

WORKSHOP OUTLINE: THEATRE PRODUCTION

12-24 weeks, optimally 14+

needs: a quiet room large enough to serve as a studio classroom and rehearsal space, chairs for all participants (six to twelve students and an instructor) plus four for rehearsal use, simple furniture as needed by the script, a whiteboard or chalkboard, and a desk or table for instructor's materials.

instructor: JAMISON

When the workshop is completed, all members will be able to:

- + Improvise dialogue and characters efficiently and without undue hesitation
- + Explain theatrical characters and situations in terms of intention, conflict, and stakes
- + Memorize and perform dialogue and monologues
- + Create a character or characters based on a script (to be adapted from an existing comedic public domain script in order to fit the workshop members committed to the project and an appropriate running time and the practical limits of staging under workshop conditions)
- + Perform the final project: A completed performance for inmates and invited guests of the memorized and rehearsed project

Order of instruction is somewhat variable, depending upon length of workshop and number and personalities of performers involved.

- = Introduction: to story, theatre, characters, performance. Basic group theatre games. Reading synopses of possible scripts.
- = Acting exercises: Under the guidance and encouragement of the workshop leader, these focus upon improvisational scenes and theatre games designed to develop group communication and responsibility. Includes basic character work based on motivation, situation and expectation. This is also a time in which the workshop leader can begin to suss out the strengths of each member in terms of eventual casting of the show. Eventually, these exercises will shift towards working on the chosen script, turning eventually toward rehearsing a fully-cast project.
- = Techniques: Approaches to memorization, creating character, physical storytelling.
- = Performance: Completed performance of the rehearsed production.
- = Conclusion: Certificates of merit presented to all members who completed their final projects successfully, certificates of participation to those who (for whatever reason) weren't able to do so but attended and participated regularly.

Equipment and Supplies

- = Composition books and paper folders (two books and three folders for each participant)
- = Photocopying services for scripts and instructional materials
- = Two large boxes of basic black and blue BIC PaperMate stick pens (for use in rehearsals only)
- = Two HP74XL printing cartridges, one HP75 printing cartridge
- = Dry erase markers (or chalk, if room has a chalkboard) and erasers

While the focus will be to present the story with minimal technical additions (through pantomime and other imagination-based action), some scripts may need specific physical objects to make the play work.

= Props as required by the selected script. Most will be cartoon-like in nature, and brightly colored. All will be submitted for approval in advance, and all will be checked off entering and exiting the rehearsal hall (in addition to institutional searches and inspections).

= Costume pieces as required by the selected script. All will be purchased through thrift stores. All will be partial pieces put on over inmate uniforms. None will fully obscure the uniform underneath. All will be submitted for approval in advance, and all will be checked off entering and exiting the rehearsal hall (in addition to institutional searches and inspections).

= Wigs and makeup as needed by the selected script. None will be realistic in nature, all will be applied under the supervision of the instructor. All will be submitted for approval in advance, and all will be checked off entering and exiting the rehearsal hall (in addition to institutional searches and inspections).

= Furniture as required by the selected script. All will be supplied by (or, if brought in, be similar to furniture within) the institution. All will be requested in advance; any pieces to be brought in will be submitted for approval in advance and be subject to institutional searches and inspections.

= For final rehearsals and performance, a space large enough to both permit the necessary actions of the show and hold a seated audience will be required.

TEXT DEVELOPMENT:

= Instructor will need up to an additional seven hours of prep time to develop the adaptation for AIC project use and as an independent contractor will retain all copyright in and of the adaptation.