

Directing Techniques

Classes begin on Friday, August 30th, 2-4:40pm

Todd Hall Classroom

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

sgreer@gevatheatre.org

Directing Techniques: This class is designed to introduce the 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, THE HOUSE IN HYDESVILLE and SLOW FOOD (or a TBD production)
- Students will see and write an essay about THE NICETIES (Geva), and the UR Fall Production of THE GROWN UP
- Students will meet cast members from the Geva productions of LA CAGE and THE NICETIES
- Students will create and present Neutral Scenes, as well as scenes from RED and/or HARD CELL, SLOW FOOD, ART as well as other scripts

8/30 – Icebreakers, Objectives/Obstacles, Why do we do theatre?, What do you want to get out of the class?, Syllabus Review, Moment of Wonder, Assign reading of SLOW FOOD, "Tips for Directors" – Tip 1

9/11 – See the 8pm performance of LA CAGE at Geva, with actor talkback.

9/13 – Why Game , Climb the Wall, RED Discussion, Moment of Wonder – each class begins with this, Tip one from Jon Jory's book "Tips for Directors." Assign reading of RED, Tip 2

9/20 – Meet LA CAGE actors, w/discussion. RED Discussion. PROXIMITY day....Hunter/Hunted Assignment – Read ART

9/27 Choosing the project, Artistic team and communication. HYDESVILLE discussion, Central metaphor Design process HYDESVILLE, RED, and HARD CELL. Assign Neutral scenes (2 sets. That will be worked on in class) Tip 3

10/4 Neutral scenes due, view and work scenes in space, choose directing vocabulary terms from scene presentations, Go through “How to” directing doc for assignments, Climb The Wall, Objectives/Obstacles, Directing script sheet w/blocking, Discussion on casting, typical casting session, Attend UR show between 10/3-10/12, Tip 4

10/11 Assign Scenes. (Scene resources include – RED, ART, SLOW FOOD, MAINE, LOVE/SICK) Q and A, 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. Attend NICETIES between 10/22 and 11/3 Progress report on directing work, with Q and A,

10/18 Discussion of first hit on scenes – Pick rehearsal days to visit, Meet 30 minutes per director First hit, process, expectations, Moment of Wonder. Schedule rehearsal visits. Test on Directing Vocabulary. UR Fall show (THE GROWN UP) paper due, Directing and Acting Techniques Tip 6

10/25 Meet NICETIES actor – Q and A , “Maine” Prologue- script and scenework, Tech Production day – explore light, sound, costume, set, props

The next five sessions must remain flexible to size of class, and progress of scenes. The intention is to have the professor attend at least one rehearsal of each scene during scheduled class time. Subject to change depending upon size of class.

11/1 Attend first 3 rehearsals

11/8 Meet for scene update. Attend three (or more if necessary)

11/15 Attend two (or more if necessary)

11/22 Final Presentations due (or more if necessary)

12/6 Final class, feedback, and final questions. Review goals, and “why we do theatre”. Final tip 6

All will be invited to sit in on SLOW FOOD rehearsals at Geva in December, if possible

Grading:

15% Viewing (and essays regarding directing and design choices) Geva's LA CAGE, THE NICETIES, 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.