

**Department:** Performing Arts

**Course Name:** Upper School Acting

**Course Description:**

This Upper School course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to understand and appreciate the development of early theatre origins and to develop and experience the disciplines and techniques for consistent and successful stage acting. An appreciation of the acting experience is gained by giving students the arena to discover, discuss, interpret, rehearse, and perform a variety of individual, self-directed and collaborative exercises, and rehearse and perform monologues and selected scenes for development and evaluation. In this way students learn not only insight and respect for learning the practical applications of acting techniques but also build individual self-esteem and confidence by applying learned disciplines in an onstage performance in front of a live audience.

**Content:**

Acting Methods and Teachers  
Understanding the Job of the Actor  
Emotional versus Technical Acting Styles  
Physical Action Analysis  
Truth of the Moment Dynamics  
Scene Breakdown and Analysis  
Instinctual Interpretation  
Contextual Interpretation  
A Personal Process for Interpretation of Script Materials

**Skills:**

Develop, apply and reinforce basic exercises designed to improve an individual's focus, concentration and listening skills.  
Develop, apply and reinforce vocal exercises required to improve projection, diction and vocal variety.  
Build self-awareness and an agile approach to the physical skills required to project believable actions and characters.  
Foster an intellectual connection and trust of the student's interpretive skill set.  
Formulate an honest practical approach of analysis and method required for successful, creative collaboration.  
Apply consistent personal breathing, vocal, movement and interpretive methods  
Critically assess and develop the emotional trust required for honest interpretation required in monologue and collaborative scene work.  
Explore and experiment in self-directed techniques required to accurately create believable characters.  
Developing a confident system of reading and analysis to accurately reflect the intent of the playwright in relation to social, political and global perspectives.

**Texts and Materials:**

Stella Adler, The Art of Acting (Applause, 2000)

Scenes and Monologues as selected by the instructor

Instructor may also include pertinent essays, videos from You Tube

Google Slides

**Methods of Instruction:**

Lecture

Demonstrations

Digital Acting Journals used to assess and reflect on their work and the work of others as well as a place to create.

Individual and collaborative exercises, reflection, discussion, rehearsal, performance, and review.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Application and improvement in self-directed and collaborative exercises.

Presenting performance objectives of selected monologues and scenes.

Submitting timely, complete, and correct individual and collaborative assignments.

Displaying a genuine curiosity for risk-taking and readiness in rehearsal objectives.

Presenting synthesized applications of applied techniques in rehearsal and performance quizzes and exams.

