

SYLLABUS

DNC 127 Improvisational Technique
Sam Houston State University
Department of Theatre and Dance
Fall Semester 2007 M/W/F 10:00-10:50 am

Instructor: Maggie Lasher
Office: AB3 #213
Hours: Tues./Thurs. 12:30-2:00 pm
(and by appointment)

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Course Description:

Improvisation is a learned skill that assists the performer and choreographer in a number of ways. For the choreographer, improvisation can aid in the discovery of new movement and help to find the true essence and meaning behind a dance. Through improvisation, the performer can expand his or her movement potential, discover new ways of moving, become comfortable with a wide range of movement styles, learn how to react and interact with other dancers, and discover a myriad of ways to unleash his or her creative being.

In this class students will be introduced to a variety of movement explorations. Students will be asked to leave all inhibitions and judgement at the door and make themselves available to the ideas being introduced through improvisation. Class time will be spent on moving alone as well as in pairs and groups, having open and honest discussions, exploring contact improvisation, learning how to use the voice as a dance tool, plus writing, drawing, and reflecting on exercises and personal development.

Course Objectives:

- become comfortable with exploring the unknown through dance
- discover ways of finding new movement
- build camaraderie, trust and relationships with each other
- create a safe environment where each student feels comfortable enough to allow his or her true personal expression to let loose

Course Requirements:

- The main requirement is that all students are open to the exercises and ready to participate. Students must demonstrate a positive attitude to try new things and show a willingness to participate at all times. Individual participation and attitude will be assessed at the end of each week and assigned a grade.
- Throughout the semester a number of opportunities for reflections will be presented. These will occur in class and will come in the form of writing, drawing, and visual art. These reflections will be turned in for a grade. Reflections cannot be made up, however, missing two or three reflections will probably not effect your grade.
- Students will compile boxes of inspiration and create improvisational dances from the inspirations. These will be presented for a grade. More information on your inspiration boxes will be given throughout the semester.
- A few readings and take home writings will be given throughout the semester and will be turned in for a grade.
- Students will present a graded final improvisation for Major's Workshop at the end of the semester. Students will be graded on this performance.