



## **THEATER 1 - INTRODUCTION TO THEATER**



Syllabus  
Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

**Teacher:** Mrs. Boylan (MA in Theater)  
**Email:** aboylan@psusd.us [Preferred Communication]  
**Phone:** (760) 778-0419 [Direct line] or Ext. 1439

**One Year Course:** Fulfills 10 credits of Fine Arts Requirement for Graduation and UC/CSU Admission

**Textbooks:** *Basic Drama Projects* 8<sup>th</sup> Edition by Fran Averett Tanner, Ph.D. [Class Set Provided]

*Theatre: Art in Action* by Rob Taylor and Bob Strickland [Class Set provided for students]

### **Course Objectives:**

Theater, in one form or other, has existed for thousands of years. Through energy and imagination, theatre is a means to explore society, examine relationships, frame, expose, critique, and speculate. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the basic elements of theatre, including acting, directing, movement, voice, design and technology, theatre management, writing, and theatre history. The student will gain practical experience in memorizing, performing, critiquing, and collaborating to produce pantomimes, monologues, and short scenes. This course will also teach students about different styles of theatre throughout history through reading, analyzing, and viewing live and pre-recorded productions. The student will become familiar with the three parts of an actor's basic instrument (body, voice, and mind—imagination) and learn ways to improve personal stage presence in order to help build their self-confidence. This course focuses primarily on fundamental acting skills and basic creative and imaginative processes to instill an appreciation for the theater.

**Area of Study will address the following THEATRE CONTENT STANDARDS:**

- 1.0 Artistic Perception** – Processing, analyzing and responding to sensory information through the language and skills unique to Theatre.
- 2.0 Creative Expression** – Creating, Performing, and Participating in Theatre.
- 3.0 Historical and Cultural Context** – Understanding the historical contributions and cultural dimensions of Theatre.
- 4.0 Aesthetic Valuing** – Responding to, Analyzing, and Critiquing theatrical experiences.
- 5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications** – Connecting and Applying what is learned in Theatre, Film/Video, and Electronic Media to other art forms and subject areas and to careers.

**Course Requirements:**

Ensemble Work	Mime and Mask	Improvisation
Directing and Staging	Vocal Techniques	Monologues
Scene Studies	Set and Costumes	Formal Writing for Theatre
Lighting and Sound	Audience Etiquette	Acting

**Assignments, Homework, Make-Up Policy, and Extra Credit:**

Theatre is a collaborative art form, so the ability to meet deadlines is an important basic skill. Assignments are due the day they are assigned. Most class assignments and homework assignments are approximately due one week after they are handed out to the class. Students are given a grade every day for their participation in class; this makes up for a large percentage of their grade. Points are lost when students are absent from class, refuse to participate in class assignments and activities or if classroom and/or school rules are violated (classroom rules are described below).

If a student has an excused absence from the class, the student has one extra day to complete the assignment past its original due date for every day the student was absent. If an absence occurs on the day a student is scheduled to perform in-class or after school, the student must provide a written excuse from their legal guardian verifying the reason for them missing their performance. The student will then be assigned to a new performance date or given an alternative assignment to complete. There will be no make-ups if you miss the second performance date. You can make-up a missed performance by attending a live production (which must be pre-approved by the teacher) and writing a formal two-page critique on the show. Students must attach a copy of their ticket or program to their two-page critique. It is the student’s responsibility to find out what they missed on the day(s) they were absent by looking in the absent bin to find any handouts or classroom materials.

Students are to keep a collection of theater vocabulary terms known as “the word of the day” with them at all times in their notebooks. Students will be given several pop quizzes on the daily theater vocabulary words. Students will be able to use their notebooks during the vocabulary test. Students will also be given one written final during their first semester and a performance-based final during their second semester. A large percentage of a student’s grade is based on their in-class performances. As long as a student tries their best in everything that they do; they will be successful throughout the completion of this course.

## Required Attendance:

The Palm Springs High School Theatre Company produces three major productions throughout the school year. Students are required to attend **ALL** of the school's productions throughout the school year. If a student is performing in one of the productions (the mime show, the fall play, winter and spring showcase, and/or the spring musical/play) this requirement becomes void as they are participating through performance or working the show. If they are not participating in a show through acting or being a member of the stage/production crew, then they must attend the performance as an audience member or be enrolled in our after-school play production class. After attending a school production, the student must write a formal two-page critique on the show and attach their program to their formal paper. There will be opportunities for the students to attend each of our school performances for free throughout the year. If a student will be out-of-town when the production is scheduled, a written note or email from a parent or guardian will be needed at least three weeks in advance. An alternative assignment will be given to those students who will be out-of-town on the day of the scheduled performance.

## Student Learning Goals Addressed In Theatre 1:

Proficient Communicator

Critical Thinker

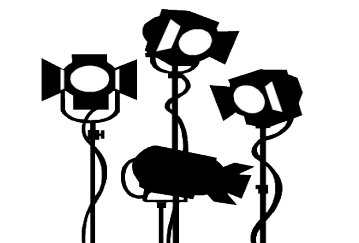
Independent Learner

Collaborative Worker

Responsible Member of Society

## Materials:

Students will be using the textbook *Basic Drama Projects* and *Theatre: Art in Action* several times throughout the year for classroom assignments. A class set has been provided for both textbooks so the students do not need to carry these books around school every day. Students will be using a variety of teacher made handouts, library materials, as well as scripts handed out by their teacher. Students need to have paper and writing materials with them every day for class to complete assignments. Students are able to check out books from our own Black Box library for a two week period as well as props and costumes to use for theatre classroom assignments and/or performances. All loaned materials are property of the Palm Springs High School Theatre Company, and in the case of damage or loss the student must pay a fair replacement/repair cost by cash or money order. No personal checks are accepted.



## Grading Policy:

Each assignment is given a letter grade determined by the points possible.

50% - Daily Participation

10% - Homework and Class Written Assignments

30% - Performances

10% - Quizzes and Finals

Students who turn in late work are deducted one full letter grade for every day that the assignment is turned in past its original due date. Once a student has reached the 50% value mark on a late assignment, the student can still turn in the assignment for 50% credit throughout the rest of the semester. Students should get some credit for completing the work, regardless of when it is turned in.

## Grading Scale:

100% - 95%	A	79% - 77%	C+
94% - 90%	A-	76% - 75%	C
89% - 85%	B+	74% - 70%	C-
86% - 85%	B	69% - 67%	D+
84% - 80%	B-	66% - 65%	D

\*Anything lower than a 60% is an F



## Classroom Rules:

1. Do not talk when the teacher is talking.
2. Do not leave the classroom until the teacher dismisses you (the bell does not excuse you).
3. Follow all classroom instructions and school rules set forth by your teacher, school, and district.
4. Come to class prepared and ready to learn.
5. Always do your best (set a good example for others in everything that you do).

## Consequences:

**First Offense:** A warning will be given out to all students

**Second Offense:** The student will be handed a warning worksheet in which they must fill out and sign detailing their actions, the reason behind those actions, as well as a change of behavior plan

**Third Offense:** Teacher detention

**Fourth Offense:** The student will be removed from class and sent to the principal's office and a parent/teacher meeting will be needed to discuss how to handle the student's behavior problem appropriately

## Calendar of Theatre Events

\*Please note that these dates and times can change at any time.



### FIRST SEMESTER

**Disney Dazzle** [Optional] (Students must be involved in the production of the show or perform in an in-class scene.)

- **After- School Rehearsal**
  - **Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 PM**
- **Performance**
  - **Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**
  - **Call time: 5:00 PM**



**Fall Play** (*Fairytale Courtroom* by Dana Proulx) – PSHS Black Box Theatre

\*Students are required to participate in this production by being a performer or production crew member (unless enrolled in zero period Stagecraft). Practices for the fall play are as follows: CAST A – Zero Period and Mondays and Thursdays after-school from 4-5 PM; CAST B – Zero Period and Tuesdays and Fridays after-school from 4-5 PM. If a student does not participate, they are required to attend one of the performances (FREE OF CHARGE) and write a two-page critique on the production.



- **Auditions: September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>** [Optional]
  - **Zero Period or from 4 – 5 PM (after-school)**
- **Crew Interviews: September 28<sup>th</sup>** [Optional]
  - **Zero Period or from 4 – 5 PM (after-school)**
    - **Students can also interview in class**
- **Teasers (School Performance [Periods 1-6])**
  - **Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **Performances (\$5.00 Students / \$7.00 Adults)**
  - **Cast A - Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**
  - **Cast A - Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM**
  - **Cast B - Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**
  - **Cast B – Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM**



**Homecoming Parade** [Optional]

- **Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>**



## Calendar of Theatre Events

\*Please note that these dates and times can change at any time.



**Ain't Too Proud Fieldtrip** [Optional] (Students have the opportunity to attend a National Touring Production at the Segerstrom in Orange County)

➤ **Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Mime Show** [Required] (Students must be involved in the production of the show)



➤ **After-School Rehearsal: Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup>**

- **Group 1: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**
- **Group 2: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

➤ **Day of Silence: Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup>** [Optional]

➤ **Teasers (School Performance [Per. 3-6]): Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
○ **Teasers: Report to school at 8:00 AM to the auditorium**

➤ **Performance: Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
○ **7:00 PM (\$2.00 Students / \$3.00 Adults)**  
▪ **Call Time: 5:30 PM**



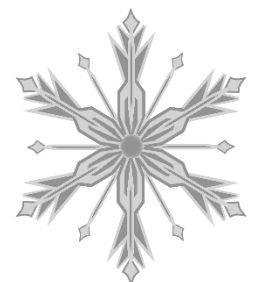
**Spring Play Auditions: “Wizard of Oz” by L. Frank Baum  
and adapted by Claude Townley** [Optional]:

- **Information Meeting in the PSHS Black Box Theatre**
  - **November 9<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM**
- **Auditions**
  - **November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**
    - **Zero Period and after-school from 4 to 5 PM**
- **Crew Interviews**
  - **November 30<sup>th</sup>**
    - **Zero Period and after-school from 4 to 5 PM**



**Winter Showcase** [Required] (Students must be involved in the production of the show)

- **After-School Rehearsal**
  - **Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 6 PM in the Auditorium**
- **Performance in the Richards Center for the Arts**
  - **Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM (\$2.00 Students / \$3.00 Adults)**
  - **Report Time: 5:00 PM in the Auditorium**



## Calendar of Theatre Events

\*Please note that these dates and times can change at any time.



### SECOND SEMESTER

**Film Festival** [Optional] (Students can choose to participate or not)



\*Students work in anywhere from 1 to 3 hour shifts selling drinks, food, and merchandise to the film festival attendees and have the opportunity to see the films, actors, directors, and celebrities at the festival for free. Students can sign up for shifts before they leave for Winter Break.

➤ **January 4<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**



**ESU Competition** [Optional] (Shakespeare Acting Competition – Students have the opportunity to compete and win a full paid trip to compete in New York City at Lincoln Center)

➤ **School Site Competition: Tuesday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

- From 4:00 – 5:00 PM in the PSHS Black Box Theatre
- Two Winners and one alternate will be selected to represent PSHS at regionals

➤ **Regional Competition** [Richard’s Center for the Performing Arts – First Round / PSHS Black Box Theatre – Finals]: **Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

**Season of Love Showcase** [Required] (Students must be involved in the production of the show)

- **After-School Rehearsal in the Auditorium**
  - **Monday February 12<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 6 PM**
- **Performance in the Richards Center for the Arts**
  - **Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**
    - **Report time: 5:00 PM**



**Spring Play “Wizard of Oz” by L. Frank Baum and adapted by Claude Townley** [Optional]:

\*Students are required to participate in this production by being a performer or production crew member (unless enrolled in zero period Stagecraft). Practices for the spring play are as follows: CAST A – Zero Period and Mondays and Thursdays after-school from 4-5 PM; CAST B – Zero Period and Tuesdays and Fridays after-school from 4-5 PM. If a student does not participate, they are required to attend one of the performances (FREE OF CHARGE) and write a two-page critique on the production.

➤ **Teasers: Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Periods 3-6 (Call time: 8:45 am)**

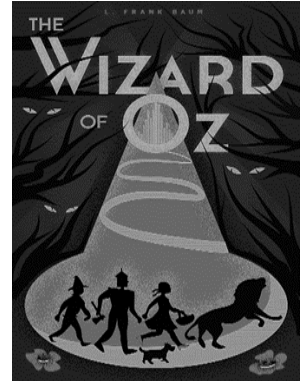
## Calendar of Theatre Events

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**Spring Play “Wizard of Oz” by L. Frank Baum and adapted by Claude Townley [Optional]:**

- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation Performance**
  - **Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 11:30 AM**
  
- **Performances (\$8.00 Students / \$10.00 Adults / \$15.00 VIP):**
  - **Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM – CAST A**
  - **Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM – CAST A**
  - **Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM - CAST B**
  - **Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM – CAST B**



**MJ: The Musical Fieldtrip [Optional]** (Students have the opportunity to attend a National Touring Production at the Segerstrom in Orange County)



- **Tuesday March 19th, 2024**

**Beetlejuice Musical Fieldtrip [Optional]** (Students have the opportunity to attend a National Touring Production at the Segerstrom in Orange County)

- **Tuesday April 23rd, 2024**



**Disney’s Imagination Campus Fieldtrip [Optional]** (Students can raise money to attend this exclusive theatre workshop)

- **TBD**

**Disney IMAGINATION CAMPUS**

**Awards Night / Thespian Induction [Optional]** (Students can choose to attend or not)

\*End of the year celebration with free food and drinks to honor those students who have excelled in theatre during the 2023-2024 school year.



**INTERNATIONAL  
THESPIAN SOCIETY**

HONORING STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE

\*\*Thespian Induction is for those students who have earned at least 10 Thespian points or more and completed their induction requirements.

- **Tuesday May 21st at 5:00 PM [Induction] and at 6:00 PM [Awards Night]**



**Enhanced Educational Supplement:**

The PALM SPRINGS YOUTH THEATRE BOOSTER club is a dynamic group of parents, community members, and volunteers who work to raise funds for the theatre program, build strong ties to the community, promote the best interests of all theatre students, build camaraderie amongst theatre parents, assist in organizing theatre events, provide vital communication links to theatre participants and family, and assist the theatre director in a multitude of ways. They are governed by a set of bylaws and are registered as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. This group invites any and all interested theatre enthusiasts to help with the activities of this fun and exciting group. IT IS CRITICAL THAT PARENTS HELP WITH RAISING THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES THAT ALLOW THE THEATRE COMPANY TO PROVIDE THE ENRICHED EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES THAT THE GROUP UNDERTAKES ABOVE AND BEYOND an ordinary classroom experience.

The PALM SPRINGS YOUTH THEATRE BOOSTER club assesses an ENHANCED EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT to assist with those costs that provide amenities beyond the regular class needs and that are usually consumed. With the high expenses of putting on several performances throughout this year, the theatre company is solely on their own in terms of building their sets and costumes for their annual productions. The cost is \$10.00 per semester and \$20.00 for the entire school year. NO STUDENT WILL BE DENIED ACCESS FOR FAILURE TO PAY however, these fees are important if we are to continue to undertake the activities that the PALM SPRINGS THEATRE COMPANY has always accomplished.

Please make checks or money orders payable to the PALM SPRINGS YOUTH THEATRE BOOSTER and include the student's name on the item description line or complete the form below and return in a sealed envelope.

**Please sign and return this page to Mrs. Boylan**

PALM SPRINGS YOUTH THEATRE BOOSTER ENHANCED EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed my payment for the EES: \_\_\_\_\_

Check

Money Order

Cash

I would like to pay the EES in installments \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months

I am requesting a waiver of the EES \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

**Please sign and return this page to Mrs. Boylan**

I have read and understood what is stated in this syllabus. I understand that this syllabus is subject to change at any time.

Student Name (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Authorization to Photograph:

I hereby authorize the Palm Springs Unified School District and Palm Springs High School Theatre Company full and absolute permission to take or contract others to take photographs, videotapes, or other mechanical production of my child, of who I am the legal guardian in an educational or cultural environment. Such photographs or recordings may be published in any media form by the Palm Springs Unified School District or the Palm Springs High School Theatre Company for educational and/or public information purposes without compensation or liability from such use.

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting a waiver of the Authorization to Photograph: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)