Irish

Week 7

OCTOBER

TU 10/1 Present Irish Exercises (Irish Jokes) with Improvisation & Games

TH 10/3 Present Pieces/ Conclude Irish

Week 8

TU 10/8 Review Cockney – Irish- Standard British/ Group Dialect Activity

TH 10/10 Begin French Accent

Week 9

TU 10/15 French Dialect Exercises (Group Activity)

TH 10/17 French Dialect (Workshop, Drill, Show Pieces for Feedback)

French Present Pieces/Conclude French

Week 10

TU 10/22 French Present Pieces/Conclude French

TH 10/24 Review Day Group Dialect Activity (Cockney, RP, Irish, French)

Please bring key phrases and monologues to class.

Week 11

TU 10/29 Real-Life Dialect Workshop Day

TH 10/31 **Fall Break – NO CLASS**

NOVEMBER

Week 12

TU 11/5 Begin New York Dialect – Research and Share Examples

TH 11/7 New York Dialect Exercises (Words of Inspiration) with Improvisation & Games

Week 13

TU 11/12 Continue New York (Workshop, Drill, Show Pieces for Feedback)

TH 11/14 Present Pieces/ Conclude New York

Real-life Character & Dialect Study Project

- Pick a person that you can interview and record.
- After the interview, study and listen to the qualities of their speech.
- From this create a handout that lists the major qualities and sound changes of the dialect. Share this with the class.
- Also create a short monologue (about one minute) inspired by or taken from the recorded interview.
- Please play a short segment of the recorded interview at some point during your presentation for the class.

Week 14

TU 11/19 Real Life Dialects or Accent Character Studies, Show and Share, 4 minute presentations

- 1. 7.
- 2. 8.
- 3. 9.
- 4. 10.
- 5. 11.
- 6.

TH 11/21 Real Life Dialects or Accent Character Studies, Show and Share, five minute presentations

- 1. 7.
- 2. 8.
- 3. 9.
- 4. 10.
- 5. 11.
- 6.

Week 15

TU 11/24 Finish any Real Life Dialects or Accent Character Studies Presentations

TH 11/26 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – No Class**

DECEMBER

Week 16

TU 12/3 Review elements and work with all dialects/accents, drills and warm-ups

TH 12/5 Last Day of Class, Discussion and Activity ups Workshop Day - methods for actors working with a dia

Final Performance Exam A showing of your four best dialect or accent monologues from the semester, this assigned and take place during the scheduled exam. If you feel prepared before this date please contact me to dis

December 12	<p>Final Exams - Thursday</p> <p>8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: Classes which first meet TR between 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.</p>
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