Theater 21 – "Acting for Camera"
Syllabus – Summer Session C, 2015

"Film Performance"

In this class we'll explore one of the most prominent aspects of the cinema – film acting. Through on-camera exercises and scene analysis, students will develop their film acting techniques and gain an understanding of the qualities that make camera performance a unique craft and art form.

Class meetings will consist of film acting exercises, scene and performance analysis, and lecture/class discussion. Outside of class, students will be expected to read the assigned essays, analyze film performances, search for scripted scenes, and rehearse their scenes.

Required Reading
-Essays and Scenes to be provided in class.

Suggested Textbook Reading (Not Required)
-“Acting for the Camera” by Tony Barr
-“Acting in Film” by Michael Caine

Week 1
Topics
- Theater Acting vs. Camera Acting
- Single Camera vs. Multi-Camera
- Juxtaposition vs. “Acting”
- Understanding Lenses and Frame Size
- Understanding the Film Crew
- The Audition

In-Class Activities
- Review Screenplay Format
- The Audition Experience - Cold Reading
- Scene Analysis
- Partners for the “Coverage Scene” will be assigned (to be filmed Week 3)

Home Assignments
- Find and rehearse a monologue to perform on camera (for Week 2)
- Read Screenplay (from coverage scene) as research for your character
- Read Kathleen Turner Essay (provided by instructor)
Week 2
Topics
- Identifying Character
- Monologue Performance
- Hitting Your Marks
- Camera Coverage
- Continuity (Physical and Emotional)
- Scene Analysis

In-Class Activities
- Camera Crew Tutorials
- Monologues On-Camera
- Review Monologues

Home Assignment
- Rehearse Scene for “Coverage Scene” (Scene 1 Assignment)

Week 3
Topics
- Shooting with Coverage
- Matching Takes
- Acting and Choreography on Axis Coverage

In-Class Activities
- Film Scene 1 - “Coverage Scene”
  Note: This exercise will emulate a real film shoot experience and will take up the entire week of class.

Week 4
Topics
- The Fluid Master
- Choreography and the Moving Camera

In-Class Activities
- Review Coverage Dailies (partial)
  - Partners for the “Fluid Master Scene” will be assigned (to be filmed Weeks 5 and 6)
  - On Camera Cold Read (time permitted)

Home Assignment
- Find and Rehearse Scene for “Fluid Master Scene” (Scene 2 Assignment)
Week 5
Topic
- Creative choices for actors
- The “Two-Versions” exercise

In-Class Activities
- Film Scene 2 - “Fluid Master Scene”
  Note: This exercise will emulate a real film shoot experience and will take up the entire class on Thursday.

Home Assignment
- Find and Rehearse segment for Two Versions Exercise

Week 6
Topic
- What did we learn from the Fluid Master Scene?

In-Class Activities
- Film Scene 2 (cont.)- “Fluid Master Scene”
  Note: This exercise will emulate a real film shoot experience and will take up the entire class on Tuesday.
- View Scene 2 (“Fluid Master Scene”)
- Shoot the “Two-Versions” exercise

Additional Information

Student Expectations
- Participate in all assignments and attend every class.
- Be professional and prepared for every assignment.
- Participate in teamwork and share ideas and creativity.
- Support your fellow actors.

Grading: Your final grade will be based on:
- Class Participation in Discussions/Feedback: 20%
- Participation in all Productions as Crew: 20%
- Monologue: 10%
- Coverage Scene: 20%
- Fluid Master Scene: 20%
- Two Versions Exercise: 10%
CONTACT INFO:
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If you wish to request an accommodation due to a suspected or documented disability, please inform your instructor and contact the Office for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible at A255 Murphy Hall, (310) 825-1501, (310) 206-6083 (telephone device for the deaf). Website: www.osd.cla.edu

Schedule, assignments and other information on this syllabus are subject to change.