

Fall 2008

SUNY CORTLAND

THT 120.601

Acting I

Professor Kevin T Halpin
Office **217** Dowd Fine Arts

Phone 753-4599
email:halpink@cortland.edu

Office Hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:30-12:30	10:00-12:30	11:30-12:30	9:00-11:30	By appointment

This is a studio and study course designed to introduce the basic elements of Acting technique and begin to develop each individual's acting instrument. This course provides a strong foundation for a student who wishes to develop a professional acting ability and will bolster confidence, effectiveness in social situations, perceptions of human interaction and presentation abilities of the non-performance oriented students.

Through various exercises, assignments and scene work we will identify the essential tools for an actor. Relaxation, concentration, trust, courage, focus and imagination will all be challenged and expanded or refined.

Since an actor's instrument is their body, we will be getting very physical in class. Interaction both physically and emotionally with other students is essential to success in this course. We will do various physical exercises to warm up the body and explore its expressiveness.

TEXT: There is a text required for this course *Impro* by Keith Johnstone. We will discuss the book in class, but it is also a valuable tool to apply to other work throughout the semester. Periodically I will be handing out other reading material as well.

ATTIRE: Since physical activity is essential to working in this class students should dress in clothes that do not restrict movement. Footwear should be either sneakers or dance shoes-- no heels, platforms or open sandals. As the weather gets colder, it is recommended that students dress in layers for health and comfort. **NO JEWELRY.** Small post style earrings in pierced ears are acceptable.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES:

You are required to see a performance of the following production:

LUNA PARK October 26-Nov 2

You will be required to write a performance critique of the production, 3-5 typed pages. If you are cast in the production you may submit a rehearsal journal. The journal must include the audition process, and contain entries for each rehearsal you are called for. It must also include a brief summary of your experience working on the piece, from an acting perspective. If you intend to submit a journal you must make that clear at the class following the posting of the cast list.

If you choose to write a critique I do not want a general review of the production. I want a specific analysis of the Actors work as it relates to the various issues and techniques we discuss in class.

GRADING: Final grades will be determined in the following manner:

Silent Scene 5% *
Open Scene1 10% *
Open scene 2 15% *
Group Project 10% *
Observation Project 10% *
Monologue 10% *
Final scene 15% *
Participation /effort 10%
Performance critique 5%

Each scene assignment also requires a particular written assignment to be turned in*

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed 2 absences for the semester. Missing class on a scheduled presentation will significantly lower the grade for that assignment. An assignment may not be “made up” after a second missed presentation.

I hope you are all looking forward to the semester as much as I am.

If you are a student with a disability and wish to request accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services located in B-40 Van Hoesen Hall or call (607) 753-2066 for an appointment. Information regarding your disability will be treated in a confidential manner. Because many accommodations require early planning, requests for accommodations should be made as early as possible.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The College is an academic community that values academic integrity and takes seriously its responsibility for upholding academic honesty. The instructor adheres strictly to the college policy on academic dishonesty. You are expected to read and adhere to the college policy (see college handbook)