THEA 221 ~ Acting I  
3 Credits; Section 60030  
Palanakila 224  
Mon and Wed 1:30 – 2:45 pm  

INSTRUCTOR: Michelle Y. Hurtubise  
OFFICE: Palanakila 152  
OFFICE HOURS: Mon and Wed; 12:50 -1:20pm and 2:50 – 3:20pm  
TELEPHONE: 236-9152 ext. 152  
EMAIL: hurtubis@hawaii.edu  
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2010  

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT  
Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.  

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT Learning Outcomes for the Fine and Performing Arts  
1. See the Arts as a necessary and transformative aspect of human experience.  
2. Develop an appreciation of the variety of aesthetics.  
3. Develop artistic skills and creativity.  

CATALOG DESCRIPTION  
A performance class concentrating on voice, relaxation, body-awareness, and freedom from self-consciousness through theatre games, improvisations, and exercises. Emphasis on ensemble work.  

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES  
By the end of the semester, the student should be able to:  
1. Articulate and project the voice well.  
2. Devise and execute pantomimes and improvisations.  
3. Explore dramatic scenes.  
4. Identify, analyze and critically evaluate the technique and believability of dramatic performances.  

TEXT  
ACTING: The First Six Lessons  
By Richard Boleslavsky  
This text is available at the bookstore, WCC library, and is available electronically through the UH library system. You are welcome to use any one of these resources, but no excuse will be accepted if you are unable to complete a reading because of technical difficulties. If you do not bring the physical book to class, you must take copious notes for use in class discussions.  
Supplemental readings and resources are available upon request.  
You will also be required to furnish and utilize a bound NOTEBOOK.  

ACTIVITIES Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times:  
Students must see at least two plays and complete a written reflection on them.  

Requirements the Course Satisfies  
At WCC: AA Degree Humanities Requirement  
AT UH Manoa: One of several sections that meet a requirement in several programs
Prerequisites
None

COURSE GOALS
- To regain confidence, trust, and creativity to more fully and honestly express oneself as an actor, and hence, as an individual.
- To train the actor’s instrument through physical, vocal, concentration, and imagination exercises and improvisations.
- To develop an ensemble that generates artistic communication and supports an environment of trust and respect.
- To gain a basic understanding of the Theatre environment, and to cultivate acting tools with which to approach a scene and monologue and bring them to life.
- Have Fun! They’re called plays for a reason.

COURSE TASKS
This is an experiential, discussion based class, involving a lot of discovery through “play”. Most of the class time will be devoted to participation in class exercises and the preparation and sharing of scenes and monologues. You will begin learning the actor’s tools, exercising them, and learning how to communicate them orally and written.

PARTICIPATION – The first six weeks of class are devoted to theatre games, exercises, improvisations, and assignments that increase awareness of self, others, and the world around the actor. Imagination, sensory awareness, observation, body, voice, and tools from the assigned text will be workshoped. RESPECT each other. How you add or take away from the ensemble will affect everyone. Your commitment to these activities comprises a third of your grade and every effort, or lack thereof will be taken into account. Just dive in and feel free to ASK QUESTIONS.

ACTOR’S NOTEBOOK – This is to start you on your Actor’s journey. Though it is graded, it is for YOU – your imagination, your discoveries, your challenges. You will need to supply this bound notebook with your name in it. Bring it to every class, it will be checked randomly at the start of class and turned in on specific days to make sure you are staying on top of things. Specific assignments will be passed out and need to be taped/stapled/glued/attached appropriately. Your handwriting must be neat, legible, and written primarily in pen – blue or black ink for the assignments listed below. Only you and I will be reading these, so be honest, open, and challenge yourself. Feel free to use this for class notes and any other observations or inspirations that come your way.

JOURNALS – You will be asked, not to regurgitate, but to digest the information in the book, ACTING: The First Six Lessons. To help you do so, I will provide you with reflection guidelines that correspond to each chapter. This will not only help your own understanding of the material, but help me gauge where you are. It will also help you fuel class discussions and supplement class activities. The material in this book provides a lot of the vocabulary we will be using in class, so please let me know right away of any questions you may have.

PLAY REFLECTIONS – This is the real 3-D experience, no plastic glasses needed! You will be required to attend and reflect on two plays. Specific Guidelines will be passed out later, the reflections will be 2-3 journal pages, and it must be turned in on time with your ticket stub attached to your notebook. The first is HAMLET at UH Manoa, and the other will be of
your choosing from a selected list of theatres. You have to provide your own transportation to and from the theatres and will be responsible for getting your own tickets. If you have any problems doing so, let me know IMMEDIATELY so that accommodations can be made.

**CHARACTER** - You will be required to complete at least two character reflections. More information will be discussed for each assignment. They will be no more than a page and will be a written communication of the work you will already be putting into your scene and monologue.

**MIDTERM SCENE** – You can and will learn so much from each other. Theatre (and life) is inherently collaborative. Working with others will require commitment from all parties involved, and your ability to work hard, positively, and respectfully together will be reflected in your grade. You will have rehearsal time in class, but you will also be expected to work on things outside of class. Improvisation, open scenes, and other materials will be utilized to bring these to life. Help each other, and let me know how I can help you.

**FINAL MONOLOGUE** – This is a chance for you to really sink your teeth into a character you can play for a lifetime. Your final monologue is of your choosing. It will show that you have an understanding of an actor’s tools and the ability to use them. It must be from a published play, contemporary, 1-2 minutes long, and must be approved by the instructor. There are many resources available to help you find a monologue, but if you have trouble, do not wait to the last minute to ask for help. These must be memorized, full of life, and specific choices. Acting is always a work in progress, so what I ask for is passion, commitment, and craft, not perfection. HAVE FUN!!

**ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADING (Points System):</th>
<th>A+ 100</th>
<th>C 76-73</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation: 30</td>
<td>A 99-95</td>
<td>C- 72-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actor’s Notebook: 35 total</td>
<td>A- 94-90</td>
<td>D+ 69-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(each) Journals: 3</td>
<td>B+ 89-87</td>
<td>D 66-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(each) Play Reflections: 6</td>
<td>B 86-83</td>
<td>D- 62-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(each) Character: 1</td>
<td>Midterm Scene: 16</td>
<td>B- 82-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Monologue: 19</td>
<td>Total Grade Points: 100</td>
<td>C+ 79-77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attendance**

This is a performance course, and relies heavily on the work done in class. Therefore you must come to class to succeed in it. You will not be judged on talent, but assessed on your participation, work ethic, attitude, and improvement. Try hard, ask questions, and come to class ready to challenge yourself. Because theatre is a collaborative and participatory subject, attendance is mandatory.

PLEASE NOTE: Up to three Participation Points can be deducted each day if sufficient effort is not put forth. Each tardy and every absence, excused or unexcused, counts against your Participation Points. For each unexcused absence up to HALF A LETTER GRADE may be deducted from your final grade.

Medical absences are excusable only with a doctor’s note and ADVANCE notice from the student. Please call my office and leave me a message before class starts and bring your doctor’s note to the next class.
Academic trips and Athletic absences for out of town events require a written note from the student’s coach prior to the scheduled absence.

Additional Information

Participation and Preparedness: Be on time ready to go mentally, emotionally, and physically. Theatre is an ensemble, and your active contributions, optimism, and genuine effort are essential to this work.

Clothing: The actor’s instrument is their body, so dress appropriately. Do not limit your physical activity or creativity by wearing clothing that does not appropriately cover or stay on you. Take off jewelry before class starts, and leave your shoes in the hallway.

Physical Activity: Come to class ready to move every day! While what we do is safe, and the instructor will never put the students in harm’s way, be warned that possible injuries may occur if students ignore safety rules and precautions. Many of the activities also require touching each other, do so RESPECTFULLY. Develop trust with each other and know that you will be held accountable for your actions.

Students with known physical injuries or limitations must inform the instructor formally of their condition so that special considerations and/or alternate activities may be planned to assist the students in meeting the objectives of the course. If there is anything you would like the instructor to be aware of, please do not hesitate to set up an appointment.

NO cell phones or noise making devices! If you are expecting a life-changing call, let the instructor know ahead of time. Otherwise, your electronic device may be confiscated for the remainder of the class, even if you were just checking for a text message.

Plagiarism: No cheating in any form or fashion, and no copying anyone’s written work. This includes copying any part of a journal entry. Don’t do it or there will be severe consequences for all parties involved. If you have any concerns please contact the instructor right away.

Communication: If at any time during the semester, you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. It is your responsibility to inform me so that action can be taken. I am available during my office hours, by appointment, and through email. Concerns about your grade can be discussed upon request.

Extra Credit: You may see extra plays, approved by the instructor, for extra credit up until two weeks before finals. Along with turning in your ticket stub, a 2-3 page journal reflection must be completed and turned in.

The Instructor reserves the right to make any necessary and reasonable changes. However, I will be sure to let you know if it will have a negative impact on your grade or requires a change in the work expected of you.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Akoakoa 213 for more information.