

## Introduction to Performance 105

Ewing – 3937 McCoy 132

Office Hours: by appointment.

What is performance? What do Rock Concerts, Swan Lake, Three Penny Opera and a Circus have in common? What creates a performance?

Why do we go to these specific events?

What are we, audience members, looking for? What are they, performers, offering?

What is the difference in TV game Shows and live performances...or is there a difference?

**Our task** for the term is to answer these questions as well as investigate the process of creating performance.

**Our goal** – a performance, one we will create.

### Course Objectives:

To engender an appreciation and understanding of the experience of performance-

To explore the process of creating-

To examine our own imaginative recourses-

### Requirements:

\*\* Attend all classes and participate, this is not a lecture class! Participation does not mean talking just to hear one's voice or to be argumentative for the sake of disruption – participation means to be actively engaged in the class. When arguments arise, and they will, respect is essential. Try to understand before trying to be understood.

Communication works better that way.

**Please note IF YOU MISS MORE THAN TWO CLASSES IT WILL AFFECT YOUR GRADE SEVERLY, AS IN A FULL LETTER DROP!** This class is collaborative; all members must be present for that to be successful.

\*\* **Journal** – This will be your building block for your performance. The journal serves as a collector of dreams, images, ideas, sounds, thoughts. We will discuss this in class.

\*\* **Attend: We will decide as a group which performances to attend.**

(Each student will be responsible for staying abreast of artistic performances in the city. The Memphis Flyer is a good resource. When you discover something that sounds interesting bring it to the attention of the class. This will be ongoing throughout the term.)

**Our Goal is to see:**

- One Art Show
- Two Music Concerts (one classical.)
- One Dance Performance
- *How I Learned to Drive*, Feb 15, 16,21, 22, 23 at 7:30; Feb 24 at 2 pm McCoy
- *Musical Cabaret*, March 13,14,15, somewhere on campus
- *Lysistrata*, April 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 at 7: 30 and April 13 at 2 pm
- Another performance of your choosing...

**\*\* Readings:**

Handouts (From Theatre Journals as well as Performance Journals)

**The term will be divided into three sections:**

- I. Discussion.
- II. Exploration
- III. Creation

**Mid-Term Paper/ Performance:**

This is the place to answer the above questions with documentation. It is also the venue to discuss what you believe to be the essential and important aspect of “performance”. We will discuss this in class.

**Final:**

A performance created, designed, directed, performed and publicized by the class. This is the test of putting theories and discoveries into an active, engaged form. Obviously we will discuss this in class.

Our Final is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30 at 5:30. This is actually a good time! Invite your friends. You will need an audience! We will obviously discuss this!

Are we ready?