

It is difficult to define educational goals in terms of a student learning in the performing arts as the ability “to learn” is dependent on the individual’s personal development. An actor’s basic instrument is the self ... the voice, body, mind, and heart. What creates living believable characters, however, is an intangible; an ability to join the instrument with an awareness of life. Exposure to other’s belief systems, cultures, coping mechanisms, stresses and sufferings, as well as joys, enhances the student’s understanding of characters and their views and needs. It is this awareness mixed with the understanding of the integration of all aspects, that allows life to be created in characters.

EXPERIENTIAL is the operative word in this class. Absences are not acceptable. IF there are problems notify me and we will discuss our options, otherwise the statement that more than two absences will have an affect on your grade needs to be taken seriously.

Because “experiencing” the exercises we do is crucial active participation is a must. We will do acting/movement exercises that will feel awkward. Avoid making excuses or arguing it is uncomfortable but attempt the experiment. Do not be afraid of what you may discover.

You are in this together. Leave whatever problems, difficulties or personality conflicts one may have outside! In life we must and do work with all types of people. Some we like some we don’t, but “getting over it” is crucial to artistic endeavors.

**REQUIRED READING:**

GNADIGES FRAULEIN

ZOO STORY

WHO’S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOLFE?

ALL IN THE TIMING

**REQUIRED PLAY ATTENDANCE:**

All McCoy productions

Two off campus productions

Also attend all art shows in Clough and make at least two visits to local galleries.

**IN THE BEGINNING** we will refresh our work with falls, energy and trust. We will explore contact exchange, accenting with the body and “dance”. Be warmed up... be safe and careful with your body. Do not abuse it but do not indulge it either.

**THEN** we will move to the word and movement. During this section you will need at least two poems memorized plus 10 - 12 lines from Shakespeare.

**FROM HERE WE GO TO** a discussion of the plays and characters. During this section we will work with animal metaphors, sound and images. Obviously the plays need to be read before we explore.

**THEN** we will reconnect and explore all of the above. Your **FINAL** will be discussed after break. In the past it has consisted of a “public” performance of representative work from all sections.

**Our goal** - to explore, challenge, discover, and grow - to accept this as an ongoing adventure!