Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Half-Day
Program of Studies 2021-2022

CREC GREATER HARTFORD ACADEMY OF THE ARTS (GHAA)
HALF-DAY CURRICULUM

The Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) is an intentionally diverse social justice organization whose members work to acknowledge, respect, and empathize with people of all different identifiers, such as race, socioeconomic status, gender identity and expression, education, age, ability, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, language, nationality, and religion. We commit to affirm and honor the lived experiences of others, to willingly challenge inherited beliefs and ideologies, and consequently learn, grow and serve.

The CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts (GHAA) Half-day Program acknowledges that the land, now known as the Learning Corridor where our program is located, is the ancestral land of the Sicouag People and the Sequin Nation. We also acknowledge the Greater Frog Hollow Neighborhood that occupied this land immediately before the Learning Corridor was built. As a community committed to social justice and equity, it is vitally important that we not only acknowledge our history, but also name the groups that have been displaced in the process of creating the educational entities that comprise the Learning Corridor. Most importantly, it is fitting that we make this acknowledgement when our charge as Artist-Instructors is not only to train our students in the development of their artistic abilities and skills, but also to challenge them to use their art and their artistic voices to become social activists in their communities, their state, and the world for the greater good of all people.

The mission of the CREC (GHAA) Half-day program, a magnet public high school program, is to bring people of diverse cultural heritage together, while also developing students’ knowledge, skills, and attitudes to reach their fullest artistic potential, to live productive lives, and to contribute to society as creative, engaged citizens.

The CREC GHAA Half-day Program offers a pre-college, pre-professional, rigorous arts curriculum with more than 200 core and elective arts courses. The curriculum is designed to prepare students to pursue post-secondary studies and professional careers in dance, music, musical theater, technical theater, and visual arts.

Commitment to serious study of an art form is the expectation for all students who enroll in our program. Students spend 13 hours per week pursuing artistic excellence under the guidance of practicing arts professionals, who are the core faculty at the Half-day Arts program. To ensure that students reach their highest potential, they are placed in classes according to their skill and ability levels. To expand students’ artistic experiences, all students are required to enroll in one non-major (out-of-department) elective course per year.

Additionally, guest artists offer our students master classes and presentations. These professional contacts enrich the curriculum as well as provide a realistic perspective on artistic careers. Attendance at performances and area master classes supplement our students’ learning experiences.
DANCE

The mission of the Dance department is to create a climate of professionalism which encourages all students to expand their technical knowledge and creative abilities as dancers; to create an environment which supports effort, hard work and risk taking so that each student confidently uses their talents to reach their full and unique potential and to foster respect for the art form and for the diversity and passions of the individuals within it.

Rigorous daily technique classes are designed to develop versatile and knowledgeable dancers. Students study Ballet, Modern, Dance History, Dance Improvisation, Dance Composition, Conditioning, Repertory (Ballet or Modern) and Dance Skills. Elective class offerings may include Contemporary, Repertory, Pointe and Jazz.

Students follow the curriculum prescribed by the Dance Department. Class assignments are made by the department chair and are based on age and intellectual, physical and technical development. Spending one year in any level does not guarantee a move up to the next level the following year.

One Year: A student who attends one year will take: Ballet, Modern, Improvisation, Conditioning, Dance Topics, and an elective outside the department.

Two Years: A student who attends two years will take, in addition to the requirements of one year: Ballet, Modern, Dance Composition 1, Dance Skills and an elective outside of, or within the department.

Three Years: A student who attends three years will take, in addition to the requirements of two years: increasingly advanced levels of Ballet and Modern, and Dance Composition 2, Dance History and an elective outside of, or within the department.

Four Years: A student who attends four years will take, in addition to the requirements of three years: increasingly advanced levels of Ballet and Modern, Ballet Repertory and/or Modern Repertory and Senior Composition/Production.

DANCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BALLET TECHNIQUE

BALLET - Levels 1 and 2
Ballet classes incorporate the basic elements of classical ballet, using techniques standardized by Agrippina Vaganova. The class work focuses on body alignment, basic body positions, general strength and simple coordination of all parts of the body. Each student is expected to learn the French name for each basic movement, the translation of that name, and be able to explain how to execute the movement.

The class begins with exercises holding onto the barre, continues with center work, and progresses to basic exercises that travel across the floor. All exercises are done on both right and left sides. Every class ends with a reverence, as a gesture of respect to the teacher and accompanist. The same exercises are repeated each day during the week, with minor changes to increase the difficulty of the exercise, or the stamina required.

BALLET - Level 3
This class builds upon the course work of Levels 1 and 2, using techniques standardized by Agrippina Vaganova. Class work will focus on increasingly complex elements, with an emphasis on supporting side strength, proper transfer of weight and foot articulation. In addition, students will begin to use more arm movements in coordination with the leg movements. Theory is discussed; knowledge of new vocabulary is
tested. Barre work begins to take less time, as left and right sides can be executed without stopping. There is more focus on grand allegro (exercises travelling across the floor), which requires increased coordination and fluidity.

**Ballet - Level 4**
This class continues to build in complexity, adding new and more challenging dance vocabulary from the Vaganova technique. Correlations are made between the barre and the center work. The basics of alignment, turnout and articulation continue to be a focus. Flexibility is also a focus, as students are required to use their extensions in adagio work. Strength is tested by taking many exercises on to releve. Students begin to work on consecutive pirouettes and batterie in their petite allegro work. At this level, theory becomes more significant, and will be tested along with vocabulary. Connections to ballet history are explored.

**Ballet - Level 5**
Level 5 is an advancement of the ballet technique developed in prior levels and continues to build on the Vaganova syllabus. Exercises become longer, using more complex movements which demand more concentration, coordination and stamina. Artistry and musicality become a focus, as well as the details of the mastery. There is an emphasis on presenting the work rather than just doing exercises. A pointe class is added once a week, which will accommodate beginning pointe students and increase strength for those with some previous experience. Vocabulary and theory will continue to be expanded and tested.

**Ballet - Level 6**
Our most advanced level, this class continues to expand the ballet technique from Levels 1-5, using the Vaganova ballet syllabus. Exercises at this level continue to incorporate strength, flexibility, coordination and articulation. More advanced versions of the exercises are given, using more releve, complicated transitions and coordinations. Students must learn exercises more quickly, and self-correction should be automatic. Exercises continue to become longer, requiring more stamina. Vocabulary and theory are assumed and tested. Students are required to do written work, research papers and book reports.

**Modern Dance Techniques**

**Modern Class – Level 1**
This class will introduce students to the basic elements of modern dance. It will introduce correct alignment, vocabulary and movement common in all styles of modern dance technique. It will focus on strength, coordination, flexibility, use of breath, core support and use of space. The dancer will discover and support the body’s center of weight and learn connections within the body. The class starts with a standing warm up then a series of floor work, center work and the across the floor material. As students demonstrate proficiency in these basic elements, they will be introduced to more complex exercises.

**Modern Class – Level 2**
This class will introduce students to the basic elements of modern dance through the traditional modern technique and teachings of Rudolf von Laban and Irmgard Bartenieff. Students will learn Laban’s Movement Framework – Body (what the body does), Space (where the body moves) and Effort (how the body performs the movement). Concepts of breath, core support, alignment, rotation, phrasing and spatial intent will also be taught using portions of the Bartenieff Fundamentals floor work. Through the class students have the opportunity to develop kinesthetic awareness, proper body alignment, physical strength, flexibility, endurance, and care of the body while exploring expressive movement through modern technique.

**Modern – Level 3**
This class focuses on a modern technique developed by Lester Horton. This codified technique was created by Horton, and heavily influenced Alvin Ailey’s creations on his now internationally
renowned company. As an introduction to the technique, the intention is to set up a consistent class structure for students to feel that they have a well-rounded knowledge of the specifics of the Horton technique. The class begins with center work including fortifications and preludes, moves across the floor where students will travel through space learning Horton-based elements such as stags and lateral T’s, and the class concludes with more advanced components through phrase work.

MODERN – Levels 4 and 5
Building on the coursework in previous levels of modern dance, this class will draw from a fusion of modern techniques. Students will focus on moving in a large and dynamic way, while also paying attention to detail and clarity. Students will have the opportunity to develop kinesthetic awareness, proper body alignment, use of breath, physical strength, flexibility, endurance, and care of the body while exploring expressive movement through modern technique as well as improvisational exercises. The class will allow the student to develop a greater fluency in dance technique, vocabulary and performance skills. Students will dig deeper into their investigation of musicality, dynamics, clarity, focus and articulation in time and space. Dancers will work to move in a more expansive way and investigate full body movement.

CREATIVE CLASSES

DANCE IMPROVISATION
This is the first course in which students learn to find and following their own creative movement impulses. Trusting and guiding their instincts, and those of others, is encouraged. The skills of collaborating and ensemble building, while spontaneously creating, are critical to the focus of this course. The emphasis is on finding ways to inspire spontaneously improvised movement responses through the use of a variety of provided sources (such as music, props, poetry). Broadening students’ range of movement choices, discovering and inventing original body movement, and eventually the skill of recalling those choices, discoveries, and inventions are the focus of this course.

DANCE COMPOSITION 1
This course introduces students to fundamental methods of creating and describing choreography. It will introduce key vocabulary and exercises that are prevalent in composition work including: space, body, shape, timing, dynamics, intent, compositional phrase elements and giving feedback. Students will work both individually and collaboratively on various composition work that will increase in length and complexity as the year progresses. This work is performed and discussed. Students learn how to describe their work and that of others through the use of choreographic terminology and artistic criteria to support productive feedback.

DANCE COMPOSITION 2
This class builds upon beginning composition coursework. Defining, refining, and developing the elements, principles, and forms of choreography with increasing amounts of independent work are key to this class. Students work to craft space, time, shape, motion and energy through problem solving and exercises. Developing an idea independently, from initial inception to presentation to an audience, is the culminating focus of this course. The emphasis on probing questions and discussions during the presentation of student work provides ways for understanding and stimulating several creative solutions to the same assignment.

SENIOR DANCE COMPOSITION AND PRODUCTION
Senior Composition and Production will build on course work from previous levels of dance composition and improvisation. Students will apply the skills they have acquired to prepare for college/post-secondary programs and the development of solo material that can be used when auditioning for college dance programs. Solo compositions are then used as the starting point for the development of larger works. Each
student embodies the role of director of their own work and as dancers in the work of one or more of their peers. The year will culminate in the creation and production of a senior concert featuring students’ original choreography. Class time will also be devoted to developing the skills necessary to bring the work to the stage.

ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK

DANCE TOPICS
This semester course is designed as a unique opportunity to orient new dancers to the Academy dance department and to provide an understanding of the requirements of the program of studies. Many ‘nuts and bolts’ of the dance major’s responsibilities are discussed, and guidance provided with accomplishing these. The course also includes an introductory study of the historical context of the techniques studied in the department, including ballet and modern dance, and their place in the field of concert dance. In addition, students will be introduced to the process and product of other the arts departments at the Academy.

DANCE CONDITIONING
This class is a beginning level conditioning class which focuses on gaining strength and flexibility needed for dance technique. It will emphasize abdominal, back, leg and arm strength as well as increasing flexibility in the legs, back and hips. The class will be split into two parts; the first working on strength exercises and the second working on flexibility.

DANCE SKILLS
This course focuses on the skills that a student needs to incorporate into their life for a healthy and successful career in dance. These skills will help to make a complete and well informed dancer, who can navigate the ups and downs of the artistic world. Students explore four basic subject areas as they pertain to dance: health, pedagogy, audition skills and performance techniques. In an atmosphere of open discussion, we explore ways to cope with the everyday stresses in a dancer's life. This course also provides students with skills to organize time and analyze their individual performance in dance technique.

DANCE HISTORY
This course introduces students to the roots and time periods of dance history focusing primarily on Western theatrical dance. Ballet and modern dance, with respect to their connections to culture, world history, and influences on present day dance forms, are the main focus. Students study the styles and approaches of prominent figures in dance and learn short movement studies based on some of these choreographers. This course provides students a way to understand, trace, and appreciate these similar or contrasting styles and approaches. Unifying their inquiry is a sense of students belonging to this history and family of dance.

POINTE
This one semester elective ballet class is comprised of pointe exercises at the barre and center work. The focus will be strengthening the feet and ankles. Once the students have demonstrated proficiency in basic exercises, simple ballet variation work will be added.

REPERTORY
This one semester elective class provides students with a structured rehearsal experience with choreography material designed for and by students that culminates in performance. Content includes artistic interpretation, style, musicality, and coaching relevant to the movement presented weekly and developed throughout the semester. The class has a social justice focus teaching students how to use dance as a language that not only tells a story but opens up conversations about topics that are important to our community.

MODERN REPERTORY
This senior level class will be a year-long exercise in learning, retaining, and performing choreography using
modern dance technique. This course is designed to increase the students’ range as technicians, performers and artists by deepening the skills required to learn new material, to connect that material to the music, and to retain all of these details in order to perform the choreography in a confident and clear manner. Students will be encouraged and challenged to take risks with their performance skills.

**BALLET REPERTORY**
This senior class will be a year-long exercise in learning, retaining, and performing choreography using ballet technique. Students will learn to combine all elements of technical ability to create a vehicle of artistic communication by learning choreographic works which will be performed during the year. Some of the works will be existing ballets which will be reconstructed and modified for the ability of the students. Other works will be new pieces created specifically for the students in the class.

**DANCE CLASSES FOR NON-DANCE MAJORS**

**MODERN FOR NON-MAJORS**
This class will introduce students to the basic elements of modern dance. Students will focus on strength, coordination, flexibility, use of breath, core support and use of space. The dancer will discover and support the body’s center of weight and learn connections within the body. Class will include standing warm up, floor work, center work and the across the floor material.

**BALLET FOR NON-MAJORS**
This Ballet class will incorporate the basic elements of classical ballet, using techniques standardized by Agrippina Vaganova. The class work focuses on body alignment, basic body positions, general strength and simple coordination. The class begins with exercises holding onto the barre, continues with center work, and progresses to basic exercises that travel across the floor.

**JAZZ DANCE FOR NON-MAJORS**
The class incorporates basic elements of classical Jazz Dance. It will focus on strength, coordination, flexibility, use of space and timing associated with jazz technique. The class work begins with standing warm up exercises, stretches, and conditioning work, then advances to technical exercises done standing or traveling across the floor culminating with larger phrases in center.

**DANCE CONDITIONING FOR NON MAJORS**
This class is a beginning level conditioning class which focuses on gaining strength and flexibility needed for dance technique. It will emphasize abdominal, back, leg and arm strength as well as increasing flexibility in the legs, back and hips. The class will be split into two parts; the first working on strength exercises and the second working on flexibility.
MUSIC

MUSIC DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW VOCAL, CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL AND JAZZ

(Students and teachers wear masks and are socially distanced at all times.)

The goal of the Music Department is for each student to develop over four years to their highest potential as a musician, including:

• Performance skills on their chosen instrument or voice, including tone quality, intonation, technical mastery, and interpretation.
• Music literacy, including reading and writing music and understanding all common musical indications and symbols.
• Aural skills, including musical memory, concentration, sight-singing and transcription.
• Collaborating with teachers and peers in an ensemble setting, including interpersonal skills.
• Awareness and appreciation of music history, the music of other cultures, and music's connection to other arts and academic disciplines.
• Audience and performer etiquette. All Music students are strongly encouraged to take regular private lessons while attending the Academy. All students will attend department master classes, which will include faculty and student performances, lectures, and visits by guest artists.

Additional courses, by major, are listed below.

Each year, students will take music theory and a performance class on their instrument. Students will also choose among multiple elective courses.

CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL

• One Year: A student who attends one year will take: Level 1 instrumental Performance class, Theory, and an elective class either in music or another art form.

• Two Years: A student who attends two years will take: Level 2 instrumental Performance class Theory, and an elective class either in music or another art form

• Three Years: A student who attends three years will take: Level 3 Performance class, Theory and elective class either in music or another art form.

• Four Years: A student who attends four years will take: performance class, Jazz Theory and an elective class either in music or another art form
CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE COURSES

STUDIO WINDS AND STRINGS
Studio Winds and Strings is an intensive class open to all music major instrumentalists. In this course students will play as a small ensemble, working on repertoire from the classical canon to the modern day, and work as a soloist. Students will receive one on one coaching once a month and have ample time to practice on their own in one of the Academy’s many practice rooms. Work in this class will highlight instrument facility (scales, sight-reading, etudes) and learn solo repertoire that will position them to join honor festival ensembles or prepare for college auditions. All covid safety protocols are in place. Students wear masks at all times, unless playing their horns.

ACADEMY ORCHESTRA  (In 2020-2021, Orchestra is not being offered due to Social Distancing policies."
The Academy Orchestra is one of GHAA’s premier instrumental ensembles and is a required class for all music major string and wind players. Academy Orchestra is a performance driven ensemble and strives to play repertoire at the highest level. Students will be exposed to music from the classical canon (Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, etc.) to the modern day. In rehearsing pieces students will also be exposed to various music theory concepts, as well as learn about the importance the works’ composers play in music history. The Academy Orchestra is an active part in the Hartford music scene and is currently in collaboration with the Hartt School of Music’s Composition Program, in which the Academy Orchestra premiers works by Hartt composers written for the Academy Orchestra.

PIANO PERFORMANCE  Covid protocol requires that all keyboard instruments are spaced 6 ft. apart and wiped down after each use.
This course is for students who are either just beginning their study of piano, or those who have previously studied and wish to advance their skills. Students will be reading standard notation as well as chord symbols. The classes are structured to facilitate both group lessons and individual instruction. Students will be required to perform in various settings, including one-on-one with the teacher and in front of the class.

JAZZ ENSEMBLES
(open to all Wind, Piano, Percussion, Guitar, and Bass Instrumentalists)

• One Year: A student who attends one year will take: Level 1 Jazz Ensemble, Music
Theory 1, Jazz Improvisation and an elective in another art form.

- Two Years: A student who attends two years will take Jazz Ensemble, Music Theory 2, Jazz Improvisation and an elective in another art form.

- Three Years: A student who attends three years will take: Jazz Ensemble Level 3, Jazz Theory, which includes: advanced ear training, transcription, improvisation, and jazz piano, and an elective class either in a music, another art form or Big Band. (In 2021-2022, Big Band is not being offered due to Social Distancing policies.

- Four Years: A student who attends four years will take, Jazz Ensemble, and Jazz Theory, which includes: advanced ear training, transcription, improvisation, and jazz piano. an elective class either in music or another art form, or Big Band. (In 2021-2022, Big Band is not being offered due to Social Distancing policies.

JAZZ INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE COURSES

JAZZ ENSEMBLE 1
Students will learn the essential elements of performance, such as style, performance tips, and genres required for the solid understanding of what is required of a successful member of this vital part of the jazz group. The seven genres covered for rhythm section are: swing, Bossa Nova, R&B, shuffle, samba, and ballad. Additional topics include: standard chord progressions, volume, timekeeping, and how to develop effective comping, (accompanying), techniques. Students and teachers wear masks and are socially distanced. All covid safety protocols are in place. Students playing wind instruments wear masks unless playing behind a plexi sound booth.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE 2-4
This class is focused on jazz performance in a socially distanced, small group setting. Students will be guided in the craft of improvisation and ensemble playing. Students will gain an understanding of such skills as chord choice, improvising scales, rhythm section concepts and group cohesion. They will also play a variety of styles such as traditional, fusion, and free jazz. All covid safety protocols are in place. Students playing wind instruments wear masks unless playing behind a plexi sound booth.
VOCAL CLASSES
(open to all voice types)
During the Pandemic, students will sing behind a Plexiglas barrier or socially
distanced outdoors.

• One Year: A student who attends one year will take Intro to Great American
  Songbook; Musical Theater and Jazz & Pop, Music Theory and an elective class
  either in music, another art form or Jazz Choir.

• Two Years: A student who attends two years will take Level 2 Great American
  Songbook (jazz and musical theater), Music Theory, and an elective class either in
  music, another art form or Jazz

• Three Years: A student who attends two years will take Level 3 Great American
  Songbook (jazz and musical theater), Music Theory, and an elective class either in
  music, another art form or Jazz Choir.

• Four Years: A student who attends two years will take Level 4 Great American
  Songbook (jazz and musical theater) including working with an instrumental jazz
  combo, Jazz Theory, and an elective class either in music, another art form or Jazz
  Choir.

VOCAL PERFORMANCE COURSES

INTRO TO GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK: JAZZ & POP
This class is a beginner's introduction to popular music. In this class, students will
gain a repertoire of swing, jazz standards, blues and pop. They will also start to learn
how to improvise, changing the melody to better tell the story and even trying a bit of
scat. (All covid safety protocols are in place. Students wear masks unless singing
behind a plexi sound booth, or class is held outside).

INTRO TO GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK: MUSICAL THEATER
This class is a beginner's introduction to popular music. In this class, students will gain a
repertoire from the musical theater canon. They will learn to incorporate acting
elements into performance to gain an understanding of the character they are
portraying. (All covid safety protocols are in place. Students wear masks unless singing
behind a plexi sound booth, or class is held outside).
ELECTIVE MUSIC COURSES

TUESDAY / THURSDAY
In Department

ACTING FOR SINGERS

Students will learn to create characters, memorize dialogue, and use voice, body and emotions as acting tools. Students will participate in a variety of activities including theater games, improvisation, monologues and scene work.

JAZZ CHOIR

This vocal jazz ensemble travels to competitions and performs high-level jazz repertoire with tight jazz harmonies, often with one person on each part. There are lots of opportunities for solos, including vocal improvisation known as “scatting.” This group is also open to instrumentalists who want to sing jazz. (Audition required)

BRAZILIAN DRUMMING CLASS

In this class students will learn to play authentic Brazilian Drums such as the Surdo, Tamborim, Caxia and Agogo. They will learn to play different Samba, Bossa Nova and Samba Reggae beats. They will also learn about the history and culture of Brazil. No previous background in drumming is necessary to excel in this class. This class is a World Music Class.

JAZZ IMPROVISATION

In this class will learn the tools and techniques to improvise in a jazz context with confidence. As a group, we will work on expression through a solid foundation of rhythm, melody and harmony by playing together. There will also be an emphasis on listening to the great musicians of the past and present see what we can glean and incorporate into our own music. We will also put time into learning the great repertoire of the jazz idiom from Tin Pan Alley tunes to Free Jazz learning both by ear and reading.
MUSIC PRODUCTION MODERN MUSIC PRODUCTION AND PERFORMANCE
Modern Music Production and Performance (MMPP) is a core class open to all music department students on T/TH, regardless of ability or focus. In this class, you will learn how to write, create, and produce your own music on professional music production software. This class will cover topics regarding songwriting, composition, sound design, synthesizers, modern production techniques, and the history of popular American music. The MMPP course also focuses on live performance, and students will have the opportunity to learn a new instrument or hone their skills on one they already know. MMPP students will also learn the fundamentals of live sound production and get hands-on experience with professional level gear. All MMPP students will have a finished production by the end of the semester and will share their work online or live on stage.

MONDAY / WEDNESDAY
Out of Department

YOGA
In this beginning yoga course, students will learn the basics of yoga practice and meditation. Students will learn postures that will improve flexibility, balance, stamina, muscle strength and mind/body awareness. During each class students will move through a flow of movements that engages and energizes the body. Meditation is a proven stress reliever; students will learn different techniques to bring calmness to their minds and body through meditation practice.

PERCUSSION FOR NON-MAJORS
Open to all students want to learn to play drum set, mallet instruments or hand percussion, (Congas, Bongos, Shakers etc.). This is an “out of department” class and students from any department may sign up.
No previous background in drumming is necessary for this class.

THE SINGER IN YOU
There is a secret singer in us all. Using various genres of music, new and old, this class gives everyone the chance to discover the hidden singer inside

MODERN MUSIC PRODUCTION AND PERFORMANCE
Modern Music Production and Performance (MMPP) M/W, is a class open to all students, regardless of ability or focus. In this class, you will learn how to write, create, and produce your own music on professional music production software. This class will cover topics regarding songwriting, composition, sound design, synthesizers, modern production
techniques, and the history of popular American music. The MMPP course also focuses on live performance, and students will have the opportunity to learn a new instrument or hone their skills on one they already know. MMPP students will also learn the fundamentals of live sound production and get hands-on experience with professional level gear. All MMPP students will have a finished production by the end of the semester and will share their work online or live on stage.
MUSICAL THEATER

The mission of the Musical Theater Department is to provide students with a comprehensive training in the three art disciplines needed to be a performer in the field: acting, voice and dance. Strong emphasis will be placed on discipline and work ethic as well as course content. This curriculum will allow students to grow within their given area of artistic interest while also expanding their appreciation and understanding of community and ensemble dynamics.

Students follow the curriculum prescribed by the Musical Theater Department. Class assignments are made by the faculty and department chair and are based on the student’s age, experience and stage of mental, physical and technical development. Students may be required to take a department specific elective course.

The goals of the Musical Theater Department are:

- To equip students with the skills needed to present successfully in the highly competitive university and/or professional world after their high school years.
- To provide a safe and positive arena for the exploration of all work in order to allow young, creative talents the space for honest growth.
- To incorporate the unique American history of Musical Theater and to explore the multi-cultural aspects of its creators and performers.
- To engender an atmosphere of ensemble and a highly disciplined work ethic focusing on detail oriented, artistic process.
- To foster a positive and respectful group experience in order to take full advantage of the opportunity for personal growth offered by the Academy’s diverse student body.

All components will be taught with full awareness of the curriculum of the other two art disciplines. Group numbers taught in voice and dance classes will be presented and augmented with respect to acting values, just as historical content from acting class will be explored in voice class through exposure to work of actual composers and lyricists. In dance class historical content will be explored in regard to dance styles.

At each level there will be group work that encompasses all three areas.

MUSICAL THEATER COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACTING

ACTING I

The development of ensemble is the basis for this course. The basics of acting will be explored through physical and vocal exercises, improvisation, text analysis, and the beginnings of scene and monologue study. Concentration and focus exercises will be part of the daily class work. Students will learn how to approach the text in preparation for character and performance.
**ACTING II**

Second level students will be introduced to script/textual analysis and its application to dramatic material. Dramatic structure, including given circumstances, objective and super-objective will be explored within the context of scene study.

**ACTING III**

Students will be guided in researching and finding plays to explore on their own. They will engage in personal exploration to identify their own strengths and weaknesses, and with the assistance of the instructor, develop a plan for growth. Students will study mid-century and contemporary plays and work on longer form scenes.

**ACTING IV**

This course will comprehensively balance prior training to provide the senior with a wealth of tools and resources to successfully audition for colleges, roles and shows. In addition to continuing their scene study, students will explore their own interests and develop a devised piece of theater.

**SHAKESPEARE**

This course is typically introduced in the junior year, and has students explore the texts of Shakespeare through a personal lens. Students are guided to identify their own point of view as artists, and to discover new meaning in Shakespeare’s work.

**MUSICAL THEATER SCENE STUDY**

Introduction to Scene Study is a course for seniors in the musical theater department. The course focuses on the study of musical theater literature from the early 1950’s through present day. Students will explore different styles of musical theater through performance, with a special emphasis on the complicated history of the genre, and new material that looks to bring about social change.

**DANCE**

**BALLET 1**

This class incorporates basic elements of classical ballet, using techniques. The class work will focus on alignment, basic body positions, foot articulation, general strength and simple coordination of all parts of the body. Each student is expected to learn the French name for each basic movement, the translation of that name, and be able to explain how to execute the movement. The class begins with exercises holding onto the barre, continues with center work, and progresses to exercises that travel across the floor. All exercises are done on both right and left sides. The exercises are repeated each day during the week, with minor changes to increase the difficulty of the exercise, or the stamina required.
BROADWAY TAP

The class will incorporate elements of Broadway Tap where dancers make frequent use of syncopation. Students will also learn an important element tap dancing which is improvisation. This can either be done with music and follow the beats provided or without musical accompaniment, otherwise known as a cappella dancing.

LUIGI DANCE

Luigi is considered the master innovator of jazz dance technique, which he developed while recuperating from a devastating car accident that left him paralyzed. His spirit of determination led him to develop exercises that resulted in his return to dance class within a year, and to performing in musicals a year after that. He then continued to expand his warm up for balance and flexibility and his fellow dancers followed along. Eventually, Luigi began to formally teach his “classical jazz” technique. He established Luigi’s Jazz Centre NYC. For more than sixty years, dancers and teachers from around the globe have come to study his “gold standard” of jazz technique and his style continues to be taught in schools and colleges worldwide.

The beauty of the Luigi technique is that the basic warm up is accessible to a beginner, while more experienced students can still find challenge. The Luigi technique seamlessly weaves ballet and tap techniques into a classic “Broadway” jazz style, all of which are vital to musical theater dance.

JAZZ DANCE (Levels 1 and 2)

The class incorporates basic elements of classical Jazz Dance. Concentrated work focuses on strength, alignment, coordination of all parts of the body and demonstrating different styles of choreography.

The class work begins with standing warm up exercises, stretches, and conditioning work sitting/lying on the floor, and advances to technical exercises done standing and/or traveling across the floor. A combination of movement/choreography is practiced.

VOICE

(All levels focus on technique)

Students will learn beginning to advanced techniques; proper posture, breathing, placement and resonance. They will be introduced to the varying elements of style inherent in each genre and taught how to utilize them effectively in their repertoire. In addition, they will learn about and practice basic stage deportment, focus, audition techniques, working with a pianist, and translating foreign-language text.

AUDITION PREP

Audition Prep is designed for students to explore different types of auditions. Although students will identify and discuss different types of auditions, it is geared to help students best prepare for college auditions which require songs and monologues. The class outlines best practices for choosing material for auditions, creating resumes, and identifying what makes a “good” headshot. The class covers sourcing material and making cuts to both monologues and songs. Students are given the opportunity to practice the process of auditioning.
VOICE 1

Students will learn a repertoire based upon the standard composers, Gershwin, Porter, Kern, Rodgers, etc. In addition, basic stage deportment, focus and developing an interpretation will be taught. Vocal technique will include basic breath support, proper use and care of the vocal mechanism, smoothing out the break areas and the use of “passagio” or mixed voice, expanding the range and projection and learning how to produce a variety of sounds and styles from classical to Broadway. Sight singing and music theory will begin at the basic level using Solfeggio, the ability to sing small intervals, major, minor and chromatic scales and triad arpeggios. Students will work on solo works, improving audition techniques, dealing with an accompanist and developing an audition repertoire.

VOICE 2

The music explored at this level will be chosen from the 1950’s, 60’s and 70’s and be more complex and demanding. Students will be expected to perform in a manner already learned from level 1. The emphasis will be on acting the song with emotion, character, body and facial expression. Students will do a detailed lyric analysis of each song. Pieces will be coordinated with the acting and dance classes. Vocal technique will continue the process of expanding the range, projection, endurance and diction using classic bel canto techniques. Sight singing and music theory will be of intermediate difficulty with exercises in solo, two and three part harmony. The intervals will be larger and the rhythmic content more complex. Students will work on solo works, improving audition techniques, dealing with an accompanist and developing an audition repertoire.

VOICE 3

Students will prepare a series of selections from the 1980’s to the present. Pieces will be longer, more complex and demanding. There will be continued emphasis on acting the song and analyzing lyrics. Songs will be coordinated with the acting and dance classes. The class will continue to work to improve and strengthen vocal technique. Sight singing and music theory will include advance material for solo and four, or more, vocal part choral works. The intervals will be more chromatic and the rhythms more complex. Students will work on solo works, improving audition techniques, dealing with an accompanist and developing an audition repertoire.

VOICE 4

This course will comprehensively balance prior training to provide the senior with a wealth of tools and resources to successfully audition for colleges, roles and shows including presentation, first impressions, etiquette, placement of your audience and material. Students will learn how to connect a musical piece with clear dramatic choices. Students will be pushed to explore the creative process with each piece of music, and find a deep emotional connection. Students will be asked to make strong physical choices to help create the story of the song. Emphasis will be placed on how to approach the collaborative process, taking direction, and the process of making clear choices.
ENSEMBLE COURSES

Musical Theater In Living Color

In Living Color is a course that explores the genre of Musical Theater through a racial and social justice lens. The course asks students to look critically at the roots of Musical Theater and its development through time as it related to race, class, gender, religion and politics. Specific emphasis is given to new works and how the art form can be used for social change.

MUSICAL THEATER PRACTICUM

Students will demonstrate steps and variations used in musical theater choreography including but not limited to classic tap time step with proper arms (single, double, triple, traveling, wing), pirouettes (classical, jazz), other tap steps, jazz leaps, jumps and turns. Everything has basis of Ballet. Students will learn various choreographic styles used in Musical Theater. Original Broadway choreography may be used. Singing may also be incorporated, depending upon chosen material.

TRIPLE THREAT

The course is designed to introduce both new and experienced students to the concept of working as an ensemble using all three disciplines of musical theater-acting, singing and dance. Each class will consist of a vocal and physical warm-up, followed by music and lyric memorization and then staging and rehearsing the piece in preparation of an informal performance.

DISCOVERING YOUR VOICE

This is an ensemble class for freshmen and sophomores in the Musical Theater Department. While creating large chorale pieces, the class focuses on the basics of music theory, sight singing, blending and harmonizing. Students will receive opportunities to perform for school events and for community events.
The mission of the Theater Department is to provide students with an understanding of theater as an art form, and to foster respect for its requirements and disciplines. The curriculum will educate students in artistic ways of thinking and viewing the world, and enable them to use theater as their voice.

The goals of the Theater Department are:

• To prepare students for their next step, whether that is further education, professional work, or further training in theater.
• To take students, in their theatrical training, as far as they are able to go regardless of background or area of special interest.
• To give students the means to approach and develop dramatic material independently.
• To foster in students a greater understanding of the world and their peers, and to make them better citizens through cooperative and collaborative endeavors.

Students follow the curriculum prescribed by the Theater Department. Class assignments are made by the department chairperson and are based on the student’s academic grade level and technical development. Incoming students will enter the curriculum as First Year Students. In exceptional cases, students transferring from other Arts Magnet curricula may be placed at a more advanced level. Spending one year in any level does not guarantee advancement in the following year. Advancement decisions will be made by the Theater Faculty based on a student’s Year-End Jury Performance and an evaluation of their Performance in classes throughout the year.

• **First Year Students** will take: Acting Technique, Movement for Actors, Voice & Diction, Introduction to Technical Theater, Textual Analysis, Fools & Clowns and their choice of 2 electives per semester.

• **Second Year Students** will take: Acting 2, Physical Theatre, Shakespeare, Suzuki Technique, Textual Analysis 2, Personal Theater, Vocal Production and 2 Elective Courses per semester.

• **Third Year Students** will take: Acting 3, Theater History, Commedia dell’ Arte, Audition Technique, Classical Scene Study, and 2 Elective Courses per semester.

• **Fourth Year Students** will take: Acting 4, Theater and Social Justice, Audition Technique, Contemporary Trends in Theater, Solo Performance, and 2 Elective Courses per semester.

**THEATER COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**ACTING TECHNIQUE**

Students will be introduced to the fundamental elements of the actor’s craft through a combination of exercises, improvisation, and approaches to scripted material. Classes will emphasize the techniques developed by Uta Hagen, Stella Adler and Viola Spolin to develop a strong sense of given & imagined circumstances, believable focus within the context of work on stage, and collaboration among an Ensemble of peers. Students will learn to create plausible situations, make choices, justify those choices, and begin to
identify a character’s intention.

**ACTING II**
Students will be introduced to the technique developed by Sanford Meisner and its application to scripted scene and monologue work. Students will participate in a series of exercises designed to develop Meisner’s conception of acting, and then will apply those precepts to a series of monologues and scripted scenes from the contemporary American repertoire. Students will learn to make strong and specific choices of action, objective and obstacle and apply those choices to their performance work.

**ACTING III**
This course is designed to broaden students’ understanding of acting technique. Students will explore the physical performance principles developed by such practitioners as Jerzy Grotowski, Michael Chekhov and Jacques LeCoq in order to integrate their physical, vocal and analytical work. Students will analyze, rehearse and perform a variety of material from both American and international repertoires. They will learn to justify their interpretive choices through textual clues and historical, social and aesthetic research.

**ACTING IV**
This course is designed as a laboratory for students to experiment with their current understandings of Theater and expand their conceptual limits. Students will work with a variety of contemporary and traditional approaches to Theater around the world. They will explore Modern Non-realist acting techniques and experiment with the use of technology in performance in order to create a series of original works for the stage.

**ACTING FOR THE CAMERA – (elective)**
Students will acquire a broad overview of the many faces of on-camera work, including the vocabulary, skills, and techniques for working on a set. The sessions are divided into a didactic lesson and a practical on-camera lab. Students will be taped every week in order to achieve a degree of comfort, familiarity, and self-awareness with the medium. Each week, students will also discuss up-to-date practical information about working in the entertainment industry (e.g.; pictures, resumes, demo tapes, classes, auditions, agents, trade publications, and unions).

**ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS – (elective)**
This course gives students a basic first experience in acting. They learn how to interact creatively and collaboratively with each other; to do simple solo and partner mimes and exercises; to create context, given circumstances, relationships and objectives in simple one page scripts; to do realistic and believable improvisations; and to act a character in a full short play. Acting experience is not necessary.

**AUDITION TECHNIQUE**
This class is designed to prepare students for their next steps in the education and/or professional theater. Students will develop a standard, contrasting two monologue audition performance, as well as learning cold reading and self-taping techniques. Students will be introduced to the basic tools of the actor’s business: headshots and resumes, websites, and reels. They will be introduced to the roles of agents and casting directors in the theatrical workplace.
CLASSICAL SCENE STUDY
This class focuses on exploring texts of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Students will rehearse and present a variety of sonnets, soliloquies and scenes from the Elizabethan/Jacobean repertoire. Using abstract vocal and physical techniques, students will learn to bring elevated text to life, while incorporating character, beats and intention. In the final portion of the course, students may have the opportunity to explore other aspects of the Classical Repertoire from Renaissance Europe, Classical Greece and Rome, or other areas of the world.

COMMEDIA DELL’ARTE
Commedia dell’ Arte is a form of Italian street theatre and improvisational comedy, which dates back to the sixteenth century. As a living theatre form Commedia dell’ Arte no longer exists, however - - it is the arte that is the essential part of the work, the spirit discovered through the style. Students will study mime, physical comedy, and the development of a clown character, slapstick and circus skills such as juggling, balancing, and acrobatics on the road to becoming complete Commedia performers. The study of masks, improvisational technique, lazzi, and scenario provide the performer with a challenging container to explore the art of comedy and the craft of acting. Students will develop their own stock characters, complete with masks, and use them to create original Commedia pieces.

CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN THEATER
This course will give students an opportunity to evaluate and discuss the socio-political dynamics that impact the practice of Theater in today’s world. Through discussion, debate, critical writing and creative projects – students will learn how considerations of gender/cultural equity, representative diversity, and conscious vs. blind casting practices are shaping the professional theater landscape.

DIRECTING- (elective)
A hands-on, fast-paced introduction to the basics of directing for the stage. Using a series of progressive exercises, students will practice and perfect the techniques of visual storytelling. By creating an artistic laboratory setting, the curriculum challenges the students to make strong, clear choices and effectively communicate to actors and designers on a daily basis, developing practical applications of the theories behind directing. This class is for advanced Theater and Musical Theater majors only.

DOCUDRAMA – (elective)
In this elective course, students will create original theater pieces from real-life stories and interviews. Students will work together to examine contemporary issues and develop their own plays by sharing and performing the stories of the interviewees. Students will also examine the works and work processes of noted docudrama makers.

FOOLS AND CLOWNS
In this physical, high energy acting class students will take a journey into the world of physical comedic acting and clowning. They will learn the rules of clowning and various
clowning techniques to create scenes featuring original clown characters. Students will learn to communicate stories and ideas using movement, gesture, facial expressions and other clowning skills. They will demonstrate acting skills by developing, communicating and sustaining characters individually and within a group. They will apply research from silent film sources to script writing and acting choices. They will develop inter and intrapersonal skills through use of ensemble based activities, and learn to connect importance of physical warm-ups to the work actors create.

**IMPROV: DON’T BE PREPARED – (elective)**
In this class, students will learn the basics behind improvisational performance, a theater style where the only motto is, "Don't Be Prepared." A serious approach to comedy will be practiced and something brand new will be created at every class meeting. By using short, long and competitive forms, we will develop an active approach to improvisation and hone our skills to become comedy confident.

**IMPROVISATION**
This semester-long course supports and adds to the curriculum for all Second Year students in the theater department. Students focus on two primary areas: working cooperatively with their classmates in small groups; and creating believable characters in a variety of given circumstances with increasing complexity. Students use the same tools as with simple scripts—only in this class they create the scripts as well.

**INTRODUCTION TO TECHNICAL THEATER**
This survey course, taught by the Theater Design & Production faculty, is designed to introduce students to the basic areas of theater production such as scenery, costumes, and lighting. Instruction will emphasize terminology, basic concepts and safety. Students will obtain the knowledge of the behind the scenes collaboration that takes a production from an initial script selection through design and implementation to the final curtain.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEATER**
This course will emphasize that reading a playscript is an act of imagination that requires effort and active engagement. Students will explore the ways in which various theater artists interpret the text of a play depending upon their roles as Actors, Directors, Designers or Technicians. Through reading, discussion and projects, students will learn to analyze the plot structures of plays and discover how levels of characterization can be developed through close reading of the text.

**JAZZ DANCE**
This class incorporates basic elements of classical Jazz Dance. Concentrated work focuses on strength, alignment, coordination of all parts of the body and demonstrating different styles of choreography. The course asks students to approach their movement work in a disciplined and technical manner.

**MOVEMENT FOR ACTORS**
Students will develop the tools to prepare for a character and change characters. This class will train students to identify and adapt the physical qualities of a character through dance styles, improvisation, and the study of basic movement qualities drawn
from the work of Laban Movement Analysis.

**MOVEMENT REP – (elective)**
This is a product-oriented elective class in which the ensemble works together to create and workshop a long, non-verbal movement piece. Students are expected to create and embody choreography, to take risks to discover the most exciting physical work, and to research and analyze music, text and other materials. There will be a one-night-only final presentation of the work for an invited audience at the end of the school year. The course is open to students in all departments by audition.

**MULTICULTURAL DANCE STYLES – (elective)**
Throughout the year, students will be exposed to music and dance from around the world. Classes will include instruction in African, Latin, Asian, and/or American dance forms. Sessions will include breathing exercises and a physical warm-up to condition students to the rigorous full-body nature of the work. Students will be encouraged to use their own creativity and cultural dance knowledge to create solos or small group dances. The class is designed to show students how dance from around the world is expressed individually and where it intersects across cultures.

**PERSONAL THEATER**
This course will introduce students to a variety of techniques and activities (including improvisation and theatre games) for writing and generating performance through the lenses of personal and public material. Students will memorize and perform self-generated works. This class will focus on the ensemble of a community as well as individual artistic expression.

**PHYSICAL THEATER**
In this semester-long class, students explore ways of creating original theatre using physical form and gesture. In the first quarter, students explore Viewpoints and Laban Movement Analysis, two physical acting methods used to train actors, build ensembles and create movement for the stage. In the second quarter, students use the movement vocabulary developed in the first quarter to develop short etudes, group improvisations and scene work.

**PLAYWRITING – (elective)**
This course is designed to introduce students to the craft of dramatic writing. Students engage in short writing exercises which focus upon specific elements of play writing and which develop their own ideas for dramatic material. They also read and discuss selections from the contemporary repertoire. In the final portion of the course, students are responsible for developing and drafting a ten-minute play.

**PUPPETRY**
Students will discover acting from the perspective of performing by speaking and acting through another with at least two styles of puppets. Styles of puppet performance covered in the class may include but not be limited to: Object Theatre, Hand Puppetry, Rod Puppetry, and Marionettes. Students will construct their own simple puppets in order to perform a final scene.
SHAKESPEARE FOR ACTORS
This course concentrates on bringing Shakespeare’s plays to life through scene work and monologues. Students will choose and cut material from a cross section of Shakespeare’s works. They will dissect the language, distinguish differences for performing prose and verse, and build characters for performance.

STAGE COMBAT – (elective)
The aim of the course is to have students learn the basics of stage combat, both hand to hand, and using weapons. To create the illusion of fighting, the course will cover trust falls, Tibetan and Maori exercises regarding physical and spatial awareness, hand to hand combat skills, tumbling and stunt work. It culminates in weapons work, including rapier and dagger techniques, fencing, Broadsword and shield techniques.

SPOKEN WORD (elective)
This course will introduce students to the world of performance poetry. Students will be introduced to a variety of poetic styles, formats and devices. They will cover poetic movements from the Harlem Renaissance to the Nuyorican Poets to the world of Hip-Hop. They will be encouraged to respond with the original writing and performances that reflect upon their personal experiences and the world around them.

SUZUKI TECHNIQUE
This course is based on the physical training and creative energy of renowned Japanese theater artist, Tadashi Suzuki. The students participate in rigorous physical exercises geared towards heightening their strength, focus, intensity and stamina. They all perform as an ensemble in an actor generated piece of theater of which they write, create, and direct.

TEXTUAL ANALYSIS
In this class, the students will learn how to read a play as a performance piece rather than as a literary work. Texts are analyzed for dramatic structure and character clues. Contemporary and classical texts are read aloud. In addition, the students are introduced to various “isms” in theater – those styles that we most commonly recognize in Western theater. We look at plays from the vantage point of actors, directors, and designers. Multi-media projects explore the material in each quarter.

TEXTUAL ANALYSIS 2
In this course students read contemporary plays by and/or about minority culture to hear the stories less heard and the stories of the oppressed. Throughout this class students will be building an understanding of the context and how/why oppression works, through play readying and historical research. This course is intended to cultivate further empathy and compassion towards others and understanding of how storytelling can change the world.

THEATER & SOCIAL JUSTICE
Using techniques developed by such practitioners as Augusto Boal, Dario Fo and Bertolt Brecht, this course will investigate the ways in which applied theater can impact the society as a whole. Students will develop and perform a series of projects designed to address, analyze and inspire the audience to change systemic problems at the school, regional, national and/or global level.
THEATER HISTORY
This course will provide an overview of the history of theater from the present day back to the Greeks. A non-Eurocentric approach will be taken to include Asian and African theater in the curriculum. Students are required to do research and make presentations in class and to pool their knowledge and resources. Cultural eras will be brought to life in the classroom as students explore text, performance styles, and costume/scenic design.

VOICE & DICTION
This course will introduce students to the means of developing articulation, breath control and projection skills by learning how the voice works and how to use it efficiently. Through daily technical exercises and projects, students will begin to develop the skills to be easily heard and understood whenever they on stage.

VOCAL PRODUCTION 2
This course will develop and specify the skills introduced in Voice & Diction. Through a series of technical exercises and projects, students will pay specific attention to developing resonance and increasing their vocal range and expressiveness. Students will develop personal, pre-performance regimens to warm-up their voices and to continue to improve their diction and projection.
THEATER DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Students enrolled in Theater Design and Production explore, study and develop skills required for theater, dance and music production. The curriculum consists of coursework focused on scenery, costume, lighting and sound design and production techniques as well as classes in stage management, acting, art history, theatre history, visual arts, and script analysis.

Each year every student is enrolled in a full year class focused on a design discipline. Freshmen participate in an introductory color and design course while Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors enroll in Costume, Scenery or Lighting Design.

The balance of the program is structured around classes in the Theater and Visual Arts departments, as well as Sound Design, and practicums in each specialty. Students rotate through a variety of classes designed to introduce topics specific to theater and theater production. Classes include theater history, script analysis, stage management and drafting for the theater. In addition, students investigate more generic arts related subjects that inform theater practice like art history, drawing and acting. Classes are progressive but structured to accommodate students entering at any level.

**Freshman Year:**

- Drawing
- Introduction to Technical Theater
- Acting
- Sound Design
- Art History
- Practicum

**Sophomore through Senior Years:**

Each year, upper level students enroll in a full year class exploring one of the principal design disciplines - Set Design, Costume Design or Lighting Design. Students entering as Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors are placed according to interest and space.

All incoming, upper-class students will take Sound Design. They also may be placed in classes that are not for their “year” but are based on experience.

Each year, upper-class students take an out-of-department elective.
Sophomore Year:

- Design Class
- Introduction to Theater
- Introduction to TD&P semester 1
- Contemporary Trends in Theater semester 2
- Practicum

Junior Year:

- Design Class
- Theater History
- Drafting – Pencil and Computer
- Practicum

Senior Year:

- Design Class
- Drawing & Painting
- Computer Design Semester 1
- Theatre Crafts Semester 2
- Practicum

THEATER DESIGN AND PRODUCTION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FRESHMAN CLASSES

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Introduction to Theatre covers basic Theatre Production & Design terminology and how theatre works from behind the scenes. Working both on classroom projects and Arts Academy productions, students are introduced to basic scenic drafting, scenery construction and scenic painting techniques. Includes survey classes in Lighting, Costume and Scenery and Stage Management

SURVEY I– Lighting

An introduction to the electrical theory and practice and its application in theatrical lighting. Students gain fundamental skills in basic wiring, theatrical lighting fixtures, lighting color theory, rope & ladder skills, and lighting paperwork. Students will gain an appreciation for light through daily renderings and photos, which will help them to perceive light and how it affects mood and perception.
SURVEY I – Costumes

This class is an introduction to costume construction fundamentals. Students learn how the costume shop is organized, what jobs are available in this field, what tools are used and when they are used. Students will gain hands-on experience by learning to sew both by hand and machine.

Stage Management / Production Management

An exploration of the roles and responsibilities of a theatrical stage manager from pre-production and auditions through the final performance. Students create a prompt book that includes foundational paperwork for auditions, rehearsals, and performances. Students will read & analyze a script for production needs and create blocking notes, enabling them to call lighting and sound cues for a mock performance.

FRESHMAN DRAWING AND PAINTING (Visual Arts Department)

In this introductory course, students learn the basic elements and principles of drawing and their use across a variety of artistic mediums. Line, shape, space, mass, color, texture, ornament, as well as the ideas of harmony, balance, proportion, emphasis, and rhythm will be explored throughout numerous artistic challenges in this project-based class.

Introduction to Acting (Theater Department)

The basics of acting will be explored through physical and vocal exercises, improvisation, monologues, and scene study. Students will learn how to approach the text in preparation for character and performance.

SOUND DESIGN

An investigation of sound design in theater and media production. The skills developed for this course prepare the student to work with directors in designing audio for theater and video production. Students develop an understanding of sound mixing, audio processing techniques, sound effect creation, and the creation of soundscapes for theater and video.

1. Sound Design, and sound effects
2. Sound Design for Video
3. Multimedia Applications

This class also covers Sound Production Survey - Audio, students study the fundamentals of sound used in theater production. Concepts include speaker design and placement, microphones and microphone techniques, audio mixing, and the role of sound reproduction and special effects.

ART HISTORY (Visual Arts Department)

This course provides an introduction to the language of the visual arts and a foundation for individual understanding and enjoyment of art. This class will focus on how art communicates, how to analyze and interpret it, and how we can see it as a cultural product that reveals something about the society that produced it.
SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR AND SENIOR CLASSES

COSTUME DESIGN

This class is an introduction to both the business and the art of costume design. Students will explore the designer’s responsibilities to all the collaborators in a production, and the design process, with a focus on research and color theory. Each student will be responsible for the design and construction of at least one costume for the Arts Academy Spring Musical.

SET DESIGN

Set design class investigates the basics of designing scenery for the stage. It includes the study of stage terminology and script analysis, as well as the basics of drafting, rendering and design presentation. Students study the elements of visual designing (composition, line, color). They will create groundplans, color renderings and a scale model.

LIGHTING DESIGN

Students learn the history, elements, and process of designing theatrical lighting through discussion and numerous hands-on projects. Students create fully produced designs for Fall Showcase, and projects based on different genres of lighting, including dance, concert, nightclub, film, architecture and special events. The class helps students acquire an in-depth exploration of theatrical lighting design, and to expand upon their experience and skills to prepare them for college and entry into the theater profession.

SOUND DESIGN (Freshman)

An investigation of sound design in theater and media production. The skills developed for this course prepare the student to work with directors in designing audio for theater and video production. Students develop an understanding of sound mixing, audio processing techniques, sound effect creation, and the creation of soundscapes for theater and video.

1. Sound Design, and sound effects
2. Sound Design for Video
3. Multimedia Applications

This class also covers Sound Production Survey - Audio, students study the fundamentals of sound used in theater production. Concepts include speaker design and placement, microphones and microphone techniques, audio mixing, and the role of sound reproduction and special effects.

INTRO TO THEATER (Sophomore Year - Theater Department)

In this class, students learn how to read a play as a performance piece rather than as a literary work. Texts are analyzed for dramatic structure and character clues.
PRACTICUM- ADVANCED COSTUME DESIGN (Sophomore, Junior, Senior Year by choice)

Students gain hands-on experience by learning to sew both by hand and machine. The information will be reinforced while they are constructing costume pieces for the shows that Arts Academy produces. As they progress from freshmen to juniors, students will learn increasingly complex construction techniques. Returning students design and build costumes for each show.

PRACTICUM- ADVANCED SET DESIGN (Sophomore, Junior, Senior Year by choice)

This class is a continuation of Introduction to Theater Design & Production; giving students experience working with tools, techniques and methods employed in the technical design, budgeting and installation of theatrical scenery. Students are encouraged to creatively work both in design of projects and the use of materials. It is also a continuation of Theater Production Survey Lighting I - students further develop skills and knowledge of theatrical lighting and lighting concepts. Students in these classes have increasing responsibility to Arts Academy production and assume more significant roles in Arts Academy performances.

1. Rigging
2. Technical Direction and Production Management (Budgeting)
3. Advanced Carpentry

PRACTICUM- ADVANCED THEATER CRAFTS (Sophomore, Junior, Senior Year by choice)

This class is focused on propping and painting Arts Academy theater and dance productions. Students learn to create a props list, budget a show and create the show props. It is also an introduction to the role of the scenic artist in the theatre production process. During this series of courses students will generate a variety of painted images on traditional scenic materials. Exercises begin with basic skills in applied color theory and investigation of color mixing using paints. Projects designed to develop basic painting techniques as well as paint the set.

Visual Arts Classes for Theater Design and Production

Fundamentals:

1. Painting Natural Elements: Stone, Wood, Water, Foliage
2. Use of Spray Guns and other Advanced Techniques
3. Sculpture Technique for Theater

MAKE UP FOR THE THEATER will also be covered in Advanced Theater Crafts.

Students will be work with different techniques and materials to create special effects for the stage. Include prosthetic noses, old age, bruises, cuts, burns, scars and fantasy make-up.

THEATRE HISTORY (Junior Year – Theater Department)

This course will provide an overview of the history of theater from the present day back to the Greeks. A non-Eurocentric approach will be taken to include Asian and African theater in the
curriculum. Students are required to do research and make presentations in class and to pool their knowledge and resources. Cultural eras will be brought to life in the classroom as students explore text, performance styles, and costume/scenic design.

**DRAFTING FOR THE THEATER (Junior Year- Semester 1 Pencil, Semester 2 Computer)**

Modules one and two explore the fundamental techniques used in manual and computer aided technical drawing. Students acquire the skills needed to read, analyze and produce architectural style drawings for the theater.

1. Manual (hand) drafting
2. Computer Aided Drafting (CAD)
3. Google SketchUp – 3d modeling

**THEATER CRAFTS (Senior Year One Semester)**

Students will be introduced to the terms, techniques, and methods used in the planning, construction, painting and installation of commonly used materials in theatrical properties. The course work will consist of classroom discussion projects and presentations. We will design and create a mask for the stage.

**COMPUTER DESIGN (Senior Year One Semester)**

An introduction to computer technology available to the theatrical designer. Students will work on Macintosh Computers with a variety of software programs. Three 8 week modules

1. Adobe Photoshop
2. Web Design incorporating on-line portfolios

**Senior Drawing & Painting (Visual Arts Department)**

**Drawing 1**

Students will continue to incorporate the Elements & Principles of Design as a foundation for compositional development. Focus in this studio will include observation drawing, incorporating self-expression and compiling concepts of visual problems into compositions. Media explored in this course will include graphite, charcoal, conte crayon and pastels.

**Painting 1**

Student will continue development of technical skills in a variety of studio painting media such as pen & ink, watercolor, acrylic, water-soluble oil paint and multimedia painting. Painting practices such as glazing, impasto, dry-brushing and wet-on-wet applications are significant elements to expanding techniques learned in this course.
INTERDEPARTMENTAL ELECTIVE CLASSES

All classes are one semester in length

THEATER DESIGN AND PRODUCTION FOR NON-MAJORS (Interdepartmental elective)

A survey of basic set construction and theater crafts using terms, techniques, scenic painting and technical theatre terminology commonly used in theatrical production. The course work will consist of both classroom discussion and lab work in the scene shop and theater.

YOGA

A class combining the discipline of yoga with the foundations of acting: breathing, moving truthfully, listening to the body and finding authentic physical vocabulary

VISUAL ARTS

The Visual Arts department teaches the fundamentals of art in a variety of disciplines including drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, analog and digital photography, art history and graphic design. Students follow the curriculum prescribed by the Visual Arts Department Head based on work presented in an audition for evaluation, in addition to student interests. Additionally, course selections are based on grade level and technical proficiency.

- We teach the importance of visual thinking and creative problem solving.
- We emphasize observational drawing techniques for college portfolio preparation.
- We encourage collaborative work both within the Visual Arts Department, throughout CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Half-day Program and the Greater Hartford community.
- We encourage and support students’ risk-taking as they progress through the rigorous curriculum.
- Art history courses, gallery and museum tours, guest artist lectures and hands-on workshops provide a context for students’ work of artists past and present.
- We exhibit student artwork in the school throughout the community, nationally and internationally.

Supplies – Students are encouraged to bring supplies they prefer to create with, however all supplies for in-class studio work will be provided.

- **Year 1**: Foundation Drawing and Painting in addition to 2-3 of the following courses: Foundation Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, Mixed Media or Printmaking
- **Year 2**: Drawing and Painting Level 1 in addition to 2-3 of the following courses: Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, Mixed Media, Printmaking, Graphic Design or Photography
- **Year 3**: Drawing and Painting Level 2 in addition to 2-3 of the following courses:
Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, Mixed Media, Printmaking, Graphic Design, Photography or UConn ECE Drawing (3 credit college course)

- **Year 4**: Senior Seminar in addition to any of the following courses: Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, Mixed Media, Printmaking, Graphic Design, Photography or UConn ECE Drawing (3 credit college course). If the student has excelled through the curriculum from the previous year, they would have the opportunity to develop an Independent Study in technique(s) and medium(a) of choice.
VISUAL ARTS

2D VISUAL ARTS COURSES

FOUNDATIONS DRAWING

This course will focus on drawing from observation. Subject matter studied in this course includes still life, portraiture, landscape and perspective. The Elements and Principles of Design are the fundamental components to creating compositions in the course.

DRAWING (2ND, 3RD, 4TH YEAR)

This course continues the exploration of working from observation in addition to conceptual design and contemporary drawing techniques. Drawing compositions created in this course could be included in a student portfolio necessary for summer arts programs and college auditions.

UCONN ECE DRAWING 1

This course will focus on the fundamentals of visual thinking through the process of drawing by direct observation. Experimentation with different materials, sharpening observational skills (eye-hand coordination) will result in a refined technique in order to draw subject matter from life. Students who successfully complete this course have the ability to earn 3 college credits, which are transferrable to hundreds of universities nationwide.

FOUNDATIONS PAINTING

This course will focus on color theory through watercolor, ink and acrylic painting techniques. The ability to perceive and express relationships by understanding and implementing the Elements & Principles of Design are also included in the curriculum for this course.

PAINTING (2ND, 3RD, 4TH YEAR)

This course continues the exploration of color theory, knowledge and application with the wet media such as watercolor, ink, acrylic and an introduction to water soluble oil paint. The significance of color will be explored as an art element and relationships between color through the Elements and Principles of Design will be examined.

3D VISUAL ARTS COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS

This course provides an introduction to the history of ceramics and a beginning level experience in the use of clay as a fine art medium. Forming techniques through hand-building, surface development, throwing on the wheel, glazing and kiln firing practices will be introduced. Both the functional and sculptural ceramic techniques will be explored.
ADVANCED CERAMICS

This course is designed to allow advanced ceramic students to work on developing a personal expression in clay. Each student has the option to direct their own projects with guidance by the instructor, if needed. An assignment can be designated by the instructor with focus on hand-building, throwing on the wheel, or experimental glazing techniques.

SCULPTURE

This course focuses on creating works of art in the third dimension. Students will be introduced to a variety of materials for 3D problem solving including wire, clay, wood, plaster, and found materials. Students learn both additive and subtractive methods of sculpture.

MULTIMEDIA VISUAL ARTS COURSES

ART HISTORY

This course provides an introduction to the historical language of visual arts and a foundation for individual understanding artistic styles and movements. Students will learn how to communicate about art, analyze and interpret a variety of media and techniques practiced in addition to exploring cultural practices from around the world in relation to visual art making.

MIXED MEDIA

This course will introduce students to a variety of traditional and non-traditional multi-media techniques in response to visual art making challenges. During this course the Elements and Principles of Design will be explored and developed through drawing, painting, collage and multimedia book design.

PRINTMAKING AND BOOK DESIGN

This course will introduce students to techniques practiced in plate development and an edition series. Studio print media such as monotype, collagraph, linoleum block printing, dry-point etching and relief plate rubbings will be explored. Repetitious drawing practices and an understanding of color theory are significant components to this course. Students will also be introduced to a variety of book making techniques, which will include different styles binding and orientation such as accordion and stab binding.

DIGITAL AND PHOTOGRAPHY VISUAL ARTS COURSES

ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of photography and the operations of a 35mm, manual camera. Students will learn darkroom techniques, including the processing of black and white film. Different types of photographic techniques will be explored through lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on class assignments. Emphasis will be placed on proper camera and darkroom techniques including the use and care of equipment.
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of digital photography and the technical aspects involved with using a digital camera. Students will learn how to upload images, proper use of storage and manipulation of imagery through Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom.

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION

This course will introduce students to computer graphics, and explores Adobe Illustrator by using a drafting tablet for creation and manipulation, effects, graphic illustration techniques, and typographic functions in applying the computer graphics medium to problem solving in graphic design. In addition, this course is for students interested in developing their knowledge in the most up to date Adobe Photoshop Suite (APS). APS is a complex graphics and image editing software, and paint program.

VISUAL ARTS COURSES FOR SENIORS

INDEPENDENT STUDIO

This course is tailored by a student who has excelled through the curriculum from the previous years they attended CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Half-day Program and have expressed the desire to develop an Independent Study in technique(s) and medium(a) of choice. Based on research presented in the proposal for an independent studio, students will have the opportunity to study with any Core Arts Faculty in the Visual arts Department who exhibits advanced knowledge of the techniques and media outlined in the proposal.

SENIOR SEMINAR

This course is designed for Visual Arts seniors to connect, share ideas, and brainstorm for the Senior Thesis Project and preparation for the future! There will be time for Capstone (if applicable), apply to schools, programs and jobs, design the annual yearbook cover page, and collaborate on the Senior Video Presentation for end of the year culminating event the Academy Awards. Students will be expected to write an artist statement explaining their senior process in visual art making in response to researched and developed Senior Thesis Project.