

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION TO ACTING: COURSE #893

Contact Information

Mark W. Hickey, Director
Acton Public Schools and
Acton/Boxborough Regional Schools
36 Charter Road
Acton, MA 01720
Telephone: (978) 264-4700, x3415
Fax: (978) 266-1133
E-mail: mhickey@mail.ab.mec.edu

The Department's Educational Philosophy

Education in the Arts plays a major role in three general areas of educational impact: societal, instructional and individual. Societally, students gain knowledge of events and historical movements that shaped society. Instructionally, the arts may help to develop critical and creative thinking skills. Individually, the arts can provide the means for communicating thoughts, emotions, and ideas that cannot otherwise be expressed.

Guiding Principles

For those students interested in developing skills in vocal, instrumental, and drama performance, the Performing Arts Department offers courses and activities of considerable variety. Performance material is selected to meet the varied needs and skill levels of the students, provide cultural enrichment for the students, provide aesthetic value for the students, make provision for technical growth of the students, provide for school and community service, and create interdisciplinary relationships.

INTRODUCTION TO ACTING: COURSE #893

Course Frequency: One semester, 5 days per week

Credits Offered: 2.5 Credits

Prerequisites: None

Background to the Curriculum

Drama is essential to the performing arts curriculum. ABRHS has had a successful, award-winning drama program, including speech and debate and broadcasting, for many years, with courses in each area. The drama courses allow students to develop skills that are needed in all of these courses, and many students take the drama courses as a first step in their development of oral performance. The classes, therefore, aid those students who are interested in drama, as well as those students who are interested in both speech and debate and broadcast.

This introductory class is for any student who wants to begin or improve his/her acting and performance skills. This class will be a fast paced workshop format designed to strengthen the voice, acting, observation, movement and listening skills through exercises in improvisation, theater games, scene study and theater exercises. The main focus of the class is to build ensemble and begin to strengthen resources as an actor. Students will rehearse and perform selected scenes and monologues for peers. Acting styles will periodically be studied through the use of video and live performance. Vocabulary of the theater and performance and rehearsal expectations and etiquette will be stressed.

Core Topics/Questions/Concepts/Skills

By the completion of this course of study the student should be able to:

Begin to development of acting skills

- Create and sustain believable character throughout a scripted or improvised scene
- Consider costuming in development of character
- Proper use of vocal acting skills
- Perform productively within an ensemble
- Perform productively in a monologue
- Begin to develop script and character analysis skills
- Begin to develop the body and gesture to delineate character

Critical Response

- Students will describe and analyze their own theatrical work and the work of others using appropriate theatre vocabulary. When appropriate, students will connect their analysis to interpretation and evaluation.

Course-End Learning Objectives

<u>Learning objectives</u>	<u>Corresponding state standards, where applicable</u>
<p>1. Begin to develop acting skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create and sustain believable character throughout a scripted or improvised scene• Costuming considerations• Proper use of physical acting skills• Proper use of vocal acting skills• Character analysis• Perform productively within an ensemble <p>2. Critical Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will describe and analyze their own theatrical work and the work of others using appropriate theatre vocabulary.• When appropriate, students will connect their analysis to interpretation and evaluation.	<p>1.7 Create and sustain a believable character throughout a scripted or improvised scene</p> <p>1.8 Make and justify choices on the selection and use of properties and costumes to support character dimensions</p> <p>1.9 Use physical acting skills such as body alignment, control of isolated body parts, and rhythms to develop characterizations that suggest artistic choices</p> <p>1.10 Use vocal acting skills such as breath control, diction, projection, inflection, rhythm, and pace to develop characterizations that suggest artistic choices</p> <p>1.11 Motivate character behavior by using recall of emotional experience as well as observation of the external world</p> <p>1.12 Describe and analyze, in written and oral form, characters' wants, needs, objectives, and personality characteristics</p> <p>1.13 In rehearsal and performance situations, perform as a productive and responsible member of an acting ensemble (i.e., demonstrate personal responsibility and commitment to a collaborative process)</p> <p>Attend live performances of extended length and complexity, demonstrating an understanding of the protocols of audience behavior appropriate to the style of the performance</p> <p>5.13 Use group-generated criteria to assess their own work and the work of others</p> <p>5.14 Demonstrate objectivity in assessing their personal abilities and creative endeavors</p> <p>5.15 Demonstrate the ability to receive and act upon coaching, feedback, and constructive criticism</p>

	<p>Devise specific methods for documenting and assessing one's own artistic development throughout participation in a theatre project</p> <p>5.17 Document and reflect on their own work created over several years and identify successful approaches that could be applied in the development of future work</p> <p>5.18 Research the ways in which other artists have used self-reflection to document and refine their work</p>
--	---

Assessment

Students will be assessed on the following:

- growth over the length of the course
- attainment of pre-stated goals
- journals
- ensemble scene work
- performance – all aspects including voice, body, memorization and characterization

Materials and Resources

Materials will be used from varying eras of theater literature ranging from Greek to present day contemporary. Dramatic literature for scene selections will be substantial in its educational value.