

COURSE CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIONS

Acting

Curriculum covers the concepts of objective, obstacle, action/tactic, given circumstances, stakes and text analysis first through exercises inspired by Stanislavski, Spolin, Adler, Hagen, and Meisner, and eventually through work on age-appropriate scenes or monologues from published material. Taught as a component of summer camp programs as well as a solo course.

Creative Dramatics

Curriculum combines elements of acting, improvisation, storytelling and movement work to spark the imagination, create characters, and develop ensemble. Curriculum sources include Boal, Spolin and Johnstone, as well as inspirational and classic stories from children's literature.

Imagination and Creative Play

Curriculum emphasizes creative thinking and storytelling, with an ensemble and process oriented ethic. Course components include guided play, improvisation exercises, mime work, and sensory stimulation exercises inspired by Spolin, Boal, and Johnstone.

Improvisation

Curriculum introduces several concepts from narrative improvisation through games from Boal, Spolin and Johnstone. Concepts covered include: accepting offers, spontaneous thinking, throwing/taking focus, and story structure. Primarily taught as a component of summer programs, sometimes combined with acting curriculum.

Performance Workshop

Curriculum further builds on the acting curriculum above by taking students through rehearsal and performance of a fully staged production. In some cases, students work with existing scripts and in others, students devise original semi-improvised scripts in a commedia dell'arte style, based on a prewritten scenario. Taught as a component of summer camp programs.

Shakespeare

Coursework combines acting curriculum with in-depth script analysis technique as required for Shakespeare's texts. Scansion, operative words, and other concepts needed to understand heightened language are a part of this program. Students work on monologues, scenes, or an edited version of a Shakespeare play. Taught both as a component of summer camp programs and as a solo course.

Suzuki and Viewpoints Workshop

Suzuki and the Viewpoints are rigorous physical theater disciplines aimed at building ensemble and creating 'speakable bodies' capable of rising to the demands of great theater literature. Suzuki curriculum includes several basic forms, walks, statues, and other exercises and also has a vocal integration component. Viewpoints curriculum uses the concepts of spatial relationship, tempo, gesture, duration, architecture, floor pattern, and shape as jumping off points for ensemble building and artistic learning. Historical context and further resources provided, and music is used to complement and enhance student work.

Voice and Movement

Coursework draws inspiration from several sources, including the work of Cecily Berry, Edith Skinner and Kristen Linklater for voice work, and Rudolf Laban for movement work. Depending on student experience level, this course will sometimes introduce basic concepts from Suzuki and Viewpoints.