

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**Santa Rosa Junior College**  
**THAR 10A – Introduction to Acting Technique**  
**Tuesday & Thursday Noon – 2:30pm**  
**Class Meets Live Online via Zoom**

**INSTRUCTOR: Reed Martin**

Fall 2020

**Office Hours:** Tues, Thurs 2:20 – 2:50pm, Via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/255822152>

**Contact:** Canvas Inbox

or Email: [rmartin@santarosa.edu](mailto:rmartin@santarosa.edu)

**FINAL:** Thursday, December 17 10am-12:45pm

**LINK TO CLASS MEETINGS:**

Class will meet live on Zoom every Tuesday and Thursday from Noon–2:30am

Here is the Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/322313687>

**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](mailto:wcrawford@santarosa.edu)

**REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:**

This class requires a working camera and microphone. Camera and microphone can be on a phone, computer, or separate webcam.

**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](http://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.

**ASSISTANCE WITH CANVAS**

If you have not used Canvas before and need assistance, here is a link for Student Help for Canvas: <https://de.santarosa.edu/student-help-for-canvas>

**STUDENT ONLINE RESOURCES**

Santa Rosa Junior College has many online resources available to students including – Financial Aid, Tutoring, EOPS, Student Health Services, Library Services, and Free Or Affordable Technology. Click here for more information about these services and many others: <https://onlinestudentservices.santarosa.edu/online-student-services>

**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%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Approximate Due Dates of Major Assignments:

September 8	Perform "Blank Scenes" in Class
October 20, 22	Perform Monologues in Class
Dec 10, 15	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.

### **FALL SEMESTER 2020 – IMPORTANT DATES**

August 17	Classes Begin
August 23	Last day to register/add without instructor's signature or add code
August 30	Last day to drop semester length class and be eligible for a refund
September 6	Last day to register/add with the instructor's signature or add code
September 6	Last day to drop a class without "W" symbol
<b>September 7</b>	<b>Labor Day Holiday – NO CLASSES</b>
<b>September 8</b>	<b>Professional Development Flex Day – NO CLASSES or Activities</b>
September 8	First Census Day
September 27	Last day to opt for P/NP
October 19	Last day to Register to Vote
Oct 19 – Nov 15	Midterm progress indicators posted in student portal
November 3	Election Day
<b>November 11</b>	<b>Veterans Day Holiday – NO CLASSES</b>
November 15	Last day to drop class with "W" symbol
<b>November 26-29</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday – NO CLASSES</b>
December 17	Final Exam - THAR 2 - Thursday - 10:00am - 12:45pm
January 1	Final Grades Due

### **SRJC Theatrical Productions**

You are required to watch performances of both online SRJC theatrical productions this term. As a registered student in a Theatre Arts class, you are entitled to one free ticket per show. You are required to turn in your ticket stub for each show and to write a two-page acting analysis of one of the main characters in each of the plays.



## **AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS**

**Live on Zoom Webinar**

Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Laura Downing-Lee

October 16, 17, 23, 24, 2020 at 7:30 PM

All aboard! With a burst of steam, the luxurious Orient Express departs Istanbul for Paris filled with an eccentric ensemble of international travelers ready to be pampered. Yet, by morning, the train is trapped in a snowdrift, a passenger is found brutally stabbed to death, and the brilliant detective Hercule Poirot must employ all his “little grey cells” to solve the crime. Adapted by one of today’s foremost comedic playwrights, this sparkling retelling of Christie’s world-famous mystery is sure to delight. Staged as a 1934 radio play and broadcast live online, audiences are in for a suspenseful, thrilling ride!

“Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

For tickets call (707) 527-4307  
Or purchase at our **Online Box Office**



## **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE**

**A Musical, Filmed & Live on Zoom Webinar**

Composed and Music Direction by Janis Dunson Wilson

Adapted for the Stage and Directed by John Shillington

Choreographed by Alyce Finwall

Vocal Direction by Tina Lloyd Meals

November 27, 28, December 4, 5, 2020 at 7:30 PM

Inspired by the beloved 1946 Frank Capra film, this home-grown musical brings the heartwarming holiday tale to life in a unique online theatrical production. Despite years of hard work and self-sacrifice, George Bailey is faced with financial ruin. That fateful night, as he stands on a bridge contemplating suicide, he wishes he had never been born. When Clarence (guardian angel in training) overhears George's bitter cry, he grants the wish, and opens his eyes to all that would have been lost...both large and

small...in a life without him. Featuring an original score by the award-winning local artist Janis Dunson Wilson, this charming show is a ray of hope in our tumultuous times.

**For tickets call (707) 527-4307**  
**Or purchase at our [Online Box Office](#)**

### **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 which reflects our awareness of common standards of decency and the rights of others. All students are expected to know the **Student Conduct Policy** and adhere to it in this class. Students who violate the code may be suspended from 2 classes and may be referred to the Conduct Dean for discipline.

### **CLASS EXPECTATIONS:**

Students will need to have their camera and microphone on at the beginning of class and for lectures and discussions.

Students are expected to be dressed in an appropriate manner for school. Pajamas are not acceptable attire.

Students need to be seated at a chair for class. Students also need to be in a location where they can stand up and move around for class exercises and scenes. It is not appropriate to participate in class from bed.

### **RESPECT:**

The best way to learn is through active participation; therefore, we respect others when talking, by being on-time, listening actively, and 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 sit in the front row with 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 see **Policy 3.11 for Academic Integrity**.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

<https://drd.santarosa.edu/>

If you need disability-related accommodations for this class, such as access to notes, 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 speak with the instructor privately during office hours about your accommodations. Please contact DRD if you have not received authorization for accommodations. DRD is located in the Bertolini Student Center on the Santa Rosa campus, and Jacobs Hall on the Petaluma Campus.

### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN:**

- Register your Cell Phone with REGROUP and Nixle. <https://police.santarosa.edu/emergency-alerts-signup>



In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation of the building, please leave the class immediately, but calmly. Our class will meet on the front lawn by Mendocino Avenue, across Burbank Circle 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 during my office hours 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 in the hallway just outside the room.

#### **TITLE 9: Title IX website**[Links to an external site.](#)

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits sex (gender-based) discrimination and harassment in educational programs and activities at institutions that receive federal financial funding, including for employment, academic, educational, extracurricular and athletic activities. This initiative is in compliance with Title IX and the Campus SaVE Act, and addresses critical issues including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Given the importance of this training, the District is required by federal and state law to offer all incoming and continuing students at all campuses education and awareness programs on sexual misconduct prevention.

Title 9: • Protects all people regardless of their gender or gender identity from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence, which are forms of discrimination, and • Requires institutions to take necessary steps to prevent sexual misconduct on their campuses, and to respond promptly and effectively when sexual misconduct is reported.

#### **STUDENT EQUITY:** <https://studentequity.santarosa.edu/>

*Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) aspires to be an inclusive, diverse, and sustainable learning community. Its mission is to passionately cultivate learning through the development of its diverse community.*

#### **What is Student Equity?**

Title V California Education Code state the goal of Student Equity is “...to close achievement gaps in access and success in underrepresented student groups, as identified in local student equity plans.”

In the state of California and at SRJC, we have a diverse student population from a variety of backgrounds. The data shows that students from disadvantaged backgrounds are not achieving their academic goals at the same rate as the average population. At SRJC, the Office of Student Equity is committed to supporting campus wide efforts focused on reducing these achievement gaps.

*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.*