

Course description: An introductory course aimed at developing the actor's craft with techniques for speaking the verse and heightened prose texts of Shakespeare's plays.

Required Text: John Barton's "Playing Shakespeare". (*Used Texts available for as little as \$2.99 plus shipping*)

Required scripts: Hamlet, Twelfth Night, Merchant of Venice & Julius Caesar. (*Recommend inexpensive Signet Editions.*)

Students should also choose 2 Sonnets.

Week 1

- The marriage of Two traditions: Stanislavsky & Shakespeare. "The actor must have the imagination to create, but the craft to become the creation." - Jerzy Grotowski.
- Stanislavsky, Objectives, & Subtext: In the following order, we will be using Hamlet, 12th Night, Merchant of Venice, & Julius Caesar as basic texts during the first four weeks.

Week 2

- Continue exploration of naturalistic acting techniques with direct analysis of verse and prose.
- Assign and/or explore monologues and short scenes from Hamlet & 12th Night.
- Students will start choosing scenes & monologues from any of the 4 required plays for further study & performance at the end of the course.

Week 3

- Exploration of scenes & monologues from Julius Caesar and Merchant of Venice.
- Continue to explore how to use verse with an aim toward more clarity and comprehension.

Week 4

- Continuing to explore how language leads directly to the heart of Shakespeare's characters through rhythms, choice of imagery, and idiom.
- Learning the rules of verse speaking and the judicious use of breaking them to avoid the practice of absolute orthodoxies!

Weeks 5-6

- Comparing & contrasting the four plays under review.
- Practicing scenes and monologues that were assigned in earlier classes.

- Begin the process of bringing it all together to tell the story of each play studied as clearly and as comprehensively as possible!

Weeks 7-8

- Rehearsing & Performing Shakespeare!
- These weeks will include rehearsing and polishing materials chosen by the students during the first 3 weeks of the course. At least 1 scene and 1 monologue will be required. A sonnet may be included or substituted for a monologue.