**ACTING FOR THE CAMERA**

**FALL 2012 – THEA 3308-001**

**Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 – 12:20**

Instructor: Julienne Greer, B.F.A., M.A., Doctoral Candidate, AEA, SAG/AFTRA

Fine Arts Building, Room 143

Office Hours: Thursday, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. or by appointment.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an advanced acting course to acquire film and video performance technique. Required prerequisites: 1303, 1307, and 2352; and permission of faculty. Talent, skill, acting technique, and professionalism will be graded at an advanced level.

**Note:** Course syllabus, course requirements, assignments, projects, topics and grading criteria are subject to change and review by the instructor depending on instructor’s evaluation of class progress and comprehension of course material.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

*Acting in Television Commercials for Fun and Profit*. 3rdedition. Squire Fridell.

*Acting for the Camera* – Tony Barr, revised edition.

**RECOMMENDED TEXT:**

*99 Film Scenes for Actors* – Angela Nicholas.

*Playing to the Camera*: *Film Actors Discuss Their Craft.* Edited by Bert Cardullo, et. al.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

3-Ring Binder: 1” with paper, or similar spiral notebook with paper

Pencils and erasers

Scenes and Monologues

Photocopies - students will have photocopy cost associated with this course, including supplying the instructor with a photocopy of each monologue and scene. **The copy machine in the Theatre Arts Dept. office may NOT be used to copy materials that students must supply for their coursework.**

**REQUIREMENTS**

* Purchase and read required texts.
* Rehearse, memorize, and research scenes/monologues outside of class.
* Bring photocopies of monologues/scenes to class including an instructor copy.
* Come to class and participate fully. ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED.
* Be prepared for all class activities. Wear appropriate dress for free movement and exercises. If you arrive unprepared, it will directly impact your participation points.
* Failure to attempt any of the required assignments shall result in a failing grade in the course.
* You are required to take the final exam during the scheduled final exam time.
* **Final Exam: Tues., Dec. 11th 11:00 – 1:30 p.m.**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES & GOALS:**

* The student will acquire a basic working knowledge of the language and principles of acting for the camera.
* The student will work collaboratively with peers as both performer and crew creating the sense of a small, independent video or film shoot.
* The student will be able to discuss, apply, and perform basic on-camera production roles such as lighting set-up, audio set-up, direction for the camera, and fundamental editing techniques for video production.
* The student will be able to identify the terminology and language in principles of acting for the camera.
* The student will be able to identify and obtain resources for gaining employment as an actor on camera.
* The student will discuss, critique, and analyze scene work and be able to offer constructive criticism for self and others.

**GRADING:**

Participation/Preparation/Exercises 20 points

1st monologue 20 points

1st scene 20 points

2rd scene 20 points

Final Exam 20 points

Total 100 points

90 – 100 points = A

80 – 89 points = B

70 – 79 points = C

60 – 69 points = D

59 points and below = F

* This is an advanced, senior-level acting course and performances, technical skills, acting technique, and professionalism at all times will be graded at an advanced level.
* 40% of your grade is in collaborative scene work. You must work professionally with each other at all times. Being late or not showing up for rehearsals or letting down your partner either as performer or crew is unacceptable and will affect your grade.
* If a student does not perform a required scene or does not attempt a required assignment, the student will receive a failing grade for the entire course.
* There are no extra credit assignments for this course.
* Incomplete grades are not given in this course.
* Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.
* Grade grievances: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog.

**EXPECTATIONS:**

You are expected to be disciplined in your work; meet all assignments on time; take notes on scene critiques; practice outside of class – **this is your homework**; use class rehearsal time wisely, seek help and further explanation from the instructor if needed; and, make interesting and informed choices on camera.

**EXPECTATATIONS FOR OUT-OF-CLASS- STUDY**: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 3 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**LATENESS AND ABSENCES**

* **Tardiness:** It is expected that you will be **on time** for class. In addition, it is expected that you remain for the entire session. You will learn by doing AND by watching. Late arrivals and early departures impact not only your ability to receive the information but also that of your colleagues.
* Assignments performed late (after the class in which it is due) and which the instructor accepts will be reduced by **ONE FULL LETTER GRADE** unless a verifiable doctor’s excuse is provided.
* It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that the instructor has recorded the student’s attendance, especially if the student arrives after the class role is taken. If a student is uncertain how many absences they have they should check with the instructor.
* Grades shall be affected for repeated lateness to class and absences as this course is graded on attendance and participation.
* Class attendance is mandatory. The only excused absences are those that are University related: Athletics, Choir, required conferences, etc. Absences will be allowed for religious observances, but the student must inform the instructor **IN ADVANCE**. All make-up tests must be **APPROVED BY INSTRUCTOR**. If you have official university business it **MUST** be cleared by the instructor **PRIOR** to the missed class. **Illness is NOT an excused absence**. You are allowed a total of three (3) unexcused absences. After the third absence, your grade will drop by **ONE-HALF LETTER GRADE** for each subsequent absence, i.e., B to B-

**ASSIGNMENTS**

* The student will be assigned to rehearse, stage, memorize, and perform a one-minute monologue and two short scenes.
* Look for film/TV monologues at these sites or find your own approximate one-min. monologue at:

<http://www.whysanity.net/monos/> or

<http://www.auditionart.com/Monologues/tabid/165/categoryid/26/film-tv_monologues.aspx>

* The student will be required to locate and supply scripts for their performances. The student will have photocopy costs to make copies of monologues/scene for themselves and the instructor. The instructor must have a copy of the monologue/scene to write notes in order for the monologue to be graded.
* The student will be required to assist with the camera and lighting set-up and operation when scenes of other students are taped. This is a part of the participation grade.
* Students will give a final written test over discussions, exercises, and textual material found in *Acting for the Camera* and *Acting in Television Commercials for Fun and Profit*.
* **Final Exam: Tues., Dec. 11th 11:00 – 1:30 p.m.**

**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS ATTENDANCE/PRODUCTION DUTY POLICY:**Students who fail to meet class attendance requirements may be removed from acting, directing, design, stage management, and/or other major production positions for the current semester's productions at the discretion of the department chair. (Refer to the Theatre Arts Student Handbook for all updated policies.)  
  
**CONFERENCES/AUDITIONS:** Department of Theatre Arts majors are encouraged to participate in theatre conferences and auditions. However, students are expected to complete assigned coursework in a timely manner and to notify instructors prior to their absence. Such notification must be in writing. At the discretion of each instructor, class participation grades may be affected; therefore, students are advised to consult with their instructors prior to engaging in such activities.

**FINAL REVIEW WEEK**: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabi. During Final Review week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week

1. **Americans With Disabilities Act:** UTA is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodation” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Student Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 27203364.
2. **Academic Integrity:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. “Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

1. **Student Support Services Available:** UTA supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6017 for more information and appropriate referrals.
2. **Electronic Communication Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the SOLE means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. ***Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit.email/.

**Course Schedule for Acting III – Acting for the Camera**

**Week 1**: Aug. 23: Syllabus, Introduction, Exercises – Image Day. **Homework – select 1-min monologue for approval on Mon. 28th**.

**Week 2**: Aug. 28: Character Analysis, Monologue choice due in class. Begin memorizing mono immediately Assignment of monologue numbers/production crew assignments. Intro. to camera equip/set up. Read pg. 3 – 18, p. 27 – 31. *Acting for the Camera.*

Aug. 30: Script Analysis, Exercises Read pg. 32 – 53. *Acting for the Camera.* Focus, Energy, Emotions

**Week 3**: Sept. 4: Dry run rehearsal of monologues with audio/lighting/editing positions added. Students choose scene partners. Read pg. 54 – 68. *Acting for the Camera.* Spontaneity, Preparation.

Sept. 6: Tape of Monologues #1 - #4 – review playback.

**Week 4:** Sept. 11: Tape of Monologues #5 - #8 – review playback. Scene 1 selection due. Begin rehearsing scenes. Assignment of scene numbers/production crew assignments. Read pg. 69 – 82. *Acting for the Camera.*Facts…Imagination

Sept. 13 Tape of Monologues #9 - #12 – review playback.

**Week 5:** Sept. 18: Tape of Monologues #13 - #17 – review playback. Read pg.19 – 26, 83 – 92 *Acting for the Camera.*.\*Five monos today. **Sign-up scenes for today**

Sept. 20: Tape of Monologues #18 - #22 – review playback. \*Five monos today

**Week 6:** Sept. 25: **(Review Playback**) Dry run rehearsal of scenes with audio/lighting/editing positions added. Students choose scene partners. Read pg. 192 – 254. *Acting for the Camera.* Shooting the scene (not that long, most is filler script).

Sept. 27: Tape Scenes #1 - #3 – review playback.

**Week 7:** Oct. 2: Tape Scenes #4 - #6 – review playback. Read pg.122 – 137 *Acting for the Camera.*Selectivity, Personalization.

Oct. 4: Tape Scenes #7 - #9 – review playback.

**Week 8**: Oct. 9: Tape Scenes #10 - #11 – review playback.

Oct. 11: Commercials. Students choose Scene 2 partners. Read pg. 1 – 55, *Acting in Television Commercials* Into. to Commercials

**Week 9**: Oct. 16: Commercials, Read pg., 58 – 78. *Acting in Television Commercials*. Pictures, Preparation, The audition. Exercises.

Oct. 18: Commercials. The commercial job. Exercises, Scene 2 selection due. Begin rehearsing scenes. Assignment of scene numbers/production crew assignments.

**Week 10**: Oct. 23: The Commercial Audition, Exercises, Read pg., 79 – 148. *Acting in Television Commercials*

Oct. 25: Types of Commercials, Exercises.

**Week 11:** Oct. 30: Cold Reading commercials. Read pg. 148 – 189. *Acting in Television Commercials*. After the audition, getting the job.

Nov. 1: Review all cold reading commercials.

**Week 12:** Nov. 6: Dry run rehearsal of scenes with audio/lighting/editing positions added.

Nov. 8: Tape Scenes #1 - #3 – review playback. Read pg. 142 – 163. *Acting for the Camera*

**Week 13:** Nov. 13: Tape Scenes #4 - #6 – review playback. Read pg. 171 – 191. *Acting for the Camera*

Nov. 15: Tape Scenes #7 - #9 – review playback.

**Week 14**: Nov. 20: Tape Scenes #10 - #11 – review playback.

**Week 15**: Nov. 27: Instructor selection of cold reading scenes

Nov. 29: View playback. Cold reading scenes, monologues or commercials, students’ choice.

**Week 16**: Dec. 4: Review material from *Acting for the Camera* and *Acting in Television Commercials*.

Course syllabus, course requirements, assignments, and grading criteria are subject to change.

**Final Exam: Tues., Dec. 11th 11:00 – 1:30 p.m.**