

Course Description

This course is designed to assist senior level theatre majors to make the transition from student to practicing professional. This course provides practical preparation and acquisition of career materials, training in the interaction with trade professionals, and introduction to the business of theatre.

Instructional Methods

Class will consist of resource readings, group discussions, lectures, and practicum with multiple instructors and a variety of industry professionals. These methods and other workshops will offer the student the necessary guidance to prepare for a career in the professional theatre. Class time may be used for showcase preparation as well.

Required Materials

Letters to a Young Artist, by Anna Deavere Smith

Professional Actor's Handbook, by Julio Agustin

Various readings as assigned by instructor, including:

Intimations, "Something To Do", by Zadie Smith

backstage.com

marketing4actors.com

playbill.com

<http://www.actortherapynyc.com>

How to Audition for the Musical Theatre, by David Oliver (selections)

The Creative Process, by James Baldwin

Also Required: Laptop or access to computer, Headshot/Resume, Audition book

Recommended Materials

The Creative Habit, by Twyla Tharp

Emergent Strategy, by Adrienne Maree Brown

Walking On Water, by Madeleine L'Engle

Get the Callback: The Art of Auditioning for Musical Theatre, by Jonathan Flom

Libraries: The CUA Libraries' wide range of resources and services, including databases, online journals, and FAQs are on the main web site. For assistance on papers and assignments, consult the research guides or schedule an appointment with a subject librarian.

Instructor

Shanara Gabrielle

gabrielle@cua.edu

cell: 917-543-8555

Class Meetings

Mondays

2:10 - 3:25 pm

Outdoors

Office Hours

As scheduled or by appointment

Prerequisites

Department consent

Course Communication

Email preferred

Cell phone or text *if necessary*

Final Exam

TBA

Learning Outcomes

Course Goals:

- To facilitate the transition from student to working theatre professional in the ever-changing landscape of the theatre and performance industry
- To clarify personal goals
- To compare and contrast the different career courses and tools in the industry
- To discover the challenges of a career in acting by experiencing them and observing others experiencing them; to develop a method for meeting these challenges
- To develop an appreciation of the creative impulse and an appreciation for the skill, artistry, and discipline required for effective performance and a professional career in the theatre
- To understand that empathy, curiosity, and engagement are crucial to actor and humankind's development and the help the student move towards greater commitment to enhancing these skills

Goals for Student Learning:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the tools necessary for a career in the professional theatre
- Demonstrate an understanding of a variety of industry vocabulary and standards
- Develop honest and specific goals and a personalized business plan as a basis for continued growth as a professional actor
- Demonstrate an understanding of personal resources and individual challenges
- Demonstrate an integration of professional ideals, both in class and in the wider world of theatre and the industry
- At the conclusion of the course, the student will have:
 - properly formatted headshot and resume
 - a professional website
 - 1 professional social media presence
 - Actor's Access and Casting Networks profile
 - "Biz of You" Marketing Plan and Artistic Statement
 - clear understanding of industry standards and best practices for an acting career in the professional theatre

Class Policies

Course Requirements:

- Active participation in class discussions, activities, and workshops
- Satisfactory and punctual completion of all work *as assigned by instructor* - including, but not limited to: readings, viewings, research, virtual assignments, written assignments, critiques, quizzes, papers, projects
- Demonstrated preparation for all performances and audition workshops
- Examinations: TBA

Expectations and Policies:

- Professional participation in each class session. This includes: appropriate and full virtual participation, no cell phones during class, no texting or using the zoom chat for personal conversations, appropriate attire for a professional class setting.

- Professionalism, Decorum, Content: Unprofessional or unsafe conduct will not be tolerated. Decorum in the classroom and during out-of-class practicum is expected as it strongly impacts the quality of instruction for you and your partners. You are expected to show respect for yourself, your partners, and the art, craft, and business of theatre. Part of learning to become an actor is also learning how to act professionally.

- Justice, Balance, and Anti-bias: These are core principals for any young artists or working theatre professional to uphold. Please take responsibility for any power or privilege may have, be proactive instead of responsive, communicate with civility at all levels, celebrate diversity, honor history, embrace change, and be an advocate for yourself and your values!

Assessment:

- Overall evaluation will be based on the student's effectiveness in meeting the course goals and requirements.

- Attendance is required.

- Late projects and/or assignments are not indicative of a serious acting student. Nor do they show the discipline required for student's professional development. Late assignments, projects, or performances may not be accepted and, if accepted, will receive no grade higher than 75%.

- No extra credit work is scheduled. If such work does become available, the opportunity will be presented to all students.

Grading Criteria:

- Preparedness and participation = 50% (including but not limited to: completion of assignments and readings or viewings, contributions to class discussions and workshops, classroom behavior and attitude)

- Assignments and workshops = 50% (including but not limited to: written work, headshot/resume preparation, website creation, social media presence, business cards, artistic statement, reflection writings, book/reading responses, audition workshops, and quizzes/ tests. Effort, commitment, and forethought will be evaluated in each of these assignments.)

Course Schedule

Please see proposed course schedule, which is subject to change.

*****Syllabus and schedule are subject to change.**

University Policies

All members of the Catholic University community have a shared responsibility to know and to abide by the University's policies, especially relating to:

- Academic Integrity
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
- Attendance
- Conduct
- Final Exams
- Grades and appeals

All of Catholic University's policies are detailed at <http://policies.cua.edu/>. Please follow up with the instructor if you have any policy-related questions.

Of particular note are the policies regarding Academic Integrity, Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, and Final Exams, which are described below.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty at The Catholic University of America is not tolerated (<http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityfull.cfm> and <http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm>)

As such, academic integrity is not merely avoiding plagiarism or cheating, but it certainly includes those things. Academic integrity means, above all else, taking responsibility for your work, your ideas, and your effort, and giving credit to others for their work, ideas, and effort. If you submit work that is not your own – whether test answers, whole papers, or something in-between – that is considered to be academic dishonesty. University procedures related to academic dishonesty are conducted with respect and dignity, while also preserving accountability, and they presuppose that all participants will treat each other with respect and dignity.

The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty:

The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student's past record, a more serious sanction, such as

suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate. ...In the more unusual case, mitigating circumstances may exist that would warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction.

At times, you may do group work for an in-class presentation or group project. For that *specific* assignment, you are allowed to share material, ideas and information; however, for any related work that is to be submitted on an individual basis, I expect your submission to be your own in its entirety.

For more information about what academic integrity means at CUA, including your responsibilities and rights, visit integrity.cua.edu.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need a reasonable accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (<http://www.dss.cua.edu>) by email at CUA-DSS@cua.edu or call 202-319-5211 to make an appointment to discuss possible accommodations. DSS recommends that a student with a disability meet with DSS staff during the first week of every semester since accommodations are not retroactive. Please note that instructors will only provide those accommodations included in the DSS accommodation letter. DSS is located in PRYZ 127.

Final Exam: The final exam must be given on the day and time assigned by Enrollment Services. Please plan accordingly for travel, work, special events, or appointments.

A student having an exam scheduling conflict as defined in the policy must report to her/his school's Academic Dean's Office no later than fourteen calendar days before the end of classes. The dean will assist the student in rescheduling the exam(s) for the course having the lowest enrollment(s). All make-up exams must be completed at the earliest possible time during the final examination period.

University Resources

Libraries <https://libraries.catholic.edu/>

Center for Academic and Career Success <https://success.catholic.edu/>

Tutoring Services <https://success.catholic.edu/academic-support/tutoring-services/index.html>

Writing Center <https://english.catholic.edu/writing-center/index.html>

Office of Disability Support Services <http://dss.cua.edu/>

Counseling Center <http://counseling.cua.edu/>

Student Health Services <http://health.cua.edu/>

Dean of Students Office <http://deanofstudents.cua.edu/>



The Catholic University of America
Rome School of Music, Drama, & Art

Business of Theatre

MUS 449, Fall 2019

Credit Hours: 1

Ward 220, Mondays 2:10 - 3:25 pm

Instructor: Shanara Gabrielle, Lecturer

Phone (cell): 917-543-8555

Email: gabrielle@cua.edu

Available for meetings by appointment

Proposed Course Schedule

August 26

Welcome, expectations, syllabus, goals, "type"

September 9

Headshots/Resumes

September 16

Actor's Access, Casting Networks

September 23

Artistic Statements/Goals

September 30

Websites

October 7

Social Media

October 15 (Tuesday)

Marketing Plan/Business cards

October 21

Unions, theatre structure and pay scale, review, catch up day

October 28

Other tools- demo reels, self-tapes, one-sheets, press releases, postcards

November 4

Taxes day with CPA

November 11

Career Panel Discussion

November 18

Agent Workshop

November 25

Mental Health Day (this does not mean you skip class!)

December 2

Casting Director Panel

Final: TBA

***Due dates are as assigned by the instructor.

***Schedule is subject to change.