

ACTING FOR BEGINNERS

Instructor: Mr. Harris

Welcome! I'm glad you're here. Leave your academic troubles at the PAC door...this class should always be **fun**! Throughout the year, we'll learn a lot about performance & stage confidence.

Class Philosophy. *Stuff to keep in mind all year long:*

- **PLAY!** When we're acting or doing theatre games, you have permission to have fun, to experiment, to be brave. And silly, too! Are people looking at you? **GOOD.**
- **Important:** The students in this class are an **ENSEMBLE**. Meaning, we're a team, a Theatre group, we're all in it together. We all succeed in creating theatre, or we do not. Most importantly: *Everybody supports each other.*
- New ideas are always welcome. Think outside the box. Make strong choices. **Play!**

Goals. *Here are just a few:*

- Learn techniques for warming up the body vocally and physically
- **IMPROVISATION** – creating theatre out of virtually nothing. Improv means to invent, compose, or perform with little or no preparation. We will do a lot of this!
- Theatre Games! We'll constantly be playing games to help everyone's comfort level onstage and for team-building.
- Scenes & Monologues - we'll use a lot of scripts too, it's not all improv.
- Stagecraft - we will occasionally help create the sets, props, etc. for the fall play, high school musical, and the middle school musical.

Grading. *Grades are less a focus here than in core classes. Still, here's what you will be graded on:*

- **Participation** – this class is 100% participation! To be clear – this class is **NOT** about being the most “talented” actor. It's about trying your best, and being prepared. That's all I ask.
- We will also participate in the holiday concert and theatre arts showcase.
- **Attendance** – **BE HERE.** Come to every single class. Our ensemble works best when we all work and play together. And always come ready to have fun!
- Attendance at or Participation in *all* Rye Neck Theatrical productions.
- **Punctuality** – don't be late! If you are, I will always ask you why.

Class Rules/Expectations. *Just be good! Sounds easy, right? Here are more details:*

- While I am talking, or when another actor has the floor, there is **NO** other talking.
- **No phones.** No texting or using your cell phone during class, unless I have given specific permission. If I see it, I will just take it.
- Clean up after yourself. Especially if you bring food to the classroom.
- No chewing gum on stage, *ever!* This is important. Throw it away in the garbage.
- Respect for everyone. Our class **MUST** be a place where everyone feels free to create and learn. And most of all....play!

Okay! Any questions? Concerns? **Compliments?** Please send all to sharris@ryeneck.org