

Las Positas College  
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## Course Outline for THEA 5

### CHILDREN'S THEATER

Effective: Fall 2004

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 5 — CHILDREN'S THEATER — 1.00 - 3.00 units

Introduction to the techniques of formal children's theater. Creation and performance of a theatrical production designed for children. Casting subject to audition.

1.00 - 3.00 Units Lecture

#### Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

#### Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>	<u>MAX</u>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	18.00	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	18.00	54.00

#### II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 4

#### III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- A. Performed in a Las Positas College touring children's theater production, attending rehearsals, preparing for the role outside of rehearsals and appearing in public performances, or
- B. Worked behind the scenes in preparing this children's theater show, as stage manager, set builder, costumer.
- C. Developed a sense of responsibility to self and others in the process of preparing the theatrical production;
- D. Experienced the confidence personal growth and joy that come from both the process of creating and sharing a theatrical production for children.
- E. Successfully perform or work behind the scenes in a touring children's theater production;
- F. As an actor, create and perform a characterization that is believable, accurate, consistent, and energized;
- G. As a backstage worker, work well with supervisors to complete assigned technical tasks;
- H. Work creatively with other actors in an acting ensemble;
- I. Work cooperatively with all people involved in creating a theatrical production;
- J. Make use of specific techniques of acting and stagecraft that are unique to children's theater.

#### V. CONTENT:

- A. Auditions and casting
- B. Rehearsals
  1. Introduction to the play, playwright, style and background
  2. Blocking
  3. Memorization of lines
  4. Character work
    - a. Analysis and research
    - b. Physical life
    - c. Vocal life
    - d. Inner life
  5. Coaching by director
  6. Working rehearsals
    - a. Work by individual actors
    - b. Work by the cast as a whole
    - c. Pacing
    - d. Polishing
    - e. Sustaining characterization, energy, freshness
  7. Building the set, costumes, and props
  8. Run throughs
  9. Technical and dress rehearsals
- C. Performances

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lecture, discussion and research on the play, style and author.
- B. Individual study, research and creative work by each actor

- C. Continued supervision, feedback and coaching during the performance period
- D. Coaching, feedback and guidance from the director/instructor
- E. Performances
- F. Group rehearsals with various cast members.

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Write a character analysis of the character you are playing 1. Biography 2. Physical characteristics 3. Inner life 4. Objectives, tactics and obstacles B. Learn the lines and cues for a particular scene 1. Outside of class memorization 2. In class rehearsals C. Build a particular part of the set 1. Work with others 2. Work on your own, with supervision

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Papers
- 2. Class Participation
- 3. Class Performance
- 4. Other:
  - a. Completion of assigned tasks as actor or backstage worker
    - 1. Rehearsals
    - 2. Performances
  - b. Attendance and punctuality
  - c. Level of responsibility in being prepared, e.g. Lines being memorized on time.
  - d. Degree and spirit of participation in the creative process
  - e. Level of cooperation in working with cast and staff members
  - f. Written work such as character analyses
  - g. Quality of performances and technical work

B. **Frequency**

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Script of the play being performed

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: