

Acting 101 - Section 003 - FALL 2003
instructor: D. Ross <drossz@umich.edu>

assignments & schedule

all readings should be completed by the day they are listed

W 9-3: syllabus/intros/expectations/goals

UNIT #1: Fundamental Concepts

F 9-5: *Practical Handbook* - pp. ix - 18 (intro, author's note, Job of the Actor, Technique Outline, 1: Physical Action)

- actions/objectives practice, hand out DMV scene

ACTOR OF THE WEEK: William H. Macy (*On Acting*)

M 9-8: *Practical Handbook* - pp. 19-39 (2: Analyzing A Scene)

- use example scenes in text

W 9-10: Analyzing A Scene *con't*: now with DMV scene

F 9-12: practice playing chosen action

- have DMV scene memorized

ACTOR OF THE WEEK: Simon Callow (*On Acting*)

M 9-15: preliminary DMV scenes

W 9-17: *Practical Handbook* - pp. 40-45 (part of 3: Truth of the Moment), pp. 69-73 (8: Introduction to "Pitfalls" and 9: The Emotional Trap)

- raising the stakes

F 9-19: *Practical Handbook* - pp. 65-66 (7: Tools of the Craft)

- research #1 due: playing objectives in real life

ACTOR OF THE WEEK: Eve Ensler (*On Acting*)

M 9-22: DMV scenes final

W 9-24: DMV scenes final - sharing feedback

F 9-26: no class - read *Trifles* and begin research

UNIT #2: Trifles & Period Research

ACTOR OF THE WEEK: Imogene Coca (*Actors on Acting*)

M 9-29: *Trifles* - assign partners, choose scene, begin analysis

W 10-1: *Practical Handbook*, pp. 55-58 (5: Preparing for A Scene), review *Practical Handbook* pts. 1 & 2

F 10-3: in class work on scenes

ACTOR OF THE WEEK : Sam Waterston (*Actors on Acting*)

M 10-6: in class work on scenes

W 10-8: have *Trifles* scene memorized

F 10-10: research #2 presentations (in pairs): period activities

ACTOR OF THE WEEK : Anna Deavere Smith (*On Acting*)

10-11 through 10-14: *fall break*

W 10-15: *Trifles* final scenes

F 10-17: *Trifles* final scenes

- read *Laramie Project* and begin research

UNIT #3: Monologues & The Laramie Project

ACTOR OF THE WEEK : Rip Torn (*Actors on Acting*)

M 10-20: *Laramie Project* - watch video?

- have monologues chosen

- *Practical Handbook*, pp. 45-48 (Being Alone Onstage)

W 10-22: imaginary audience - assign working partners

F 10-24: improvise

ACTOR OF THE WEEK : Antony Sher (*On Acting*)

M 10-27: improvisational exercises (monologue work)

W 10-29: improvisational exercises (monologue work)

F 10-31: improvisational exercises (monologue work)

ACTOR OF THE WEEK : Stephanie Mills (*Actors on Acting*)

M 11-3: improvisational exercises (monologue work)

W 11-5: improvisational exercises (monologue work)

F 11-7: *Practical Handbook* pp. 74-75 (10: The Myth of Character) and pp. 59-64 (6: Troubleshooting)

- have *Laramie Project* scenes memorized

ACTOR OF THE WEEK : Hugh Quarshie (*On Acting*)

M 11-10: research #3 due: historical circumstances

W 11-12: *Laramie Project* final scenes

F 11-14: *Laramie Project* final scenes

- read *Streetcar* and begin research

UNIT #4: Trio & Ensemble Acting

ACTOR OF THE WEEK : Lynn Redgrave (*Actors on Acting*)

M 11-17: *Streetcar Named Desire* - assign trios, choose scenes

- working as a trio

W 11-19: *Practical Handbook* pp. 48-54 (4: Externals)

F 11-21: scene by scene work with class

no ACTOR OF THE WEEK

M 11-24: scene by scene work with class

W 11-26: scene by scene work with class

- have *Streetcar* scene memorized

11-27 through 11-30: *Thanksgiving break*

ACTOR OF THE WEEK : Willem Dafoe (*On Acting*)

M 12-1: scene by scene work with class

W 12-3: *Practical Handbook* pp. 76-86 (11: Keeping the Theatre Clean & 12: Conclusion)

- research #4 due: other productions

F 12-5: *Streetcar* final scenes

M 12-8: *Streetcar* final scenes

W 12-10: final exam: scene analysis, vocabulary, research

NOTE: All *Actor of the Week* readings are included in your coursepack.

Required Texts:

A Practical Handbook for the Actor, by Bruder, et al. ISBN: 0-394-74412-8

The Laramie Project, by Kaufman & the Tectonic Theatre Project. ISBN: 0-375-72719-1

A Streetcar Named Desire, by Tennessee Williams. (any edition)

coursepack:

- "DMV Tyrant." *27 Short Plays*, by Christopher Durang. pp. 135-138.

- *Trifles*. by Susan Glaspell. In *Harcourt Anthology of Drama (Brief Ed.)*. pp. 631-636.

- actor interviews from *On Acting* and *Actors on Acting*