

Styles of Directing
NTPA Acting Certification
Monday & Wednesday 1:00-2:20PM at NTPA - Plano
Fall 2019

Mike Mazur
mmazur@ntpa.org

Course Description

This course is for students with a desire to learn and understand the role of the director and how the creative process works throughout a production. They will seek to identify the different styles of directing and how they are effective. Students will study the role of the director, the style choices of a director and how it relates to the different staging opportunities. Students will evaluate different directors during rehearsals as well as experience 3 different directors in action directing the same scene. The process will allow for a new appreciation for the role of a director as the students will embrace different challenges that may present themselves during the theatrical journey of the stage.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will understand the role of a director
- Students will learn the different styles of directing and the effects of each style on the process
- Students will learn to apply the different styles of directing to various theatrical environments such as thrust staging, theatre in the round, proscenium, etc.
- Students will apply their knowledge of directing styles to a Tony-Award winning show of their choosing, and will research that show in advance of staging a short scene from that show

Required Texts, Materials, or Equipment

- Instructor will provide

Homework/Projects

- NTPA Show Review
- Tony Award Winning Show Research Project
- Set Design Project
- Broadway Director Report
- Directed Scene

Major Assignments: Descriptions

Each student will choose a Tony Award Winning show and submit written research on the original production, the director, and the critical and audience response to that show. They will also submit a set design ground plan and costume plot for that show, ultimately leading to staging a short two-to-three person scene from that show.

Class Participation

You are expected to attend every class meeting unless there are extenuating circumstances. You are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to coming to class and to participate in class discussions. In addition, you are expected to participate in in- class or online activities as assigned throughout the semester. Multiple absences or lack of participation will lead to a lower participation grade.

Attendance in this course is required. If you are absent any days during the semester, it is YOUR responsibility to obtain the notes from class from a fellow classmate. You will be expected to know the content covered during each class, regardless of the nature of your absence. It is also YOUR responsibility to contact the course instructor or a classmate to inquire about important announcements that may have been given that day. All absences must be reported via email to AcademyAdmin@ntpa.org and advise the individual instructor prior to the date of absence. The instructor will determine which absences eligible to be excused (*See detailed attendance expectations below*).

A respectful atmosphere should be maintained at all times. In a classroom, this includes showing respect for other class members' contributions to discussions. There may be differing viewpoints, and students may disagree with each other at times, but it is my hope that these differences will enhance class discussion and create an atmosphere where students will be encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that your grade will not be adversely affected by any beliefs or ideas expressed in discussions or assignments. Everybody is asked to respect the viewpoints of other students and refrain from hostile comments.

Course Grading

At mid-semester, a student's progress in each fine arts discipline will be evaluated through a "Progress Report Process." In this review process, each student will be evaluated throughout the semester. The staff of that department will assess the student's work and inform the parents of the student's progress. This is a developmental process, which familiarizes them with the responsibility of presenting their artistic work for review throughout the semester. A student must maintain a rating of at least "Satisfactory" (C = 70-79%)

Those students who are rated as "Improvement Needed" (D or F, 69% or lower) may be on probation in that area of the academy. The instructor will outline a strategy for improvement and communicate this outline to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and student. The student in this situation must raise this rating to at least "Satisfactory" in a reasonable amount of time established by the student, family and Head of School.

A conference will be scheduled for parents of students who scored in "Improvement Needed" on their Progress Report. Parents should schedule a conference with their child's instructor to discuss other concerns with their child's performing arts progress. Any other conferences may be during the day at a time mutually convenient to all parties. Parents should call or email the instructor and/or the Head of school to set a conference time.

Failure to complete NTPA classes could result in dismissal from the program.

Explanation of Grading System

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance— 20%

Participation— 20%

Show Review Paper --10%

-Each Student must attend an NTPA production (That they are not involved in) and write a critique of the directing style of that show

Tony Award Show Project Paperwork--25%

-Dramaturgical note, Historical information, Reviews, Film Adaptations, etc

Tony Award Show Project Scene--25%

GRADING SCALE

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 65-69

F: Below 65

Course Policies and Information for Students

INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

The best learning environment—whether in the classroom, studio, laboratory, or stage—is one in which all members feel respected while being productively challenged. At the North Texas Performing Arts Academy, we are dedicated to fostering an inclusive atmosphere, in which all participants can contribute, explore, and challenge their own ideas as well as those of others. Every participant has an active responsibility to foster a climate of intellectual stimulation, openness, and respect for diverse perspectives, questions, personal backgrounds, abilities, and experiences, although instructors bear primary responsibility for its maintenance.

A range of resources is available to those who perceive a learning environment as lacking inclusivity, as defined in the preceding paragraph. If possible, we encourage students to speak directly with their instructor about any suggestions or concerns they have regarding a particular instructional space or situation. Alternatively, students may bring concerns to another trusted advisor or administrator (such as the Managing Director or Head of School.) All classroom participants—including faculty, staff, and students—who observe an incident affecting the learning environment may also file a report (whether personally or anonymously) utilizing the online Student Support System.

1. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend classes and rehearsals with an 80% attendance record (for a typical 16-week course meeting twice weekly, this would mean no more than 6 absences) and the student is responsible for making up any work, project, or assignment that is missed throughout the semester. Unexcused Absences beyond the 80% policy may result in the student's failing the class, withdrawal from an

activity, or reduction in role in a show and will need to be evaluated and approved by the Head of School. (see *Student Handbook* for additional information.)

Tardiness

Our classes will begin at the time scheduled, and a student's late arrival may impact their participation and disrupt the class, and so late arrivals are strongly discouraged. Should a student be late for a class, the parent should send an email to AcademyAdmin@ntpa.org and advise the individual instructor. Excessive tardiness may jeopardize a student passing a required certification course.

2. PENALTIES FOR LATE WORK and REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

Late work or extensions on assignments may be requested through the NTPA Academy Incomplete Homework Form. Completion of the NTPA Academy Incomplete Homework Form does not mean the late work will be excused. The instructor has the right to create an individualized plan for the late work or dismiss the work following the due date.

3. RE-GRADING POLICY

Grades will be assigned based on your performance on each assignment. Assignment grades and feedback (when applicable) will be provided throughout the semester, and it is your responsibility to check your grades and feedback. Questions about grades and feedback should be brought to your course instructor's attention within 2 weeks of the grade posting. If you are disputing the final course grade, NTPA policy requires that it be done in writing within 10 business days of the grade posting.

4. TECHNOLOGY POLICIES

Academy Classes: Electronic devices will generally not be allowed during any academy classes. An individual instructor may choose to allow electronic device use.

Academy/Conservatory Productions: These devices will not be allowed during any academy/conservatory rehearsals or productions. NTPA is not responsible or liable for any lost, stolen or damaged property of the students.

5. EXPECTATION OF INTEGRITY

Ethical behavior is an essential component of learning and scholarship. Copyright expectations, behavior and dress codes as outlined in the Student Handbook must be followed at all times. Students are expected to understand, and adhere to, the NTPA Academy Student Code of Conduct and follow all expectations stated in the Student Handbook. Students are expected to exhibit the Ten Characters at all times.

- Always cite your sources when you present ideas and/or language that you have not developed yourself, including material from class lectures and discussions.
- Violation of this policy includes collaborating on assignments where collaboration is not allowed and/or utilizing notes, texts, etc. on any assignment where use of such materials is not allowed.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this information throughout the semester.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Activities, and Assignments

Date	Topics/Assigned Readings/Homework	Major Assignments and Deadlines
08/26 & 08/28	Monday - The Role of the Director; photo interpretation project Wednesday - Neutral Scenes, Scenes from OEDIPUS REX	
09/02 & 09/04	Monday - Holiday NO CLASS Wednesday - Tony Award Project defined, Shows decided today	Greek Scenes Performed
09/09 & 09/11	Monday - Thrust vs Proscenium scenes Wednesday - Collaborative Directing: SCROOGE	
09/16 & 09/18	Monday - Presentation Number 1 Wednesday - Theatrical vs Cinematic direction	Presentation on chosen show
09/23 & 09/25	Monday - The Director's Concept: 1975 <i>Chicago</i> vs 1996 <i>Chicago</i> Wednesday - Director's Concept	Directors Concept Statement Due
09/30 & 10/2	Monday - Realism vs. Representationalism Wednesday - Scene from NICHOLAS NICKLEBY	
10/7 & 10/9	Monday - Classic Theatre: To update or not? Wednesday - Scene from Hamlet	
10/14 & 10/16	Monday - Holiday NO CLASS Wednesday - The effects of Scenic Design and Scenic Art	
10/21 & 10/23	Monday - Devised Theatre Wednesday - Set Design due for Tony Award project DISCUSSION: Adapting a film for the stage	
10/28 & 10/30	Monday - Halloween Theatre - Making Magic on Stage Wednesday - Costume/Make-up for Halloween	

11/4 & 11/6	Monday - Assign "scenes" for directing Wednesday - Guest Director	
11/11 & 11/13	Monday - The "Broadway" experience: Lobby Displays, Programs, marketing, Curtain Speeches Wednesday - Full Report due on Tony Award Project (Dramaturgy/Research) MUST BY TYPED AND HANDED IN	Individual Meetings with Mr. Mike This week
11/18 & 11/20	Monday - Directing a "TYA show" Wednesday - Full Reports due on Tony Award Project (Creative)	
11/25 & 11/27	Monday - HOLIDAY - NO CLASS Wednesday - HOLIDAY - NO CLASS	
12/2 & 12/4	Monday - Work day for Presentations Wednesday - Work Day for Presentation	
12/9 & 12/11	Monday - Groups 1, 2 3 Final Presentations Wednesday - Groups 4,5,6 Final Presentations	
12/16 & 12/18	Monday - Groups 7, 8, 9, 10 Final Presentations Wednesday - Critique of Presentations	



Incomplete Homework Form

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

My (name of assignment)_____ was not
turned in _____. I
did not turn it in because _____
_____.

Choose one of the following:

- ☐ Need help on this assignment
- ☐ Can complete this assignment on my own

I will turn this assignment in on (date)_____.

Student Signature: _____

Teacher Signature: _____