

SYLLABUS – THAR 10A
Santa Rosa Junior College
Spring 2020

THAR 10A – Introduction to Acting Technique

Tuesday & Thursday Noon–2:30am

Room: Burbank Auditorium – Room 129, Santa Rosa Campus

Instructor: Reed Martin

Email: rmartin@santarosa.edu

Phone: 527-4999, Ext. 5297

Office Hours: TTh 2:20-2:50pm. Burbank Auditorium – Adjunct Office, 145 Burbank Auditorium

Required Text: *ACTING ONSTAGE & OFF* by Robert Barton – Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6. Available in the SRJC Bookstore new or used. Also on Reserve in the SRJC Library. Can also be rented for the term. Details on book rentals are available in the SRJC bookstore. If you have questions, feel free to email the bookstore manager, Will Crawford, at wcrawford@santarosa.edu.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to analyze, rehearse, memorize and perform characters from modern realistic plays in a variety of performance situations at a beginning acting level.

Course Objectives:

In order to achieve these learning outcomes, during the course the student will:

1. Apply and demonstrate control of basic vocal acting techniques including projection, articulation, and breath support.
2. Apply and demonstrate control of basic physical acting techniques including relaxation, "alert restfulness," and motivated action.
3. Develop and demonstrate ability to concentrate and maintain focus, awareness, and spontaneity while acting.
4. Demonstrate basic techniques of physical and vocal characterization.
5. Used direct observation and basic research techniques in creating a character.
6. Analyze a script and document that analysis, applying basic principles and techniques of Stanislavski-based psychological realism to develop a character,
7. Work collaboratively within partnered and/or ensemble acting situations in the development of characters, whether scripted or improvised.
8. Apply basic improvisational acting techniques, including listening, responding, being in the moment, focusing, "saying yes" and respecting one another.
9. Memorize, retain, and accurately perform scripted text.
10. Assess and critique a performance from an observer's point of view, applying constructive evaluation techniques in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the acting within that performance.

11. Correctly use acting terminology and basic staging concepts during the rehearsal and performance process.
12. Rehearse, prepare, memorize, and perform a role in a partnered scene from a modern realistic play.
13. Rehearse, prepare, memorize, and perform a realistic monologue from a modern play following basic audition protocol and procedures.

Grading

Class Participation	30%
Blank Scene	10%
Monologue	15%
Scene	15%
Written Assignments	10%
Quizzes on Terms & Concepts	10%
Preparation, Attitude, Professionalism	10%
TOTAL	100%

Approximate Due Dates of Major Assignments:

February 6	Perform "Blank Scenes" in Class
March 24, 26	Perform Monologues in Class
May 14, 21	Perform Final Scenes in Class

From Reed: Welcome to the wonderful world of Introduction to Acting! For some of you this will be the first time that you have taken an acting course. Others of you have been performing since you were young children. In either case, if you are ready to work hard and have a good time then this is the class for you. We will be working on monologues, scenes and basic vocal techniques. I applaud you for taking a chance and committing to this class. We will all learn a great deal and have a great time.

About Reed: I am a working professional actor, playwright and director. I am best known for my work with the Reduced Shakespeare Company (www.reducedshakespeare.com). I have a BA in Drama and Political Science from Cal Berkeley and an MFA in Acting from UC San Diego. I am a member of Actor's Equity, Theatre Bay Area, Theatre Communications Group, the Dramatists Guild, and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. Prior to joining the Reduced Shakespeare Company, I attended Ringling Brothers Clown College and spent two years touring with the circus as a clown and assistant ringmaster. I have performed in 47 states and eleven foreign countries, including New Jersey.

Assignments

You are required to see performances both SRJC theatrical productions this term. As a registered student in a Theatre Arts class, you are entitled to one free ticket per show. It is best to get these tickets at the Box Office in Burbank Auditorium well ahead of the date you would like to attend the show because the performances do frequently sell out. Theatre Box Office (707) 527-4307. Box Office Hours: 12:00pm to 4:00pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday in Burbank Auditorium.

You are required to turn in your ticket stub for each show and to write a two page Character Analysis of one of the main characters in each of the plays.

THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN

By Martin McDonagh

From the bad boy of Irish Theatre and the screenwriter/director of "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri", comes a wickedly funny and heartbreaking tale of life in the 1930s on the Aran

Islands, off the west coast of Ireland. Life on Inishmaan is turned on its head when Hollywood film crews arrive on the neighboring island of Inishmore to film the now classic documentary, "The Man of Aran." Sensing an escape from poverty, gossip and his boring life, 'Cripple' Billy risks it all for a chance at stardom. Or does he?

Recommended for ages 16 and UP. Strong language and adult content

BURBANK STUDIO THEATRE
Burbank Auditorium, SRJC Santa Rosa Campus

March 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 at 8:00 PM

March 8, 14, 15 at 2:00 PM

Directed by Leslie McCauley

THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

THE WEDDING SINGER

Book by Chad Beguelin and Tim Herlihy

Music by Matthew Sklar

Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Based on the New Line Cinema film written by Tim Herlihy

Return to a time when hair was big, greed was good, and collars were up! Based on the hit Adam Sandler movie, rock star wannabe, Robbie Hart, is New Jersey's favorite wedding singer. He's the life of the party until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar. Shot through the heart, Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own until a winsome waitress steals his heart. But unless Robbie can pull off the performance of a decade, the girl of his dreams will be gone forever.

Recommended for age 13 and up. Strong language and adult content

BURBANK AUDITORIUM
SRJC Santa Rosa Campus

April 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30 May 1, 2 at 8:00 PM

April 19, 25, 26 May 2, 3 at 2:00 PM

Directed by John Shillington

Music Direction by Janis Dunson-Wilson

Vocal Director Tina Lloyd Meals

Choreography by Alyce Finwall

THE WEDDING SINGER is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 423 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019 Tel.: (212) 541-4684 Fax: (212) 397-4684 www.MTishows.com

For tickets call (707) 527-4307
Or purchase at our [Online Box Office](http://www.MTishows.com)

Monologues and Scenes

You will be required to memorize and rehearse one monologue to be performed in class. You are required to read the entire play from which the monologue is taken and turn in a short synopsis of the play. You will also be required to write a three-page biography of your character.

You will be required to memorize and rehearse one scene to be performed in class. You are required to read the entire play from which the scene is taken and turn in a short synopsis of it. You will also be required to write a three-page biography of your character.

Class Expectations

Preparing monologues and scenes for performance will require 5-6 outside-of-class rehearsals for each scene or monologue. You and your scene partner are equally responsible for scheduling and honoring these rehearsals.

Think of your scene partner as your best friend. You both will be depending on each other. Honor them by showing up for scheduled rehearsals and learning your lines. Be kind and patient with each other. Remember, when your scene partner shines, you shine.

If your scene or monologue is from a play that is not in the library, you may need to purchase the script in order to read it. Scripts usually cost between \$10.00 and \$15.00.

Materials Needed

We will be doing a good deal of physical and vocal warm-ups and exercises. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes in which you can move easily. Please no flip-flops or heels. Many scenes and monologues can be found in plays that are stocked in the library. You will also need to gather props and costume pieces for your scenes. Always bring a notebook and pencil to class.

Consumables: Only water is allowed during class time. Food, juices, soft drinks, chewing gum etc. are not allowed in class. We will take a short break about halfway through the class and you may eat or drink during that time.

Cell Phones & Texting: Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off and put away at the beginning of class. Texting, phone calls, head phones and any other electronic communication devices are forbidden during class time.

Guest Etiquette: Please do not bring "guests" into the classroom, including children and/or friends or relatives. This is an adult level class with discussions and lessons designed for those enrolled in the class.

Notes to Class

Because this is a class of sharing and discovery for all students, there are a few issues we need to be alertly sensitive about.

1. In our activities and improvisations, though you are required to think impulsively, please try to keep yourself cautioned against portraying offensive stereotypes particularly those targeted towards race and sexual orientation. Everybody's interpretations and humor limits vary. Please try and keep that in perspective.
2. Because acting classes are interactive, please be aware that some scenes and exercises may call for physical contact with other members of the class. If this is something with which you are uncomfortable, please notify me at any time and I will steer you away from such scenes and exercises.
3. Occasionally scene work or improvisation may become emotionally upsetting or seem out of control. At this time "TIME OUT" may be called by any student or myself.
4. If you have any disability that prevents you from fully participating in any class exercise or assignment, please see me privately so that we can work together to find a solution.

5. Finally, so there are no surprises, there is also the likelihood that class discussions could cover aspects of character's sexuality.

Attendance Policy:

It shall be the policy of the Sonoma County Junior College District to maintain an attendance policy and procedures consistent with State and local requirements.

1.0 Attendance

1.1 Students are expected to attend all sessions of the course in which they are enrolled.

1.2 Any student with excessive absences may be dropped from the class.

2.0 Excessive Absence Defined

2.1 A student may be dropped from any class when that student's absences exceed ten percent (10%) of the total hours of class time.

2.2 Instructors shall state in each course syllabus what constitutes excessive absence for that course.

3.0 Excused vs. Unexcused absences

3.1 Unless state or federal law requires that the absence be deemed excused, no instructor shall be required to make a distinction between excused and unexcused absences.

3.2 If individual Instructors wish to distinguish between excused and unexcused absences the instructor shall state in each course syllabus all criteria for any excused absences in addition to those required by state or federal law.

4.0 Nonattendance

4.1 Students who fail to attend the first two class meetings of a full semester course may be dropped by the instructor.

Acting Class Attendance Policy:

- Following is the DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE POLICY for ALL ACTING CLASSES at Santa Rosa Junior College
- You are allowed a total of 3 absences for the semester without point penalty. These include both excused and unexcused absences, work conflicts, the Russian River flooding, family emergencies, etc. After a total of 3 absences you may be dropped from the class.
- Excessive absence for the course: Your final grade for the course will be reduced one full letter grade for the fourth absence, another full letter grade for the fifth absence, and three full letter grades for the sixth absence. If you have six absences (excused or not) the best grade you would be able to receive for the course would be a D.
- If you are late for class, the time missed will be added together to count as an unexcused absence.
- Any anticipated absences for the semester (class/team events, work conferences, personal responsibilities, etc.) must be discussed with your instructor within the first two weeks of class and will count as part of your three absences.
- Any student who does not fully engage or fully participate in class may be dropped from the course.
- For the purpose of late work, an 'Excused Absence' is defined as: illness or hospitalization accompanied by a note from your doctor for an office visit or hospitalization.
- Please email me when you are ill or any other time you will be missing class. We are a team now. We need to know where you are.

Dropping A Class

If you have been in class for one class period and you need to drop, it is your responsibility to drop yourself from the course. Instructors are required to drop you from class if you do not attend the first two class meetings. It is illegal for you to be in class without being registered for the course.

Student Conduct: We will conduct ourselves in a manner that reflects our awareness of common standards of decency and the rights of others. All students are expected to know the Student Conduct Code Policy and adhere to it in this class. Students who violate the code may be suspended from 2 classes and referred to the Conduct Dean for discipline.

Respect: The best way to learn is through active participation; therefore, we respect others when talking by being on-time, listening actively, and by being polite even when we disagree with another's viewpoint. Please turn off all electronic devices. If you use a laptop for note taking, please turn the sound off. No food in class please.

Academic Integrity: All written work is to be original; plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade on that assignment. Students who plagiarize or cheat may be suspended [for one or two class meetings by the instructor] and referred to the Conduct Dean for discipline sanction, in cases of egregious violation. Please read the Academic Integrity Policy 3.11.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you need disability related accommodations for this class, such as a note taker, test taking services, special furniture, etc., please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to the instructor as soon as possible. You may also speak with the instructor privately during office hours about your accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, it is recommended that you contact them directly. DRD is located in Analay Village on the Santa Rosa campus, and Jacobs Hall on the Petaluma Campus.

Emergency Evacuation Plan & Preparedness

In general, if you feel as though a building is unsafe it is best to evacuate. Evacuation procedures for SRJC are provided on the Emergency Procedures Poster provided and posted in each classroom and near main office locations.

If a building does not appear to be obviously unsafe, but you are unsure, you may contact District Police at (707) 527-1000 to assess the situation.

You should evacuate a building when:

- The evacuation/fire alarm sounds or when you see a flashing visual alarm indicator
- If you smell smoke, see smoke or flame or smell the odor of escaping natural gas
- Evacuate when you are told to leave the building or area by fire, police, a Building Safety Coordinator, an Area Safety Coordinator, or other District official
- You see structural damage and cracks to walls, ceilings and floors following an earthquake • There is a potentially hazardous situation making it unsafe to remain in the building

In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation of the building, please leave the class immediately, but calmly. Take your stuff with you. Our class will meet on the lawn in front of Burbank Auditorium to make sure everyone got out of the building safely and to receive further instructions. If you are a student with a disability who may need assistance in an evacuation, please see me as soon as possible so we can discuss an evacuation plan.

In case of emergency, dial 527-1000! Do not dial 911 from on campus.

No student may be driven to the hospital by a faculty member. We are required by law to call an ambulance. Please notify the instructor if you have any medical condition that puts you at risk. [There are first aid kits in the THAR office, the costume studio, makeup lab, and scene shop.](#) There are fire extinguishers either inside each room or in the hallway just outside the room.

SPRING SEMESTER 2020 – IMPORTANT DATES

January 13	Classes Begin
January 19	Last day to register/add without instructor's signature or add code
January 20 & 21	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (No Classes)
January 26	Last day to drop semester length class and be eligible for a refund
February 2	Last day to register/add with the instructor's signature or add code
February 2	Last day to drop a class without "W" symbol
February 3	First Census Day
Feb 13 & 14	Lincoln's Day Holiday (No Classes)
February 17	Washington's Holiday (No Classes)
February 23	Last day to opt for P/NP
March 23 – April 19	Midterm progress indicators posted in student portal
March 16-22	Spring Break
April 19	Last day to drop class with "W" symbol
May 21	Final Exam - THAR 10A - Thursday - 10:00am - 12:45pm
May 29	Final Grades Due

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify, supplement and make changes as the course needs arise.