

FINNEY/CTVA 350
FILM DIRECTING
Tue-Thurs 11 -2
GOALS/PURPOSE

INSTRUCTOR
SHIRLEY JO FINNEY
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Conference: Thurs 10am appt only

The director's main responsibility and prerogative is telling the story. This means finding a structure to the script and setting up the events so that they are at once surprising and inevitable. You give the actor direction in order that the actor's actions and interactions illuminate and create these events. The actor has a responsibility and prerogative to create truthful behavior while following directions and fulfilling the requirements of the script. Actor and director must respect each other's creative territory. J. Weston Pp.9 Directing Actors.

This class will be the beginning step for you to become an actor's Director. An Actor's Director is a person who engages, communicates and understands the language of actors as well as their process. A good director creates safe spaces of trust, which allows the performer free expression. This class will expose you to the process by learning how to break down scripts, shape scenes and build and emotional vocabulary. You the director will step into the actor's world by experiencing Improvisational exercises plus being responsible for acting in two person scenes which you are the performer. Your final project is an original 3min scene which you will cast, rehearse and direct. This project will be shot on film and outside of class.

A directors Journal will be kept and turned in at the end of the semester. All written assignments must be typed or computer printed in 12 point courier and double-spaced. The success of the class is the active participation, attendance of all the students and thorough preparation in the exercises and scene work. Grading will be based on preparation, the growth and development evidenced by the final project. *Your Film is your Final Exam; I will be looking how you get to the heart of your story/ theme evoking the emotional truth in 3-5min. I want to feel and relate to your characters. Remember this class is a workshop.*

NOTE: I reserve the right to change my mind. I am always in process! Think of this as my academic shot list. It is only a guide.

The text used 'DIRECTING; Film Techniques and Aesthetics, Michael Rabiger 4th Edition, Focal press. Also though it is not written I will be giving chapter reading assignments. in class .

I also recommend that you augment the class by reading FOUR

AGREEMENTS by Don Miguel Ruiz and Judith Westons, DIRECTING ACTORS.

Attendance is extremely important! Excluding the first class meeting any student may have two absences without penalty. After that each absence will result in 5pt deduction.

Attendance	20 pts
Acting assignments	30 pts
Story and Scene Analysis	50 pts
Directed In Class Scene	50 pts

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on disability is required to register with the Center on Disabilities services agreement each semester. Staff within the Center will verify the existence of a disability based on the documentation provided and approve accommodations Students who are approved for a test taking accommodations must provide a proctor form to their faculty member signed by a counselor in the Center on Disabilities prior to making testing arrangements. The Center on Disabilities is located in Mayhramian Hall, room 110. Staff can be reached at (818) 677-2

1st Week

1. Orientation/enrollment introductions Handouts and Syllabus given

Directors begin searching for 1-3 minute monologue to be memorized and presented 4th week. Material can be chosen from film or stage scripts. A one page Paper due discussing why you chose material and what your emotional connection with the theme. Due week 4th. (Please do not copy performances of actors on film)

Begin thinking of final story (3min) you will be directing and writing due 1st draft due Week 4.

For next class: guest speaker CHEMIN BERNARD (see bio in handouts)

Workshop Session with Chemin Bernard, Casting director and guest professional actor CASTING DIRECTOR/ DIRECTOR RELATIONSHIP (Lecture /demonstration)

ASSIGNMENT: (Bring a personal object that means something to you next class (week two.)

2nd week / LANGUAGE OF ACTORS

Discuss Syllabus

Object identification exercise

View and discuss Film

COLLATERAL by Michael Mann

ASSIGNMENT: *Review Film American Beauty/ read chapters*

3rd week

BUILDING A CHARACTER
ACTOR OBJECTIVE CHART in handout, (actor's language)

- 1. Begin Red/Blue scenes**
- 2. American Beauty breakdown**

ASSIGNMENT: *Present next class: monologues memorized.*
Read part five chapters 20-24

4th week

DIRECTOR/ACTOR RELATIONSHIP/ filmed
Present Monologues
(Table work on Monologues with Shirley Jo (Film)
1st draft of Short Film original scripts 3 minutes is due

ASSIGNMENT: *Post casting session notices with synopsis of your original film*

5th week

Screen Film- ACTORS ON DIRECTING

ASSINGMENT; *Partner, Rehearse and Select two person scenes to be presented week 6 staged and memorized. Can be from play or Film. Do not duplicate any performance you have scene. You will Be graded on your original interpretation of character and emotional life*

ASSIGNMENT: *One page character analysis using Objective Chart ect. Due*

6th week

Present and critique Two Person scenes with Shirley Jo

ASSIGNMENT: *2nd N draft Short Film Scripts due discuss next class*

7th week

GROUP MEETING-IN CLASS-PREP FINAL
Original Story Project. WE WILL DETERMINE HOW THE
IN STUDIO REHESHAL SCHEDULE FOR EVERYONE WILL
PROCEED IN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS. ONCE YOU HAVE
YOUR IN CLASS REHERSHAL TIME WITH ME. YOU WILL BE

FREE TO SHOOT YOUR FILM TO BE PRESENTED THE 13-15 WEEKS! HOW MUCH FUN IS THAT?

AUDITIONS: Sound stage available. Group auditions encouraged

8th week AUDITIONS: soundstage available. Group auditions encouraged

11-11:45

12-12:45

1-1:45

9th week Student directed scenes

10th week Student directed scenes

11th week Student directed scenes

12th week Student directed scenes
ASSIGNMENT: *Journals are due next class*

13th week Screen and critique student short films
THANKSGIVING NOV 26

14th week Screen and critique student short films

15th week FINAL EXAM

Note: *My mantra is EASE AND GRACE*

Thank you and May we all have a fabulous creative experience!