

WDCSP Master Class Syllabus

Summer 2020 - June 22nd through July 31st

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Phone Number
Dennis Summerville	djsumm12@gmail.com	856-834-6605

General Information

Description

This six-week summer session will consist of 29 master classes. These classes will follow a college course-style format and be broken up into two meetings for each day (an afternoon session from 10AM - 12PM and an evening session from 1PM - 4PM). Each week, students will receive approximately 10 hours of whole-class lessons from the instructor or guest artists, half an hour of one-on-one instructional lessons, half an hour of small group (2-4 students) instruction, 9 hours of studio-style learning through observation of their peers, and 5 hours of additional instruction via a variety of formats. This amounts to a total of 145 hours of instructional time for each student over the course of the six weeks.

Students will work on a variety of theatrical materials over the course of the six-week session: monologues, songs, dance performances, group songs, scenes, etc. These materials will be provided to the students via an online classroom with easy access. Students will work with their peers and the instructor to sharpen their skills and performances, culminating in a pre-recorded, virtual cabaret that will be livestreamed by West Deptford Center Stage Players for any audience to view, which will take place the week after the six-week session ends.

Expectations and Goals

This six-week session is intended for students ages 14 to 21 who are looking to work on their theatrical skills in a class setting that is modelled after college courses. What each student learns from the session is highly dependent on the amount of effort and focus they bring to each element they work on. It is extremely important that every student attends every meeting, as there will be no time to catch students up on what they miss. There will also need to be some independent work done by each student to maximize their learning in the meetings (memorization of materials, internalization of notes, review of dances and music, etc.).

Course Materials

Provided Materials

Throughout the six-week session, each student will be assigned the following to work on:

- 1 monologue.
- 1 musical theater song.
- 1 group scene.
- 1 small group musical theater song.
- 1 whole-class group song/dance.

Required Materials

It is vital that every participant have a computer or phone that they can use to attend Zoom meetings and access Google Classroom for materials. They also should have a device capable of recording themselves performing their various materials. A second device to use for playing music tracks is highly encouraged, as well. Students should come to the first week of meetings with an audition cut of a song prepared.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1	Session 1 - 10AM to 12PM	Session 2 - 1PM to 4PM
Monday 6/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review of syllabus and group expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on auditions • Create schedule for auditions/meetings.
Tuesday 6/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual auditions/meetings to discuss auditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual auditions/meetings to discuss auditions
Wednesday 6/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual auditions/meetings to discuss auditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual auditions/meetings to discuss auditions
Thursday 6/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on auditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Etiquette ○ Process ○ Picking materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More on auditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What to expect ○ Where to find them ○ Review of past auditions
Friday 6/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn full-class group number (dance - with guest artist) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn full-class group number (music) • Review dance with guest artist

Week 2	Session 1 - 10AM to 12PM	Session 2 - 1PM to 4PM
Monday 6/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to monologues • Discuss process of reviewing monologues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of each student's individual monologue • Discussions on each monologue
Tuesday 6/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to musical theater song performance • Discuss process of analyzing a song 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of each student's individual song • Discussions on each song
Wednesday 7/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review resumes and headshots • Discussion on importance of social media and websites for actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual work on creating resumes • Meetings to discuss specific elements to add to resumes
Thursday 7/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to group work in theater - scenes and songs • Discuss differences between group and solo work in theater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of group scenes and songs • Discussions on each scene and song with each group.
Friday 7/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off - Holiday (Independence Day Observed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off - Holiday (Independence Day Observed)

Week 3	Session 1 - 10AM to 12PM	Session 2 - 1PM to 4PM
Monday 7/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on monologues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Imaginary other ○ Objectives ○ Beats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on individual monologues in a studio style setting
Tuesday 7/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on musical theater songs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connect lyrics to music ○ Analyzing lyrics ○ Relation to monologues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on individual songs in a studio style setting
Wednesday 7/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of music for whole-class group song 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of dance for whole-class group song (with special guest artist)
Thursday 7/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on group work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acting vs. reacting ○ Using your partner ○ Objectives in groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on group scenes in a studio style setting
Friday 7/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on technical theater - set design (with special guest artist) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on group scenes/songs in small groups with instructor meetings • Additional time for individual monologue/song work

Week 4	Session 1 - 10AM to 12PM	Session 2 - 1PM to 4PM
Monday 7/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on monologues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Using your space ○ Actions on beats ○ Picking importance of words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on individual monologues in a studio style setting
Tuesday 7/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on musical theater songs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When to not follow the music ○ Using space through song ○ Building volume vs. intensity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on individual songs in a studio style setting
Wednesday 7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on properly filming yourself for an online audition - song and monologue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to work individually or in small groups on any materials • Instructor meetings/office hours to discuss any issues
Thursday 7/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on group work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building relationships ○ Prior circumstances ○ Prop use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on group songs in a studio style setting
Friday 7/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on technical theater - costume design (with special guest artist) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on group scenes/songs in small groups with instructor meetings • Additional time for individual monologue/song work

Week 5	Session 1 - 10AM to 12PM	Session 2 - 1PM to 4PM
Monday 7/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on monologues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shaping the arc of a monologue ○ Event-based history ○ Crafting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on individual monologues in a studio style setting
Tuesday 7/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on musical theater songs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vocal technique ○ Breathing ○ Using vocals in your acting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on individual songs in a studio style setting
Wednesday 7/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on musical theater history <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 13 most influential musicals on Broadway ○ Watch and discuss clips of these musicals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review dance and music for whole-class group song
Thursday 7/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson on group work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Games within scenes ○ Passing energy ○ Pacing cues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on group scenes in a studio style setting
Friday 7/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Shakespeare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Verse vs. Prose ○ Scanning text ○ Analyzing patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on group scenes/songs in small groups with instructor meetings • Additional time for individual monologue/song work

Week 6	Session 1 - 10AM to 12PM	Session 2 - 1PM to 4PM
Monday 7/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing monologues in studio style setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing monologues in studio style setting
Tuesday 7/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing songs in studio style setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing songs in studio style setting
Wednesday 7/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building audition repertoire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What an average performer needs to successfully audition ○ Discussion on type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual meetings with instructor to discuss additional song and monologue options for future • Time for each student to work in small groups or individually on materials and film themselves
Thursday 7/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing group scenes in studio style setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing group songs in studio style setting
Friday 7/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final check ins with students to go over any last-minute details of materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time for each student to work in small groups or individually on materials and film themselves

Friday 8/7 - Livestream of student performances via WDCSP YouTube channel.

Additional Information and Resources

Instructor Bio

Dennis Summerville is the resident Director of the Teen Program for West Deptford Center Stage. He has been working with WDCSP for the past nine years in a variety of roles, ranging from costumer to workshop coordinator, to name a few. Dennis has a Master of Science in Teaching: Theater from Rowan University and a Bachelor of Arts in Theater Arts from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He currently works as an elementary and middle school theater teacher for Hoboken Public School District. Other work experience includes: Assistant Director of the Spring Musical at West Deptford High School, Music Director for Gloucester County Institute of Technology, private voice and acting teacher, and actor for various theaters in the New Jersey/New York/Philadelphia area.

Other Contact Information

Bridgette Deacon - WDCSP Artistic Director: bridgettecshannon@yahoo.com

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