

# RHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT

2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR SYLLABUS

## WELCOME!

Roosevelt High School offers a full time theatre department with seven periods of theatre classes each day including all levels of acting, technical theatre & design, directing, playwriting, special topics, and a full musical theatre program with private voice teachers and a celebrated large-scale spring musical.

The annual production calendar includes: *The Book-It Show*—an evening of new work adapted from literature by intermediate students in a residency with Book-It Repertory Theatre, *Light Up the Stars*—a dinner theatre show and fundraising auction, *Dramafest*—a festival of student directed one-act plays, *Roughwriters*—an evening of new plays written and performed by students and directed by professionals from the Seattle Children's Theatre, *Play Productions*—full length straight plays produced in classes and after school, *The Variety Show*—an evening of improv, stage combat, pantomime and more produced with the Seattle Children's Theatre Drama School, *Musical Production*—a Roosevelt tradition, and finally, *Senior Showcase*—a farewell event featuring highlights from four years of classwork, shows, and competition material.

In addition, we participate in Thespians—the national honors society for theatre students. Roosevelt Troupe 5832 is a Silver Status Honor Troupe with Washington State Thespians, and our students attend fall Thespian workshops, unified college auditions, Individual Events (IE) festivals for both performance and tech, the State Festival, and the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln Nebraska.

Along with the annual department offerings, special opportunities are created for the students to broaden their experiences. The theatre program has performed on the Main Stage at the International Thespian Festival, twice at the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, and in Hawaii with a musical review, where we also lead workshops in improv and musical theatre. We have also brought students to New York to take workshops taught by Broadway actors/directors/agents, audition for colleges, and enjoy Broadway shows.

## CONTACT US



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/RooseveltTheatre

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206-252-4967

## Charter Values

### People Matter



- \* Every individual has the opportunity to make a difference.
- \* Take care of yourself and your colleagues—practice Meta Moments!
- \* Give and accept real apologies.
- \* In your groups, cultivate each person's skills, strengths, & talents.

### Strive for Excellence



- \* Define success with each new project.
- \* Be open to positive changes and growth mindset.
- \* Look outside the walls of Roosevelt Theatre. Learn and document new ways to do things better.
- \* Take risks. Turn creative successes and failures into lessons learned.

### Work Together



- \* The best ideas, performances, and results come through collaboration.
- \* Focus on the objective and challenge ideas, not people.
- \* Be kind, assertive, and supportive—even when there is disagreement.
- \* Work through conflicts, do not avoid them.
- \* Support the final decision.

### Bring Your Best Self



- \* Be the person you want to work with.
- \* Celebrate individuality and honor diversity.
- \* Engage fully.
- \* Check in on the Mood Meter. Shift your energy & pleasantness for the job at hand.
- \* Strive to bring grit, gratitude, optimism, curiosity, self control, social intelligence, and ZEST to your work!

## CLASS NORMS

1. Live the charter values
2. Don't Talk During Instruction
3. Save phones, food, & flavored drinks for breaks
4. Be on time and prepared
5. Communicate all conflicts two + days in advance

## GUEST TEACHERS

1. Follow all directions—even if different than the way we usually do things.
2. Posted norms and procedures still apply—unless the Guest Teacher says otherwise.
5. You deserve great guests. We want them to come back!

## CLASS LAB FEES

The \$10 lab fee in Theatre 1, 2, and 7/9 goes toward class materials and scripts and is required of each student. The expanded fees in Theatre 3, 6, & 8 help fund the residency partnerships in these classes.

There is no fee for Musical, although students are required to participate in extensive fundraising efforts.

Make checks payable to Roosevelt High School. Scholarship applications available.

# '15-'16 COURSE OFFERINGS

**Dance 1: Introduction to Dance.** Designed for the student with little to no prior movement experience, this class will teach the basic principles of movement: space, time, shape, and effort through Ballet, Jazz, Musical Theatre and other dance forms. Students will learn dance terminology, technique, and choreography skills all while developing an appreciation for dance as an art form. (No prerequisite, No fee, although students must purchase own shoes.)

**Theatre 1: The Theatre Experience.** Creative and improvisational performance and scene work, with units in vocal and physical characterization as well as stage composition. In addition, students will study the art of musical theatre through contemporary examples. The course will culminate in the performance of acting scenes with applied feedback. Throughout the course, students will critique performances. Individuals are considered separately, but ninety percent of the work is group-oriented. (No prerequisite, \$10 class fee.)

**Theatre 2: Acting Fundamentals.** This class emphasizes characterization and blocking in scene work as well as directing and acting for a one act play. Introduction to play analysis and research are an essential part of this course. Special attention to the audition process with monologue preparation will be studied as well. Semester work culminates with a performance for an audience during class time. (No Prerequisite: Previous experience recommended. \$10 class fee.)

**Theatre 3: Special Topics.** Includes exploring special forms and styles of theatre, with specialists in a variety of topics including improv, pantomime, stage make-up, combat, etc. This class is partners with the Seattle Children's Theatre Drama School and culminates in a Variety Show production in the black box as well as a touring Creative Drama class at a neighborhood elementary school. (Prerequisite: Theatre 2 or permission if a Senior: \$40 class fee.)

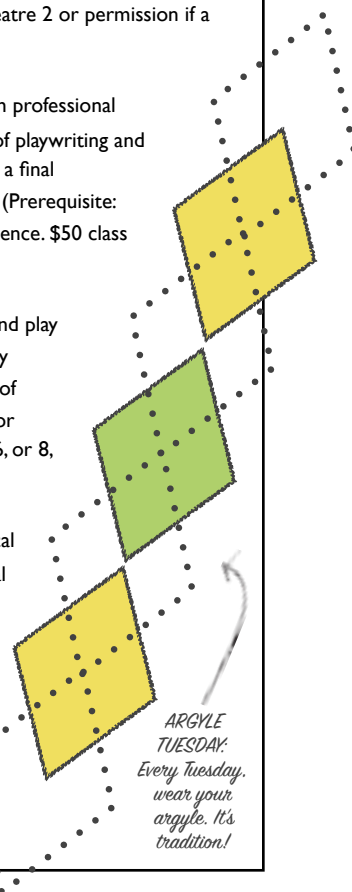
**Theatre 6: Book-It.** This class explores the development of theatre in the Book-It style. Partnering with Book-It Repertory Theatre for the quarter, students learn advanced acting techniques while adapting, rehearsing and performing short stories and dramatic literature. Continued work on vocal, physical and imaginative skills will be emphasized. Advanced theory and practice of stage direction including play selection, casting, blocking and production of short stories in the Book-It style will be the primary focus of the second quarter. (Prerequisite: Theatre 2 or permission if a Senior: \$40 class fee.)

**Theatre 8: Playwriting.** This class offers the opportunity to work in close partnership with professional playwrights and directors from the Seattle Children's Theatre. Students learn the crafts of playwriting and acting in new work under the guidance of professional artists. The class culminates with a final performance of world-premieres on the union Eve Alford stage at in the Seattle Center! (Prerequisite: Theatre 2 or Permission if a Senior. NOTE: Theatre 3, 6, and 8 may be taken out of sequence. \$50 class fee.)

**Theatre 7/9: Directing & Play Production.** This one-year course in advanced acting and play production allows students to direct and produce Dramafest as well as perform in a play production. Students are responsible for all aspects of acting, production, and publicity of performance. During second semester, students will produce and rehearse for the Senior Showcase and other performances. (Prerequisite: Theatre 2, at least one of Theatre 3, 6, or 8, + audition. \$10 class fee.)

**Theatre Tech:** Taught in partnership with Seattle Scenic Studios, this practical, technical class designs and builds scenery, lighting, props, and sound for play production. Technical terms and tools are introduced; then students learn how to design, build, and manage actual elements of production. (Class may be repeated. Students receive elective and CTE Credit. No fee.)

**Musical Production:** Students learn the combination of skills which this art form requires - singing, dancing and acting. The semester culminates with the full-scale production of the musical. After school rehearsals are mandatory. (Prerequisite: By audition only, open to all grades. No fee.)



# GRADES

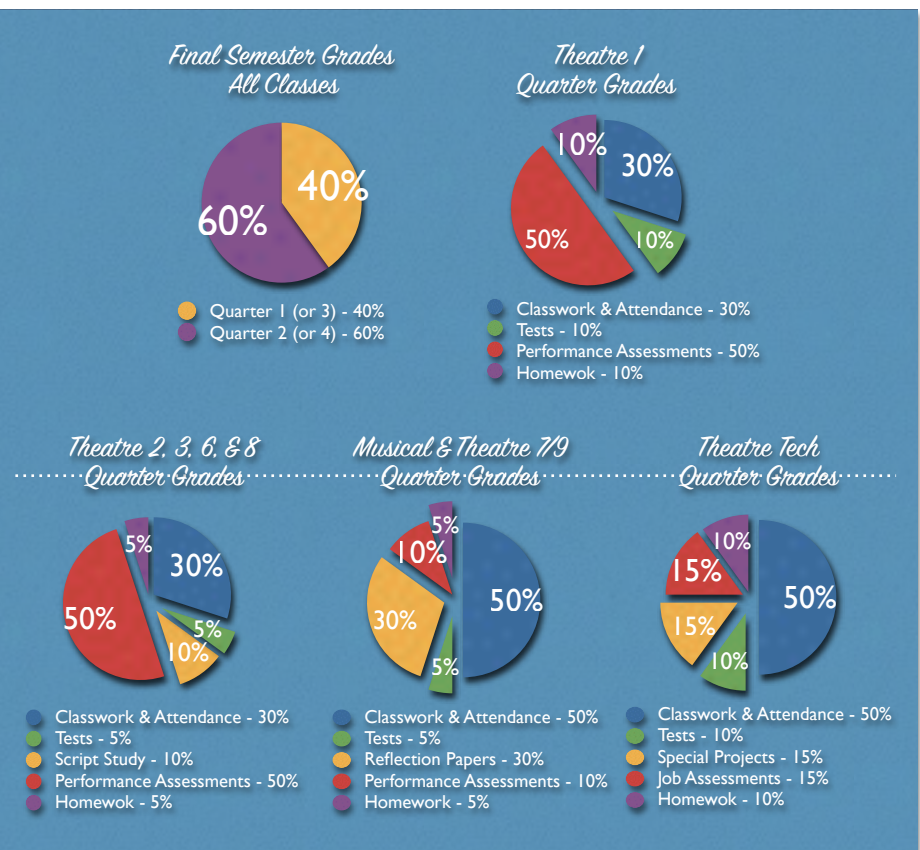
**Performance Assessments:** Formal class performances are scored on 4-point scale rubrics with specified criteria. Before a final, students will have the opportunity to do ungraded Work-In-Progress (WIP) performances to receive feedback as well as a “fake” score on the rubric so students know their areas for growth.

**Classwork & Attendance:** Because theatre requires collaboration, students who are absent or tardy affect the performance of the other students. Therefore, students will receive daily attendance points in addition to points earned for following class norms, completing work, and participating.

**Tests:** Occasionally, students will be tested on vocabulary, memorization, and mastery of theatre concepts.

**Homework:** In addition to occasional homework assignments, ALL theatre students are expected to see ONE SHOW PER QUARTER and to submit a play review with a ticket stub. Students in multiple theatre classes may submit the same critique for each class.

**Script Study:** Performance students will be keeping a portfolio in class as they move



through the program over four years. This portfolio will contain “Scriptshot” pages (summary, favorite scenes, page numbers...) for every play they read during class. This work will be used for selecting future performance and audition material. Participation in Script Study as well as the completion of Scriptshot pages will be assessed for this grade.

**Job Assignments & Special Project:** Tech students are assessed upon completing regular jobs for a show’s build as well as one major individual design project.

**Reflection Papers:** Students in Musical & 7/9 are required to write formal reflections during their production process.

## CORE THEATRE STANDARDS

- 1. CREATE. ENVISION:** Imagine, research, and explore through drama processes, play, and theatre experiences to discover diverse creative ideas. **GENERATE:** Develop and modify new work, ideas, or perspectives through drama processes, play, and theatre experiences that prompt risk-taking and experimentation.
- 2. PERFORM.** Communicate realized artistic ideas in a formal/informal

presentation of drama processes or theatre experiences.

- 3. RESPOND.** Analyze perspectives, articulate feelings, and critically evaluate on drama processes/theatre experiences using criteria such as aesthetics, preferences, beliefs, and contexts.

- 4. CONNECT.** Communicate how and why an awareness of relationships between drama processes, theatre experiences, and

## 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

1. Creativity
2. Collaboration
3. Critical Thinking
4. Communication
5. Growth Mindset

the world is used to make meaning of community, cultural, global, and/or historical contexts.

# VOICE LESSONS!

Our Theatre and Music departments offer students an opportunity to receive vocal instruction enrichment **during the school day and on campus.** Students may sign up for a 25 minute lesson, once a week, during their theatre or music period. This training gives students basics in vocal technique and repertoire, and enhances their education in both music and theatre by providing a direct instruction study opportunity.

## HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST?

The Voice Program requires an additional course fee (made out to Roosevelt High School) for each lesson.

Because it's on campus, this fee is much less than private studio lessons, making enrichment instruction more accessible to students with limited means. If a student is unable to pay the additional fee, Roosevelt Theatre Boosters are able to provide scholarship assistance on a sliding scale. Each lesson is \$25.00, which can be paid in advance for an entire semester, or in two equal quarterly payments. There is also a one time (per

semester) administration fee of \$5.00. More information on fees will be available at the first meeting. (A separate fee schedule will be available for the master classes.)

## HOW DO I SIGN UP?

During the first few weeks of school, the vocal instruction team will visit each theatre class and some music classes with a presentation on the Vocal Arts Program. Students who are interested may leave contact information at the meeting. Each student who registers will receive a phone call with further information and a schedule. There is no obligation to take lessons when you register at this first meeting.

## IS THE PROGRAM RIGHT FOR ME?

All students are welcome to register regardless of previous training, experience or interest level in singing. However, if you are unsure if this is right for you, we are offering a special opportunity for THEATRE I students only. During first and sixth periods you may participate in a "master class" which would include three students from

your class. Instruction includes some individual work but mostly focuses on group exercises. The class is for six weeks only at a discounted price to each student.

## WHAT IF I MISS THE FIRST MEETING?

If you need further information or miss the initial meetings please contact Mr. Stuart or Ms. Greve in the Theatre Department.

## WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A THEATRE OR MUSIC PERIOD AVAILABLE?

There are other time slots available for lessons outside of your scheduled arts period. Students may sign-up during second lunch or after school. Free periods or TA periods may also be acceptable times to schedule voice lessons. However, these times are limited, so notify the Vocal Arts Team right away if you need alternate scheduling.

## Beyond Roosevelt...

Named one of the top ten high school theatre programs in America in 1996, RHS Theatre has created a world class, internationally recognized model for theatre education. The students of Roosevelt High School receive outstanding training and many have gone on to such prestigious institutions as New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Carnegie Mellon, and Yale University.



*Tony nominee and RHS Theatre Alumnus Chad Kimball in MEMPHIS on Broadway*

Alumni of this program are working in professional theatres in Seattle and in regional theatres throughout the country. They have performed on Broadway in *Memphis* (Tony Winner, Best Musical 2010), *The Fantasticks*, *Curtains*, *Never Gonna Dance*, *Chicago*, *Into the Woods*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Oklahoma*, *The Wild Party*, and *A Chorus Line*, among others, *Cirque du Soliel's KA* in Vegas, the Tony Awards, in national tours of *9 to 5*, *Fosse*, *Chicago*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Evita*, *Swing and The Civil War*; and throughout Europe including London's West End in productions of *The King and I*, *Miss Saigon*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *West Side Story* and *Cats* to name a few.

Alumni have also found careers in television and film as head writers, directors, and producers for *How I Met Your Mother*, *Will and Grace*, and *Friends*, as well as actors in numerous television commercials and on such shows as *Felicity*, *The Practice* and *Spin City*.

## MISSION STATEMENT

RHS Theatre's mission is to shape lives through theatre education by: teaching

21st century skills that can prepare students for college, jumpstart artistic careers, and transfer to any field or walk of life; offering a rich performance, tech, and dance curriculum full of production opportunities; connecting students with working professionals from our community; and cultivating a safe and nurturing environment to experiment creatively and grow as young adults.

