California State University, Northridge
Summer Academic Enrichment Program

Musical Theater

"The making of a whole person and the creation of true individuals can only happen by singing and dancing and making art."

~Antony Gormley

Course Overview:
This energetic class offers students extensive training in acting skills (monologues, dialogues, and group scenes from a variety of sources), dance, voice, theatre production, and rehearsal techniques, which culminates in a performance before a live audience.

Course Description:
This course provides students with the opportunity to study theatre through the process of planning, producing, rehearsing and presenting a variety of theatre projects, including short plays, scenes and monologues, storytelling or children's theatre performances.

Growth and development of students' acting skills may be demonstrated through regular in-class performances, culminating in two events on campus for students and parents. Students will develop writing skills through preparation of character analyses, performance critiques and playwriting. Opportunities for original work, improvisations, and individual or small group acting projects will be included.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. **Goal:** To identify expectations, obstacles and tactics experienced in a theatrical setting.
   Objective: Define and identify theatre terminology, stage areas and blocking directions.
   Objective: Explore career options in the artistic and technical areas of the entertainment industry.

2. **Goal:** To interpret and practice various interpretations of dialogue and speech
   Objective: Use appropriate posture, voice, and eye contact in performance pieces.
   Objective: Analyze characters, conflict, and plot in a play.
   Objective: Perform improvisation pieces.
   Objective: Learn to create and perform pantomimes.
   Objective: Learn basic dance terminology and movements.
   Objective: Rehearse and perform monologues, dialogues, and/or scenes for a theatrical production.

Course Materials:
All materials (handouts, worksheets, lists, scripts) will be provided by the teacher/SAEP.
Each student needs:
1. A binder with pockets (for handouts, work, notes).
2. Plenty of white lined paper for taking notes (not the spiral-bound notebook paper with the fuzzy edges).

3. Writing utensils (both pens and pencils).

Additionally:
Students/parents are expected to provide their own inexpensive costume pieces and props for the performance that takes place at the end of the program. I will send home a "Wish List" of needed materials and services, and I thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance.

Course Grading

Homework, Classwork and Test Policy:
Each student can expect homework each night, either writing or practicing lines/blocking/learned techniques.
Assignments may be neatly hand-written on worksheets. However, if the teacher cannot read the student's writing, an answer may be marked "wrong." Students can feel free to re-create the worksheet on the computer, filling in his/her correct answers, but such re-creation is not required. I expect all assignments to be completed. Missed/late assignments can be made up/turned in, **only if the student has an excused absence** on the due date. If a student knows in advance that he/she will be absent, prior arrangements for missed work should be made with the teacher. If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, that assignment **must be turned in on the day the student returns to class.**
There will be several written and demonstrative quizzes on theatre terms and performance techniques. If students are absent on a test day, the student must make up a quiz/performance within the time set forth by the teacher.

Grading:

There will be no letter grades assigned in this course. In place of letter grades, a developmental level will be assigned based upon the stated course objectives throughout the program. Students will receive a final assessment of: beginning, emerging, developing, capable, experienced, or exceptional.

Classroom Behavior:
The student is expected to demonstrate mature, polite behavior and extend courtesy to everyone at all times:

1. Actively participate, and respectful verbal and nonverbal interaction with all opinions must be shown at all times.
2. Since differing views will be expressed, the teacher and the student(s) will mutually maintain a safe environment for courteous dialogue.
3. Respect is to be shown for all CSUN property.
4. No food or beverages will be permitted in the classroom. Snacks must be eaten outside between the designated breaks.
5. Warnings for behavior / discipline problems will be given once. Any further problems will result in a phone call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) and possible dismissal from the program.

SAEP Electronics Policy

Cell phones, music players and headphones are not permitted to be used during class hours.

a. Please put your cell phone on silent (NOT vibrate).
b. No texting is allowed during class.

You will be given one verbal warning if the above is not followed. Should a second warning be necessary, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held by the teacher until after class. If a third time occurs, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held in the SAEP office and MUST BE PICKED UP BY A PARENT.

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After reading through the syllabus, please sign and date and have your student return it to class. The signature constitutes your commitment to the class as we partner to make the next five weeks a life-long educational experience for your student.

Student/ Parent Agreement:
Please bring this signed and dated **Musical Theater** syllabus agreement to class tomorrow.

If you do not understand any portion of this syllabus, or if you have any questions regarding this class, please do not hesitate to email the teacher.

We have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.

Student name _____

Student signature_____

Date_____

Parent/Guardian name _____

Parent/Guardian signature_____

Date_____

Phone _____

E-mail_____
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