



INDIVIDUAL LESSONS IN ACTING AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Available from SEPTEMBER 2017

WHAT WOULD ACTING OR COMMUNICATION LESSONS BRING TO MY CHILD?

These lessons will:

Encourage:

- Self esteem and confidence
- Creativity and imagination
- Greater physical presence

Develop:

- Memory
- A strong speaking voice
- Presentation skills
- Effective oral presentation of the written word

Improve:

- Communication skills
- Vocabulary
- Conversational skills
- Reading skills
- Listening skills

The student is asked to imagine herself / himself in the shoes of another and explore, identify with, and understand that person. This fosters empathy with others and a deeper understanding of oneself. It helps us to reflect on our own ideas and beliefs.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

Lessons will be offered on an individual basis during normal teaching hours. The classes will be scheduled on a rotational basis to avoid a student repeatedly missing the same lessons. At the beginning of the course you will be offered a choice between (A) Acting Lessons or (B) Communication Lessons. Younger students will be offered (C) Introductory Lessons. All lessons will culminate with a public recital of the pieces studied and learnt. The following paragraphs explain the content of each group of lessons.

A. ACTING LESSONS

The students will be required to memorize monologues differing in content and complexity according to their Grade level and skill set. The lessons will concentrate on:

1. INTERPRETIVE SKILLS
 - Exploration of style, form, character, subtext and context in order to realise the specific demands of the text.
 - Engaging with character and situation in order to create a sense of reality.
2. TECHNICAL SKILLS
 - Developing skills in voice, diction and movement.
3. KNOWLEDGE OF THE PERFORMANCE PROCESS
 - Knowing and understanding the chosen selections.

And for more advanced students - knowing and understanding the key principles and influences in the process of acting for one of the following practitioners: Constantin Stanislavski, Bertolt Brecht, or Jerzy Grotowski.

B. COMMUNICATION LESSONS IN SPEAKING VERSE AND PROSE

The students will be required to memorize poems with contrasting moods and verse structure. More advanced students will be required to memorize prose and verse. The lessons will concentrate on:

1. INTERPRETIVE SKILLS
 - Engaging imaginatively with the thought, emotion, style and form of a text.
 - Understanding voice, speech and versification theory to communicate the specific demands of the text.
2. TECHNICAL SKILLS
 - Developing skills in voice, diction and posture.
3. KNOWLEDGE OF LITERATURE
 - Knowing and understanding the chosen selections.

C. INTRODUCTORY LESSONS

These lessons will be offered to the younger student grades 3 to 4, to introduce them to the basic communication skills. They will be required to learn one poem and to hold a conversation about a favourite toy, image or book.

For all courses the student will select pieces from LAMDA approved texts. See FAQ section below for more information about LAMDA.

WHO WILL TEACH THESE LESSONS?



The lessons will be taught by the peripatetic teacher Denise McNee. Denise McNee is a British professional actress and writer. Amongst her many credits are: writing “Tracy and Polpetta” for the RAI; being filmed teaching Shakespeare to students at the Accademia Nazionale d’Arte Drammatica Silvio d’Amico for a programme “Shakespeare Class” for the RAI; Artistic Director for the Miracle Players; and writing 86 episodes of “Blue Cow” for the BBC. Her most recent film role was as a guest of the Queen in the Italian Christmas Blockbuster “Natale a Londra”. Denise is already known to many in the Marymount Community as the drama teacher for 2016-2017.

COSTS

The lessons will be weekly and will cost € 350 for 14 half hour lessons per semester. The last lesson may be taught in conjunction with other students to work towards a final performance.

There will be additional costs if the student participates in the LAMDA examinations.

FAQ

1. How do the lessons work with the scheduling?

By varying times of the lessons - students will be offered varying time slots, over two days so that they will not always miss the same class period. Where possible IB students will have their lessons during their free period.

2. I have more than one child; can they share a lesson?

Each student will be taught on an individual basis guaranteeing the personal, tailored teaching approach necessary according to each students’ ability and needs.

3. What are the main differences between the Acting and Communication lessons?

Many of the skills are transferable between one and the other. The Acting lessons focus more on the interpretation and performance of a speech specifically written to be performed,

whereas the Communication lessons focus on the presentation of written material and ways the communicator can enhance the meaning of the material.

4. What is LAMDA?

The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) is one of the oldest drama schools in the United Kingdom. Founded in 1861, it quickly established itself as a centre of excellence in performance training. In addition to being the UK's largest statutory speech and drama awarding body, LAMDA Examinations has a reputation for excellence across the globe. Every year over 70,000 candidates take LAMDA examinations, most of them in speech and drama.

For more information on LAMDA please visit their website
<https://www.lamda.org.uk/examinations>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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