

**LA CAÑADA HIGH SCHOOL
ADVANCED THEATRE**

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Course: Advanced Theatre
Instructor: Mr. Eick
Location: Room 100/Theatre
Period: 1
Office Hours: Monday, 2:45 pm – 3:15 pm
Website: www.lacanadaplayhouse.org
Email: jeick@lcsd.net

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

At La Cañada High School, our mission is to offer “programs that will enable our students to become successful leaders in society” while providing for “personal growth and academic excellence.”

To that end, the Theatre Department is proud to offer the most comprehensive theatrical training program available to secondary students. In the tradition of Juilliard and Carnegie Mellon, we provide a rigorous conservatory curriculum set in a rotational schedule that allows the students to fully explore the different genres of theatre. Moreover, the students produce a professional season of theatre as a way of bringing their conservatory studies to life.

Students in Advanced Theatre will work on three productions this year. Students not actively rehearsing their scene on any given day will be assigned to work on their Theatre Portfolio – a collection of artifacts documenting the individual student’s theatre work. These artifacts will include text analysis, character biographies, methodology notation, handouts, monologues, scenes and scripts.

A. COURSE CONTENT

Advanced Theatre will focus on training four interdisciplinary areas: acting, voice/speech, audition technique and theatre history/theory.

1. Acting:

The major component of this course entails participation and performance in three full productions over the course of the year. In addition, students are given a concrete technique for approaching Shakespeare and Chekhov. Students are taught how to identify the defining characteristics of each period and use them in creating a character. Specific attention is placed on maintaining organic honesty within the work while adopting the necessary mannerisms of the style. Finally, students will compare and contrast the theories of Stanislavski, Strasberg, Adler, Meisner, Hagen and Macy with the aim of creating a personalized technique for approaching acting.

2. Voice and Speech:

This unit allows the students to vocally explore classical text from the Elizabethan period (Shakespeare) and the Edwardian age (Chekhov). Students are given a

concrete set of vocal tactics to successfully navigate complex passages while organically revealing the emotional throughline of the text in an honest, natural fashion.

3. Audition:

This unit is designed to provide the students with the skills and confidence to successfully audition and perform professionally. Students receive detailed instruction on the necessary components of a professional resume as well as how and where to acquire headshots. This course also focuses on providing the students with appropriate monologues to be used at both college interviews and professional auditions. A wide variety of audition material is utilized to ensure familiarity with industry expectations. Industry workshops will be conducted by professional guest speakers on producing, directing, casting, lighting, sound design, costume design and production design and union membership.

4. History and Theory:

This unit entails a detailed examination of the historical origins of theatre, the development of genres within the discipline, significant artists who have contributed to the growth of theatre and current trends in contemporary theatre. Specific attention was paid to the following periods: Greek and Roman theatre, Medieval Theatre and the Mystery Cycles, Elizabethan theatre, Restoration theatre, Realism/Naturalism and Modernism.

B. COURSE ALIGNMENT

The curriculum for each year of theatre has been horizontally and vertically integrated to ensure proper educational development and is fully aligned with the Content Standards for Drama as put forth by the California State Board of Education and the Common Core State Standards. A downloadable PDF outlining full alignment is available on the department website - visit www.lacanadaplayhouse.org for detailed information.

III. CITIZENSHIP AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:

A. CITIZENSHIP EXPECTATIONS

At La Cañada High School, we endorse and support the idea of Developmental Assets that when present, help young people grow up healthy, principled and caring. In the Theatre Department, we have integrated the Developmental Assets (available on the school website) into our curricular framework as a way of preparing students to thrive in life and learning.

Additionally, those who fail to study their craft seriously and with intention come to the field under-prepared and ill-informed. The student is expected to apply the same work ethic demanded in their core classes. This is your chance to learn, to grow.

- Come to every class prepared, having read the material and finished the work.
- Commit yourself to “being present” from the first moment you enter the room. Full concentration and commitment is expected at all times.
- Focus on your work and the work of others; always watch, observe, and pay close attention – this is how you learn. Please no side conversations.

- Work for yourself and your fellow students. Your mental and physical presence is necessary for this class to be successful.
- Students cannot “fail” but they can “fail to try”.
- Please raise your hand if you have a question.
- Don’t despair. Work.

B. BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Students in the Theatre Department are asked to adhere to the following behavior expectations.

1. Theatre Dress Code:
 - a. Students must be able to tuck in their shirts if needed.
 - b. Shorts should be worn under skirts during movement class and rehearsal skirts (ankle-length skirts) are highly recommended for acting class.
 - c. Close-toed shoes **MUST** be available to wear during acting and movement class – flipflops are not acceptable and can create a serious “tripping” hazard.
 - d. Please remove any jewelry prior to beginning class and have hair pulled back away from the face.
 - e. Boys are expected to have black shoes, black socks, a pair of black dress slacks and a white, button-down, collared dress shirt for performances.
 - f. Girls are expected to have one pair of black tights for performances (to be worn under period costumes).
 - g. Additionally, students are expected to adhere to the published Dress Code guidelines as set forth in the Student Handbook.
2. Academic Honesty:
 - a. You are expected to demonstrate honesty and integrity while in attendance at LCHS. There is no distinction between giving or receiving unauthorized help; one who helps another to cheat is as guilty as one who benefits from cheating. All work submitted by students should be a true reflection of their effort and ability. You are expected to do your own work.
 - b. Students who cheat will receive a zero on the assignment and a “U” citizenship grade for the quarter. Consequences of violations will be based on the Academic Honesty Policy.
3. Classroom Rules: Please see attached “Student and Parent Agreement”.

C. CITIZENSHIP GRADE

Students will receive their Citizenship grade based on the following criteria:

<u>Violations of Behavior Expectations</u>	<u>Citizenship Grade</u>
1	Outstanding (O)
2	Satisfactory (S)
3	Improvement (N)
4	Unsatisfactory (U)

D. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE:

The following steps will be followed in instances when a student's behavior violates the guidelines outlined in the Student Handbook:

1. Teacher Conference with the Student
2. Teacher Contact with the Parent
3. Teacher Contact with the Counselor
4. Referral of the Student to the Assistant Principal

IV. GRADING POLICY:

Letter grades are determined on a total point accumulation. Rehearsals, participation, class work, stage work and performances are graded using rubrics. All of the rubrics are available for download on the department website at www.lacanadaplayhouse.org.

A. Performance	40% of total grade
B. Rehearsal	20% of total grade
C. Exams	20% of total grade
D. Production	20% of total grade
E. Grading Scale	100 - 90 = A 89 - 80 = B 79 - 70 = C 69 - 60 = D 59 - 0 = F

V. SAMPLE TEST QUESTIONS:

1. Near the end of his life, Stanislavski distanced himself and his system of acting from which of the following acting techniques?
 - a. Affective Memory
 - b. The "Magic" If
 - c. The Super Objective
 - d. Tempo-Rhythm
2. All of the following are acting exercises used by Strasberg except _____.
 - a. the Psychological Gesture exercise
 - b. the Private-Moment exercise
 - c. the Animal exercise
 - d. the Song and Dance exercise
3. Adler's approach to acting focused strongly on all of the following except _____.
 - a. Emotional Recall
 - b. Actions
 - c. Justification
 - d. Imagination

VI. SAMPLE RUBRICS:

Please go to <http://www.lacanadaplayhouse.org/rubrics.pdf> to access the department rubrics.

**LCHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT – ADVANCED THEATRE
STUDENT AND PARENT AGREEMENT**

Welcome! At La Cañada High School, our mission is to "provide programs that will enable our students to become successful leaders in society." To that end, the Theatre Department is proud to offer a comprehensive theatrical training program using a rigorous conservatory curriculum set in a rotational schedule that allows the students to fully explore the different genres of theatre. Every year, over 150 students enroll in the Theatre Department and produce a professional season of theatre consisting of 8 full productions as a way of bringing their conservatory studies to life.

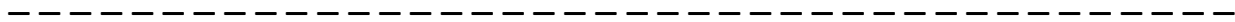
The LCHS Theatre Department has adopted a number of policies to ensure that every student succeeds both artistically and academically. Please review the rules and guidelines carefully with your child.

1. Students may not take any pictures or videos during class. No posting or commenting online.
2. During class discussions or lectures, students agree to allow the speaker to finish talking before speaking.
3. Students must remain seated both in room 100 and in theatre unless rehearsing. Students may not sit or stand on any tables or countertops.
4. Students may not use the audio system in room 100 at any time.
5. Students may not raise or lower the projector screen in room 100 without permission from the teacher.
6. Students will not write on the board or erase what's written on the board.
7. Students may NOT exit the theatre through any lobby door ever except in the case of an emergency. Any student caught entering or exiting through the lobby doors will be automatically removed from all performances that year. Students may ONLY enter and exit the theatre through the side door located next to the entrance to room 100.
8. There is no food or drink (including water) allowed on the stage, in the theatre or in the lobby. Water may be obtained from the drinking fountains in the lobby at any time. If you have a health issue (such as diabetes) that might require you to eat food during class, please see Mr. Eick privately.
9. Students may not enter or exit room 100 via the stage door without permission from Mr. Eick.
10. When in the theatre, students may not put their feet on the seats in front of them – they must sit in the seats correctly.
11. Students will NOT be allowed to borrow any period costumes ever for any reason including assignments for other classes (i.e. wearing a costume for an English assignment.) This includes ancient Greek, medieval, Elizabethan (Shakespearean), Restoration, Victorian (Dickens) or Edwardian (Chekhov). Period costumes are only to be used for official theatre productions. If a student wishes to borrow a modern costume, they must agree to work for four (4) hours in the costume room with Mr. Eick within seven (7) days of borrowing the costume.
12. Students will NOT be allowed to borrow any props, swords, lighting instruments, sound equipment, set pieces or other theatre materials. Students who wish to borrow a book or script from the theatre library must return the text within seven (7) days.
13. Students are not allowed under the orchestra pit without permission from Mr. Eick.

14. Students are never allowed on the loading dock (located on stage right) or on the catwalk (located on the third floor) without permission from Mr. Eick.
15. Students may not leave the instructional area to rehearse or complete class work – students must be able to be seen at all times by the instructor. For example, if class is conducted in the lobby, then all students must stay in the lobby.
16. Students who need to use the bathroom or get a drink of water will be allowed to use the facilities in the lobby. Any student who wants to use the bathroom or get a drink must leave their cell phone on the teacher’s desk.
17. Gum is not allowed in room 100, the theatre or the lobby. Please use mints instead.
18. Any students performing in a student matinee are required to obtain IN ADVANCE a “Release From Class” form which must be signed by their other teachers.
19. Students may not touch any props, costumes, sets and/or materials from another show.

Below is the schedule for your performances. You must be available for ALL of the following dates. Additionally, if a student is tardy or absent more than three times in a semester, his or her role in any performances may be reduced or eliminated. Make-up work will be assigned to allow the student the opportunity to receive full credit in the class.

BEAU JEST				SHAKESPEARIENCE				MACBETH			
Sat.	10/21	Run	8am-4pm	Sat.	01/20	Run	8am-4pm	Sat.	02/24	Run	8am-4pm
Sun.	10/22	Dress	8am-6pm	Sun.	01/21	Run	8am-4pm	Sun.	02/25	Dress	8am-6pm
Sun.	10/22	Show	7pm	Mon.	01/22	Load-In	7am-9pm	Sun.	02/25	Show	7pm
Mon.	10/23	Show	7pm	Tues.	01/23	Show	7:30am	Mon.	02/26	Show	7pm
Tues.	10/24	Show	7pm	Wed.	01/24	Show	7:30am	Tues.	02/27	Show	7pm
				Thurs.	01/25	Show	7:30am				



PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THE FOLLOWING

I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE LCHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT STUDENT AND PARENT AGREEMENT.

PRINT PARENT NAME

PARENT SIGNATURE DATE

PRINT STUDENT NAME

STUDENT SIGNATURE DATE