

## **THEATRE ARTS**

“We live in what is, but we find a thousand ways not to face it. Great theatre strengthens our faculty to face it.” -Thornton Wilder

### **Course Text and Materials**

- A. Downloadable Text and Plays on the iPad
- B. Pencils/ Pens
- C. A one subject notebook

### **Course Description**

Theatre Arts provides an overview of what makes theatre happen. The student will explore acting, directing, playwriting, construction & design, dramaturgy (history), etc. It is a goal to impress upon the students how theatre has enriched humanity and reacted for and against society since its beginnings. This will be couched in a group experience in which the students will create ensemble mock theatre companies.

### **Course Goals/ Learning Outcomes/ Assessments**

**GENERAL THEATRE KNOWLEDGE- Assessments: Reflection Questions, Theatre Tour and Quiz,**

#### **Professional Theatre Presentation**

- A. Recognize and explain differences between all art forms
- B. Learn and apply to discussion theatrical vocabulary (including the roles and jobs of all theatrical artists)
- C. Explore theatre companies in Chicago and the surrounding area

#### **ACTING AND IMPROVISATION- Assessment: Performances, Acting Background and Analysis**

- A. Analyze a character in a one act play to understand motivation, inner self, and through-line
- B. Apply Michael Chekhov's acting theories to perform a character
- C. Improvise a character monologue and scene

#### **DESIGN AND TECHNICAL THEATRE- Assessment: Design Assignments and Reflection Questions**

- A. Analyze a play for design elements
- B. Research, Design, and Create set design documents
- C. Research, Design, and Create costume sketches
- D. Research, Design, and Create lighting research board
- E. Research, Design, and Create sound design for a scene

#### **PLAYWRITING/ READING- Assessment: Read and Analyze Fall/ Winter/ Spring plays**

- A. Write a scene for a short play
- B. Write a Monologue
- C. Recognize and explain the text and context of a one act play

**FINAL EXAM:** The Final Exam is based on the creation of a theatre company. The students will create and log their work in developing a theatre company with the following:

- A. Mission Statement
- B. Artistic Team
- C. Season of Performances
- D. Marketing Plan

### **Connecting to the Classroom Website**

- Open Safari
- Go to [www.stpatricktheatre.org](http://www.stpatricktheatre.org)
- Click on Theatre Classes link to left
- Click on THEATRE ARTS class button
- Click on the action button
- Add this site to your homescreen



**Student’s Phrases for Success**

In over a decade’s worth of teaching, I have learned several student phrases that hinder their success in a theatre class. Because theatre is subjective to people, people don’t always know how a teacher can objectively grade or respond to their work. This subject requires vulnerability and empathy, and those are difficult to measure. Below are common phrases used, over the years, by students with better options:

<b>Don’t Say to Mr. Arndt</b>	<b>What Mr. Arndt hears:</b>	<b>What to say instead to Mr. Arndt:</b>
“Well, I’m not a theatre kid/ actor/ designer, so...”	You can’t fail me because I don’t even want to do this.”	“What feedback can you give me to improve, Mr. Arndt?”
“I’m so confused...”	“There are too many steps... I’m focused on just one step...I wasn’t listening, but now I am...”	“Mr. Arndt, can you explain this step further...Can I take this one step at a time?”
“What do you mean we have homework, a test, an assignment”	“I never expect to work outside of class in this class...”	“What is the assignment and when/how is it due?”
“Are we doing anything fun today?”	“Entertain me, monkey.”	(Asked after looking at the schedule) “So, where do we start today?”
“What do you mean we have to _____, this isn’t English, Science, Math, etc”	“I don’t have to use skills from other classes when I’m not in them, and I certainly won’t be using skills in this class EVER.”	“Wow, this is just like what we are learning in English, Math, Science, etc...Good thing I can apply those skills to this...”
“Why did you give me an F in Participation?”	“I expect to come here, make some jokes, relax with my friends, and I should get an A...”	“Mr. Arndt, I noticed my participation grade is low, what can I do to improve it?”
(After low-level work is presented) “Well, I did my best.”	“I did not do my best, but if I say that I did, I should get an A. When I don’t get an A, I’m going to be mad because I told you I did my best.”	“Mr. Arndt, this was not so successful because _____. What can I do to improve that in the future?”

**Daily Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Mon, August 19	Introduction/ Tour <b>Reconciliation</b>	
Tues, August 20	Michael Chekhov Exercises	
Wed, August 21	Neverending Story- Immersion	
Thurs, August 22	Michael Chekhov Exercises	Bring in a story
Fri, August 23	Neverending Story- Reading a play	Reading a Play Text
Mon, August 26	Michael Chekhov Ex ( <b>Auditions/Interviews</b> )	
Tues, August 27	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Read ( <b>Auditions/Interviews</b> )	
Wed, August 28	Theatre Knowledge Building- Interpreting Text	
Thurs, August 29	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Reading <b>Lit/Parent Tour</b>	
Fri, August 30	Michael Chekhov Exercises <b>Late Start</b>	Improv Scenes
Mon, Sept 2	<b>Labor Day- No Classes</b>	
Tues, Sept 3	Designing a Story	
Wed, Sept 4	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Personal Connections	
Thurs, Sept 5	Designing a Story	Visual Representation



Fri, Sept 6	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Cultural Connections	
Mon, Sept 9	Ancient Theatre	
Tues, Sept 10	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Staging	
Wed, Sept 11	Scenes for Staging	
Thurs, Sept 12	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Staging	
Fri, September 13	Scenes for Staging	Scenes for Staging
Mon, Sept 16	Medieval Theatre	
Tues, Sept. 17	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Character Archetypes	
Wed, Sept. 18	Archetype Work	
Thurs, Sept. 19	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Character Archetypes	
Fri, September 20	Archetype Work	Archetype Research
Mon, Sept 23	Mask and Puppet Work	
Tues, Sept. 24	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Creating Masks/ Puppet	
Wed, Sept. 25	Mask Work	
Thurs, Sept. 26	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Creating Masks/Puppet	
Fri, September 27	Mask Performance	Mask Performance
Mon, Sept 30	Renaissance Theatre	
Tues, October 1	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Voice and Language	
Wed, October 2	Non-V Day <b>Liturgy/ Int. Day of NonViolence</b>	
Thurs, October 3	Shakespeare's Stories/ Green Show	
Fri, October 4	Shakespeare Play	Shakespeare Play
Mon, October 7	Shakespeare Play Rehearsal	
Tues, October 8	Neverending Story- Green Show	
Wed, October 9	Green Show Rehearsal	
Thurs, October 10	Green Show Rehearsal	
Fri, October 11	Shakespeare Performance	Shakes Green Show
Mon, October 14	Stage Management/ Scene Changes	
Tues, October 15	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Tech Week	
Wed, October 16	Sound and Lighting	
Thurs, October 17	<b>Elementary School Sub Day</b>	
Fri, October 18	Sound and lighting Design	NS Sound/Lights
	<b>Neverending Story October 18-20</b>	
Mon, October 21	<u>Neverending Story</u> - Postmortem	
Tues, October 22	Improv	
Wed, October 23	Improv	
Thurs, October 24	Improv <b>Open House</b>	
Fri, October 25	<b>No Classes</b>	
Mon, October 28	Day of the Dead Intro	
Tues, October 29	Day of the Dead Writing	
Wed, October 30	Day of the Dead Rehearsal	



Thurs, October 31	Day of the Dead Tech Rehearsal	
Fri, November 1	Day of the Dead Performances	DOD Performance
Mon, November 4	Musical Theatre	
Tues, November 5	<u>Whodunit?</u> - Audience Interaction	
Wed, November 6	Musical Theatre	
Thurs, Nov 7	<u>Whodunit?</u> - Audience Interaction	
Fri, November 8	Murder Mystery Game Day	
Mon, Nov 11	Musical Theatre	
Tues, Nov 12	Musical Theatre	
Wed, Nov 13	Musical Theatre	Musical Activity
Thurs, Nov. 14	<b>Open House/ Elementary Show Sub</b>	
Fri, November 15		
	<b><u>Whodunit?</u> Winter Play November 15</b>	
Mon, Nov 18	Chicago Theatre Introduction	
Tues, Nov 19	Chicago Theatre Prep	
Wed, Nov 20	Chicago Theatre Prep	
Thurs, Nov 21	Chicago Theatre Presentation	CT Presentation
Fri, November 22	Chicago Theatre Presentation	CT Presentation
Mon, Nov 25	Final Exam Introduction	
Tues, Nov 26	Final Exam Collaboration Day	
Mon, December 2	Final Exam Prep	
Tues, December 3	Final Exam Prep	
Wed, December 4	Final Exam Prep	
Thurs, Dec 5	Final Exam Prep	
Fri, December 6	Final Exam Prep	
Mon, December 9	Rehearsal <b>Liturgy</b>	
Tues, Dec 10	Rehearsal <b>Reconciliation</b>	
Wed, Dec 11	Tech Rehearsal	
Thurs, Dec. 12	Tech Rehearsal	
Fri, December 13	Final Presentation	Final
Mon, Dec 16	Final Presentation	