

Overview & Essential Questions

In this introductory Acting class, we will use Anne Bogart's Viewpoints exercises as well as Robert Cohen's Acting exercises to explore physical and textual approaches to acting. We will then apply these approaches to scripted scenes.

Viewpoints deal with Time, Space, and Composition in a physical way.

Robert Cohen's acting book deals with G=Goal, (what does each character want?), O=Obstacle (what is standing in the way of the character getting to his or her goal?), T= Tactics (what does each character DO to get what he/she wants?), E= Enthusiasm (how can the actor raise the stakes around his or her circumstances to deeply care about their outcomes and fight passionately for their goals?). We also will concentrate on Given Circumstances (what has just happened leading up to this moment that is affecting the character?), and the Environment and the Senses (how do the characters' immediate surroundings affect his/her actions?).

Students will be challenged to make observations about people and the world around them, as well as their own behavior to make connections with their characters. Students will work on 3-4 scenes throughout the semester, of various styles. Presentations and performances of these scenes require that the students apply all of the acting elements to the text in a clear, concise, and creative way.

Learning Objectives

Physical Characterizations:

- Use your body and spatial relationships to tell a story
- Use your environment to help tell a story
- Transform your body and voice into different types of characters
- Maintain focus and concentration onstage

Script Analysis:

- Approach a script and be able to analyze character, conflict, and actions
- Take direction to make changes in your characterizations and tactics onstage
- Access truthfulness from your own personal experiences in connection to characters

Acting ToolKit Vocabulary

- Viewpoints
- G.O.T.E.

Safe Space for Creative Growth:

- Provide detailed and constructive feedback to your peers
- Create personal goals and intentions

Assessments:

- 50% Participation in Class (support of ensemble and fellow students, bravery and risk taking)
- 30% Scene Work (Characterization, Memorization, Preparation, Work Ethic)

20% Knowledge of Vocabulary and Terminology (Acting Tool Kit: G.O.T.E./Viewpoints Elements)

Breakdown of Semester:

Section ONE:

Viewpoints

Sections TWO:

Robert Cohen Acting I: G.O.T.E.

Section THREE:

Contentless Scenes

Section FOUR:

Scene Work (I select)

Section FIVE:

Scene Work (You select)

Section SIX:

Pick one of the 3 scenes and stage it on a site-specific Galloway location

What are our text books?

Anne Bogart's VIEWPOINTS

ROBERT COHEN BOOK

Scene Work

Physical + Mental Acting Approach

What plays are we working on, and why?

What do you want to work on next?

Site specific scenes around Galloway (library, playground, front steps, etc.)

Class Policies--How do we create a Safe Space?

Let's Create These Together:

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