

DIRECTING & SCRIPTWRITING 12

~ Course Overview ~

Mr. Featherstone

Email: gfeatherstone@sd44.ca

(Please Note: this may change due to time restrictions or at the instructor's discretion)

General Overview:

This course focuses on the writing, re-writing and then directing part of the creative process. Ideally students will have completed at least two acting courses in order to have an understanding of the acting process itself. Please note that parts of this course are self-directed. As a result, it is important that students maintain strong time management skills as it critical that deadlines be met.

This course may include some or all of the following:

- ❖ Script interpretation (central image, theme, style)
- ❖ Auditions & casting
- ❖ Conducting rehearsals: blocking, character development, speech & rehearsal critiques
- ❖ Interpersonal skills with the cast and crew
- ❖ Developing a concept and theme
- ❖ Development of character
- ❖ The writing process (prewriting, drafting, revision, editing, presentation, evaluation)
- ❖ Roles and responsibilities of script writer, director, assistant director, actor and production team
- ❖ Writing a one-act stage play or screenplay
- ❖ Directing an original one-act play
- ❖ Directing a one-act play by another playwright

In addition, as this is a senior level course, it is imperative that students take responsibility for their performance and work space. As a result, students **MUST complete 25 Service Hours over the course of the year**. These hours can be spent organizing costumes or props, accompanying classes on organized field trips and/or watching or helping one of the North Shore's local community theatre groups on their productions. (North Van Community Players, Deep Cove Stage, Theatre West Van, etc.) **Volunteer hours are worth 10% of the student's final mark.**

Please note: any work being done outside of school MUST be cleared with Mr. Featherstone in advance!

What do I Bring to Class?

- ❖ Wear **comfortable clothing and shoes!** Drama involves a great deal of movement so wear something that you are comfortable sitting on the floor in
- ❖ **Notebook/Binder!** This will serve as both a journal and place for vocabulary, notes and handouts. This is critical!
- ❖ **Pen/Pencil** – something to write down your brilliant ideas and take notes with.

Evaluation:

- ❖ Evaluation will consist of self-evaluation and instructor evaluation of effort, participation and growth.
- ❖ Unexcused absences automatically receive a “0” for the day’s activities
- ❖ The instructor will also give grades for journal entries and written assignments
- ❖ **Daily work, notes, small assignments and use of class time** is worth **20%** per term.
- ❖ **Projects, big assignments and performances** are worth **80%**

Expectations: *(As negotiated in class - below is a guideline)*

- ❖ **USE THE WASHROOM BETWEEN CLASSES.** If you must go, **ASK TO LEAVE THE THEATER** (Note: only one person will be allowed to leave the theater at a time)
- ❖ **ARRIVE ON TIME.** People arriving late interrupts the class and inhibits the creative process.
- ❖ **Eating is permitted so long as garbage is NOT left behind!** A **WATER BOTTLE** (or morning tea/coffee) is fine as long as it has a working lid.
- ❖ **Cell phone use that is distracting to your peers or your teacher is not allowed**
- ❖ **Leave any valuables in your locker** or better yet at home
- ❖ **REMAIN IN THE THEATRE** at all times during classes, unless otherwise instructed. Do not go into the storage rooms or office unless asked.
- ❖ **LISTEN CAREFULLY TO ALL INSTRUCTIONS.** The room is large and my voice is limited.
- ❖ **RESPECT EACH OTHER AND OUR WORKING SPACE.** NEVER belittle or ridicule anyone, no matter what they do. Extend this respect to the theatre facility and treat it as your own space.
- ❖ **TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS.** Stay healthy, drink lots of water, get plenty of fresh air and sleep.
- ❖ **A note on LANGUAGE** – this is a creative class and I appreciate that “creative moments” do happen. However, derogatory or offensive language has NO place in our theater
- ❖ **Treat your fellow classmates as you would like to be treated.**

Absentee Policy:

- ❖ **MUST be EXCUSED on the DAY OF THE ABSENCE**
- ❖ Due to the fact that this is a participation and project-based course, it is highly recommended that students schedule appointments at other times, i.e. After school hours.

A Few Notes on Assignments:

- ❖ Assignments are due **on the due date, at the BEGINNING of class.**
- ❖ Late assignments will be the last to receive assessment.
- ❖ If a student will be away for several classes it is expected that he/she will find out what will be missed in advance

COMMUNICATION:

- ❖ Find me in and around the theatre and drama area – my office is behind the stage
- ❖ Send me any (appropriate) email if you have questions about class, upcoming assignments etc. at – gfeatherstone@sd44.ca
- ❖ Keep me in the loop about what’s going on and we’ll have an awesome year!



PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT

Please sign below that you and your parent/guardian have read and understand the expectations and requirements for this course. Please return signed form to the teacher by:

_____ , _____

(Parent/guardian name)

(Parent/guardian signature)

(Date)

(Preferred contact number or email)

(Student Name)

(Student signature)