

## Course Overview – 2016-2017

### Introduction to Theatre/Technical Theatre (Theatre Technology I)

Mr. John Morris, Instructor

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**Course Description:** The Introduction to Theatre/Technical Theatre curriculum (referred to as “Theatre Technology I” in the official class listing) at Las Vegas Academy of the Arts is one-half of the Introduction to Theatre course required of all incoming theatre and technical theatre students, and will introduce the many aspects of technical theatre and theatrical production, and acquaint the student with the craft skills necessary to produce live theatre. For this technical theatre component, students will receive basic instruction in scenery construction and rigging, stage lighting, sound, properties, costumes and backstage responsibilities. Technical Theatre Emphasis students will immerse more deeply in these skills in the second semester. Strong emphasis will be placed on knowledge of safety practices, theatre terminology and backstage procedure. Students will be required to assume technical and front-of-house responsibilities for various productions produced by the Theatre Department.

**Curriculum:** Introduction to Theatre follows CCSD curriculum guidelines, and is a part of Career and Technical Education. Brief course descriptions can be found in the Course Catalog at <http://lasvegasacademy.net>. Class-specific information is available at [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com). The Edmodo code for the class is **beh3ws**

#### **Materials:**

- ☞ A three-ring binder (or section of binder) with plenty of note paper and some pockets
- ☞ Safety glasses (first pair provided with payment of lab fee)
- ☞ Appropriate, safe clothing and protective gear as required by the instructor
- ☞ THEATRE PROJECTS – You will be required to participate in our co-curricular program.
- ☞ There is a \$20 materials fee for this course, payable immediately to LVA, due by September 9, 2016. Fees must be paid at the school bank. All fees are utilized for classroom materials/projects that are yours to keep.
- ☞ Technical Emphasis students will have an additional \$20 fee due February 10, 2017.

**Grades** will be earned according the following formula:

- The grading procedure is based on a simple point system, which is averaged by category. Each nine-week grading period will have a total number of points based on the classroom and project work in the class. For every assignment or project there will be a consistent number of points available. If you complete the assignments and willingly participate in the construction or other lab projects, you will receive points based on the correctness and quality of your work, including proper grammar, spelling and punctuation. Spell check is a requirement! If you are absent, or otherwise fail to complete an assignment/project/etc. when it is due, points will be deducted, unless special arrangements are made with me **in advance**.
- In addition to assignments and projects, there will be quizzes during the grading period. These will be announced in advance, and will be directly linked to the final examinations, which mainly cover terminology, procedures, technique and **safety**. Majors will be required to read up to three plays from the departmental reading list each nine weeks, each of which will have a writing and evaluation component.
  - **Late Work Policy:** 10% will be deducted per day for every complete assignment/project that is handed in late. After 3 days late, the assignment will be worth a maximum of 50%. *Incomplete work will not be accepted. NOT completing assignments or quizzes is not an option. You will be required to attend detentions during lunch to accomplish completion of every assignment and assessment.*

## Introduction to Theatre/Technical Theatre Course Scope and Goals 2016-2017

### Course Scope

The Introduction to Theatre/Technical Theatre curriculum at Las Vegas Academy is one-half of the Introduction to Theatre course required of all incoming theatre and technical theatre students, and will introduce the many aspects of technical theatre and theatrical production, and acquaint the student with the craft skills necessary to produce live theatre. Students will receive basic instruction in scenery construction and rigging, stage lighting, sound, properties, costumes and backstage responsibilities. Strong emphasis will be placed on knowledge of safety practices, theatre terminology and backstage procedure. Students will be required to assume technical and front-of-house responsibilities for various productions produced by the Performing Arts departments. In addition, LVA students have the unique opportunity to learn from industry professionals.

This course is the first of three one-year courses approved and sequenced by CTE (Career Technical Education) as a part of Certification in Theatre Technology.

### Technical Standards

#### **CONTENT STANDARD 1.0 : INVESTIGATE THEATRE OPERATIONS**

Performance Standard 1.1 : Explain Theatre Hierarchy

Performance Indicators : 1.1.1-1.1.7

Performance Standard 1.2 : Describe Types of Stages

Performance Indicators : 1.2.1-1.2.2

Performance Standard 1.3 : Understand Stage Geography

Performance Indicators : 1.3.1

#### **CONTENT STANDARD 2.0 : DEMONSTRATE THEATER SAFETY**

Performance Standard 2.1 : Explain General Safety, Regulations and Procedures

Performance Indicators : 2.1.1-2.1.7

Performance Standard 2.2 : Utilize Tools and Equipment Safety

Performance Indicators : 2.2.1-2.2.2

Performance Standard 2.3 : Practice Rigging Safety

Performance Indicators : 2.3.1-2.3.2

Performance Standard 2.4 : Practice Lighting and Electrical Safety

Performance Indicators : 2.4.1-2.4.3

Performance Standard 2.5 : Practice Paint, Dye and Chemical Safety

Performance Indicators : 2.5.1-2.5.8

#### **CONTENT STANDARD 3.0 : DEMONSTRATE SET CONSTRUCTION**

Performance Standard 3.1 : Apply Scenic Materials and Hardware

Performance Indicators : 3.1.1-3.1.3

Performance Standard 3.2 : Construct Scenic Elements

Performance Indicators : 3.2.1-3.2.3

Performance Standard 3.3 : Build Basic Units of Scenery

Performance Indicators : 3.3.1-3.3.10

Performance Standard 3.4 : Assemble Flats

Performance Indicators : 3.4.1-3.4.5

Performance Standard 3.5 : Understand Production Load In/Out

Performance Indicators : 3.5.1-3.5.3

## **CONTENT STANDARD 4.0 : UNDERSTAND LIGHTING DESIGN**

Performance Standard 4.1 : Explain Lighting Theory

Performance Indicators : 4.1.1-4.1.2

Performance Standard 4.2 : Compare and Contrast Instruments and Equipment

Performance Indicators : 4.2.1-4.2.2

Performance Standard 4.3 : Demonstrate Hanging and Focusing Lighting Systems

Performance Indicators : 4.3.1-4.3.4

## **CONTENT STANDARD 5.0 : DEMONSTRATE AUDIO ENGINEERING**

Performance Standard 5.1 : Explain the Components of a Sound System

Performance Indicators : 5.1.1-5.1.7

Performance Standard 5.2 : Compare and Contrast Microphones

Performance Indicators : 5.2.1-5.2.4

Performance Standard 5.4 : Demonstrate Recording and Playback

Performance Indicators : 5.4.1-5.4.2

Performance Standard 5.5 : Describe the Function of Amplifiers and Speakers

Performance Indicators : 5.5.1-5.5.2

## **CONTENT STANDARD 6.0 : PRACTICE STAGE MANAGEMENT**

Performance Standard 6.2 : Demonstrate Effective Communication

Performance Indicators : 6.2.1

Performance Standard 6.3 : Describe Performance Duties and Processes

Performance Indicators : 6.3.1-6.3.2

## **CONTENT STANDARD 7.0 : APPLY SCENIC DESIGN**

Performance Standard 7.3 : Utilize Scale Drawings and Ground Plans

Performance Indicators : 7.3.1-7.3.2

## **CONTENT STANDARD 8.0 : UNDERSTAND COSTUMING**

Performance Standard 8.1 : Explain the Functions of Costuming

Performance Indicators : 8.1.1-8.1.4

Performance Standard 8.3 : Demonstrate Wordrobe Maintenance

Performance Indicators : 8.3.1-8.3.3

## **CONTENT STANDARD 9.0 : UNDERSTAND HOUSE MANAGEMENT AND RELATED BUSINESS FUNCTIONS**

Performance Standard 9.1 : Explain House Staff Responsibilities

Performance Indicators : 9.1.1-9.1.4

Performance Standard 9.2 : Develop a Promotion Plan

Performance Indicators : 9.2.1-9.2.4

## **EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS FOR CAREER READINESS STANDARDS**

### **CONTENT STANDARD 1.0 : DEMONSTRATE EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS FOR CAREER READINESS**

Performance Standard 1.1 : Demonstrate Personal Qualities and People Skills

Performance Indicators : 1.1.1-1.1.7

Performance Standard 1.2 : Demonstrate Professional Knowledge and Skills

Performance Indicators : 1.2.1-1.2.10

Performance Standard 1.3 : Demonstrate Technology Knowledge and Skills

Performance Indicators : 1.3.1-1.3.4

## **ALIGNMENT TO THE NEVADA ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS\***

English Language Arts: Reading Standards for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects

Writing Standards for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects

Speaking and Listening

Mathematics: Mathematical Practices

Because this is a hybrid course that contains both Performance and Technical Emphasis first-year students, not all of this content will be covered by all students. The first half of the year is an introduction to the many different industries and career options available in the Technical Theatre world. At or near semester, students will then, in communication and agreement with student, parent and instructor, make a final decision regarding their emphasis in the program.

### Course Goals

#### **ALL STUDENTS WILL:**

1. Learn the various responsibilities and the organizational hierarchy of the technical staff positions in theatre production
2. Learn to work safely in the shops and backstage spaces
3. Develop emerging skills in technical aspects of theatrical productions
4. Develop a working vocabulary of terms, names and concepts within the craft of theater
5. Use basic hand and power tools required in technical theatre, and operate them in a consistently safe manner
6. Examine the use of computers in the theatrical environment
7. Examine the many career possibilities in the technical aspects of performing arts
8. View and technically evaluate, in writing, various theatre productions
9. Read and evaluate the various forms and styles of dramatic literature
10. Gain an understanding of theatre as an artistic approach to the study of the Human Condition.

*Once students have separated,*

#### **TECHNICAL EMPHASIS STUDENTS WILL:**

11. Learn basic techniques of scenic painting
12. Interpret scenic and working drawings in practical applications
13. Learn basic drawing (drafting) techniques for the theatre, including 2D CAD
14. Identify and assemble various scenery components
15. Operate various types of backstage equipment
16. Assist in acquisition, construction and maintenance of theatrical properties and costumes
17. Identify and use stage lighting and sound equipment
18. Use acquired skills in practical applications in theatrical productions

## Introduction to Theatre/Technical Theatre

### **Course Expectations 2016-2017**

#### Requirements/Materials

- ☞ A three-ring binder (or section of binder) with plenty of note paper and some pockets
- ☞ Safety glasses (first pair provided with payment of lab fee)
- ☞ Appropriate, safe clothing and protective gear as required by the instructor
- ☞ THEATRE PROJECTS – You will be required to participate in our co-curricular program.
- ☞ There is a \$20 materials fee for this course, due by September 9, 2016. Fees must be paid in the school bank. All fees are utilized for classroom materials/projects that are yours to keep.
- ☞ An additional \$20 fee will be due 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester for those students selecting Technical Emphasis.

## Course Expectations 2016-2017 cont.

### Grading and Evaluation Procedures

The grading procedure is based on a simple point system, which is averaged by category (see below). Each nine-week grading period has total points based on the classroom and project work in the class. For every assignment or project there will be a consistent number of points available. If you complete the assignments and willingly participate in the construction or other lab projects, you will receive points based on the correctness and quality of your work, including proper grammar, spelling and punctuation. Spell check is a requirement! If you are absent, or otherwise fail to complete an assignment/project/etc. when it is due, points will be deducted, unless special arrangements are made with me **in advance**. In addition to assignments and projects, there will be quizzes during the grading period. These will be announced in advance, and will be directly linked to the final examinations, which mainly cover terminology, procedures, technique and **safety**. Majors will be required to read plays from the departmental reading list, each of which will have a writing and evaluation component.

### SCORE CATEGORIES

#### FORMATIVE — 30%

Homework (Play reports, reviews, independent practice)  
Classwork (projects, essays, assignments, guided practice)  
Participation

#### SUMMATIVE — 70%

Assessment (quizzes, tests, project points, etc.)  
Theatre Projects  
4 pts. per school day excluding exam days

- Semester grades are figured on a percentage of points earned, 40% per quarter and 20% exam.
- All work handed back should be saved in your own files until the end of the year.
- Grading Scale: 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, 59 and below F. Rounding is at the X.5% (ex: 89.4% is a B; 89.5% is an A)

### **Late / Incomplete / Missing Work:**

- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to communicate with the instructor to get your assignments for the day. You then have three school days (not class periods) to make it up; for example, assigned on Monday, due Thursday.
- 10% will be deducted per day for every complete assignment/project that is handed in late. After 3 days late, the assignment will be worth a maximum of 50%.
- *Incomplete work will not be accepted.*
- *NOT completing assignments or quizzes is not an option. You will be required to attend detentions during lunch/after school to accomplish completion of every assignment and assessment.*
- The instructor will not take any work beyond the **Monday of the last full week** of each grading period.

**Make-up Work:** After any absence, a secondary student is required to initiate contact with the teacher(s) to obtain appropriate makeup work within three school days immediately following the absence. Once contact has been made with the teacher(s), specific makeup work must be completed and returned to the teacher(s) within a reasonable length of time, to be determined by the teacher and communicated to the student/parent or guardian. The makeup work must be returned to the teacher(s) by the specific due date if it is to be acknowledged. Students shall be allowed a minimum of three (3) days to complete makeup work.

Outside Review Due Dates – Can be handed as early as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every quarter.

NO LATER THAN: 1<sup>st</sup> qtr October 17, 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr December 5, 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr March 6, 4<sup>th</sup> qtr May 22 – NO EXCEPTIONS.

### Attendance And Eligibility

Attendance is extremely important. There will be others in class that will be depending on you to do your part.

- **You will lose your participation points for every day you are absent, regardless of reason, after two absences per grading period.** The ONE exception is extended illness, which requires physician documentation. You will also lose points for inappropriate behavior, adamant refusal to do the work, or insubordination.
- You are a representative of Academy Theatre, and an important and vital part of the theatre department. See the Eligibility Rules posted in the Department Handbook.
- **Tardies:** Students are expected to **be on time** to school and to each of their classes. Any student who is more than thirty (30) minutes late to class will be counted absent for that class. These absences are included

in the total number of absences accumulated by a student. Students that are habitually tardy to classes may be required to attend detentions, receive a reduced Citizenship grade, and/or placed on RPC do discuss the situation with parents/guardians.

*And remember, my door is always open; if you have a problem or suggestion, I will always make time to listen.*

## Mr. Morris – Technical Theatre Studio Classroom/Lab Rules and Procedures

- **RESPONSIBILITY**
  - We have several places in which we will be working; the Lowden Theater for the Performing Arts (Lowden), the Performing Arts Center (PAC), the Academy Theatre Black Box (BB), the Scene Shop, the Costume Shop and the Tech Theatre Studio (NA106). Each space poses unique challenges and vast and different vocabulary.
- **UNITY**
  - The Technical Theatre program is a part of the Theatre Department; it is not a separate program. Technicians and actors depend on each other!
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**
  - The instructor dismisses class, not the bell. Leaving class early, or without permission, is considered truancy.
- **SAFETY FIRST!**
  - YOU MAY NOT operate *any tool, hand or power*, without passing a safety test for *each tool*. Your parent/guardian must also provide written permission for you to use power tools.
  - DO NOT operate the fly system or any other backstage equipment until I have approved your use and you have direct permission from the TD, TM or other adult supervisor.
  - Safety glasses must be worn AT ALL TIMES while in the Scene Shop.
  - Students are expected to exercise common sense and understand that SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY. No horseplay!
- **DRESS CODE**
  - Follow the Theatre Department Dress Code as it is laid out in the Academy Theatre Student/Parent Handbook. *Those not appropriately dressed will lose participation points.*
- **ABSENCES/TARDIES**
  - More than two tardies per nine weeks will result in lunch detention and/or other disciplinary action.
  - If you are ill or plan to be absent, you must call in before 7am to 799-7800 x4805, or email me before 7am, to let me know that you will not be in class.
- **SMART PHONES**
  - According to CCSD Policy, you may have a mobile phone in your possession, which you may use during lunch and after school only. If your cell phone rings during class, you will lose your attendance points for that day. You may also have your phone confiscated. You MAY NOT listen to your PLD (personal listening device) during class, backstage or during any work call. The instructor may request all phones be stored collectively during direct instruction periods.
- **CLEAN UP**
  - All students are expected to clean up their messes, and participate in clean up periods as they occur during the day. EVERYONE CLEANS EVERY DAY.
  - It is ultimately your responsibility to clean up your mess in time for your next class. Your area/project must be cleaned up *thoroughly* before *any* students are excused.
- **PREPAREDNESS**
  - You are expected to come prepared to work. EVERY DAY you will need your Technical Theatre Notebook, textbook and a pencil or pen (black or blue ink—no funky colors).
- **PARTICIPATION**
  - Every theatre major is required to see and write about every Academy Theatre production.
  - You will be required to see and write about theatre outside the Las Vegas Academy.
- **RESPECT**
  - There is no food or drink allowed in the theatres, studio or any carpeted area on campus.
  - This is a NO SMOKING campus, and substance abuse will not be tolerated.
  - Willful and deliberate destruction of any school property is against the law.
  - All computer use must relate directly to the educational experience, and be in accordance with the CCSD Acceptable Use Policy.
  - The art and craft of theatre depends on mutual respect and trust within the ensemble. Backbiting, foul teasing, sexual harassment, ageism, or any other action or language that belittles, bullies or slanders others will not be tolerated. Our school is a *Hate-Free Zone*.
- The *Academy Theatre Handbook* is the department's official governing rules and regulations by which you and your parents/guardians agree to abide.