

# THR 332 – Stage Directing I

Location: FAC –Lab Theatre      Credits 3.0

Time: F 1030 a.m.to 1:30 p.m.

PrerequisitesTHR F121, F215, F335

**Instructor:** Dr. Brian Cook

Office: FAC – Theatre 104

Office Hours Thursdays from 8 p.m. or by appointment

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## Required texts

1. The Director's Craft: A Handbook for the Theatre Katie Mitchell.

2. In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play) Sarah Ruhl

The Mitchell book is available on our reserve in the Rasmuson Library and the play is available digitally through the library. However, we recommend that you either rent or purchase a physical copy of the Ruhl so that you have the script with you in class.

3. Additional readings as provided by instructor.

## Course Description

History, theory and basic concepts of stage direction. Interpretive script analysis, creative visualization, conceptualization, use of space, and focus, working with actors and designers and possible of short scenes.

## Course Goals and Student Outcomes

This course focuses on how directors prepare, rehearse and present theatrical works.

Throughout this course, students will:

- Gain a more complete knowledge of the skills of directors, including selecting scripts, script analysis, blocking strategies, stage pictures, characterization, working with actors, etc
- Work with actors to present a scripted scene
- Learn techniques for researching past productions in order to inform and enliven their productions.
- Document the entire directing process, from initial concept to performance.

## Instructional methods

1. This is an activity based course, and students will both learn and demonstrate directing skills in the classroom.
2. Information will be provided by lectures, readings and class exercises.
3. Students will complete projects which develop skills in script analysis, communicating ideas to designers, and working with actors.
4. Students will assemble a director's notebook with various elements that document the process of preparing, rehearsing and performing a 10 minute scene.
5. Students will direct a 10 minute scene.
6. Students should be prepared to utilize various online technologies, including Google Apps, Blackboard and (possibly) Facebook for this course.

**Course calendar (subject to change)**

**Reading listed on a given day is to be read PRIOR to that class meeting.**

**F Sept. 5 - Syllabus, Introduction**

What is a director? What is “production process”? Who is on a “production team”?  
What are you afraid of? “Theatricality” – why do it on stage?

In-Class Project: Tableaux

**F Sept. 12 – Meet in RASM 301 – Staging Text: Realism**

Read: Mitchell, Chapters 2 and Ruhl, In the Next Room  
Discussion of the Play  
Projecting Problems

In-Class Project: Script Analysis (research, etc.) [Library trip]

**F Sept. 19 – Scoring the Scene/Metaphor in Production**

Read: Mitchell, Chapters 3-4  
Discussion of readings

In-Class Project: Script Breakdown/staging a couple scenes

**F Sept. 26 – Who are you working with and where?**

Read: Mitchell, Chapter 8, and Reading Pack on Blackboard (Wainstein, Chapters 1 and Baldwin, Part )

Discussion of readings

In-Class Projects: Producing/(i)-

Stanislavski Basics  
In-Class Projects: Actor coaching/audition prep  
**\*\*Schedule Auditions for**

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500-475 = A	349-325 = C
474-450 = A	324-300 = G *
449-425 = B+	299-275 = D
424-400 = B	274 and below = F

