THTR 250: Directing (offered as a tutorial)

Fall 2008

Instructor: D. Ohlandt
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MWF 2:30pm - 3:50pm
Buchanan 200

office hours: Tuesdays 1-2pm
Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am
and by appointment

Schedule of Events & Assignments
this schedule is subject to change

8/29 F: syllabus
READING - Shapiro intro, Ch. #1

UNIT: The Director As Storyteller

9/1 M: EXERCISE - Autodrama projects
READING - Shapiro Ch. #2, Ch. #3

9/3 W: CRITIQUES DUE by 9:30am
READING - The Heidi Chronicles with scene study actors

9/5 F: no class

9/8 M: READING - Copenhagen with scene study actors

9/10 W: continue discussing plays
READING - Bloom intro, Ch. #1

9/12 F: EXERCISE - 5-minute scene dramatizing the story of one of our two plays, without words (do not summarize or abbreviate, but tell the story) using scene study actors

Friday 9/12 FIELD TRIP - The People’s Temple @ American Theater Company
assignment: analysis of the storytelling aspects of the production

UNIT: The Director as Interpreter

9/15 M: CRITIQUES DUE 9:30am
READING - Shapiro Ch. #4, Bloom Ch. #2
discuss unit breakdown assignment
9/17  W: UNIT BREAKDOWN for one of the two class plays DUE
   PAPER DUE - 3-5pp. analysis of the storytelling aspects of the American Theater
   Company production

9/19  F: no class

9/22  M: EXERCISE - tableaux by unit for play from last exercise using scene study actors
   READING - Bloom Ch. #3
   discuss action domino assignment

9/24  W: CRITIQUES DUE 9:30am
   ACTION DOMINO for play used in previous assignment DUE
   READING - Bloom Ch. #4

UNIT: The Director As Stager

9/26  F: READING - Shapiro Ch. #8, Ch. #9, Ch. #10

9/29  M: READING - Bloom Ch. #10

10/1  W: EXERCISE – mini-scene with emphasis using scene study actors

Thursday 10/2  FIELD TRIP - Threepenny Opera @ Steppenwolf Garage (Hypocrites)
   assignment: analysis of the interpretive aspects of the production

10/3  F: no class

10/6  M: CRITIQUES DUE 9:30am – use Shapiro’s five questions in your critiques! (pp. 146-149)
   PAPER - 3-5pp. analysis of the interpretive aspects of the Hypocrites production

UNIT: The Director As Coach

10/8  W: READING - A Practical Handbook for the Actor with scene study actors

10/10 F: "ACTABLE VERB" BANKS DUE with scene study actors
   close work and in-class practice with Ch. #4-6 of Practical Handbook

Friday 10/10  FIELD TRIP - Amadeus @ Chicago Shakespeare Theater
   assignment: analysis of the staging/coaching in the production

10/13 M: bring copies of two-minute scenes for Wednesday’s exercise
   continue discussing Practical Handbook – what is the director’s responsibility/role in
   this or any technique?
10/15  W: EXERCISE - practice coaching actors (bring your actable verb banks with you)
       with scene study actors (unmemorized)
       PAPER - 3-5pp. analysis of the staging and acting coaching in the CST production

10/17  F: no class, but CRITIQUES DUE 9:30am

10/20  M: FALL BREAK - no class

UNIT: The Director as Leader

10/22  W: READING - Bloom Ch. #5, Ch. #7
       bring “totem object” to class – a small item that symbolizes or is significant to who you are

10/24  F: EXERCISE - style
       READING - Bloom Ch. #6, Shapiro Ch. #6

10/27  M: PLAY SELECTION FOR FINAL PROJECT - DUE
       READING - Bloom Ch. #9, Ch. #11, Ch. #13, appendix 2

10/29  W: 8 WEEK REHEARSAL PLANS FOR ONE OF CLASS PLAYS - DUE
       continue discussing the Bloom chapters from Monday

10/31  F: READING - Bloom Ch. #8, Shapiro pp. 98-103
       plan audition workshop for Monday -> general auditions, then callbacks

11/3   M: EXERCISE - audition workshop with scene study actors
       scene study actors will have prepared monologues for general auditions
       (plan and run auditions for your final projects during class)

11/5   W: CAST LIST FOR FINAL PROJECTS due to D via email by 1pm
       Directing students may meet with scene study tutorial class – TBD

11/7   F: no class, but REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR FINAL PROJECTS due to D via email by 5pm

FIELD TRIP - Well @ Next Theatre Company, runs 11/13 -12/14 (may have earlier previews)
assignment: analysis of the stylistic/artistic unity in the production
PAPER DUE no later than Monday, December 1st – 3-5 pp. or two class periods after you saw the show, whichever is earlier

UNIT: The Director as Student

11/10  M: promptbook requirements
       READING - all three plays for final projects (so we can discuss everyone’s project)
11/12 W: READING - Bogart  A Director Prepares

11/14 F: no class

** individual conferences with D to evaluate your growth in exercise work must happen between Monday 11/17 and Friday 11/21 **

11/17 M: final scene check-in – you must have had at least two rehearsals by class today

11/19 W: final scene workshop #1 - one director ________________ but everyone attends with all scene study actors

11/21 F: final scene workshop #1 - one director ________________ but everyone attends with all scene study actors

11/24 M: READING - Shapiro Ch. #11 and promptbook check-in

11/26 W: NO CLASS meeting

11/28 F: Thanksgiving Holiday – NO CLASS

12/1 M: final scene workshop #2 - one director ________________ but everyone attends with all scene study actors

12/3 W: final scene workshop #2 - one director ________________ but everyone attends with all scene study actors

12/5 F: READING - Shapiro Ch. #12, Bloom Ch. 14, appendix 1

12/8 M: ** public performance of final scenes ** time TBA

Saturday 12/13 exam slot – peer critiques due (format TBA)
8:30am - 11:30am