THEATER 271 – Intermediate Acting

Los Angles Mission College, Fall 2012 **Section 0465**
Tuesday **9:00pm to 12:10pm** Location: INST 1008

Instructor: Guillermo Avilés-Rodríguez **Office Location:** LRC 131B **Office Phone:** 818-364-7711
E-mail: AvilesGG@lamission.edu (e-mail is my preferred method of communication)
Office Hours: Mondays 11:00am-12:00pm and 3:30-6:30pm Wednesday 11:00am-1:30pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Acting principles are expanded and applied in staged scenes. The emphasis of scenes is on comprehension, translation into meaningful dramatic action, and creation. The actor's self-awareness is explored and developed before a classroom audience.

COURSE CONTENT

- Compare and contrast personal and interpersonal discipline in the theatre. Evaluate the value of discipline in the theatre.
- Distinguish each standing position of an actor from another. Describe the purpose of each position.
- Differentiate one theater configuration from another and describe the purpose of each.
- Demonstrate how to introduce one's self to an audience. Judge a peers ability to introduce themselves to an audience
- Differentiate the various crosses used by the actor. Assess the quality and justification of various types of crosses Demonstrate the various crosses used by the actor.
- Distinguish the value and benefit of being a physical actor from other types of acting. Appraise one exercise over another for loosening the body of the actor. Demonstrate various exercises to strengthen visual presence. Discuss the benefits of a strong voice. Differentiate a resonant voice from a voice lacking resonance. Evaluate the quality of voiced sounds within words.
- Define a task and activity. Describe the importance of the use of props and costumes. Demonstrate the ability to use tasks, activities, costumes and props in a scene.
- Define and describe the parts of a dramatic structure within a scene or play. Analyze a scene for dramatic value. Employ the various parts of dramatic structure into a scene.
- Define stage fright. Explain the symptoms of stage fright. Formulate ways to reduce the symptoms of stage fright.
- Differentiate between different types of monologues. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a staged monologue Explore ways to present a well-structured monologue.
- Explain approaches to learning lines. Demonstrate an understanding of the memorization process.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will:

- Perform a character based on a complex script
- Construct a scene for performance in collaboration with a group of classmates
- Evaluate a live performance using a fixed rubric

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Theater 200 Course Reader
Various plays as decided by in class casting (by Instructor)

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE
Unless otherwise notified, from this day forward please come to class in loose layered and comfortable clothing that you can move in comfortably and with closed toe shoes.

ATTENDANCE
1. *Attendance is mandatory and class will begin punctually.* Please be on time. Being tardy more than two times equals an absence. An early departure is treated as a tardy.

2. *Absences will adversely affect your grade.* Participation points, exercises and quizzes cannot be made up. Whenever absences "in hours" exceeds the number of hours the class meets per week, the instructor will exclude the students from the class. Again being tardy more than two times will be treated as an absence.

3. If you are absent, it is *your* responsibility to find out what was done in class and whether there are any assignment or schedule changes. If written work is due, arrange to deliver the work to me on the day of class; your grade for that assignment will go down a full grade (from the grade you get on your assignment) for each day it is late (A to B to C etc.) All requests to make up work must be made in writing.

4. It is recommended that you enroll your cell phone number in LA Mission's AlertU system. This is an emergency notification system whereby you will be contacted via cell phone should there be a campus emergency or closure. Go to http://www.lamission.edu/students/ on the top left to enter your cell phone number. You will need to text the system with a "Y", after you get a confirmation text from the system to complete enrolment. **ADDING POLICY**
Students wishing to add the course on the first day of class should sign in on the wait list sheet as they enter the room. After the first day lecture is delivered, I will check the roll sheet and count empty seats to determine how many add slips can be signed.

GRADING BREAKDOWN
Your overall grade is based on quality of class participation, performances, written work, and exam results.

N.B. Acting can be a highly subjective art form. To avoid any confusion I will provide you with a rubric that will clearly outline the expectations for all in class performances. **Furthermore I will be solely responsible for assigning your grade for all your performances regardless of what response the class gives.** Your feelings or those of your peers about a given performance's quality are important but not germane to the grade you receive. Some factors in grading include but are not limited to: the quality of your participation, the level at which you master the material presented, the significance of your growth throughout the course of the semester, the quality with which you complete specific assignments both performance and written

1. In Class Exercises..... 40 points
2. Final plays showing ..... …..40 points
5. Participation…….……..20 Points

TOTAL ..... 100 points

A: 94-100	B: 84-86	C: 74-76	D: 64-66
A-: 90-93	B-: 80-83	C-: 70-73	D-: 60-63
B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 60- >

ORAL/WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS
Each student may be given a topic individually or in a pair to research, write a paper on and do an oral presentation for the class. The instructor will assign topics.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES/ AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING
Cell phones, cameras, audio recorders, I-Phones, laptops, Blackberries and any other electronic communication devices are not allowed in class at any time and must be stored away and turned off prior to class beginning. Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device without prior consent of the instructor. Any student violating this section is subject to disciplinary action. If your phone goes off during class you will be asked to leave class and will not receive participation credit for that day. If you are expecting a call for some sort of emergency, please speak with the instructor prior to the beginning of class. **During breaks, please step outside of class to check your email and/or to text**.

PARTICIPATION
I will also take into account the quality of your participation in class, and may adjust your grade either up a step (i.e., B+ to A-) or down a step (i.e., A- to B+) based on how you have engaged with and contributed to the classroom community. *Using cell phones, checking the time on your cell phone, checking to see if you turned off your cell phone, eating, putting your feet up on the furniture, or otherwise distracting from learning during class time are all examples of poor participation*.

EXTRA CREDIT
Extra Credit opportunities often arise in this class but they are not guaranteed. Please be careful about getting yourself in a situation where you will need extra credit to pass this class.

MAKE UP
No make-up is available for a missed presentation. Students wishing to make up other assignments for any reason will need to turn in a one-page typed written request along with any supporting documentation. No make-up assignments will be given to any student without this written request.

THE ENSEMBLE SPIRIT
Together as a class we will become a bit of a theatre ensemble, a group that helps each other create work. Plays and theatre work are fun and full of passion, but they can be a little scary and a little challenging, and none of us are perfect at it. It can feel risky, but I want to encourage you to take risks, and to make each other feel safe to take risks. This is our opportunity to create a safe space. Of course this means being courteous in terms of cell phone use, texting, eating, and so forth. But in a larger sense, please do everything you can to positively support each other, in the way you give each other respect and attention, in the way you collaborate with each other, and with the way you share your energy and sense of spirit with each other.

A NOTE ON MATERIAL WE READ, WATCH, AND CREATE
Some of the material we are reading or viewing in this course deals frankly, but not gratuitously, with issues of violence and sexuality. If you have concerns about this, please see me in advance. In the original material that you will create in your exercise, you may want to explore certain mature issues. I encourage this. However, in your exploration, please be as respectful of your audience as possible, and don't look to purposefully shock or offend your spectators. Almost always this will not be the best way to tell the story that you want to tell.

HARASSMENT
This course requires that all members of the class be respectful in ALL areas of communication. Be respectful of physical boundaries, new ideas, and cultural perspectives and treat all the way you wish to be treated. This course may sometimes require physical touching between students (only when it is appropriate in the context of training and learning- i.e. Theatre Improvisation Games.) If any student feels that she/he will not feel comfortable in a course that involves some physical contact, please discuss this with the instructor as soon a possible. If you decide to continue with the course please, at

any time, communicate to other students or to the instructor whether you want to participate with the exercise/demonstration that requires touching. There is no stigma attached to stepping out of participating for any reason.

PHYSICAL OR LEARNING DISABILITIES
If any student feels they may need an accommodation for any type of disability, please inform the instructor. If you have any injuries or physical problems that are permanent or temporary that might affect your participation in some exercises--please tell the instructor as soon as possible. You are the best judge of your physical limits and are encouraged to take care of yourself. If you require an accommodation for a disability in order to complete the goals of the course, please go to the campus DSP&S office (located on the first floor of the Instructional Building (INST 1018) to obtain an official accommodation prior to the second-class meeting. Please present accommodation paperwork provided by the DSP&S office to the instructor before the beginning of the second session. No accommodations are provided to any student without proper documentation from DSP&S. Please see the instructor if you have any questions.

PLAGIARISM
When you write you are doing something good and important to your growth as both a writer and a student. When you use another writer's words or ideas when you write and you don't give them credit you are guilty of plagiarism. I reserve the right to determine if cheating or plagiarism has occurred; if it has then you will receive an "F" on the assignment or exam, and you may receive an "F" for the course. If you are not sure how exactly to credit a writer in your work go to www.indiana.edu/~istd/definition.html and take the free test to get a certificate worth participation points.

CHILDREN, GUESTS AND ANIMALS
Due to insurance limitations and other concerns children guests and animals are not allowed in the classroom without instructor's prior consent. (Registered dogs that help people with physical challenges are exempt).

STUDENTS UNDER THE AGE OF 18
It is a requirement of this course for all students under the age of 18 to bring parents and set up a time to meet with Instructor before the end of the second week of classes. Failure to meet this requirement will result in you being dropped from the class by the instructor.

A NOTE ON THE SYLLABUS
This syllabus is a contract between the Individual Student and the Instructor. If you are in the class, you are agreeing to follow the requirements of the syllabus. As your instructor, I agree to do my best to help you to succeed in the course. To that end, I expect you to meet with me at the first sign that I am not teaching you to your satisfaction. Indeed, if you need to see me for whatever reason, please do.

N.B.

- This syllabus is subject to revision with prior notification to the student by the instructor.
- A new state policy in effect as of Summer 2012 limits students to **3 attempts per course**. Receiving a grade or "W" for a course counts as an attempt, **regardless of when the course was taken**. Withdrawal by September 9, 2012 (avoiding a "W") will not count as an attempt. This is also addressed on page 3 of the Fall 2012 Schedule of Classes, however it is an important enough change that we should all consider addressing it in our syllabi.

COLLEGE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS
Admissions and Records: Students can register for classes, request transcripts, file petitions for graduation, and drop classes at this office. For more information call 818-833-3322 or visit: http://www.lamission.edu/admissions/

Assessment Center: Offers student assessments in English, English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) and Mathematics. Please contact the Assessment Center at (818) 364-7613 for more information or visit http://www.lamission.edu/assessment/

Bookstore: For hours of operation, book availability, buybacks, and other information call 818-364-7767 or 7768 or visit http://eagleslanding.lamission.edu/default.asp

Counselling Department Office: For appointments and information call 818-364-7655 or visit http://www.lamission.edu/counseling/

Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S): For appointments, eligibility and information call 818-364-7732 or visit http://www.lamission.edu/dsps/

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS): For appointments, eligibility and information call 818-364-7645 or visit http://www.lamission.edu/eops/

August 27, 2012
DAY AND EVENING CLASSES BEGIN.

September 01, 2012
Saturday Classes Begin

September 03, 2012
Memorial Day (College CLOSED)

September 07, 2012
LAST DAY TO ADD FULL TERM CLASS.

September 07, 2012
LAST DAY FOR REFUND.

September 07, 2012
LAST DAY TO RECEIVE A "W" (IN PERSON)

September 09, 2012
LAST DAY TO DROP ON LINE

October 05, 2012
Last day to Petition for Credit/No-Credit.

October 19, 2012
Deadline to Petition for Fall 2012 GRADUATION.

November 02, 2012
Last Day for Section Transfer.

November 12, 2012
Veteran's Day (College CLOSED)

November 16, 2012
LAST DAY TO WITH "W" (IN PERSON)

November 18, 2012
LAST DAY TO DROP ON LINE WITH A "W".

November 22, 2012 - November 25, 2012
Thanksgiving Holiday (College CLOSED)

December 08, 2012
Classes End.

December 10, 2012 - December 15, 2012
FINAL EXAMS

December 16, 2012
SEMESTER ENDS

Financial Aid: For information and applications call 818-364-7648 or visit http://www.lamission.edu/financialaid/

Library: For information on hours, resources, workshops, and other services contact 818-364-7106 or visit http://www.lamission.edu/library/

Tutoring Services in Learning Center: Laboratories for Learning, Writing, Math &Science. Walk-in and appointment services offered. Call 818-364-7754 or visit www.lamission.edu/learningcenter/