

THEA-1520: IMPROVISATION AND PERFORMANCE I

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: THEA-1520 : Improvisation and Performance I

Board of Trustees:

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Academic Term:

Fall 2019

Subject Code

THEA - Theatre Arts

Course Number:

1520

Title:

Improvisation and Performance I

Catalog Description:

Synthesizes concept and technique through the directed practice of improvisational performance. Utilizes the communal/ensemble exercises provided in Spolin's 'Improvisation for the Theatre', to explore the seven aspects of spontaneity and create narrative improvisations. Also explores concepts of character, behavior in environment, creating the who? what? and where? of dramatic scenes, creating from given circumstances, and will involve themselves with the special problems of improvisation in performance. Course is primarily active and participatory in nature and culminates with a public performance based on this exploration and discovery.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

2

Lab Hour(s):

2

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

None.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Apply improvisation as a rehearsal technique.

Objective(s):

1. Apply improvisational techniques to written material.
2. Apply the seven aspects of spontaneity to written material.
3. Identify the character, environment, and actions of the characters within scenes.
4. Transact with scene partners in unique and spontaneous relationships.
5. Synthesize physical and vocal choices with imaginative analysis of character.
6. Adapt to ideas and creative possibilities offered by partners.

Course Outcome(s):

Utilize improvisation as a medium for performance.

Objective(s):

1. Demonstrate physical, vocal and imaginative choices as part of a live performance.
2. Display a willingness to take risks.
3. Display intuitive thinking.
4. Utilize problem-solving skills in a spontaneous environment.

5. Participate in live performances of improvisation.
 6. Demonstrate the ability to work as part of an ensemble.
 7. Demonstrate listening skills.
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Methods of Evaluation:

- Faculty-directed exercises daily.
- Written examinations on theoretical content.
- Write reviews of live improvisational performances.
- Write self-assessment journals.
- Perform improvisation for class members.
- Perform improvisation for invited audiences.

Course Content Outline:

1. Developmental basics
 - a. Building the ensemble
 - b. Trust exercises
 - c. Listening.
 - d. Give and Take. (transaction)
 - e. Supporting your partner
 - f. Risk-taking.
 - g. Exploring physical and vocal possibilities.
2. Establishing Narrative Structures
 - a. Creating Character
 - b. Establishing Environment
 - c. Developing plot lines
3. Establishing Group Narratives
 - a. Problem-solving
 - b. Goal-oriented group structures
 - c. Transacting with groups
4. Scene development
 - a. Endowments
 - b. character driven structures
 - c. Scenes with devices
 - d. Behavior in environment
5. Performance
 - a. Preparing for live performance
 - b. Transacting with an audiences
 - c. Proctoring and hosting
 - d. Given Circumstances

Resources

Viola Spolin. *Improvisation for the Theater*. Third. Northwestern University Press, 1999.

Keith Johnstone. *Impro: Improvisation and the Theater*. Routledge, 1987.

Tom Salinsky. *Improv Handbook: The Ultimate Guide to Improvising in Comedy, Theatre, and Beyond*. Continuum, 2008.

Halpern, Charna. *Truth in comedy: the Manual for Improvisation*. Colorado Springs, CO: Merriweather Pub, 1994.

Johnstone, Keith. *Impro, Improvisation and the Theatre*. London, Faber and Faber, 1979.

Goldberg, Andy. *Improv comedy*. Hollywood: Samual French, 1991.

Napier, Mick. *Improvise: Scene from Inside Out*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2004.

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