

Stratford Festival

Voice and Text Class for University Students 2017

Course Description

This is a course focusing on acting the language of Shakespeare. It is practical in its philosophy and its application: wholly designed to give the aspiring actor a handful of tools with which to explore, personalize and perform Shakespeare's text. It is not, therefore, a theoretical course or a study of Shakespeare as dramatic *a* .

The work takes the form of two major sections, both integral to each other. Firstly, the student will experiment with practical tools to decipher Shakespeare's language and make it their own. Meanwhile, exercises in Voice will encourage and enable the actor to develop those facets of their instrument that allow them to further access, experience and communicate Shakespeare's language. Students come to the course from varying levels of acting training. Previous acting experience and/or experience with Shakespeare is not necessarily a path to success in the course. *P* , *P* , and a corresponding commitment to the work are valued over

Ian was a text teacher and coach at the National Theatre School of Canada (1997-2001), teaching Shakespeare to all three years and coaching on third-year performances. Since 2014, he has returned to NTS each year to teach both 3rd- and 1st-year actors. Since 2003, Ian has taught Shakespeare to 2nd- and 4th-year acting students at Ryerson School of Performance (Ryerson University). From 2003-10, he frequently co-led the Shakespeare Scene Study for first-year acting students at George Brown Theatre School. He has also taught acting/text

it.” It is our experience that this can only interfere with any exploration and experience the student may have.

*** NOTE ***

1. While the monologue presentation is the only formal 'test' or 'examination' of their work, every

and be able to present them as performance -- as “a piece of acting” -- having incorporated the voice and text work on their monologue both in and class. Where time allows, the class is then concluded with a Post-Mortem Discussion.

NOTE: the course grades will be issued by Ian Watson, in consultation with Ms. MacKinnon.