

Directing Techniques

Classes begin on Friday, Sept 4th 2-4:40pm

Todd Hall Classroom

Instructor: Skip Greer, Geva Theatre Center's Artist in Residence/Director of Education

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Directing Techniques: This class is designed to introduce that theatre student to the essential tools of directing – with an emphasis on pre-rehearsal process, rehearsal techniques and presentation.

Points covered will include, but not be limited to:

Building the Director's Vocabulary

The Basics of Directing – The germination point, pre-production homework, Design, Text Prep, Unifying theme, Creating a safe space, and the many roles of a director

In Rehearsal and On Stage – Relating to actors, Objectives, Actable verbs, Table read, Blocking, Working rehearsal, Stumble through, Run Through, Notes, Production Meetings, Tech, Dress, Preview and Opening.

- Students will be taken through the design process of Geva's RED and THE HOUSE IN HYDESVILLE (or a TBD production)
- Students will see and write an essay about SPAMALOT (Geva), RED (Geva) and the UR Fall Production
- Students will meet cast members from the Geva productions
- Students will create and present Neutral Scenes, as well as scenes from Logan's RED, as well as other possible scripts

9/4 – Icebreakers, Syllabus, Why we do theater, Goals, Moment of Wonder – each class begins with this, Tip one from Jon Jory's book "Tips for Directors."

9/11 – Why game , Objectives, Read HYDESVILLE and RED, Tip 2

9/18 – Climb the Wall, Choosing the project, Artistic team and communication. HYDESVILLE discussion, Central metaphor Design process HYDESVILLE. Assign Neutral scenes Tip 3

9/25 Neutral scenes due, view and work scenes in space, choose directing vocabulary terms from scene presentations, assign directing scenes from RED, Tip 4 ,Go through “How to” directing assignment

10/2 Attend RED Meet/Greet at Geva, hear presentation and first read through, see SPAMALOT

10/9 SPAMALOT cast visits class, Q and A, Directing and Acting Techniques Tip 5

10/16 Progress report on directing scene work, with Q and A, Visit tech

10/23 Flex Day. We’ve bit off a lot in this class, and experience tells me to have a flex day to get caught up on exercises we missed in the first 6 weeks, or add new ones that take us in a new direction. We now move into sharing of rehearsal process, the most important phase of the semester. Test on Directing Vocabulary

10/30 Attend one rehearsal (or more if necessary)

11/6 Attend one rehearsal (or more if necessary) – afterwards, all see RED, Paper due next week

11/13 – paper due, attend final rehearsal (or more if necessary)

11/20 Scenes presented in class Tip 6

12/4 Final class, feedback, and final questions. Review goals, and “why we do theatre”. Final tip

Geva RED and SPAMALOT performance dates TBD. UR performance date TBD

Grading:

15% Viewing (and essays regarding directing and design choices) Geva’s SPAMALOT and RED, and UR fall show

15% Quiz on tips and terminology

50% Scene work and Presentation

20% Attendance and Participation: Attendance is critical to the success of the class. Because of the tightness of the class schedule, work missed due to absence will be very difficult to make

up. The final grade will be lowered by 5% for each unexcused absence (sickness or emergency excepted) and three unexcused absences may result in the failure of the course. Absences are deemed excused by the teacher, and in advance (except with a doctor's note for sickness)

Extra credit TBA

Come prepared to **"tear it up"**, folks. Let's dig in, and inspire each other throughout the semester. I love this work, and I'm hoping by the end of the semester, that you will as well. Push me. I'll push you. Oh, and don't simply receive what is offered with this class; instead, get what you want out of the class. We're in this together.