

# Duke Ellington School of the Arts

## Technical Design & Production

### Course: **Team Learning** Fall 2011

Instructors: Betty Davis, Curtis V. Hodge, Ronald Lee Newman, Camille Shakara

#### **Course Objectives/Team Strategy:**

##### **Course Objectives:**

This newly design course was designed to work in within the “All School Collaborative” last year. With the success of this course structure, TDP has permanently shifted to this way of teaching. This intermediate course will give the student an intense “hands on” instruction in one of five specific disciplines: Stage Management, Sound Design, Costume Design and Wardrobe, or Lighting Design and Electrics. 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be required to interview for their desired team of interest.

#### **Team/Instructor**

##### *Stage Management/ Ronald Lee Newman & Camille Shakara*

Stage Management team members will attend all rehearsals; setup rehearsal spaces, and take blocking notes. These team members will be responsible for maintaining the integrity of the shows, by providing detailed descriptions of blocking, cues, and script notes, taping rehearsal floors and the stage, as well as checking props before each performance. Stage management team members will prepare show reports so that the entire department will be kept abreast of the happenings of each performance.

##### *Sound/ TBD*

Team members will apply live/studio sound reinforcement techniques and processes to productions in the Ellington Theatre and recording studio. Team members will be responsible for the setup, storage, and usage of sound reinforcement equipment for all rehearsals, sessions and performances. In an effort to teach the level of professionalism and work ethic that is needed in the field of live sound, team members will be required to maintain, inspect and service all equipment used in this department. Members are responsible for the cleaning and upkeep of the sound areas, studio, sound booths and storage closet.

##### *Lighting Design and Electrics/Curtis V. Hodge*

As an electrician on this team, students will service, maintain, hang and focus all lighting in the Ellington Theatre. They will also be responsible for attending all technical rehearsals and running lights during performances. The member’s area of

this team's responsibility will include the lighting booth, coves, and lighting storage closets, and must be cleaned and maintained at all times.

#### *Costumes and Wardrobe/Betty Davis*

Members of the Costume team will be expected to work closely with the costume shop manager, building, pulling and maintaining all costumes for all productions in the Ellington Theatre. Team members will run all wardrobe for dress rehearsals and performances. This team's areas of responsibilities are the costume shop and dressing room.

#### *Maintenance/Ronald L. Newman & Curtis V. Hodge*

This team's primary responsibility is the meticulous upkeep of all of the Technical design spaces: theatre, stage, backstage, rehearsal hall, scene shop, light and sound booths, orchestra pit, dressing rooms, and lighting coves. The Maintenance team will be responsible for obtaining proper cleaning tools and supplies as necessary.

#### **Course Requirements:**

Students will be interviewed by the Technical Design & Production (TDP) faculty and After faculty consultation, the chairman of the department will make the final decision as to which department each student will be hired in to. For the interview portion, the each students are expected to provide:

- Cover letter/ letter of intent
- One page resume
- Three letters of reference
- Proper attire for a professional interview
- Ability to show proof of tools as required in the TDP Handbook

#### **Class Expectations:**

- **Lateness to class, rehearsals, and performances will not be accepted.**  
Lateness The TDP's policy on timeliness: if you are early, you are on time; if you are on time, you are late. Latenesses will be noted as points deducted from the final grade: 2 percentage points for every occurrence of lateness. An unexcused absence will result in 3 percentage points deducted from the final grade for each occurrence. Participation in class is essential to the learning process and is taken in consideration when evaluating the "class participation" portion of the final grade.

Students are expected to actively participate in every class., rehearsal, and performance. Class sessions will consist mainly of shop work, either backstage or in the theatre.

#### **Required Dress Code:**

**Class/Shop/Performance** appropriate clothing consists of long pants and closed-toe shoes. Please be prepared for the possibility that these clothes might get ripped or torn. Clothing is **all black** and follows the guidelines stated above. There will be

no exceptions to these rules. Students must adhere to this code at all times. Any students not complying with this dress code will be dismissed from class, rehearsal or performance and will subsequently lose points towards their attendance record.

### **Grading:**

7<sup>th</sup> Period: **Individual Grade:** Attendance, preparedness, uniforms, tools

8<sup>th</sup> Period: **Team Grade:** Performance of entire team, completion of team projects within time allotment

9<sup>th</sup> Period: **Test Grade:** Written test will be given to each student

10<sup>th</sup> Period: **Performance Grade:** Execution of team role during rehearsals and performances.

### **Grading Rubric**

Preparedness and Attendance: Full and prompt attendance in every class, -

1. Did student bring all necessary supplies and tools?
2. Did student dress in the necessary “all black”?
3. Did student bring completed homework?
4. Did the student arrive on time and stay until dismissed (for class, rehearsals and/or productions)?

Participation and Attitude: Active class participation is a major part of this course. Sitting around while others work will not be tolerated. You will be challenged to think ahead by using what you have already learned. Being proactive is strongly encouraged. A student engaging in any form of “instant messaging,” gaming or other such activity during class will be asked to leave and not return with the device in question. The student will be given an “F” for attendance and participation for the day and subsequent days until they are able to pay attention in class.

1. Did the student willingly and fully participate?
2. Did the student perform all assigned tasks (from teachers or supervising students) and class work?
3. Did the student show respect for other team members? For their tools and the theatre?

Performance

1. Did the student perform their duties with an attention to detail and follow through to ensure the quality of their work?
2. Did the student react to problems or obstacles with the appropriate professional and pro-active response, rather than allow problems to go by unchecked?

3. Did the student conduct his/herself in a professional and productive manner completing their tasks and objectives?
4. Did the student's conduct reflect a professional and productive manner while interacting with their fellow crew, performers, or other people in the performance space?

Scores from written assignments, out-of-class projects, tests, and exams will be averaged from the above-mentioned items.

Active class participation is a major part of this course. Sitting around while others work will not be tolerated. You will be challenged to think ahead by practical application of the knowledge that you have already learned. Being proactive is strongly encouraged.