Acting II 1339-Spring 2010  
M,W 8:30am-10am & 10am-11:30  
Course: THEA 1339 Core Ensemble  
University of Houston –The School of Theatre & Dance  
Instructor: Jackie deMontmollin -- office hours by appointment  
Preferred Contact: jdemontmollin@uh.edu  

Course Description  
The Core Ensemble Student will be able to:  
- Practice preparatory exercises for rehearsal and performance  
- Maintain a fitness routine  
- Practice rehearsal and audience etiquette  
- Develop two duet scenes for jury consideration  
- Maintain an audition binder and resume  
- Analyze live performance and written works  
- Write, develop and apply varied character objectives, obstacles and tactics  
- Apply elements of action to monologue/scene work  
- Apply Guideposts to scene work  
- Self evaluate scene work and monologues  
- Create truthful characters and relationships for rehearsal and performance  
- Respond to direction based on specific vocabulary and concepts covered in class and in readings  
- Constructively evaluate elements of a production as an audience member  

Course Requirements:  
Materials Needed:  
- Proper Attire (outlined below)  
- Sign in on time every day (you must sign yourself in).  
- Script at every class  
- Two sharpened pencils  
- Two- two inch binders with dividers for script, notes and analysis & for your Monologue Book.  
- Paper for notes  
- Yoga mat at every class  
- Actor’s Thesaurus at every class  
- Bottle of water  
- 3 copies of the script your duet scene is from  

Required Texts:  
Amazon.com link to this text:  
http://www.amazon.com/Audition-Everything-Actor-Needs-Know/dp/0802772404/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1243884379&sr=1-1  

Amazon link:  
“I Am My Own Wife” by Doug Wright  
http://www.amazon.com/I-Am-My-Own-Wife/dp/0822220245/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1263415965&sr=1-1

“Ruined” by Lynn Nottage  
http://www.amazon.com/Ruined-Lynn-Nottage/dp/155936355X/ref=tmm_pap_title_0

In addition: three (3) copies of the play your duet scene is from.

**Supplemental Texts (suggested but not required to purchase)**

“Respect for Acting” by Uta Hagen  
http://www.amazon.com/Respect-Acting-Uta-Hagen/dp/0470228482/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1263927510&sr=8-1

“A Challenge for The Actor” by Uta Hagen  

**Participation:**

Clothing for classes and rehearsal:

You need to be dressed out in “neutral” work out clothing and ready to work at the top of class (prior to roll) – you must wear clothing that covers your torso and at least 3/4 length “sweats” or tights and no shorts–

- Comfortable clothing to move in no fabrics that make *swoosh* sounds as you move please (such as wind material)
- Sweats, not too baggy (need to be able to see subtle body movements) or Leggings- avoid flared pants please (tripping hazard)
- Dressing in layers is helpful as room temperature varies
- No jewelry
- Hair off face (Hair tie or tight fitting cap/scarf that will not fall off)
- We will work barefoot at times– you must have clean feet before you enter the room. If we are working in shoes, wear only tennis shoes, sports shoes or dance shoes (character or jazz). No street shoes, sandals, clogs, flip flops, etc. should be worn to class/rehearsal.
- Bring capped bottle of water to every class.

**Begin getting your rehearsal wardrobe in place:**

**Women:**

- Rehearsal skirt: in making the rehearsal skirt, look for a fabric with solid weight for a floor length skirt (leave extra room in the hem so you can adjust for different heel height), on a drawstring, with a panel you can add for a train or to go over a bustle or other period additions.
- Character shoes with 1" heel (other shoes with heels of varying heights would be good too).
- For the future: look for corsets, hats, gloves, ballet slippers, black tights/leotards, accessories (compact, lorgnette, cig holder etc).

**Gentlemen:**

- Black leather dress shoes (with real soles—not rubber).
- Dark, well-fitting suit
- White dress shirt (with a neck size that is truly
comfortable for you!) This suit is one you won't mind getting sweaty in, or working through the fight scene where the lapels get grabbed again and again in rehearsal.

- Tie
- *For the future:* look for are ballet shoes, boots with a decent heel (cowboy boots are ok, but you could use a square-toed pair that might serve any number of periods), other suit coats (dbl breasted, 3/4/5 button, etc.) hats, gloves, canes, bowties, cummerbund, poet shirt, accessories (flask, cig case, etc).

**Note: We are NOT ADVOCATING BUYING ANY OF THIS NEW; thrift stores are a good place to begin your collection.**

**Other Important Notes:**
- Be Prompt (to class on time – you must be in the room while roll is being taken – you are “late” to class if you show up after roll call). Be sure to sign in upon arrival; do not disrupt the work. Tardiness for two classes is considered an absence and can impact your grade and the jury process.
- Do not bring food into the theatre.
- Fully commit. Watch, listen, and fully contribute in all exercises and discussions. Come to class every day with an *open heart* and an *open mind*.
- Make a habit of checking the callboard twice daily
- Participate in required departmental Casting Assessments (May, 2010 & August 2010)
  - Prepare and perform two contrasting monologues and song if required for August
  - Prepare and perform one or two duet scenes for May Casting Assessment.
  - Dress in appropriate attire
  - Arrive on time and display a professional and friendly demeanor
  - Complete all necessary paperwork on time, accurately and legibly
  - Schedule a meeting following each casting assessment with your assigned mentor. It is your responsibility to meet with your mentor.
  - Be sure your resume and headshot are updated and placed in the book in the administrative offices each semester.
- You will be required to attend *every main stage production* in The School of Theatre & Dance and write a review. You will also be required to attend strike for every mainstage show and load in for selected shows (“Big Love” this semester).
  - Required strike attire includes:
    - Closed toe work shoes (no heels)
    - Pants
    - No jewelry
    - Hair tied back
    - Fitted work clothes that can accept some “wear and tear”
    - Have a “can-do” attitude at strike. We do not appreciate “helpless actors” in this program.

**Class/Rehearsal Environment/Expectations:**
Be attentive and respectful toward your classmates and director at all times.

- Arrive on time ready to work
Silence cell phones during class
○ Have a pencil, script and paper for notes at all rehearsals/classes
○ Notate all blocking, write down all notes
○ Stay focused on the work; Refrain from side conversations
○ Take all direction the first time it is given; listen to all direction as other’s notes can impact you and you can learn from them. Good actors are good listeners.
○ Refrain from “directing” your peers unless asked by the instructor to do so.
○ Keep outside material stored away including material from other classes, ipods, etc.
○ Leave “personal baggage” at the door
○ Exhibit an “attitude of gratitude.”
○ Represent yourself and The School of Theatre & Dance well at all times
○ Respect this space and leave it better than you found it

Absence and Lateness: This course follows the UH School of Theatre & Dance policy regarding absence and lateness.
  Three absences = one full letter grade deduction (i.e. a "B" becomes a "C").
  Four absences = two full letters grade deduction.
  Five absences = automatic "F" grade for the course.
  Entering class after the roll has been called constitutes lateness.
  Lateness for two classes = one absence.

In the event of illness keep all doctor records and submit them with an appeal form at the end of the semester.

Rehearsal: You will need rehearse and prepare outside of class, individually and with your performance partners.

Assignments/Deadlines: Performance assignments must be fully rehearsed and ready to present. Written assignments must be turned in on the due date. “The Show Must Go On” is an Ethic that we adhere to in The School of Theatre & Dance and in this course.

You will Perform:
  Each of you must find one duet scene and perform two duet scenes. You will select two different a partners from your section .
  You must purchase three copies of the script you select your duet scene from. One copy will be provided to your scene partner, one copy for the instructor and one copy for your own use. The instructor copy will be returned to you at the final showing of your duet.

You will maintain:
• A personal audition source book in a three ring binder & resume
• You will Write:
  ○ Six two page, double spaced, reflection papers
  ○ Three two page, double spaced, play reviews
  ○ One Final Exam

You will Read & analyze:
• At least two full length plays (plays your duet scenes are from).
• Two additional plays that we will discuss as a class (“I Am My Own Wife” & “Ruined”)

You will Attend:
• The Rec Center once per week for thirty minutes and sign in as a part of your grade
• All Mainstage productions at UH
• Strike for all UH productions
Critiques: You will have written critiques that will be in conjunction with attending specific theatrical productions.

Note: Heading for all submissions for Core Ensemble Acting 1338 should be in this format at the top of every page submitted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name, first name</th>
<th>The University of Houston</th>
<th>Assignment Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>deMontmollin</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acting 1338</td>
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No late assignments: No late assignments (written or performance) will be accepted.

Conferences: You are welcome to schedule meetings with the instructor during the course of the semester. This will be an opportunity to discuss any questions you may have or your progress and current standing for the class. It is not acceptable to use class time for these discussions; please schedule a conference.

Grading 1338:
45% - Performance & Paper Assignments (including written work related to the performance, play reviews)
45% - Participation (promptness, preparation, participation, focus, commitment, reflection papers, weekly workouts)
10% - Final Exam

Final Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>0-59</td>
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We will follow the School of Theatre & Dance Absence and Late Policy, and the Min. Grade and Min. GPA Protocols. All students are responsible to understand and abide by these policies.

This course is intended to further your preparation as a successful core ensemble member in a juried University level acting program and to assist you in developing healthy work and life habits as a performer.

Tentative Schedule for 1339 (Subject to additions and changes)

Guest Speaker: “Undergrad” The Musical
Reflection #1 Write a two page, double spaced reflection on what you believe are your current strengths and weaknesses as an actor based on your development and work last semester. Reflection and Duet Scene Script
DUE Monday 1/25.

Mon. 1/25  Duet Scenes Due (Bring full script to class & a Copy of script due to Jackie)
Review Script/Character Analysis Expectations

Wed. 1/27  Overview-Writing an Effective Play Review, Review Guideposts 1-3
Mon. 2/1   Guidepost 4-5
Duet Scene Character/Script Analysis Due

Wed. 2/3   9-11AM (BOTH SECTIONS MEET AT THIS TIME)
Guest Lecturer-Ms. Cindi Davis-Andress Pastorini-Bosby Talent Agency, Inc.

Reflection #2 Write a two page-double spaced reflection on your professional goals in this industry. Include your concerns and also your hopes.  
**DUE Wed. 2/3.**

Fri. 2/5 & Sat. 2/6 Load in for “BIG LOVE” (Participation Required)
Mon. 2/8 Duet Scene Workshop OFF BOOK
Wed. 2/10 8:30-11:30AM (BOTH SECTIONS MEET AT THIS TIME)

Guest Teaching Artist Chris Craig-Comedy Sportz Houston

Reflection #3 Write a two page-double spaced reflection on how you will incorporate three concepts covered by Chris Craig into your performance/process experiences.  **DUE Monday 2/15**

Fri. 2/12 “BIG LOVE” Opens February 26 – 27, March 4 – 6 at 8:00 pm
February 28 and March 7 at 2:00 pm Wortham Theatre

“Big Love” Play Review
**Due Wednesday 3/10**

Sat. 2/13 REQUIRED School of Theatre & Dance OPEN HOUSE 9am-4pm
Mon. 2/15 Guidepost 6-7 Duet Scene 1 Workshop
Wed. 2/17 Guidepost 8-9 Duet Scene 1 Workshop
Mon. 2/22 **Duet Scene 1 Performance**
Wed. 2/24 Duet Scene 1 Performance

**Reflection #4 - Write a two page-double spaced reflection on your duet scene process and experience.  DUE Monday 3/1**

Fri. 2/26 “BIG LOVE” Opens February 26 – 27, March 4 – 6 at 8:00 pm

**“Big Love” Play Review**
**Due Wednesday 3/10**

Sat. 2/27 REQUIRED School of Theatre & Dance OPEN HOUSE 9am-4pm
Mon. 3/1 Overview of reading a play & research expectations
Guidepost 10-11
Wed. 3/3 Guidepost 12 and review of all GP’s
**Duet Scene 2- Script Due to Jackie**
Mon. 3/8 **Discussion “I Am My Own Wife”**
Wed. 3/10 Duet Scene 2 Work Session OFF BOOK
Mon. 3/15 SPRING BREAK BEGINS
Mon. 3/22 Duet Scene 2 Work Session
Wed. 3/24 Duet Scene 2 **Script/Character Analysis Due**
Mon. 3/29 Duet Scene 2 Work Session
Wed. 3/31 Hagen DVD with Sub

**Reflection #5 Write a two page double spaced reflection on the process you observed in Uta Hagen’s work sessions and what you will carry forward to inform your own process.  Due Monday 4/5.**

Mon. 4/5 Duet Scene 2 First showing
Wed. 4/7 Duet Scene 2 First showing
Fri. 4/9 MFA Studio Shakespeare Productions Open

**HENRY V** April 9 at 7:00 pm  April 10 at 5:00 pm  April 11 at 5:00 pm

**TAMING OF THE SHREW** April 9 at 9:30 pm  April 10 at 8:00 pm  April 11 at 2:00 pm

**MFA Studio Play Reviews**
**DUE Wed. 4/14 (Review one of these two productions)**

Mon. 4/12 Duet Scene 2 Work Session
Begin Reading/research assignment for “Ruined”
Wed. 4/14 Duet Scene 2 Work Session
Fri. 4/16 Dangerous Liaisons OPENS  April 16 – 17, 22 – 24 at 8:00 pm
“Dangerous Liaisons” Play Review
DUE Wed. 4/28

Mon. 4/19  Duet Scene 2 Final Showing
Wed. 4/21  Duet Scene 2 Final showing

Reflection #6 Write a two page double spaced reflection on the evolution of your process from working on Duet scene one to working on Duet scene two. How have you developed and improved? What will you carry forward?
DUE Mon. 4/26.

Mon. 4/26  Process reflection due and discussion; selection of Juried Duet Scene.
Wed. 4/28  Discussion “Ruined”
Mon. 5/3  Last day of class-Review for Final

DUE: Four New Monologues for your Audition Source Book

Mon. 5/10  8am-11am FINAL EXAM/JURY for faculty of Duets

Final Exam Reflection: Reflect on the past year and your development as an actor. How have you grown? What are three goals you have as you move forward as a theatre artist?

Logging on to Blackboard Vista. Blackboard Vista is an online course system that provides a framework and tools for instructors to put course material and activities online. Registered students are loaded into Blackboard Vista courses from the registration system. Starting a few days before classes start, registered students are loaded automatically into courses based on class numbers provided by instructors. Students who register late should allow at least 1-2 working days for their access to be enabled.

The Blackboard user name is the student’s PeopleSoft ID. First-time student users of Blackboard Vista can get their PeopleSoft ID by using one of the following options:
1) In person in Room 116-PGH on the main campus, Monday-Friday, 8 am to 8 pm (except University holidays).
2) By phone at 713-743-1411, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (except University holidays).

Starting on the first day of classes, students can use their PeopleSoft ID, to log on to Blackboard Vista courses by going to http://www.uh.edu/webct and clicking the blue “Blackboard Vista” button.

A student’s initial password uses the format mmddyya! where mmddyy is the student’s birthdate with a 2-digit year, and the letter ‘a’ is the first letter of the student’s last name. The exclamation point is part of the password and must be entered. For example, new student Joan Smith born on April 1, 1989 would have an initial password of 040189s!. Blackboard user names and passwords are case sensitive. Students must change their passwords the first time they log on to Blackboard and every 90 days after that. Support for students using Blackboard Vista is available in multiple ways:
1) Online at http://www.uh.edu/blackboard under “Student Help”.
2) In person in Room 116-PGH on the main campus, Monday-Friday, 8 am to 8 pm (except university holidays).
3) By phone at 713-743-1411, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (except university holidays).
4) By sending email to support@uh.edu with the student’s full name, course name and number, section number, instructor’s name and a description of the problem.
5) By live chat, http://www.uh.edu/infotech/livechat - Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm (except university holidays)