

Description of the courses - Erasmus+ Program academic year 2024/2025

Acting – Directing – Puppet Theatre Technology

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Animation and drama tasks with an object / Zadania aktorskie z przedmiotem

The objectives of the course include the stimulation and improvement of the imagination as well as knowledge within the area of puppetry. Students become familiar with the specific character of the animated form theater and are introduced to various ways of using an object as a subject of stage expression. The cycle is divided into two semesters. The first semester is entitled "The Element" and consists of the following manners for the realization of stage expression: subject definition as the basis of expression, object classification, object form and content, means of object animation, the atmosphere of the object, and stage expression. The second semester is entitled "The Form" and has as its goal the creation of a small theatrical form, a so-called Monograph or a play with the use of objects.

Foreign language course 1, 2 – English / Lektorat 1, 2 – j. angielski

The aim of the language course is the realization of lessons in the form of workshops and conversation during which the students will practice their language skills in order to improve them to the level of B2+, gain knowledge related to the learning of specialized profession-linked vocabulary connected to their field of study (words that are related to the theater with special consideration for puppet theater) as well as acquire the ability to use information and communication technology for the conscious and critical utilization of knowledge sources.

Art of animation – basics / Podstawy sztuki animacji

The objectives of this course are to familiarize the students with the principles of manipulating a plastic form such as a puppet, their hand or another part of the body treated as a subject as well as to give them the skills to consciously utilize animation techniques during artistic expression – externalization and the transfer of emotions and thinking process onto the form.

During the classes, we will explore ways for using body parts (such as a hand, for example) as a character, symbol, or plastic material as well as search for new forms of expression allowing the students to gain animation related experience. We will explore various functions of the animator and ways for the co-existence of the form and the actor, create etudes through

individual and group improvisation. Additionally, we will also deal with the plastic form as a starting point in the subject of stage expression.

Shadow theatre / Laboratorium cienia

These are theoretical and practical workshops. Their theoretical portion will provide information concerning the evolution of shadow puppetry throughout the world, diversity of techniques and shadow forms, the role of shadows in beliefs and rituals, the influence of shadow forming and shadow theater on the development of cinematography as well as the connections between the shadow theater with other sciences and arts. Other than theoretical knowledge, the students will also gain practical skills connected to the range of expression possible through traditional and contemporary shadow theater. They will learn to design, make, and bring to life shadow forms as well as become familiar with the principles of lamp and screen construction and use. The end result will be the preparation of an etude utilizing elements of Shadow Theater.

String puppets / Marionetka

The objective of this course is to acquire basic skills for the animation of short-stringed marionettes. The students will have an opportunity to develop an individual stage personality allowing the creation, realization, and expression of artistic ideas. Additionally, during workshops for acting with a puppet, they also gain the ability to consciously and repeatedly utilize the techniques and technology related to the puppet theater

Body in motion / Ciało w ruchu

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the basic tools of the actor's work, which are the body and mind, and to guide them through the process of integrating these two aspects. The structure of the classes is divided into thematic blocks and is based on exercises/combination of exercises with theoretical knowledge in the form of short lectures, discussions supported by additional materials (film, specialist literature, interactive materials). The course include among others: developing mindfulness to external and internal factors, increasing body and breath awareness, stimulating imagination and abstract thinking, developing individual movement expression, developing an intuitive approach to creative work and stage creation. Classes can be individual or group.

Rhythmicity / Rytmika

The objective of this course is the development of the ability to focus one's attention and work independently and multi-directionally. During the educational process, the student will work on strengthening and developing concentration, rapid orientation, motor memory and body coordination. Successive levels of initiation focus on the simultaneous performance of two and three-part rhythms with movement and gesture, the execution of two and three-voice polyrhythms with movement and gesture, complementary rhythms and double speed.

The art of movement plasticity / Plastyka ruchu

The main course objectives include:

1. Familiarization with the basic principles of classical and modern dance allowing the achievement of the correct posture and the development of awareness and movement within a space.
2. Thorough, gradual, and systematic mastery of exercises meant to develop and strengthen individual muscle groups.
3. Development of motor coordination and the improvement of physical condition.

Gym / Gimnastyka

The objective of the course is the improvement and maintenance of the highest possible level of physical fitness and motor coordination. Students acquire the skill to quickly get their body ready to deal with stipulated challenges. They also work on ergonomic and esthetic movement. Additionally, attention is paid to the development of responsibility for the safety of one's self and others as well as the intensification and sustenance of health-promoting behavior.

Introduction to the classical puppet techniques/classical puppet techniques / Wstęp do klasycznych technik lalkowych/ Klasyczne techniki lalkowe

The objective of the course is to gain the ability, through the use of classic puppetry techniques, to animate puppets such as glove puppets, rod puppets, and marottes. In practice, the student learns to carry on a staged dialogue, understands the rules and principles of the stage in relation to one's self, partners and space. On the basis of acting exercises in the form of workshops dealing with individual subjects as well as particular staged dialogues selected from world drama we work on the following:

1. Character identity, emotional memory, substitution, senses, and thinking
2. Character needs, desires, and limitations
3. Space creation
4. The essence of staging emotions
5. Construction of characters through acting and its internal references
6. Principles of guiding emotional, personal, and spatial conflict
7. Principles of dialogue in practice through selected scenes of contemporary drama

Introduction to contemporary puppet techniques/ Contemporary puppet techniques /Wstęp do współczesnych technik lalkowych/ Współczesne techniki lalkowe/

The aim of the course is to acquaint the students with the primary trends and practices of contemporary puppet theater as well as practices within this field. The selection of forms, inspirations, and work methods is meant to give students a comprehensive understanding of this subject matter as well as provide them with the practice essential for active creation. Subjects addressed during the course include:

1. Primary practices and trends of contemporary puppet theater.
2. The artistic achievement of outstanding authors of contemporary puppet theater.
3. Popular materials used in puppet construction.
4. Direct animation.
5. Indirect animation.
6. The puppet and the animator.
7. Working with imagination.
8. Construction of an etude within the conventions of the contemporary puppet theater.
9. Principles of puppet movement.
10. Transfer of emotions from the body of the actor to the puppet.

Voice instruction/emission with song interpretation / Emisja głosu z interpretacją piosenki

The course aims to teach voice control and combining elements of a sung work of music with acting tasks. Particular tasks revolve around:

- control of elements of vocal techniques to achieve voice projection and resonance,
- the use of basic music nomenclature,
- working with accompaniment,

- the selection of appropriate artistic means necessary for the clear and creative communication of the work's content

Dance / Taniec

The course focuses on the development of movement imagination, the acquisition of awareness related to the abilities of our body with attention to, among others, an active posture, correct breathing, learning to move and isolate individual parts of the body, the use of its mass, speed and suspension, appropriate impulse expression, risk-taking and becoming one with the floor, utilization of centrifugal force. Students develop their classical and modern dance skills with the addition of elements of jazz.

Puppet construction / Budowa lalek

The objective of the course includes the practical instruction in puppet construction techniques starting with the design and progressing to the actual making of the puppet or mask. The student learns to define artistic expression stylistically uniform or varied in relation to his own artistic activity. Additionally, he learns to understand the concept of artistic expression, practices used in such realms of art as painting or sculpture and how to draw inspiration from them. He learns the techniques and technology for the use of materials utilized in puppet making.

Improvisation in English / Improwizacje w języku angielskim

During this two-semester course, students explore the basics of the Meisner technique. Within the first semester students are introduced to "repetitions", a foundation of a deeper focus on their partner and existing within "the here and now". The second semester is spent applying the technique in scene work.

Classical dance / Taniec klasyczny

Development of acquired skills within the area of the art of movement.

English conversations / Konwersacje z jez. angielskiego

The aim of this conversation course is the improvement of the ability to freely communicate within any subject matter.

Visual culture / Kultura wizualna

The course is devoted to broadly understood visual culture. During the courses, students will talk about phenomena related to both fine arts and film, high and low-ranking public art, as well as mass culture. An important aspect of the course is the analysis of the social and historical context of specific phenomena. The essence of the course is to sensitize to the content and forms that go beyond the world of the so-called high art and classical artistic techniques, such as sculpture, painting and graphics. Most of the topics are related to the interests of the students themselves.

Performative Activities /Działania performatywne

The course aims to explore the dynamic notion of performance art and to analyze specific performance actions in the form of a conversation and practical exercises.

In the first stage, students share their previous experiences, observations and doubts about performance art in Poland and abroad.

The next stage of the course is an introductory lecture, during which the students are introduced to the history of creation, the process of transformation and the characteristics of contemporary performance art.

In the later stages, as a continuation of the conversation form, students verify their reflections and choose a specific authorial theme, which at a given moment they have the need to realize in the form of a performance. At the end of the semester, each student realizes an original outline of a performative activity.

In the second semester, in addition to the conversation, there is a form of practical exercises, which may (but need not) culminate in a show at the end of the summer semester.

Working with an actor on a puppet stage 1, 2 / Technika pracy z aktorem w planie lalkowym 1, 2

Within the first semester, the aim of the "Working with and actor on a puppet stage" course is the creation of a short theatrical form (most often a single scene from a selected dramatic play for children) and in the second it may be an adaptation of a drama (also realized as a short theatrical form). To achieve this the student is required to develop a script, justify the convention for its realization (also through proposing and active participation in the creation of the artistic concept) as well as organize work within a team of actors. Course assessment includes the result of the exam performance but most of all skills connected with working with actors or the realization of the directorial concept in relation to the conditions created for this purpose. During the

conceptual stage of the course, a wide assortment of reading materials adapted to the topic at hand will be made available.

Puppets in front of the camera / Lalki przed kamerą

In its first semester, the objective of the "Puppets in front of the camera" course will be the creation of a storyboard for a short puppet film while the second semester will be devoted to its realization, pictures and postproduction. The first semester will be a time for decisions that the student will make through learning about the specific character of producing films with puppets (also through the use of theatrical multimedia). The storyboard determines the convention and scope of the work being realized. The convention that is most often chosen by students is the so-called "stop motion" which requires the creation of puppets and sets for its realization. Pictures and postproduction become the finalization of the work. Their effect depends on the creation of conditions for the realization of the film that are in-line with the directorial vision (the actors, visual and audio layers). During this process, the student learns about the specific character of a film set but, more importantly, becomes conscious of how to use film-making techniques at the theater. The course makes use of a collection of films featuring puppets as well as literary works (in Poland we utilize the publications of "Wojciech Marzec" devoted to the broadly understood specific nature of film such as Mike Wellins' "Storytelling through animation").

Working with an actor 1, 2 / Technika pracy z aktorem 1, 2

This is a typical practical course. 80% of classes focus on practical work and cooperation with an actor on a stage.

Course elements include:

- Preliminary analysis of literary material with respect to its practical realization on stage.
- Formulation of initial directorial premises concerning the individual interpretation of the literary work.
- Identification of the right esthetic for the play that will allow the realization of the previously-determined interpretation of the literary work.
- Definition of acting tasks for the individual actor taking part in the created stage performance (play).
- Practical work (with actors) in the stage realization of the interpretational premises defined by the director.

- Cooperation with the stage designer.
- Cooperation with the music composer.

Small theatrical form – design / Mała forma teatralna – projektowanie

Students will acquire the ability to turn the developed idea for a performance in the form of a director's copy into a stage show.

First Semester: Development of the idea for the performance in the form of a director's copy, with the possibility to dramatically adapt a selected text, consultations concerning scenography and music.

Second Semester: Realization of the small theatrical form in cooperation with others.

Sculpture and modeling / Rzeźba i modelowanie

The objectives of the course are to gain practical experience of selected sculpting techniques needed for the ability to operate spatial forms, learn to utilize various materials to make elements of scenography, and the development of artistic awareness and skills of a stage designer.

Subsequent semesters are devoted to the design and making of a relief form based on the rule of modularity, the realization of a spatial form based on the experience gained and the model created during the first semester as well as the introduction of module multiplication and polychromy.

Foundations of computer animation design / Podstawy projektowania animacji komputerowych

Theoretical and practical foundations of creating animated films. The course consists of familiarizing students with the computer environment useful in the production of small film forms and the equipment utilized for these purposes. The main objective of the course is to orient students toward concepts connected with the expression of motion as well as the notion of time contained within the principles of filmmaking. During classes, the students will create their own short films that can become an attractive manner of self-presentation as well as an interesting introduction to their creativity.