Course Description

The Art of Performance: This workshop/seminar examines seminal works of Chicana/o Theatre Artists with a particular focus on creating and embodying personal histories in performance. This course will feature autobiographical texts, ensemble devised works, comic strips, visual art and plays that reflect the changing nature of the Chicana/o cultural landscape. The course is also designed to introduce students to the basic elements of theatre performance, including group exercises and collaborative projects. In short, "performance" will be examined as cultural expression, political tool and personal identity. Each class time will be divided into two segments: lecture, then group discussions/exercises.

Course Requirements:

1) Artists Journal - all students will be required to post 1/2 - 1 page responses to weekly readings/discussions, in-class exercises, group work and any other personal meditations. These "journals" combined w/class attendance, participation and collaboration will equal 1/3 of grade.

2) Students are required to perform an ACTO in groups and create a solo piece (written and/or performed) using performance techniques discussed in class. (1/3 of grade)

3) A devised work is collectively created in groups and performed in class as part of final grade. Written progress papers will be required. The collaborative process will be documented and evaluated by instructor. 1/3 of grade.

* 1 Class field trip to a play is required

Course Syllabus:

**Week 1: Introduction to Chicano Agit-Prop Theatre Performance**

Reading: Essay, *The Early Actos of Teatro Campesino* by Jorge Huerta,
Placas: The Most Dangerous Tattoo by Paul Flores
Group Activity: Cultural Mapping, Performing Actos
Assignment: Select/Read an Acto to be performed in groups

*field trip to see the play PLACAS featuring Ric Salinas of Culture Clash*

Week 2: Devised Theatre Collectives: Latina Theatre Lab and Culture Clash
View: Latina Theatre Lab's The Immaculate Conception and Culture Clash in AmeriCCA
Reading: American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose by Culture Clash
Group Activity: Rehearsing Actos

Week 3: Auto-Biographical Text: Las Chicanas
Reading: Excerpts from Adelina Anthony's Bruising for Besos, Virginia's Grise's Panza Monologues, Cherrie Moraga's This Bridge Called My Back, Xandra Ibarra: La Chica Boom
Group Activity: Writing on Cultural Memory
Assignment: Begin developing 2 minute Solo Performance

ACTOS Part 1

Week 4: Murals as Performance
Reading: Excerpts/Images from The Road to Atzlan, Art from a Mythic Homeland
town View: The Great Wall of Los Angeles, Murals in East Los Angeles, downtown
Group Activity: Tableau Vivants, Monologue Exercises

ACTOS Part 2

Week 5: Spoken Word Plays
Reading: Luis Alfaro's Black Butterfly
Group Activity: Ensemble Building Exercises
Assignment: Devised Work Collaborations Begin

PERFORMING/WRTING SOLO PART 1

Week 6: Radical Collectives and Performance Art
Reading: Guillermo Gomez Pena and The Pocha Nostra’s *Manifesto/Border Brujo*
View: Nao Bustamante: *America, the beautiful /Pocha Nostra*
Group Activity: Ensemble building exercises and Devised Work meetings continue

**PERFORMING/WRITING SOLO PART 2**

**Week 7: Comic Strips and Flash Mobs**

Reading: Lalo Alcaraz’s *La Cucaracha (Daniel D. Portado)*
Article: *Bordertown (Animated Series)*
View: Flash Mob Videos (Wallmart)

**DEVISED WORK PART 1**

**Week 8: Agosto Boal’s Theatre of the Oppressed**

Reading: Josefina Lopez’s *Real Women Have Curves*
Group Activity: Rainbow of Desire exercise, Devised Work Meetings

**DEVISED WORK PART 2**

**Week 9: Documentary Theatre Making**

Reading: Cornerstone Theatre Company *Cafe Vida*
View: Homeboy Industries

**DEVISED WORK PART 2**

**Week 10: FINAL PRESENTATIONS**