FIASCO THEATER
SUMMER CLASSICAL THEATRE INTENSIVE: Shakespeare in Performance
ARTS-UG1024
M,T,W,Th,F – 10:00am – 5:00pm
May 29 – June 15
Taught by Ben Steinfeld, Jessie Austrian, and Noah Brody

Description:

Working with Fiasco Theater, this intensive class has two principal goals: to give students training in a variety of acting and performance techniques for the classic stage, and to mobilize those skills towards the interpretation and performance of a Shakespeare play (Romeo & Juliet). Each morning, from 10am to 1 pm will be divided in three hour-long workshops, which will focus on such topics as: voice and speech, stage combat, clowning, working with verse, physical metaphor, writing and adapting songs for Shakespearean performance, and ensemble games. The afternoon, from 2pm-5pm will involve collective rehearsal of the Shakespeare play to be performed on the last day. This intensive will be appropriate for all students interested in the performance of Shakespeare, and attention will be paid to providing opportunities for those most interested in directing or designing as well as acting. All students will participate in all activities, but the focus of each student can include a diversity of roles.

Schedule:

Week 1 – Foundations

In the first week we will focus on laying the technical foundations for classical acting and exploring how Shakespeare’s language works on stage. This will include group work on text analysis, scansion, imagery, thought discovery, and mode shifting. We will learn a full-length vocal warm-up. The group will collectively explore Shakespeare’s sonnets, and also begin individual verse monologue work to identify strengths and challenges for the remainder of the class.

Week 2 – Deepening the Process

In the second week we will begin to make the transition “from page to stage” as we explore physical choices, stage combat, dance, and musical adaptation. In addition to continued group text and voice work, this week will see the completion of fully physicalized and memorized verse monologues, as well as experiments with stage combat, dance, and music that will be adapted by the group for Romeo & Juliet. The performance project will be cast at the completion of this week.

Week 3 – The Open Rehearsal
This entire final week will be centered on rehearsing and preparing the performance of *Romeo & Juliet*. Our goal will be to present an open rehearsal of 30-60 minutes of the play. In this week, students will implement all of the textual, vocal, physical, and aesthetic techniques they've acquired in the first two weeks, as well as taking responsibility for the conceptualization and design of the production, and engaging with the character challenges presented by their various roles.

**Attendance**

You must attend every class. Be ready to work. Be fired up. Care. Watch and listen attentively and actively. Support each other. Theater is a collaborative thing – we are all in it together.

**Clothes**

You must wear or bring appropriate rehearsal clothes to class. This means clothing you can move comfortably in, and don’t mind getting sweaty/dirty/etc. Please do not wear tight jeans or skirts. If you choose to bring rehearsal clothes, you must be changed into them by the start of class.

**Grading**

Grades for this class will be based on attendance, attitude, passion, and participation (see above). No one will be evaluated on “talent”, whatever that means. Your talent should not be your concern, and it certainly won’t be my concern.

**Incomplete Grades**

Please do your work. Please do not find yourself in a situation where you have to file for a grade of Incomplete. Be aware that a grade of Incomplete can only be given with permission from the instructor, and under approved circumstances.

**Academic Integrity**

Students in this seminar will be expected to uphold the high standards of academic integrity outlined for all NYU students in your handbook. Plagiarism of any kind is strictly prohibited, and will result in a failing grade, and subsequent punitive action by the Gallatin School.