

The University of Alabama, Department of Theatre and Dance

Period Acting Styles: TH 544, Spring 2020

Tuesday/Thursday: 11:00 – 12:15, RM 236 RJ

Allison Hetzel, M.F.A. Office 247

Certified Associate Teacher or Fitzmaurice Voicework

Master Teacher of Archetypes for Actors

Office Phone (205) 348-3127 **Email:** ahetzel@ua.edu (This is the best way to reach me)

Office Hours: Most Mondays 11:00 – 12:00 PM; I am also available by appointment; please contact me before any issues escalate.

Course Description: TH 544 Period Acting Styles I. Three hours: The study and practice of period acting styles.

Recommended Plays:

The Rivals by Richard Sheridan or *The Way of the World* by William Congreve

Private Live's or *Design for Living* by Noel Coward

Burial at Thebes by Seamus Haney or *Women of Troy* by Euripides

Recommended Text: *Style for Actors* by Robert Barton selected chapters will be recommended reading and will assist you with your style/ism/genre project.

Course Objectives and Learner Centered Outcomes:

- To gain a working knowledge of period acting styles
- To apply the elements of style to projects, for example scenes, monologues and group work
- To be able to discuss the various styles and have an understanding of period styles in theatre
- Give and receive constructive feedback on the craft of acting
- Discuss and analyze scripts
- Approach stylized scene work with a scene partner
- Create and develop a character
- Use the rehearsal process and time effectively
- Make active bold choices as an actor
- Explore the physical and vocal life of the character in the world of the play
- Be familiar with at least three more plays

Attendance policy: Attendance is mandatory in a graduate level course! After one unexcused absence. ***Each, additional absence with lower your final letter grade, by one letter grade.*** Absences will not be excused without documentation and verifiable cause. My preference as an instructor is to be contacted **prior** to any absence, via phone or email. You must also contact your acting partner 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.

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 lessen each class period afterwards until present the acting project is presented. This also applies to late papers.

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 and wear shoes that are appropriate for each project
- 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 --I do NOT want to see your phones during class time!

Personal Items needed for the course:

Dress shoes for period work, slight heel for men and women preferred
 Skirts and Slacks – no jeans for period acting projects
 Collared shirts and tops – no t-shirts for this period
 Corsets for Women (if available) for Restoration Style.
 Greek Style: Fabric, sandals, cord or rope

Course Requirements:

<i>Restoration Monologues</i>	150 Pts
<i>Noel Coward Project:</i>	200 Pts
Select a Style Project	
Performance:	100 Pts
Presentation	50 Pts
Greek Project:	200 Pts
Personal Style Day Presentations:	50 Pts
One Written Response to a Theatre Performance which focuses on style	50 Pts

Due the week after the production closes.

Class Participation and Professionalism **200Pts**

Select a Style and Ism Projects – 15 to 20 Minutes

Be prepared to give a short summary of your style/ism, remember you are the expert!
 Be prepared to give an example of your style/ism in a performance format your feel with give the best example, you can lest the style/ism influence this.
 Be prepared to do everyday activities with your style/ism and think about how this may be an influence.
 Find and image or piece of music that also embodies your style/ism to share with the group.
 Please be prepared to build upon this for other class activities.

Grading Scale:

1000 -900 = A, 899 - 800 = B, 799- 700 = C, 699 - 600 = D, 599 - 0 = F

Campus Performances: Attendance is required to show your support to the Theatre and Dance Department as well as your colleagues.

Departmental Theatre and Dance Productions:

- **Freshman Showcase**, January 11 & 12, Allen Bales Theatre (AB)
- **Mr. Universe**, February 10 – 16, Allen Bales Theatre (AB)
- **A Servant of Two Masters**, February 18 – 23, Gallaway Theatre (GT)
- **Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre**, February 25 - 29, Morgan Hall (MH)
- **Hand to God**, April 6 – 12 AB
- **Dance Alabama**, March 29 – April 2, MH
- **Legally Blonde**, April 14 – 19, GT

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.

Class Calendar (Subject to Change)

January

Week 1: Thursday, 1/8 – Orientation to Course

Week 2: Tuesday 1/14 Review/Refresh Fitzmaurice Voicework – Begin looking for a Restoration Piece
Thursday, 1/16 Begin Restoration - Restoration Monologue Needed for Class

Week 3: Tuesday, 1/21 Workshop Restoration Style
Thursday, 1/23 Workshop Restoration Style

Week 4: Tuesday, 1/28 Continue with Restoration Exploration
Thursday, 1/30 Present Monologue

February

Week 5: Tuesday, 2/4, Discuss Plays and begin Coward Projects
Thursday, 2/6 Workshop Text and Style

Week 6: Tuesday, 2/11 Partner work on Coward Scenes
Thursday, 2/13 Continue Cowards Scenes

Week 7: Tuesday, 2/18 Workshop and Trouble Shoot Coward Scenes
Thursday, 2/20 Present Scenes

Week 8: Tuesday, 2/25 Complete any Coward Scenes and Select a Style Planning Day
Thursday, 2/27 SETC/ Open Workday

March

Week 9: Tuesday, 3/3 Personal Style Day (five to six per day)
Thursday, 3/5 Personal Style Day (five to six per day)

Week 10: Tuesday 3/10 Begin Greek – **Discuss Plays for Greek Scenes**
Thursday 3/12 Workshop Greek Style and Project with Costume Pieces

Week 11: Tuesday, 3/17 **NO CLASS - Spring Break** Thursday, 3/19 **NO CLASS - Spring Break**

Week 12: Tuesday, 3/24 Workshop on Text and Movement for Greek Projects
Thursday, 3/26 Select a Style Projects (two to three per day)

Week 13: Tuesday, 3/31 Select a Style Projects (two to three per day)

April Thursday, 4/2 Select a Style Projects (two to three per day)

Week 14: Tuesday, 4/7 Select a Style Projects (two to three per day)
Thursday, 4/9 Select a Style Projects- Wrap up Discussion and Activity

Week 15: Tuesday, 4/14 Workshop and Rehearse Greek Project
Thursday, 4/16\ Workshop and Rehearse Greek Project

Week 16: Tuesday, 4/21 Present Greek Style Projects

Thursday, 4/23 Present Greek Style Projects/Wrap- up Discussion/Last Day of Class

Personal Style Day: Define and share your personal style with the class

(Exercises and questions from *Style for Actors*)

Set the stage with for your personal style on March 3rd or 5th, 2020.

1. Begin by introducing your personal style with a title.
2. Costume, please dress in a way that symbolizes your personal style for this presentation.
3. Pick a personal theme song and play it for the class at some point in this presentation.
4. Pick a food or beverage (non- alcoholic) that you like most and share it with the class at some point during this presentation.
5. Pick an image that you feel symbolizes your personal style; you can create the image yourself or make a collage if you are feeling crafty.
6. During the presentation answer some or all of the questions below to show your style. Please highlight each area; you may also use the questions for inspiration as you comment on each area.
7. Conclude your personal style presentation with your personal motto to leave the class with a lasting impression of you.
8. Each student will have a total of ten minutes on personal style day.

Time: What is your own personal tempo and rhythm?

Have you ever felt that you were born in the wrong time period?

Space: What is the size, flexibility, and scope of your personal bubble?

How do you connect with and use the space, surfaces, and shapes around you?

Place: Where do you feel most at home?

What sorts of places do people associate with you, even if they are not part of your experience.

Values: Do you have beliefs that are not widely shared?

Do some beliefs make you feel almost as though you were from another planet?

Structure: What is your relationship to authority?

How likely are you to accept, defy, or manipulate the power of others?

Beauty: Where do you place yourself on the beauty scale?

(Describe your personal beauty.)

What do you find beautiful? Give examples of things, places or people?

Sex: Are you aware of what is sexually attractive about you?

Do you emphasize, reveal, or hide parts of your body?

Recreation: Do you find certain things fun that others find boring or difficult?

Where are you on the doer/ watcher, thinker/feeler, celebrant/ mediator scales?

Masking: Which faces do you wear in public?

When does your façade drop most readily, and when can it be counted on to appear?

Social Success and Suicide:

What have been your greatest public triumphs and tragedies?

What have you felt victorious and larger than life, what was it that made you so good?