

Course Syllabus

Fundamentals of Acting

A course syllabus by MasterClass Studio (created by Warunya Soontorntae)

Course Description

The Fundamentals of Acting Course is a course about understanding the basics of acting through Exploration, Explanation and Expression. We work from the Self, Raw Material and Experience of the students themselves to prepare them to become professional actors.

Before exploring different kinds of acting we study about the essence of being human. In the Human Essences part of the course the students will learn and understand the heart of what it means to be human. This is essential for every actor. We explore our own nature and that of our fellow students. Through this process we get a deeper understanding of human nature itself. We can see the beauty of the differences between us. We understand the reasons and objectives / needs of ourselves and the others. We understand how the actions of ourselves and others and how they are influenced by what others have done to us. Through this reciprocal process we gain a deeper understanding of ourselves and of others. This is the initial process of analyzing a character, in order to see the deeper depths and details that play a role in each action and decision-making.

Studying acting means studying human nature. The same is true for all theatre practitioners. As actors our students need to have a deep understanding what theatre is giving to life, what theatre is giving to the audience. Our students need to understand what the Message and the Theme of theatre is. In addition to that they need to send these to the audience by being the character they are playing.

<p>Week 1</p>	<p>Human Essences</p>	<p>Topic: Journey of Your Life Message: We can't change our past, but we can put the experiences and lessons we learned into the drawers of our life and make a gift wrapper around them, since they are gifts to our life.</p> <p>We will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is acting? (Discussion of understanding what acting is) - Exploration of yourself - Imagination (Opening your imagination to overcome your obstacles) - Main Activity: Going Back in Time) - What is the happiest experience of your life? - What is the saddest experience of your life? <p>If you could go back in time what would you like to have done / said and to whom? (Monologue)</p> <p>Bridge Out: Sharing. How to deal with your past and what have you learned from it.</p> <p>Role Play based on the stories that were shared (Reflection and Realization)</p>
<p>Week 2</p>	<p>Human Essences</p>	<p>Topic: Love Message: Love is giving without expecting anything in return. Love means to sacrifice</p> <p>Bridge in: Sensory Recall + Imagination</p> <p>What does love mean to you?</p> <p>Main Activity: Monologue about love</p> <p>Bridge Out: Sharing: What does love mean to you?</p>
<p>Week 3</p>	<p>Human Essences</p>	<p>Topic: Pride Message: Our pride may not stem from achieving what we wanted. But through the uncertainty of life our pride depends on whether we dwell on past achievements or we continue to pursue our goal. If one day it is not as we expected, do we want to continue on the path or do we find a new goal in our lives. That we keep advancing to our goal or that we keep continuing the struggle of our lives is where true pride lies.</p>

		<p>Bridge in: Speed/ Slow/ Step / Stop / Start</p> <p>Which part of your body leads the whole body?</p> <p>Which part of your body are you proud of and which part not?</p> <p>Instinct Recall: Through instinctive responses what are the things you like, don't like, make you happy, or love or make you feel proud</p> <p>Something that you feel you belonged to</p> <p>Main Activity: Imagination on Pride What do you take pride in in your life?</p> <p>Monologue about pride</p> <p>Bridge out: Sharing: Discoveries about pride today</p>
<p>Week 4</p>	<p>Human Essences</p>	<p>Topic: Happiness Message: Happiness is being.</p> <p>As long as we breathe and open our eyes and want to do something, be with somebody this may be the most important reason for our happiness. Happiness doesn't have to be building the biggest things in life or earning loads of money. But happiness lies in the present. That we breathe. That we can lead the life that we want to lead. That we have Life Force to create different moments. Again. Every moment.</p> <p>Bridge in: What is Happiness in your life?</p> <p>Happiness is just being</p> <p>Main Activity: Imagination on Happiness If something that belonged to you and you think is the source of your happiness, if that source is gone, how will you deal with it? If we lose everything in our lives, even parts of our body until all there is left is our breathe, how can we still find happiness in our lives? (Ability to enjoy)</p> <p>Monologue about "You"</p>

		<p>Your life and happiness in your life <i>First monologue test</i></p> <p>Bridge out: Write a diary if after today you won'</p>
Week 5	First Time Dialogue	<p>What is Dialogue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the difference between a dialogue and a monologue - Objective <p>The objective of the character is at the core that all actors need to grasp and understand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflict - Action – Reaction - Believing in the Situation - Being in Character - Improvising Dialogue
Week 6	Dialogue	<p>Character Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background - Super Objective / Objective <p>First Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beat - Sequence <p>Script Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theme - Message - Protagonist - Center Character <p>Blocking and Stage Presence</p>
Week 7		Rehearsal Role Play
Week 8		<p>Dialogue Test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being the character – 20 points - Grasping the objective – 20 points - Action – Reaction – 20 points - Stage Presence – 20 points
Week 9	Scene work or Whole Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The difference of playing with more than 2 characters - Working with a script - Working as a group - Analysis of the whole script - Handing out a script (40 Minutes length) - Assigning characters

		- First Reading
Week 10		First Rehearsal - Blocking - Analysis
Week 11		Second Rehearsal
Week 12		Third rehearsal
Week 13	Showcase	