



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Accents for Film and Stage

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Course Description

This course introduces two important accents used for stage, film, television, and video games. Through Knight-Thompson Speechwork, a new standard bearing approach to speech, students will acquire the skills to convincingly perform these accents. Areas of focus include developing the oral posture, learning how to create unique pronunciations, and analyzing the “music” (rhythm, tempo, and intonation) of the accent. Native speakers will be studied and dialogue from stage and screen scripts will be utilized to apply the work. Students will increase their vocal dexterity and awareness of speech production. This course is for actors with and without speech training and for people who simply would enjoy learning two interesting accents.

Course Objectives:

- Gain a functional understanding of the vocal tract and speech sounds
- Execute sound shifts unique to Modern London and Southern Hemisphere accents
- Embody the accents through work with dramatic text

Reason for offering the course

This class provides actors with the ability to do two accents frequently demanded by the profession. Through accent work, students often acquire a more personal connection to speech and may deepen their interpretation of dramatic texts.

Required Materials:

- Pen and paper
- Hand mirror or smartphone self-view camera
- A device capable of downloading and playing mp3s, i.e. smart phone, PC, etc.
- Recommended: Amazing Slow Downer (software) or other slow downer

Course Outline: What topics and sub-topics will be covered in this course?

1. Foundations of Speech - breath, phonation (voicing), and articulation
2. Foundations of Accent - pronunciation, oral posture, prosody (pitch, rhythm, tempo)
3. Acting with accents. Applying accent work to dialogue and monologues.
4. Listening skills
5. Play and improvisation

Course Outline

*Course outline may be subject to change.

Week 1	Introduction to Accent Work TOPICS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What is good accent work?- Listening and identify features of the accent- Phases of Accent Acquisition- Components of Accents- Shape is Sound - Vocal Tract, Using Directions, Vowel Chart, Spelling, IPA ASSIGNMENT (due next class) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Select Speaker for Accent #1- Select 10-seconds of speech to study- Identify Six Key Features- Practice with Springboard
Week 2	Accent #1 Study TOPICS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review accent study- Breakdown Accent #1- Learn Lexical Sets- How to apply the breakdown to copy/text ASSIGNMENT (due next class) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Select copy/text (provided options or one of your own)- Apply accent to copy/text- Practice Springboard for Accent #1
Week 3	Share Accent #1 TOPICS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Share Springboards- Share accent applied copy/text- Identify revisions to accent copy/text- Review Accent #1 Breakdown ASSIGNMENT (due next class) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Apply revisions to copy/text- Practice Springboard for Accent #1
Week 4	Share Accent #1 Revision. Begin Accent #2 Study TOPICS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Share Springboards- Share accent applied copy/text with revisions- Begin Accent #2 study. Identify key features. Review Breakdown ASSIGNMENT (due next class) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Select new copy/text for Accent #2 (provided options or one of your own)- Apply accent to copy/text- Practice Springboard for Accent #2

Week 5	Share Accent #2 TOPICS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Share Springboards- Share accent applied copy/text- Identify revisions to accent copy/text- Review Accent #2 Breakdown ASSIGNMENT (due next class) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Apply revisions to copy/text- Practice Springboard for Accent #1
Week 6	Share Accent #2 Revision TOPICS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Share Springboards- Share accent applied copy/text with revisions- Review both accents. Cold reads with accents. ASSIGNMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify further accent study options