

LEC 5018 Theatre Workshop

Course Code	LEC 5018	Semester	--
Course Title	<i>Theatre Workshop</i>		
Credits	3 (Course duration 120 Hours)	Type	Elective

Course Description:

Theatre Workshop is designed as a personality development, employability-based and skill development course that provides provide the students a hands-on experience of live theatre praxis and with the larger pedagogic aim of developing their personality especially in inter-personal environments. A holistic and simultaneous engagement of the participants' physical, psychological, ideological and artistic dimensions is envisioned in the course in order to equip them to respond to challenges and opportunities in a creative and sensitive way. After going through the training-phase of the course, the participants will stage a short play as an integral part of the course. Theatre is a powerful form of cultural communication which is simple and sophisticated, entertaining and didactic at the same time. The modules of this course may not necessarily follow a sequential pattern; rather most of them are integrated throughout the course. The technical areas of the course will be handled by a professional theatre director and the theory part will be handled by the course instructor. This course will be organized in collaboration with the a professional theatre director from leading drama schools or theatre organizations in the country like the National School of Drama and Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi.

It is conceived as an innovative programme aimed at academically engaging various theories on performance along with the idea of 'doing theatre'. Addressing societal concerns through the praxis of theatre is normally a neglected area in our academic environment. This course seeks to bridge this gap. The inspiration for designing the course is drawn from successful examples of similar courses run by many leading universities like Stony Brook University, University of Southern Maine, Dixie State University and so on. Inter-institutional collaboration in teaching and research is one of the major recommendations of University Grants Commission. The course is designed with larger aim of establishing academic contact and resource-sharing with reputed theatre institutions like National School of Drama, Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy, SRFTI and other similar organizations. Apart from the stated academic objectives, the course also aims at developing the learners' multi-faceted personality, especially through participatory learning and experimenting with group dynamics.

The course will be conducted in 80 contact hours, preferably during Winter/Autumn/Summer breaks.

Course Outcome

By the end of th course the students will:

1. get a direct experience of involving with live-theatre.
2. develop necessary personality skills for working in a group.
3. Able to communicate effectively using linguistic and extra-linguistic codes.
4. develop the ability to respond more creatively to challenging situations.
5. develop the ability to visualise and perform.

Course Structure**Module I:****Formation of the Ensemble**

The Idea of Theatre Praxis; Problems and Politics of Theatre; Group Dynamics; Work Break-up within Ensemble; Ethics and Etiquettes of Ensemble; Selection of Key-Text; Planning of Pre-During-Post Production Activities, etc.

Preparing the Physique

Breathing Exercises; Relaxation Exercises; Drills; Movements; Crouching and Crawling; Standing/Sitting Still; walking; skipping; running; pacing and pausing; Swinging; Jumping, Leaping, etc.

Module II:

Activation of the Senses

Augmentation of Listening, Touching, Tasting, Watching and Olfactory Faculties; Concentration Training; Codes of Collaborative Activities; Skills of Observation; Decoding, Analysis of and re-creation of the observed information, etc.

Modulating the Voice

Differentiating between acoustic codes; Grammelot; Single Uttering; Uttering in Pairs, Group Uttering; Miming; Audio signals. Voice Over, Aside, Monologue, Dialogue, Group-logue; Communicating through Silence. Voice Modulation; Mood and Voice; Terrain and Voice; Language, Rhythm and Gestures, etc.

Module III:

Music/Props/Makeup in Theatre

Organic Audioscape, Background Track, Digetic and Non-Digetic Sounds; Makeup in Performance—Bare and Type Make-up; Light in Theatre—Natural Vs Artificial; Stage Design, etc.

Engaging the Space:

Alone on stage; Sharing the space with a partner; Group activities on Stage; Entry and Exist methods; Placing and handling of Properties

Module I:

Contemporary Culture through Theatre:

Theatre Research; Theatre Archival Methods and Theatre in the Digital Era. Performance and Performance Studies.

Mounting the Play

Eligibility, Number of Seats, Mode of Selection:

Students who are undergoing postgraduate studies at CUK, preferably some background in Theatre/Drama Studies or experience in Acting/Assisting are eligible to apply. No. of Seats: minimum 10 and maximum 25. Mode of selection: On the basis of an aptitude test and interview conducted by the course coordinator.

Evaluation:

Assignments	20 marks
Performance	20 marks
Final Examination	60 marks
Total	100 marks

Pattern of final performance/examination:

General Evaluation of the Staged Play along with assessments of individual contributions to the staged play.

Instructional procedures (Course transaction mode):

Lectures, demonstrations, discussions, assignments, drills, visit to drama school, attendance in theatre festivals, etc.

General course requirements:

Regular attendance in the workshop; Active participation in activities; Submission of assignments on time; Participation in field trip; Attendance in mid-course and final examinations.

Recommended Readings:

- Barker, Clive. *Theatre Games: A New Approach to Drama Training*. London: Methuen Drama, 2009.
- Bonczek, Burnett Rose and David Storck. *Ensemble Theatre Making: A Practical Guide*. London and New York: Routledge, 2013.
- Marx, Pamela. *Practical Plays*. California, Good Year Books, 2007.
- Novelly, Maria. *Theatre Games for Young Performers*. London: Meriwether Publishers, 1985.
- Oddey, Alison. *Devising Theatre: A Practical and Theoretical Handbook*. London and New York: Routledge, 1994.
- Trencsenyi, Katalin. *Dramaturgy in the Making: A User's Guide to Theatre Practitioners*. London: Bloomsbury, 2015.