

# **Raritan Valley Community College**

## **Professional Development: Theatre**

### **I. Basic Course Information**

- A. Course Number and Title: THEA-252 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: THEATRE
- B. Date of Proposal: FALL 2006
- C. Sponsoring Department: Visual and Performing Arts
- D. Semester Credit Hours: 1
- E. Weekly Contact Hours: 2
  - Lecture: 1
  - Laboratory: 1
- F. Prerequisites: NONE. Should be taken in the third or fourth semester of A.A. Theatre or A.FA. Technical Theatre
- G. Laboratory Fees: NONE

### **II. Catalogue Description**

This course is designed to help prepare students majoring in Theatre (A.A.) and Technical Theatre (A.F.A.) transfer successfully into B.A. or B.F.A. programs. The course will cover topics such as critical thinking in the performing arts, career options, resume, portfolio and audition preparation for transfer and employment, audition technique, and the identification of appropriate transfer colleges. This course is intended for students in the third or fourth semester of their program and who are planning to transfer or seek professional employment in the field.

### **III. Statement of Course Need**

This course is a required course in the Associate of Arts (Theatre) and the Associate of Fine Arts (Technical Theatre) Degree. The course will be important in helping the students successfully transfer to a four-year Bachelors of Fine Arts or Bachelor of Arts program. A portfolio review is necessary for those wishing to transfer into a technical theatre program. Theatre (acting) majors are required to interview/audition in order to gain acceptance into a four-year program. This course will prepare the students for this process. Students in this course will also learn the different academic responsibilities between pursuing a B.F.A. degree and a B.A. degree.

### **IV. Place of Course in the College Curriculum**

- A. Does not satisfy a general education requirement.
- B. Degree program, option or certificate requirements: Required in the A.A Theatre and the A.F.A Technical Theatre.
- C. Free elective: Yes
- D. Course transferability: According to the colleges that have evaluated this course ([www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org)) this course transfers as a free elective to most liberal arts colleges (FDU, Monmouth University, Rowan University, Ramapo College) but does not transfer to technical colleges.

## V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Readings and Discussions about career possibilities in the performing arts world.
  - 1. Selected readings from the textbook (A Life in the Arts: A Handbook for the Artist).
  - 2. Selected readings from current Industry Publications (Backstage/Ross Reports).
  - 3. Visits by various Theatre department representatives from nearby four-year college programs such as Mason Gross School of the Arts, University of the Arts and Montclair State University
  - 4. Visits by professional actors,directors and technical theatre personnel.
- B. Portfolio Preparation.
  - 1. Audition preparation. Students will research certain plays, roles, characters or choreography that will best “showcase” their abilities and potential for auditions at four-year programs.
  - 2. Writing Assignments including a critique of a professional performance and essay preparation.
  - 3. Lectures on what constitutes a good interview/audition for transfer to other programs and professional opportunities.
  - 4. Video Taping of performances.
  - 5. Writing an appropriate resume.
- C. Portfolio Review.
 

Review of students work by several performing art instructors.

## VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

- A. General Education Goals
 

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- think critically about professional performances and other activities in the performing arts field. (G.E. 1 )
- communicate with professionals in their field through interviews and auditions. (G.E. 2)

#### B. Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

- Recognize what material is not only appropriate, but beneficial to them as a performing artist.
- Cite the differences between pursuing a B.F.A. degree and a B.A. degree.
- Critique the work of a fellow artist in regard to honesty, creativity, and marketability.
- Practice habits that demonstrate the importance of discipline as a performing artist.
- Identify writers, plays or performing artists that have made a major impact in their field.
- Evaluate specific artistic choices made by professional artists (directors/actors).

### VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- lecture/discussion
- small group work
- performance
- student collaboration
- guest speakers

### VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

- performances
- journals
- essays
- demonstrations

### IX. Grade Determinants

A final fifteen-minute interview/audition.

Aside from the interview, other work throughout the course of the semester will be involved in determining a final grade (journals, reviews, analysis). The final interview will also have a written element. This written element will be similar to an artist statement or letter of intention stating the artistic goals of the student. The final interview will assess the following course outcomes. The student will:

- be able to intelligently and coherently discuss their performing experience and artistic philosophy.
- demonstrate knowledge of major playwrights and directors who have had a profound impact in the field.
- be able to intelligently discuss and critique the work of other major artists.
- demonstrate discipline by their conduct before, during and after the interview process (arrive early, appearance, preparation).
- be able to answer questions related to their field in an intelligent manner.
- prepare and present an example of their performance abilities.

## **X. Text and Materials**

- Text - Maisel, Eric. *A Life in the Arts*. New York: Penguin Putnam Inc., 1994.
- Theatre publications such as Backstage and Ross Reports- *Ross Reports Television & Film*. New York: VNU Business Media. (monthly publication);  
*Backstage*. New York: VNU Media. (weekly publication)
- plays (Contemporary and Classical)
- student writing
- web sources
- film and video
- reviews

## **XI. Resources**

- Welp Theatre
- Library
- Television/DVD player