

Course title: Directing the play for production

Number of hours: Twenty (20) lecture hours
Thirty-five (35) laboratory hours

Course description: This course in directing will help the participant to translate the script into meaningful and effective action. He will have the tools which will enable him to convert characters written on a script to the stage as walking, talking, emotion stirred and stirring people. A project will be required of each participant to direct a one-act play or an act from a full play to be presented during the final week of the workshop. A production book containing an essay interpreting the play, the participants approach to the staging of the play, outlines, charts and a description of production elements to be used in the staging of the play: scenery, costumes, etc. will also be required.

Instructor: Miss Claudia D. Finger

Course Outline

- I. Introduction to Play Directing
 - A. Definition of Play Directing
 - B. Function of the Director

- II. The stage
 - A. Terminology
 - B. Dominant weight of stage area, planes and levels
 - C. Ground plan

- III. Elementary stage technique for the actor
 - A. Stage position
 - B. Body position
 - C. Turns, gestures, kneeling
 - D. Approaches
 - E. Position of doors and windows
 - F. Entering and exiting
 - G. Listening
 - H. Asides and soliloquies
 - I. Opening up and covering positions and business

- IV. The body, the voice and the role
 - A. Subjective and objective acting
 - B. Subjective creation and stage technique
 - C. Bodily responsiveness
 - D. Vocal responsiveness

- V. Five Fundamental aspects of directing
 - A. Composition
 - B. Picturization
 - C. Movement
 - D. Rhythm
 - E. Pantomimic dramatization

VI. Production Procedure

- A. Tryouts and casting
- B. Rehearsals
 - 1. Reading
 - 2. Blocking
 - 3. Business
 - 4. Finishing
 - 5. Technical

VII. Production Plan

- A. Scenery
- B. Costumes
- C. Properties
- D. Lighting
- E. Sound
- F. Make-up

Many areas of interest to the participant will for the limitation of time be impossible to present during this workshop; however, we would like the participant to know that these areas exist and the place that they occupy in the creative thinking of the director of a play. For this reason we would hope to have lecturers in the following areas: Music, Audio-visuals, and Art; and make field trips behind the scenes of various professional theatres in the area.