

## 476 Spring 2020 Schedule of Classes and Assignments

### Class 1 1/15

Topics: Introduction to 476 (presentation); Joke Telling (exercise); Jokes are Stories (presentation); Housekeeping (presentation)

#### Assignments:

1. Give Group Assignment Preferences to your SA
2. Sign on to class website - (find Syllabus under “Classes”) read 476 Syllabus - sign Student Acknowledgement and Agreement (find it under “Class Materials”) - hand in agreement to SA due by Class 3
3. Acquire textbooks: (available at the Campus store or Amazon)

*The Comic Toolbox* by John Vorhaus [http://www.amazon.com/Comic-Toolbox-Funny-Even-Youre/dp/1879505215/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1356230359&sr=1-1&keywords=the+comic+toolbox](http://www.amazon.com/Comic-Toolbox-Funny-Even-Youre/dp/1879505215/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1356230359&sr=1-1&keywords=the+comic+toolbox)

*Directing Actors* by Judith Weston <http://www.amazon.com/Directing-Actors-Memorable-Performances-Television/dp/0941188248>

4. Reading Assignments from Texts:

*Directing Actors* “Introduction” (pp. 1-12) “Result Direction & Quick Fixes” (pp. 13-47)

*The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter One “Comedy is Truth and Pain” (pp.1-8)

5. Reading Assignments from Website:

How to Approach This Course - BK (Class Materials)

FAQ’s (Class Materials)

J. Cohen - How to Succeed in Barnet’s Class (Class Materials)

BK-What is Directing? (BK Handouts)

Ed Catmull - Failure (Articles)

[Reading Assignments due by next class](#)

### Class 2 - 1/22

Topics: Directing Actors (presentation) Casting Comedy (presentation) Audition Process (begin presentation)

Hand out Group Assignments

Assignments for Class 3:

1. Reading Assignments from Texts:

*Directing Actors* - Moment to Moment (pp.49-76) Listening (p.77-90)

*The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter Two "The Will to Risk" (pp. 9-18)

2. Reading Assignments from Website:

BK - Directing Actors (BK-Handouts)

BK - Doing: The Intersection of Writing, Acting and Directing (BK-Handouts)

BK - The Principle of Doing (BK-Handouts)

BK - Engaging Actors - The Value We Add (BK Handouts)

BK - Reading the Script (BK-Handouts)

50/50 Screenplay (Class Materials)

Grazer - Thin-Slicing Tom Hanks (Articles)

Levine - Real Actors (Articles)

Erica Fae - There's No Right Way (Articles)

Larry - Setting Up an Audition (Articles)

Class 3 - 1/29

Topics: Rehearsal (Presentation) 30 slides; Auditions (demonstration); Rehearsal Demonstration (demonstration)

Hand out Scene Assignments

Assignments for Class 4:

1. Begin Casting Process - schedule auditions Group A esp. begin auditions

2. Reading Assignments from Texts:

*Directing Actors* -Actors Choices (pp. 91-132) Casting (pp.235-244)

*The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter Three: "The Comic Premise" pp 19-29

3. Reading Assignments from Website:

BK - Casting (BK Handouts)

BK - How to Read and Use Stage Directions (BK Handouts)

Casting - Keep Your Eye on the Big Picture (Topics)

Casting and Comedy - Feeling No Pain (Topics)

What Actors Have Said About Working in this Class (Class Materials)

BK - Actors Drop Out at the Last Minute (Class Materials)

Blog Posts and Reflections - FAQs (Class Materials)

4. Screening Assignment from Website:

Brooks/Moss Workshop volume 1 or volume 2 (Materials/Videos)

Class 4 - 2/5

Topics: Rehearsal (complete presentation); Directing the Scene - Interpreting the Text (presentation); Moments and Beats (presentation); Scene Analysis (presentation);

Assignments for Class 5:

1. Begin Scene Analysis and Breakdown (using the Scene Analysis and Breakdown Questions - see below)

2. Group A begin rehearsals outside of class

3. Reading Assignments from Texts:

*Directing Actors* - Script Analysis (p.163-234) Rehearsal (p. 245-279)

*The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter Four - Comic Characters p 30-46

4. Reading Assignments from Website:

BK- An Approach to Directing The Scene (BK Handouts)

BK - Scene Analysis and Breakdown sept. 2016 (BK Handouts)

BK - The Search for the Event (BK Handouts)

BK - How to Answer the Scene Analysis Questions (BK Handouts)

BK - Scene Analysis and Breakdown Questions rev Fall '18 (Class Materials)

Beats and the Recipe for a Scene (Topics)

Beats as Decision Points (Topics)

5. First Reflection Assignment: **by email to me by 12pm-9/25 (Class 5 day)**

Write a reflection about one of the following -

your choice: a)Audition Demo

b)Rehearsal Demo

c)Brooks/Moss Video

Class 5 - 2/12

Topics: My Boys Beats (presentation); Spotting Maya - Scene Analysis Worksheet (presentation) Scene Analysis Questions (discussion); Directing Actors part 3 (presentation)

Assignments for Class 6:

1. All Groups rehearsing

2. Reading Assignments from Texts:

*Directing Actors* - Appendix B&C Comedy and List of Action Verbs (pp. 296 - 307)

*The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter Seven - The Comic Through Line (pp. 75-102)

3. Reading Assignments from Website:

BK - How to Rehearse (BK Handouts)

BK - In Rehearsal Ask Yourself (BK Handouts)

BK - Mining the Premise - Massaging the Frustrated Expectation (BK Handouts)

BK - Reminders for Rehearsers (Class Materials)

In Class Rehearsal (Class Materials)

Understanding the Governing Social Obligation (Topics)  
Q&A - The Director's Relationship to Verbs (Topics)  
Does Woody Allen Rehearse (Topics)

Greenberg - The Discipline of Play (Articles)

Class 6 - 2/19

Topics: Group A In-Class Rehearsal #1

Schedule Group A Meetings with Barnet

Assignments for Class 7:

1. Group A 1<sup>st</sup> Rehearsal Reflection [due by noon, day of next class](#)

2. All Groups Rehearsing

4. Reading Assignments from Texts:

*Directing Actors* - Shooting (pp. 281 - 290)

*The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter Six Types of Comic Stories (pp.58-74)

4. Reading Assignments from Website:

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR MEETING WITH BARNET (Class Materials)

Coping With Critique (Topics)

Flag on the Play (Topics)

Comedy is Serious Business (Topics)

Intellect-Observation-Balance (Topics)

The Ticking Clock (Topics)

Class 7 - 2/26

Topics: Group B In-Class Rehearsal #1

Schedule Groups B Meetings with Barnet

Assignments for Class 8:

1. Group B 1<sup>st</sup> Rehearsal Reflection [due by noon, day of next class](#)

2. All Groups Rehearsing

3. Reading Assignments from Texts:

*The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter Eight - More Tools from the Toolbox (p. 103 - 115)

4. Reading Assignments from Website:

BK - 3-Part Checklist for Troubleshooting (BK Handouts)

A Slab of Ivory (topics)

Repetition (topics)

Words As Levers - Force Multipliers (topics)

Zinoman - Upright Citizens Brigade Writes Its Book on Improv (Articles)

Class 8 - 3/4

Topics: Group C In-Class Rehearsal #1

Schedule Group C Meetings with Barnet

Assignments for Class 9:

1. Group C 1<sup>st</sup> Rehearsal Reflection [due by noon, day of next class](#)

2. All Groups Rehearsing

3. [First half of semester minimum 1 blog due by noon, day of next class](#)

4. Reading Assignments from Texts:

*The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter Ten - Comedy and Jeopardy (pp. 117-124)

5. Reading Assignments from Website:

BK - To Comedy Scene Directors at Mid-Semester (BK Handouts)

BK - Dramatization (BK Handouts)

Communication with Actors (Topics)

Dean - Habits of the Comic Mind (Articles)

Optional Reading:

Alan Alda - That's Funny but Why? (Articles)

Class 9 - 3/11

Topics: Directing Comedy (complete presentation); Staging and Shooting (presentation)

Assignments for Class 10:

1. All Groups Rehearsing
2. Reading Assignments from Texts:

*The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter Eleven - Still More Tools from the Toolbox (p.125 - 138)

3. Reading Assignments from Website:

BK - Hopes and Expectations at Mid-semester (BK Handouts)  
BK - Are You Still Searching for the Event? (BK Handouts)  
BK - Shoot Expectations (BK Handouts)

The Road to Comedy is Paved with Drama (Topics)

Adjectives and Why We Don't Like to Use Them (Topics)

Feeling (topics)

One Direction at a Time (Topics)

Optional Reading:

Political Correctness Isn't Killing Comedy (Articles)

Falk - Why it's Time we Stop Categorizing TV Comedies (Articles)

**SPRING BREAK 3/16 - 3/20 NO CLASS ON 3/18**

Class 10 - 3/25

Topics: Group A In-Class Rehearsal #2

Assignments for Class 11:

1. Group A 2nd Rehearsal Reflection [due by noon, day of next class](#)
2. All Groups Rehearsing
3. Group A Shooting Period
4. Reading Assignments from Texts:

*The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter Fourteen -Toward Polish and Perfection  
(p.162-173)

3. Reading Assignments from Website:

BK - Tips on Shooting Your Scenes (BK Handouts)

Justifying the Line Through Behavior (Topics)

Obstacles (Topics)

Advice for Shooting Comedy (Topics)

Lipsey - On Directing Comedy (Articles)

Lickerman - Why We Laugh (Articles)

Cinemoose - Tragedy is Close-up; Comedy, a Long Shot (Articles)

Class 11 - 4/1

Topics: Group B In-Class Rehearsal #2

Assignments for Class 12:

1. Group B 2nd Rehearsal Reflection [due by noon, day of next class](#)
2. All Groups Rehearsing
3. Group A/B Shooting Period
4. Reading Assignments from Texts:

*The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter Fifteen -"Scrap Metal and Doughnuts"  
(pp.174 -185)

4. Reading Assignments from Website:

DCS - Final Assignments (Class Materials)

Dobkin - The Church of Comedy (Articles)

5. Optional Reading:



Corley - Can You Learn to be Funny? (Articles)

Class 12 - 4/8

Topics: Group C In-Class Rehearsal #2

Assignments for Class 13:

1. Group C In-Class Rehearsal Reflection [due by noon, day of next class](#)
2. Reading Assignments from Website:  
Comedy Is Hard (Topics)

BK - Getting the Ten Thousand Hours (BK Handouts)

Class 13 - 4/15

Topics: 3rd In-Class Rehearsals; Group A Screenings

Assignments for Class 14:

1. 3rd In-Class Rehearsals Reflections [due by noon, day of next class](#)
2. Group A Screening Reflections [due by noon, day of next class](#)

Class 14 - 4/22

Topics: Group A & B Screenings

Assignments:

2. Group A/B Screening Reflections [due by noon, day of next class](#)
3. [All Facebook Blogs Due by noon, day of next class](#)

Class 15 - 4/29

Topics: Group B& C Screenings  
The Process (presentation)

PARTY

Assignments for Completion:

1. [Group B&C Screening Reflection due by noon, 5/6](#)

**Note: Schedule and Assignments Subject to Change - check class website for weekly updates**