



# Gyeonggi Suwon International School

## Theatre Arts

### Course Description

This elective course is an exploration of the theatre arts. The course **aims** to introduce students to on and off stage roles and responsibilities in the world of theatre. The course **content** includes the staging of two theatrical productions, one in the fall and another in the spring. Students will explore acting techniques (voice, theatrical movement, and method acting), stage management and directing, and theatrical genres such as tragedy, comedy, mystery, and musical theatre. **Assessment** is in the form of written knowledge based tests, stage performances, written reflections and daily positive participation assessments. This course will require student commitment to a limited number of after school or evening dress rehearsals and performances as well as attendance at a college, professional or other HS theatre performance.

### Units of Study

#### ***Required Units***

##### **Introduction to the Stage** (August 7-10)

*Unit Questions:* What are the basic parts of a stage, a script, and a drama performance?

*Content:* Stage Directions, Script Analysis, Writing a Review.

*Note:* Attendance at a college, professional or other HS theatre performance is a required component of this class. You must identify a production to attend, research the show ahead of time, view it, and write a critical review. To receive credit for your work you must also submit a ticket stub or program signed by a member of the cast or crew (backstage or FOH).

##### **Voice and Memory** (August 13-24)

*Unit Question:* How do actors use their voice and their memories in performance?

*Content:* The anatomy of the voice, breathing, posture, diction, projection, memorization techniques

### **Acting Technique** (August 27-September 14)

*Unit Question:* How do actors work creatively to act believably on stage?

*Content:* Emotion Memory, Sense Memory, Physical Actions, The "Magic If", Given Circumstance, Inner Monologue, Status & Objectives, Imagination

### **Play Production 1** (September 17-November 21) & **Play Production 2** (April 1-May 31)

*Unit Question:* What roles are important in staging a production? How is the rehearsal process conducted?

*Content:* Students in the class will take on the roles of designers, stage managers, technicians, director, or actors to produce a one act production in the fall and another in the spring.

*Note:* Participation in two performances is a mandatory component of the class. Each performance will be treated as a major exam and students will be assessed during their performances in multiple ways including but not limited to memorization. Students must also be available for dress rehearsal after school during production week both in the fall and in the spring. There will be multiple options for participation during the two class performances. These can generally be divided into these two categories. Neither should be seen as easier or harder than the other or more or less important.

**1) Acting options** - most students will be expected to perform on stage as a character. Your associated course work (dramaturgy) will consist of character studies and play analysis from the perspective of the actor.

**2) Stage management options** - a few students will perform the duties of stage manager, assistant stage manager, assistant student director (prompter), prop master, technical director, light board operator, or sound board operator. These students must demonstrate leadership abilities. Their roles are equally as important as actors and their performance will be assessed based on task completion prior to and during performances. Associated course work will consist of the creation of cue sheets, blocking notation, etc. and research into their assigned roles in the professional theatre.

### ***Optional Units***

*As a class you may democratically choose three units of study for the second and third quarter of your Theatre Arts elective course. You may choose from the following options:*

#### **Shalom Aleichem: Remembering the Shtetl**

Learn about the Yiddish theatre and how one of the most beloved stage musicals came out of the adversity of the Jewish shtetl during the 19th and early 20th century. How can the theatre address issues like racism or anti-semitism and still entertain? Your summative project will include a written knowledge based test, a critique of the musical "Fiddler on the Roof", and the performance of a scene from Shalom Aleichem's "Tales from the Shtetl". I will choose your character for the performance.

### **Commedia Dell Arte**

Explore the history of and characters associated with this form of comic improvisation developed in Italy in the 16th century by traveling acting troupes and how Commedia has influenced modern comedy. Your summative project will include a written knowledge based test, an individual powerpoint presentation on a Commedia character, and a group performance of a Commedia scenario in character. I will choose the scenario and your group.

### **Theatre Make-Up and Costume Design**

Learn the art of make-up for the stage and the process of designing costuming for a theatre production. What is the difference between greasepaint and pancake? How do you create a stage scar and why did Romans wear togas? Your summative project will include a written knowledge based test, a costume design portfolio for a stage production, and a make-up practicum on another member of the class. I will choose the stage production and your make-up partner.

### **Musical Theatre and the Magic of Broadway**

Explore the history of the Musical Theatre genre from “Anything Goes” to “Wicked”. What makes musical theatre unique? What goes into writing, directing, choreographing, and acting in a musical? Your summative project will include a written knowledge based test, an individual powerpoint presentation on a musical, and a group performance of a musical number from an important musical. I will choose the musical number and your performance group.

### **Advanced Acting Techniques for Monologues and Auditions**

Learn acting techniques and philosophies from some of the foremost sources in the modern theatre: Stanford Meisner, Lee Strassberg, and Uta Hagen. What is the modern “Method”? How does Meisner’s approach differ from Strassberg’s? What does Uta Hagen say about concentration? Your summative project will include a written knowledge based test, an individual book review, and a memorized and performed monologue demonstrating skills learned. You may choose texts and monologues from a list I provide.

### **Arthur Miller and The American Drama**

Explore the work of American playwright Arthur Miller. Examining the fates of average men and women as they confront harsh societal realities, Miller’s “The Crucible” and “Death of a Salesman”, both written during Millers early career in the 1950’s, have become modern classics. Miller challenges us to understand how dramatists can both reflect and challenge the societies that they are a part of. In this unit you will explore the work of Arthur Miller through reading, research, and writing. Your assessment will be in the form of a written exam and performance of a short scene or monologue from one of Miller’s works.

## Grading

Your grade for this class will be based equally on points accumulated in three areas:

**Knowledge:** Traditional tests, writing assignments and other assessments.

*Note:* I will enforce a policy of academic integrity designed to foster your independent growth as a student. If you are found to have cheated by giving or receiving answers or plagiarizing without citation there will be consequences. Upon the first offense your work will not be accepted and you must do the assignment, assessment, or test over. The second offense will result in your work receiving a zero without the possibility of doing it over. The third offense will result in my recommendation that you not receive credit for this class. Each offense will be reported to the secondary office for possible further administrative action.

**Performance:** Your learning applied on stage. Performance assessments will include characterization, projection, articulation, blocking, movement and memorization during a production. Memorization deadlines will also be treated as performance assessments.

**Participation:** Points will be recorded when group activities or physical action are a part of the day's classwork on the following scale -

- 1 - Student does not participate
- 2 - Student grudgingly participates after being prompted to do so by the teacher or another student
- 3 - Student participates but without expression or energy. Their contribution is limited.
- 4 - Student participates fully as a member of the class or small group.
- 5 - Student participates fully and demonstrates leadership in tangible ways.

*Notes:* Come to class on time and prepared to participate in drama. If you are late your class participation points will be deducted. Phones should be switched off upon entering the room and the use of technology should be appropriate to the learning goals of the class or points will be deducted.