Course: Theatre 118 - Children's Theatre, Section 1  
Wednesday 5 - 7:30  
Studio Theatre (ST1)  
Office Hours: Monday /Wednesday 10:30 - 12  
and by appointment

Instructor: Mary Robinson  
Office: Shasta 140  
Phone: 278-6702  
email: mrobinson@csus.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES
For many students, this will be an introduction to theatre - concepts, terminology, and experience. For all, it will explore ways to use theatre arts as an enhancement of children's development, education, expression and recreation. We will use movement, vocal exercises, improvisation, script writing and scripted material to increase knowledge of and comfort with theatre for children.

COURSE OUTLINE
(These time frames are approximate, to allow for variation in the use of games and exercises)

Weeks 1-5
Focus will be on creative dramatics: theatre games, vocal exercises, loosening ourselves up to play, pretend and create. Emphasis will be two-fold: use of creative dramatics in a theatre sense, and in a classroom curriculum context. Students will become familiar with VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts) Standards, as used for teaching in California. Students will create a resource guide by recording each game and activity, along with its uses in theatre preparation and in curriculum.

Weeks 6-10
We will begin to discuss and experiment with directing: how to develop a “stage picture in your mind”; tools to communicate that picture to children; ways to help kids tell a story through dramatic experience. We will also explore transforming a story into script form for classroom use. We will learn very simple (and cheap) ideas for scenery, costume and props. We will explore developing lesson plans for teaching theatre arts.

Weeks 11-15
In small groups, we will work with a script; cast, direct, stage and perform a short play. We will work through the various steps to presenting a play with children. In this process we will put into practice the concepts learned thus far in the semester. This performance will be your final.

NOTE: For class, please wear clothes comfortable enough to sit on the floor and participate in physical activities. Please wear or bring flat, soft-soled shoes.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
If you have a disability, and require accommodations, you will need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008 (916) 278-6965. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class, or during office hours as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT

Because most of what we learn is experiential, attendance is extremely important. Often there is not a substitute assignment if a class is missed. If you begin to have a problem with attendance, please call or see me...I will try to help. Since this class meets just once a week, we each class is the equivalent of 2 full class periods. As a result, after 2 absences, your grade will be affected, even if all other work is completed satisfactorily.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Journal. This will be ongoing throughout the term. When completed, it will provide you with a resource for future use. Your journal must be in a 3-ring binder and contain 5 sections:
   a. Journal questions (to be given in class)
   b. A copy of the VAPA Standards for Theatre, grades K through 8 (www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss)
   c. Notes on games learned in class, including a title, detailed instructions to play the game, a theatre purpose for the game, a curriculum purpose, and at least one applicable VAPA Standard. (These must be typed.)
   d. Glossary of theatre terms (must be typed and alphabetized)
   e. Additional theatre games you have researched, along with those provided by other class members

2. Attend 3 plays. One will be assigned, which is Cabaret (playing April 10 - 24)*, and the other two will be of your choice. One of the optional plays must be a children's play. Write a one page reaction paper for each play. (must be typed)
   * Information about times, dates, ticket prices, etc is available at www.csus.edu.dram. Click on Season, and then the show title.

3. Research and submit 6 theatre games. Make copies to share with the class, and prepare one game to teach to the class.

4. On paper, block one scene. Some scenes will be directed in class. (This will make sense by the time we do it - honest!)

5. Prepare a lesson plan, using theatre activities, designed to teach/support a curriculum area, and address one or more standards.

6. Actively participate in staging and presenting a short performance suitable for children. This will be your final.
Note: Written assignments should be handed in as hard copy. If it is necessary to email an assignment to me, I will not be responsible if the file cannot be opened, or if there is some other problem. An emailed assignment which doesn’t reach me by the due date will be considered late.

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
<td>A = 155 -170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>B = 135-154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper: 10 pts ea x 3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C = 100-134</td>
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<tr>
<td>List of games/presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>D = 70-99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scene blocking</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>F = 69 and below</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>170</strong></td>
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The final project will be graded on enthusiastic participation, fair sharing of work within the group, organization and demonstrated use of concepts learned in class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Your work is the product of your energy, commitment and knowledge. It should be protected, as should the work of others. As a result, any act of academic dishonesty will be cause for serious consequences. Such acts may include, but are not limited to:

* copying from another’s work
* submitting work previously, or simultaneously used in another class
* misrepresenting another’s work as one’s own in whole or in part

Consequences may include a drop in grade, a grade of zero for the assignment in question, or dismissal from the class, and loss of credit.

For more detailed information, please see the Sac State catalog under Academic Policies.

Laptops, tablets, cell phones, etc.

Laptop computers, tablets and cell phones may not be used during class. I will discuss in class the exceptions to this rule. If I am aware of the use of any of these or other mobile devices, other than the exceptions that we will discuss, you will be excused for the day, and marked absent. This will be true even if it happens near the end of the class meeting.

Adding and Dropping a Class

Via computer registration, there may be students on a wait list for this class. If you wish to add the class, I will need to verify that there are no students already waiting to add. At that point, if there is room, you may submit an add petition.

If you decide to drop the class, you must do so, within the first two weeks of the class by submitting a drop request to the department office (Shasta 104). If your request is received after the first two weeks, you may need to submit documentation to support your request. Drops are not automatic, even if you have not attended any classes.