

<b>course title:</b>	Theater Ensemble	<b>instructor:</b>	Drew Kahn
<b>course #:</b>	THA470	<b>office:</b>	Upton 121
<b>meeting:</b>	mwf 10-11:50am	<b>phone:</b>	5221/5559
<b>semester:</b>	fall 2016	<b>office hours:</b>	TR 9-11am
<b>credits:</b>	3.0		or by appt.
			kahnaj@buffalostate.edu

### **Attendance:**

Regular attendance and being on time are crucial for this class. Creating a community of generous, intelligent and dynamic storytellers is our primary goal. This is not only excellent *artistic* training, but also important *life* training. These large ideas must be fueled by discipline and trust. Do not be late, or absent—the community (Village) depends on your presence. This is true for in class work as well as rehearsals, research and school visits conducted outside of class.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. You will develop your acting, voice and movement skills learned in previous classes and productions by immediate application to the creative process of original storytelling (Devised Theatre).
2. You will learn the demands of extending and adapting your acting to suit different styles of performance including those learned from other global storytelling communities.
3. You will develop the analytical, intellectual and story development skills necessary to create original performance and storytelling: *Collaboration, Research, Rehearsal, Performance*.
4. You will develop vocabulary sufficient to articulate clear connections from our work to the areas of conflict resolution, community building and identity exploration.
5. You will identify and develop the necessary skills to tour, perform and facilitate original storytelling in a variety of educational and community settings. This *Service Learning* component will be reinforced throughout the semester.

### **Course Format:**

Your work this semester will involve utilizing a variety of improvisation, community building, research and teaching techniques to achieve your acting, performance and service goals. We will regularly be referring back to your discoveries and observations through your traditional and non-traditional research assignments.

You will be asked to **immediately** apply the work of acting to your ideas in class, your development of new work, performing and teaching off campus. Moving from the *intellectual idea* to the *physical expression of that idea* is central to your development as artists in this course. This step will highlight the theory that theater artists can be viewed as **community activists**.

You are expected to be completely warmed-up and **present** as class begins so that we can get directly to the work. This is one of many commitments you will make to each other and the collaborative process covered in the **Village Rules** (attached).

The focus of our work this semester will be to perform the original play *Hello My Name Is* \_\_\_\_\_ created last semester by students like you. We will work in partnership with local high schools and on-campus departments, offices and programs as we tour this play and facilitate its accompanying workshop. This class will create the workshop before our tour begins. Facilitating this workshop will activate the lessons from the play for our audiences, further defining the role of story as a tool for *conflict resolution, community building and identity exploration*.

### **Service Learning**

This course is an officially designated *Service learning* course at Buffalo State, and carries with it particular emphasis on your transcript, and particular responsibilities throughout this semester. SUNY defines service learning as:

“A teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”

We will accomplish this by:

- 1) Service to others: Performing play, facilitating workshop.
- 2) Ties to academic content: Actively approaching and applying performance training as *community activists* vs. *entertainers, performers or actors*
- 3) Student reflection on the service-learning experience: Create *My Story* solo performance final project, expressing how your personal story has changed as a result of our work this semester.

### **Requirements and Materials:**

You will be expected to create the following:

1. Research/Process Journals (text, collages, pictures, video, etc.)
2. Personal Process for Performances/workshops
3. Collaborative Process for Performances/workshops
4. *My Story* Reflection

### **Evaluation:**

Ensemble Commitment-Collaboration	20%
Personal Commitment-Performance/Tour	20%
Personal Commitment-Workshop/Tour	20%
Research/Process Journal	20%
<i>My Story</i> Reflection	20%

*This course is offered as through the*  
**SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*We are committed to teaching, scholarship, and research that advances creativity and critical thinking among our faculty, students, and staff. Toward this end, we provide a dynamic, collegial, and collaborative learning environment that inspires us to realize our potential as Artists and Humanists.*

*Furthermore, in partnership with the neighboring community, we are dedicated to enriching the quality of life in Buffalo and beyond by advancing cultural literacy, liberal education, and access to the Arts and*

## *SUNY Buffalo State-Anne Frank Project*

### **Village Rules:**

(Based on the work of Augusto Boal's *Theatre of the Oppressed*)

- We agree that Story is first.
- We agree that these rules are ideas that must be activated in word and action.
- We agree that we respect each other as collaborators and as people.
- We agree that our intention is to help each other tell the best possible story together as a community.
- We agree to support each other's creativity.
- We agree to respect each other's rehearsal and preparation time.
- We agree to send messages and requests through appropriate channels.
- We agree not to re-write or re-do another's work.
- We agree to evaluate each other by asking questions whenever possible, rather than making conclusions or delivering orders.
- We agree to evaluate and discuss changes in ways that are respectful and encourage creative thinking.
- We agree to consider anything for five minutes.
- We agree to discuss our differences with each other as they surface.
- We agree that we cannot do it alone.
- We agree that we need each other.
- We agree that self-deprecation of any kind will provide obstacles in our work.
- We agree that a loving, caring, nurturing village is the foundation for our success.
- We agree to present a unified, supportive leadership to the entire community.
- We agree to represent our village in word and action outside of class.
- We agree that Story is first.

# HELLO, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Touring  
2016-2017.**  
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**SUNY Buffalo State's**  
**Anne Frank Project**

**is taking reservations for the 2016-2017 tour of**

**HELLO, MY NAME IS \_\_\_\_.**

**(booking up quickly)**

Meet Alex, a young girl who lives in a future world where individual identity is forbidden, and conformity mandated. A moment of inspiration launches her into a journey through mystical lands and dangerous obstacles. Will Alex brave the unknown to claim her identity or will she surrender to the status quo? Alex learns she must embrace her struggles in order to celebrate her Self. Interactive workshop immediately follows performance focusing on identity exploration, peer pressure and social conformity.

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