Course Description

The Art of Performance: A workshop/seminar examining 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 group projects. In short, "performance" will be examined as cultural expression, political tool and personal identity. Each class will be divided into two segments, lecture, then group discussions/exercises.

Course Requirements:

1) On-Line Journal - all students are required to respond to weekly prompts as related to readings, in-class exercises and group work. These "journals" combined with class attendance, participation and collaboration equal 15% of grade.

2) Presentation - students are required to create and present an ACTO in groups (5 mins each) and also, create a short solo piece (written and/or performed) using performance techniques discussed in class. Written texts/scripts from ACTOS and SOLO work will be required. Outside rehearsals required. 40% of grade.

3) Collaboration - a devised work is collectively created in groups and performed in class as part of final grade. Outside rehearsals required. The collaborative process will be documented weekly in the on-line journal and each student will write a 2-page paper on the process. 30% of grade.

4) All Students are required to see 1 outside theatre performance and write a 2 page in-depth critical review by Week 9. Additionally, all students will present a short review on a mural and write a 1 page Artist Manifesto to be turned in Finals Week 11. 15% of Grade
5) Graduate Students are required to attend 1 additional outside professional theatre performance and write a 5 page critical evaluation to be presented in class. They will also be given lead responsibilities within the devised work group sessions.

Written Assignments:
These must be typed and single-spaced with 1-inch margins all around and either 12- or 10-point font. All on-line responses must be 250 words minimum to be completed each week by Saturday 12:00 p.m. Performance Texts will have different formats and discussed in-class.

Class Collaboration:
Outside of class rehearsal time is required. A “Rehearsal Log” documenting dedicated hours to the assignments will be required.

Course Syllabus:

Week 1: Introduction to Chicano Agit-Prop Theatre Performance
- Readings: Essay, The Early Actos of Teatro Campesino by Jorge Huerta
- Select Plays from Teatro Campesino’s ACTOS
- Group Assignment: Creating ACTOS in groups (5 min. each)

Week 2: Devised Theatre Collectives and Ensembles:
Latina Theatre Lab, Teatro Luna and Culture Clash
- View Latina Theatre Lab’s The Immaculate Conception and Culture Clash in AmeriCCA
- Readings: American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose by Culture Clash
- Assignment: ACTOS rehearsals

Week 3: Auto-Biographical Text: Las Chicas & JoJo
- Readings/Viewings Include: Adelina Anthony, Marissa Chibas, Virginia Grise, Cherrie Moraga, Karen Anzoategui, Xandra Ibarra
- Group Activity: Storytelling Cultural Memory
- Assignment: Solo Writing Begins
- Presentations: ACTOS (5 minutes per group)

Week 4: Spoken Word Plays and Adaptations
- Reading: Luis Alfaro’s Black Butterfly and Mojada
- Group Activity: Creating Solo Performance Techniques

Week 5: Radical Collectives and Performance Art
- Reading: Guillermo Gomez Pena and The Pocha Nostra’s Manifesto
• View: Nao Bustamante/Pocha Nostra’s
• Group Activity: Ensemble building exercises and Devised Work
• Assignment: Solo Presentation Part 1

**Week 6: Agosto Boal’s Theatre of the Oppressed**

• Reading: Josefina Lopez’s "Real Women Have Curves"
• Group Activity: Devised Work Techniques
• Assignment: Solo Presentation Part 2

**Week 7: Documentary Theatre Making**

• Reading: Cornerstone Theatre Company *Cafe Vida*
• View: Homeboy Industry Video
• Assignment: Devised Work Collaborations

**Week 8: Murals as Performance**

• Reading: Excerpts from *The Road to Atzlan, Art from a Mythic Homeland*
• View: The Great Wall of Los Angeles, Murals in East Los Angeles
• Group Activity: Tableau Vivants
• Assignment: Research and Present on 1 Mural

**Week 9: Comic Strips, Animated Series and Flash Mobs**

• Readings: Lalo Alcaraz’s *La Cucaracha/Bordertown*
• View: Select Works
• Assignment: Devised Work Projects Continue
• Mural Presentations
• Theatre Critique Paper Due

**Week 10: Artist Manifesto**

• Select Readings on Artist Manifestos
• Assignment: Creating your manifesto
• Devised Work Run-throughs, critique and rehearsals
• Revisit Progression of Solo Work

**Week 11: FINALS**

• Devised Work Presentations and Solo Work Culminations
• Devised Work Paper Due
• Artist Manifesto Due