

# INTRODUCTION TO ACTING

21M600 Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-3 RRA, Spring Semester 2009, Jay Scheib, associate professor, 10-269  
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a beginning level studio performance class designed to introduce fundamental acting techniques and to provide performers with a foundation upon which to build an ever more sophisticated sense for handling the stage.

The course begins with Viewpoints Training. Viewpoints Training is designed to develop a few of the actor's most valuable—and perhaps most elusive tools: The Body and the Physical Imagination, the Ensemble, and an intuitive sense for Composition. We explore these concepts in great depth; examining where they intersect, where they overlap and how they allow for personality and point of view to emerge in the form of character. We will examine the rigour and discipline required of the actor spatially and temporally.

Fundamentally this course is about the ability to move decisively and articulately, to be confident and free in your body—to be PRESENT above all else—HERE AND NOW. In the second half of the semester we will begin the process of developing roles and we will begin to approach the use of text. Making use of further compositional exercises in tandem with our observations in the world we will step through the process of developing characters.

## REQUIRED TEXTS:

Short Essays and Performance Texts will be made available to you.

## OFFICE HOURS:

Meeting with me is great: so call whenever. Anytime. Send an email. [jayscheib@jayscheib.com](mailto:jayscheib@jayscheib.com) or [jscheib@mit.edu](mailto:jscheib@mit.edu). I will always try to be either in or around my studio: Tues. and Thurs. 3.30 to 5.30.

< **PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.** > The office is in room 10-269 and the Studio is in Building 50 on the third floor across from the Gym on the south side of the building. If you are interested in seeing what we are up to, feel free to drop in whenever.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Participation in class is 79% of your grade. Outside of in-class participation there will be 2 short assignments. Each person in the class should see a minimum of 2 plays, and for each play, write a 5 page essay about the production. These essays should demonstrate your grasp of the materials and modes of performance explored in the class. These 2 assignments are worth 10% of your grade. You may opt out of the 2 papers by seeing an Additional two plays—in which case I will only require an email from you about the work that you saw—briefly discuss the work in terms of viewpoints, physical action, and character and let me know if you recommend that I go to see it! or that I avoid it! Only one on campus performance may be reported on.

The final 11% of your grade is a 100% subjective assessment of the the Quality of your in-class performance/participation. You are allowed two no-shows. After that you will lose a grade point per class that you miss.