

Course Title: Acting 1: What is Acting?

Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Mr. Nathan Gabriel, Ms. Liz Harris

Goals of the Class:

- € An introduction to the worlds of theater, film and television with an emphasis on the person who stands at the center of all these experiences - the actor.
- € Students will perform from a script, build their improvisational skills, learn to control how they present themselves and gain the invaluable ability to become comfortable being uncomfortable.
- € Class will briefly examine the other elements of the theater as well including directing, set, sound, costume, and lighting design.

Who is this class for?

- Typically freshmen, but open to any students interested in acting, movies, television, or storytelling.
- Students who are interested in how film, television, and theatrical productions are made.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- € Scenework, with an emphasis on performances in groups.
- € Improvisational games.
- € Learning how to read a script like an actor.

This class can lead to:

- Acting 2, 3, 4, and/or Stagecraft 1 and 2, and Musical Theater History.
- Participation in Theatre Xavier or community and professional productions.
- Greater comfort speaking in front of groups.
- A greater appreciation for the theater arts.

Course Title: Acting 2: Comedy

Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Mr. Nathan Gabriel, Ms. Liz Harris

Goals of the Class:

- € An in-depth study of acting techniques and script analysis, centering around comedy and the principles that drive it.
- € Students will participate in improvisation exercises, scene work, and monologues. Students hone skills in divergent thinking, performing and mastering their own nervous habits which will assist them in many arenas outside of Acting.

Who is this class for?

- Typically sophomores, but open to any students who have completed Acting 1.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- € Scenework, with an emphasis on performances in groups.
- € Improvisational games.
- € Learning how to read a script like an actor.
- € Students will write and perform their own comedic scene with a group from the class.

This class can lead to:

- Acting 3, 4, and/or Stagecraft 1 and 2, and Musical Theater History.
- Participation in Theatre Xavier or community and professional productions.
- Greater comfort speaking in front of groups.
- A greater appreciation for the theater arts.

Course Title: Acting 3: Directing / Playwriting & Shakespeare

Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Mr. Nathan Gabriel, Ms. Liz Harris

Goals of the Class:

- Challenging scenes provide learning opportunities considerably more difficult than previous studio work.

Who is this class for?

- Typically Juniors and Seniors, but open to any students who have completed Acting 2.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- € A Shakespeare play is read, and then a scene chosen for performance and directing.
- € Students will write, act, and direct an original scene.

This class can lead to:

- Acting 4, and/or Stagecraft 1 and 2, and Musical Theater History.
- Participation in Theatre Xavier or community and professional productions.
- Greater comfort speaking in front of groups.
- A greater appreciation for the theater arts.

Course Title: Acting 4: Full Performance

Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Mr. Nathan Gabriel, Ms. Liz Harris

Goals of the Class:

- € Students will continue studying Acting technical techniques and elements while being asked to create their own theater company.
- € Through daily studio expression, the Actors and directors will hone skills, which will take them to public performance level presentation.
- € Students will write, produce, stage, and design technically a theatrical piece before a public audience.

Who is this class for?

- Typically Juniors and Seniors, but open to any students who have completed Acting 3.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- € The culminating experience of the theatrical classes, students will research, write, direct, produce, and perform an original one act play open to the public.
- € Students in this class will design the set, the costumes, the lighting, the sound, and marketing for the play. Essentially students will get to experience all aspects of the production of a play over the course of the entire semester.

This class can lead to:

- Participation in Theatre Xavier or community and professional productions.
- Greater comfort speaking in front of groups.
- A greater appreciation for the theater arts.
- A student who completes this course will be well prepared to pursue a course of study in the theatrical arts at the college level.

Additional Notes about this class:

If you've never had time to join Theater Xavier but have wanted to perform on stage during high school, let this class fulfill that dream.

Course Title: Creative Thinking

Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Mr. Nathan Gabriel

Goals of the Class:

- € Learn how to have more good ideas by understanding the role creativity plays in your everyday life and how to access it on demand.
- € Students will use creative engagement to solve problems, make themselves happier and increase their emotional intelligence alongside studying what, exactly, happens in our brains when we have an idea and how we can control that process.
- € This class will prepare students to excel at the rest of their schooling and better prepare them to take on leadership roles.

Who is this class for?

- Typically Juniors and Seniors.
- Students who want to further their understanding of how creativity, especially the idea of creativity-on-demand, can lead to increased success in most every avenue of life.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Students will read and reflect on the book “Zig Zag” by Dr. Keith Sawyer.
- Short creative projects that are evaluated by the entire class.
- Students will receive instructional coaching into how to put themselves into a place conducive for creative thinking.

This class can lead to:

- € Awesomeness.

Any other notes about the class:

This will be the best class a student will ever take.

Course Title: Musical Theater History

Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Ms. Liz Harris

Goals of the Class:

- € Delve into key musical theater works and consider trends and shifts in art form based on societal changes, focusing on civil rights.
- € Consider the broad state of the world when the show was written, discuss how each writing team addresses issues of the day through the musical score and libretto, and their message to the audience.

Who is this class for?

- Any student who has completed Acting 2, or who has a full credit of Fine Arts finished.
- Students who are interested in Musical Theater.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Showtunes Friday – Listening, watching, and performing different numbers from musicals.
- Watching performances of “Billy Elliot”, “Spring Awakening”, and “Hamilton”, and then participating in class discussion and writings about each piece and where they fall culturally.
- Students will create and potentially compose music for an original musical.

This class can lead to:

- Participation in Theatre Xavier or community and professional productions.
- A greater appreciation for the musical theater arts.
- Preparation for study of musical theater at the college level.

Course Title: Stagecraft 1
Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Ms. Liz Harris

Goals of the Class:

- € Students learn elements of scenic design, methods of props-making, building methods for set creation, how to create set pieces for plays, build models of set designs, and learn painting and lighting techniques.
- € Students will learn about and appreciate the backstage elements, which support theatrical production.

Who is this class for?

- Any student who has completed 1 semester of a Fine Arts credit.
- This class is typically sophomores and juniors.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Build a stage flat, and finish by painting.
- Students will learn to hang and focus lighting instruments.
- Students will learn to sew and create patterns, leading to a wearable piece of clothing.
- Students will learn how to design a soundscape.

This class can lead to:

- Participation in Theatre Xavier or community and professional productions.
- Participation in the technical production of Theater Xavier performances.
- A greater appreciation for the technical production of theater.
- Stagecraft 2.

Course Title: Stagecraft 2
Course Length: 1 Semester

Teacher(s): Ms. Liz Harris

Goals of the Class:

- ∄ Students will explore stage engineering and design work, helping them understand why certain building techniques and materials are used in a number of applications.
- ∄ Students will create designs for specific theatrical production.
- ∄ Introduction to the craft of Stage Management features student learning in organization, short-hand stage directions, and cue calling for a production.

Who is this class for?

- Any student who has completed Stagecraft 1.
- This class is typically juniors and seniors.

Example assignments and/or activities in the class:

- Designing and building complex platforms or stair units.
- Students will design a light plot (e.g. the lighting for a particular scene or show).
- Students will design a complete costume, and use multiple skills including sewing and fabrication to create the costume.

This class can lead to:

- Participation in Theatre Xavier or community and professional productions.
- Participation in the technical production of Theater Xavier performances.
- Students in this class often design a technical element of Theater Xavier performances.
- A greater appreciation for the technical production of theater.