

532 Spring 2020 Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Class 1 1/16

Topics: Introduction to 532 (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 532 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

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 - 1/23

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

Hand out Group Assignments

Assignments for Class 3:

1. Reading Assignments from Texts:

Directing Actors - Moment to Moment (pp.49-76) Listening (pp.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)

Sideways 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

Class 3 - 1/30

Topics: Rehearsal (presentation) Auditions (demonstration) Rehearsal (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 (Blog Archives)

Casting and Comedy - Feeling No Pain (Blog Archives)

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 Fall 18 (Class Materials)

4. Screening Assignment from Website:

Brooks/Moss Workshop volume 1 or volume 2 (Links)

Class 4 - 2/6

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 (pp. 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 - Scene Analysis and Breakdown Questions (BK Handouts)

BK - The Search for the Event (BK Handouts)

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

Beats and the Recipe for a Scene (Blog Archive)
Beats as Decision Points (Blog Archive)

6. **First Required Reflection** -Write a reflection about one of the following -
your choice: a)Audition Demo
 b)Rehearsal Demo
 c)Brooks/Moss Video

Due by email to me by 12pm Thursday, 2/13

Class 5 - 2/13

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 (Blog Archive)

Q&A - The Director's Relationship to Verbs (Blog Archive)

Does Woody Allen Rehearse (Blog Archive)

Greenberg - The Discipline of Play (Articles)

Class 6 - 2/20

Topics: Group A In-Class Rehearsal #1

Assignments for Class 7:

1. [Group A 1st Rehearsal Reflection due by noon, day of next class](#)
2. Schedule Group A Meetings with Barnet
3. 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)
5. Reading Assignments from Website:

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

Coping With Critique (Blog Archive)
Flag on the Play (Blog Archive)
Comedy is Serious Business (Blog Archive)
Intellect-Observation-Balance (Blog Archive)
The Ticking Clock (Blog Archive)

Blog Posts and Reflections Q&A (Class Materials)

Class 7 - 2/27

Topics: Group B In-Class Rehearsal #1

Assignments for Class 8:

1. [Group B 1st Rehearsal Reflection due by noon, day of next class](#)
2. Schedule Group B Meetings with Barnet
3. All Groups Rehearsing
4. Reading Assignments from Texts:
 - The Comic Toolbox* - Chapter Eight - More Tools from the Toolbox (p. 103 - 115)

5. Reading Assignments from Website:

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

A Slab of Ivory (Blog Archives)

Repetition (Blog Archives)

Words As Levers - Force Multipliers (Blog Archives)

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

| **Class 8 - 3/5**

Topics: Group C In-Class Rehearsal #1

Assignments for Class 9:

1. Group C 1st Rehearsal Reflection [due by noon, day of next class](#)
2. All Groups Rehearsing
3. Schedule Group C Meetings with Barnet
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 (Blog Archive)

Dean - Habits of the Comic Mind (Articles)

Optional Reading:

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

Class 9 - 3/12

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 (Blog Archive)

Feeling (Blog Archives)

One Direction at a Time (Blog Archive)

Optional Reading:

Political Correctness Isn't Killing Comedy (Articles)

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

SPRING BREAK - 3/16 - 3/19 - (NO CLASS 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. Groups A Shooting Period

3. Group B&C Rehearsing

3. Reading Assignments from Texts:

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

4. Reading Assignments from Website:

BK - Tips on Shooting Your Scenes (BK Handouts)

Justifying the Line Through Behavior (Blog Archive)
Obstacles (Blog Archive)
Advice for Shooting Comedy (Blog Archive)

Lipsey - On Directing Comedy (Articles)
Lickerman - Why We Laugh (Articles)
Cinemoose - Tragedy is Close-up; Comedy, a Long Shot (Articles)

Class 11 - 4/2

Topics: Group B In-Class Rehearsal #2

Assignments for Class 12:

3. 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)

5. Reading Assignments from Website:
 - DCS - Final Assignments (Class Materials)
 - Dobkin - The Church of Comedy (Articles)
6. Optional Reading:
 - Corley - Can You Learn to be Funny? (Articles)

Class 12 - 4/9

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 (Blog Archive)

BK - Getting the Ten Thousand Hours (BK Handouts)

Class 13 - 4/16

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

Assignments for Class 14:

1. Group A Screening Reflection due by noon, day of next class
2. Optional 3rd Rehearsal Reflections due by noon, day of next class

Class 14 - 4/23

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 - 4/30

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

PARTY

Assignments for Completion:

1. Group C Screening Reflection due by noon, Wednesday December 12th
2. All Facebook Blogs Due by noon, day of next class

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