Classical Acting - Shakespeare

Content Area: **Music**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 4**
Length: **35**
Status: **Published**

Introduction/Summary

The focus of this unit is to deepen students' understanding of Shakespearean text, giving them the tools they need to not only understand the language but to perform scenes in such a way that an audience will also understand it.

Standards

ELD standards:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYv1Nu4/edit

1.4.12acc.Cr1a	Investigate historical and cultural conventions and their impact on the visual composition of devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Cr1a	Research to construct ideas about the visual composition of devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Cr1b	Explore the impact of technology on design choices in devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12acc.Cr1c	Use personal experiences and knowledge to develop a character that is believable and authentic.
1.4.12prof.Cr1c	Use script analysis to generate ideas about a character that is believable and authentic.
1.4.12prof.Cr2a	Explore the function of history and culture in the development and subsequent interpretations of devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12acc.Cr2a	Develop a dramatic interpretation to demonstrate a critical understanding of historical and cultural influences in a devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12acc.Cr2b	Cooperate as a creative team to make informative and analytical choices for devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Cr2b	Examine the collaborative nature of the actor, director, playwright, and designers, and explore their interdependent roles.
1.4.12acc.Cr3a	Explore physical and vocal choices to develop a character that is believable and authentic in devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Cr3a	Use script analysis to inform choices impacting the believability and authenticity of a character.
1.4.12prof.Cr3b	Practice devised or scripted theatre work using theatrical staging conventions.
1.4.12acc.Cr3b	Use the rehearsal process to analyze and revise a devised or scripted theatre work using theatrical staging conventions.
1.4.12prof.Cr3c	Explore technical design choices that support the story and emotional impact of a scripted or devised theatre work.
1.4.12acc.Pr4a	Refine a range of acting skills to build believable and sustainable characters in a devised or scripted theatre performance.

1.4.12prof.Pr4a	Rehearse various acting exercises to expand skills in a rehearsal for devised or scripted theatre performance.
1.4.12prof.Pr4b	Use technical elements to increase the impact of design for a theatre production.
1.4.12prof.Pr5a	Identify and explore different pacing options per character to better communicate the story in a theatre work.
1.4.12acc.Pr5a	Discover how unique choices shape believable and sustainable characters in devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Pr5b	Explore and discover character choices using given circumstances in devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12acc.Pr5b	Identify how essential text information, research from various sources, and the director's concept to influence character choices in a theatre work.
1.4.12acc.Pr6a	Produce devised or scripted theatre work using a creative process that shapes the production for a specific audience.
1.4.12prof.Pr6a	Perform devised or scripted theatre work for a specific audience.
1.4.12prof.Re7a	Utilize personal reactions and reflections to artistic choices in a theatrical work for a formal theatre critique.
1.4.12acc.Re7a	Respond to what is seen, felt and heard in devised or scripted theatre work to develop criteria for artistic choices.
1.4.12prof.Re7b	Collaboratively analyze how artistic choices in a theatrical work affect personal and peer reactions.
1.4.12acc.Re7b	Apply theatre elements and production values to formal and informal evaluations or artistic choices in a theatrical work.
1.4.12acc.Re8a	Analyze and assess a devised or scripted theatre work by connecting it to art forms, history, culture, and other disciplines using supporting evidence and criteria.
1.4.12prof.Re8a	Examine a devised or scripted theatre work and identify the supporting evidence/criteria for its effectiveness to communicate the central message considering the play’s history, culture, and political context.
1.4.12acc.Re8b	Construct meaning in a devised or scripted theatre work considering personal aesthetics and knowledge of production elements while respecting others' interpretations.
1.4.12prof.Re8b	Evaluate the aesthetics of the production elements in a devised or scripted theatre work and their ability to support or extend the storyline.
1.4.12acc.Re8c	Verify and articulate how a devised or scripted theatre work communicates for a specific purpose and audience.
1.4.12prof.Re8c	Formulate a deeper understanding and appreciation of a devised or scripted theatre work by considering its specific purpose or intended audience.
1.4.12prof.Re9a	Analyze and compare artistic choices developed from personal experiences in multiple devised or scripted theatre works.
1.4.12acc.Re9a	Develop detailed supporting evidence and criteria to reinforce artistic choices when participating in or observing devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12acc.Re9b	Apply concepts from devised or scripted theatre work for personal realization about cultural perspectives and understanding.
1.4.12prof.Re9b	Identify and compare cultural perspectives and contexts that may influence the evaluation of a devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Re9c	Justify personal aesthetics, preferences and beliefs through participation in and observation of devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12acc.Re9c	Debate and distinguish multiple aesthetics, preferences and beliefs through participation in and observation of devised or scripted theatre work.

1.4.12prof.Cn10a	Investigate how cultural perspectives, community ideas, and personal beliefs impact a devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12acc.Cn10a	Choose, interpret and perform devised or scripted theatre work to reflect or question personal beliefs.
1.4.12acc.Cn11a	Integrate conventions and knowledge from different art forms and other disciplines to examine cross-cultural devised or scripted theatre works.
1.4.12prof.Cn11a	Integrate knowledge of cultural, global and historic belief systems into creative choices in a devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12prof.Cn11b	Use basic research methods to better understand the social and cultural background of devised or scripted theatre work.

Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings

- How can we build upon our existing performing skills in order to perform classic pieces?
- What connections can be made between the characters of Shakespeare's plays and people now?
- What are the clues Shakespeare provided for actors and how can they be utilized in Shakespearean performance?
- How can you incorporate evidence of plot comprehension, emphasized words, character relationships, physicality, and stage pictures into Shakespearean performance?
- How can we understand Shakespearean text and how can we convey the text to be understood by an audience?

Theatre artists rely on intuition, curiosity and critical inquiry.

What happens when theatre artists use their imaginations and/or learned theatre skills while engaging in creative exploration and inquiry?

Theatre artists work to discover different ways of communicating meaning.

Theatre artists refine their work and practice their craft through rehearsal.

How do theatre artists transform and edit their initial ideas?

Theatre artists develop personal processes and skills for a performance or design.

How do theatre artists fully prepare a performance or design?

Theatre artists make choices to convey meaning.

How do theatre artists use tools and techniques to communicate ideas and feelings?

Theatre artists' interpretations of drama/theatre work are influenced by personal experiences and aesthetics.

How can the same work of art communicate different messages to different people?

What happens when theatre artists foster understanding between self and others through critical awareness, social responsibility, and the exploration of empathy?

As theatre is created and experienced, personal experiences and knowledge are synthesized to interpret meaning and analyze the way in which the world may be understood.

What happens when theatre artists allow an understanding of themselves and the world to inform perceptions about theatre and the purpose of their work?

Objectives

Students will know:

- the value of Shakespeare in an actor's repertoire.
- how to apply the Stanislavski Method to classical text.
- how to use physicality to assist an audience in understanding Shakespearean text.

Students will be skilled at:

- analyzing and translating Shakespearean text to make sense of what a character is saying and feeling.
- developing Shakespearean characters for a contemporary audience.
- performing Shakespearean scenes to ensure audiences can grasp the central themes and concepts.

Learning Plan

- Watch a professional production of the chosen Shakespearean play
- Analyze and critique the performances within
- Discuss beat shifts and the Stanislavski Method
- Assign scenes from the play with student input
- Have students perform cold reads using modern translations and have class locate and justify first beat shifts
- Allow students to apply Stanislavski Method in full to the No Fear translations
- Discuss Shakespearean text including common turns of phrase and words
- Move students to Shakespearean text and have them transcribe their beat shifts and actions
- Rehearse the scenes and have students present at least once a week
- Set an offbook date and review memorization techniques
- Perform these scenes at the Winter Acting Showcase

Assessments

- Students will demonstrate understanding of Shakespearean plots and characters through discussion of the professional production.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of Stanislavski methods through marking of beat shifts and practicing of actions
- Presentations will serve as informal assessments, growing more formal as the class approaches the performance date
- Students will be assessed on their mastery of the language, their physicality, their character arcs, and their vocal quality at the Winter Acting Showcase

Materials

- Scripts: Romeo and Juliet; Macbeth; Hamlet; A Midsummer Night's Dream

- Modern translations: litcharts.com has a great "Shakescleare translation" for these four scripts

Suggested Strategies for Modification

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A-PxTb-SqSbhdiTWm8sCR69UJhJ2Oq_ixoy_hgPpInc/edit?gid=1426178898#gid=1426178898