

Summit High School  
Theatre II: Acting Techniques



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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course builds upon the foundational knowledge and skills learned in Theatre I. Students continue to develop theatrical performance skills with emphasis shifting from group work to individual performance. Students will explore different approaches to the craft of acting and character creation including: Stanislavski and Realism, Comedy and Improvisation and Shakespeare.

### Essential Questions:

1. What techniques work best for different actors approaching a role?
2. How do theatre artists transform and edit their initial ideas?
3. Why are strong choices essential to interpreting a drama or theatre piece?
4. What can I do to fully prepare a performance?
5. What happens when theatre artists foster understanding between self and others through critical awareness, social responsibility, and the exploration of empathy?

## ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are largely performance based; however, there will be various written tasks including: worksheets, written reflections, critiques, quizzes, play analysis, design concepts and original scripts. Focus will be on the following national theatre proficiency standards available to look at on the course website.

### Absences

Students with an excused absence will need to contact the teacher *prior to or the day of* the absence to find out what they are missing, turn in any due assignments upon return and schedule any makeup performances to be completed within a week's time. ***If student does not take these steps, the student may receive a "0" for assignments due and given on the day of the absence, even if excused.***

### Live Theatre Performances & Extra Credit

Students will be required to attend or participate in the Improv Showcase in March or the spring production of *The Government Inspector* in April as part of the class. Participation includes being part of the cast or crew for the production as well as an audience member. Students can simply attend the performance as an audience member, or usher for the performance to see it for free. If a student is unable to see any of the 5 performances because of unavoidable conflicts, they can choose to see an alternate high school, community or professional theatre performance. The production must be high school level or above – your little sister's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade play, albeit adorable, does not teach you much about theatre production!

Extra Credit can be earned by going to an additional live theatrical performance. Local opportunities will be posted on the information board in the classroom. Students will be required to turn in a 2 page critique of the performance. Other extra credit opportunities might include workshops or tech days working on shows outside of class.

### **Journaling**

Students will regularly reflect on coursework and evaluate their own progress and performances as well as their peer through online journaling. Journals will be graded based on completion and will be collected at the end of each quarter.

### **Late/Missing Work Policy**

For students with excused absences, assignments given before a student's absence must be turned in upon their return to classes, and performances must be performed or scheduled at a later date with the teacher immediately upon return. For assignments and performances assigned during the absence, the student has two days for every one day of absence to makeup the work. If a student has an unexcused absence, zeros will be given for participation points, assignments and performances due on that date. Late work will only be accepted on the class period following the due date for half credit.

## **UNITS OF STUDY**

### **UNIT 1: Introduction to the Monologue**

- How to Select a Monologue
- Monologue PRE-ASSESSMENT

### **UNIT 2: Comedy and Improvisation**

- Review Improv Skills
- Physical comedy
- Character creation
- Basic Stage Combat
- Comedic Monologues

### **UNIT 3: Realism**

- Stanislavski's "System"
- Dramatic Monologues
- MID TERM ASSESSMENT

### **UNIT 4: Shakespeare**

- Renaissance Theatre
- Interpreting the text
- Shakespearean Speech

### **UNIT 5: Contrasting Monologues**

- FINAL ASSESSMENT

### **UNIT 6: Fun with Accents & Dialects**

- American: Southern and New York
- British: Irish, Scottish, RP and Cockney
- European: French, German, Russian
- FAUX AUDITION FINAL