



Curriculum Overview

Technical Theater 1 and 2

Course Description

This class is 50% in your seat and 50% on your feet. Students will study the backstage skills necessary for the production of a play. Projects will take the students from design to implementation of all backstage theatrical elements.

Technical Theatre 2 Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 9210 .5 credit Prerequisite: A “C” average in Technical Theatre 1 and/or Instructor Approval

Technical Theatre 2 extends the backstage skills necessary for the production of a play that is acquired in Technical Theatre 1. Second year students take a more active leadership role in the class.

Enduring Understandings

Students will understand...

- There are fundamental procedures to follow in order to be a successful technical team.
- In order to function in a theater, you must know specific terminology.
- The final theatrical production is the result of collaboration between many technical theater roles.
- Many Scenic Design elements contribute to the final production.
- Set construction has similarities and differences from construction of everyday items.
- Realistic sets are created through painting.
- Theatrical lighting helps create reality on stage
- Theatrical sound has two components: practical and ambience.
- Rigging systems are dangerous and delightfully useful
- Costumes assist in the telling of the story for a theatrical production.
- Props create reality on stage.
- The physical transformation of a professional actor is done by the hair and makeup crew.
- The Stage Manager is the key element to a production running smoothly.
- There is no point in producing a show if no one is going to see it.

Essential Questions

- What background information is necessary to know in order to be a successful technical team?
- What is the correct terminology for places and parts of the theater?
- What are the technical roles required to get to opening night of a theatrical production?
- How does a production go from script to stage?
- How does a set get built?
- How does a set achieve a realistic look?

- How does theatrical lighting help enhance reality during a production?
- What are the different ways sound is used in a theatrical production?
- How does a rigging system work?
- What is the process a costume design goes through to create a character's costume?
- How are props chosen for a show?
- How does an actor transform their appearance?
- How do all the elements of a theatrical production come together to create a smoothly running machine?
- How does a theater get an audience?

Units of Study

Tech Theater I and II: Students for these classes are at varying levels of skill and knowledge; thus, there is a plethora of material to choose from to differentiate for each student.

Unit Scope Unit Abstract	Time Frame
Foundation Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define Tech Theater • Connect Tech Theater to World • General theatrical safety and standard operating practices • Tour of Nicolet Theater • Ensemble building • Role play leadership roles • Theater maintenance • Research for theater design 	2 weeks/on-going
Units listed below can be done in an as needed order dependent on what skills students need to work on for current production.	
Technical Theater Vocabulary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage Map • Parts of the Theater • Stage Curtains • Types of stages 	1 week
Jobs in Technical Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic/Carpenter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Automation ○ Foy (flight) ○ Rigger • Electrician <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lights ○ Sound ○ Video ○ Effects • Properties 	1 – 2 weeks

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wardrobe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Costumes ○ Hair ○ Makeup ● Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Company Management ○ Stage Management ○ Production Management ○ Crew Steward ● Other backstage careers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Musician/conductor ○ Press Agent ○ Treasurer/ticket seller ○ Venue administration ○ Producer ● Creatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Playwright ○ Designers ○ Choreographer ○ Music Director 	
<p>Scenic Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Definition/where it is used ● Characteristics of job ● Influences on design ● Evolution of scenic design ● Elements of Design: line, mass, balance, color, texture, composition and harmony and effect on audience ● Types of Design ● Purpose of scenery ● Design process ● Create design concept ● Create tech drawings and stage layout: Measure and work in scale ● Create cut list ● Present Design to production team ● Understanding the concept of spiking sets (? Not sure where to put this...) 	3 - 4 weeks
<p>Scenic Construction</p> <p>Tools and hardware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify different tools ● Identify different hardware ● Identify how to use safely ● Practice Use <p>Lumber</p>	On-going

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the measurement mean: 2 X 4 X 12, etc. • Types of wood <p>Hard Flats/platforms/wagons/stairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts • How to Build 	
<p>Scenic Painting Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools/basics • Cross hatch • Stencil • Spatter • Feather dust • Marble • Woodgrain • Scumble • Brick work • Scenic painting as a career 	3 – 4 weeks
<p>Lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of stage lighting • Electricity • Circuit/dimmer/board • Types of lights • Parts of lights • Accessories • Angles • Hanging and Focusing • Light board • Light plot • Lighting morgue 	3 – 4 weeks
<p>Sound Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of mics • How a mic works • How to set up mics • Sound board • Sounds' affect on show 	2 – 3 weeks
<p>Rigging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How it works • Safety • Parts • Load • Unload 	2 weeks
Costumes	2 weeks

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Script analysis • Wardrobe plot • Budget • Research • Measuring actors • Color influence • Basic sewing skills: machine and hand • Labeling costumes • Organize accessory bags and wardrobe rack • Set up and organize a quick change • Costume maintenance 	
Props <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Script analysis • Research • Rent, borrow, make • Set Dressing • Create prop paperwork and running list • Prop table • Prop safety • Construct a prop 	2 weeks
Hair and Makeup	1 week
Stage Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in the job of a stage manager 	on-going
Theater Marketing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters • Promotion • Programs • Tickets 	1 week

Primary Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Roosevelt: Masters program with an emphasis in Directing • Educational Theatre Association National Conference • American Conservatory Theatre's Summer Training Congress • Alliance for Wisconsin Theatre Education Conference • Viterbo University: Bachelor of Arts: Theater • University of Milwaukee: Theater Education