

Course Title: All the World is a Stage

Dates: July 19 – 24, 2009

Instructor Name & Title: Jonathan Joy - Playwright, Director, Actor, Teacher

Instructor Qualifications:

Jonathan Joy is the author of thirteen plays including two award winning full lengths (**The Princess of Rome, Ohio** and **American Standard**) and eleven one acts (including **The Prayer List** and **Simply Selma**). His written work has been produced Off-Broadway in New York City, in Los Angeles and numerous venues in his home state - West Virginia. His publication record includes the New York Times, Smith & Kraus, One Act Play Depot, Brooklyn Publishers & more. He is the winner of the 2005 Write Like Mamet Award sponsored by the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. He teaches at Shawnee State University & Marshall University. He also works with thousands of students (K-12) each year through an artist-in-residency program with the Paramount Arts Center in Ashland, KY.

Course Description:

Acting & Playwriting - Students will study all aspects of theatre with an emphasis on acting and playwriting. Performance opportunities abound. Each student will write and perform short scenes, monologues and skits for (and with) their classmates.

Description of Academic Content:

- Students will study classic and contemporary plays/dramatists and examine the variety of playwriting styles and techniques that have developed throughout the history of theatre.
- Students will study dramatic structure and genre.
- Students will learn the specific technical aspects of writing for the stage including appropriate playwriting format.
- Students will generate and workshop original ideas and develop those ideas through the several stages of the script writing process.
- Students will participate in a variety of acting exercises that will include improvisation, pantomime and role playing. This training emphasizes important tools of the actor including vocal technique, body relaxation, critical thinking and communication skills.
- Students will examine the art of acting from a historical perspective with an emphasis on a variety of acting styles, methods and techniques that have developed throughout the history of theatre.

Description of Teaching Strategies:

A variety of discussion, small groups, student performance, and critiques

Description of Unique Facilities to be Used:

Students will have access to the 102,000 square foot Vern Riffe Center for the Arts, which features an acoustically superior 1,139 seat Main Theater and is home to both cultural and academic programs. The Kahl Studio Theater, a 2000+ sq. ft., blackbox style, student theater, will serve as the primary location for instruction and rehearsal.

Course and Instructor Evaluation Strategies:

Instructor will evaluate each student individually using the Institute developed "Student Evaluation Form". Instructor will attempt to meet with each student individually to discuss evaluation or mail the evaluation directly to the student after the Institute.

Measures of Student Learning and Growth:

Pre and Post tests will be utilized to measure knowledge of content. A culminating project (sampling of filmed performances edited and mailed to each student after Institute) completed Friday will showcase growth.

Maximum # of students in course: 15