



## THEATER PRODUCTION AND PRACTICE (72) Syllabus

**Instructor:** Rod Menzies, April Shawhan, Les Miller

### **Course Description and Objective:**

This is a practical performance course that will address ways of improving audition skills for film, television, web shows, and commercials. The instructors will take the class through exercises using the voice, movement and traditional scene study, followed by several on-camera audition situations such as self-tapes, self-submissions, and in-room casting sessions, which are aimed at developing the basic set of skills needed to successfully perform audition material at a professional level.

### **Course Goals and Topics of Discussion**

- Identifying your “type, identifying and applying strong, playable objectives and actions in the presentation of a monologue or a scene for auditions
- Performing truthfully for any type of character, in any audition scenario
- Understanding how to use your voice and physical movements for the camera
- Analyzing how to listen and take feedback and criticism in a positive and professional manor, and to make immediate adjustments to integrate these observations
- How to communicate with your scene partner or reader effectively
- Taking responsibility for your own choices and critically assess and reflect on your own work, as well as providing constructive criticism and feedback to your peers

**Class requirements and Assignments:** There will be graded assignments, required classwork and rules for participation. A syllabus, outlining the requirements and grading criteria will be distributed at the first class meeting. Assignments will include writing, memorizing, and performing an original 2-minute dramatic monologue, reading and memorizing the various audition sides provided by the instructor for audition presentation purposes, and reading the required chapters in the Michael Caine book.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Absences force your partner to be unable to work and tardiness disrupts the whole class. Every unexcused absence causes your grade to drop and two tardies equal one absence.

**Participation:** Participation in class is an expectation. You should always be prepared to be called on, ready and eager to volunteer. The following will aid you in having a successful experience in this class:

An open mind and attitude  
Commitment to the work and process  
Cooperation with and respect for all students

**Required Textbooks/Materials:**

“Acting in Film; An Actor’s Take on Movie Making” by Michael Caine  
Revised Expanded Edition

Sides/Scenes which the instructor will choose, and the CASI Administration will provide

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

Throughout this course you are expected to sustain a professional standard of behavior in classes, and rehearsals; you must attend all classes and rehearsals, you must be appropriately dressed for auditions and classes, and you must be in a state of readiness to work and participate at the beginning and throughout each session. Your consistency in these matters is regarded as evidence of your commitment to professional training and your reliability as an actor. Respect for others’ expressed opinions in class is vital - a lack of it will not be tolerated, while fair and genuine disagreement and arguments are acceptable if intellectually supported. No food consumption is allowed during class time. Water, tea, coffee, soft drinks/juices are permitted.

**Grade Criteria/Calculation:**

Criteria	Percentage of Grade
Attendance and active participation in class	25%
Preparation, contribution to class discussions	25%
Work ethic, audition performance presentation	50%
Total:	100%

**Accommodating Students with Disabilities:**

*Students needing academic accommodations based on disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at 310-825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within one week of the start of the summer session institute start date, as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations.*

*For more information, visit [www.cae.ucla.edu](http://www.cae.ucla.edu)*