

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY MAGGIE ALLESEE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
THR 5995: Special Topics: Study in Italy -- Shakespeare and Commedia dell Arte
Analysis and Performance of classic comedy techniques
Spring/Summer, 2017

May 14 through June 12, 2017

Instructor: Lavinia Hart, Associate Professor of Theatre

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Required Texts

- Shakespeare, William. *Much Ado About Nothing*, Folger Shakespeare Library.
- Shakespeare, William. *The Taming of the Shrew*, Folger Shakespeare Library.
- Chamberlain, Franc. *Routledge Performance Practitioners: Michael Chekhov*, Routledge, 2004.
- Wilsher, Toby. *The Mask Handbook: A Practical Guide*, Routledge, 2007

Course Description. Work during week one will begin with 10 hours of “survival Italian” language lessons. Morning course will include lectures on the themes, characters and plot development as well as active performative exercises regarding characterization and scene work of two major Shakespearean comedies. Aspects of the Michael Chekhov Technique will be engaged in the exploration. Additional course work will include study of the historical and cultural impact of the Commedia dell’Arte. Stock characters of Commedia dell Arte will be identified through art work and physical improvisation. Subject matter will be supported by a series of professional guest artists, mask work and the techniques of Jacques LeCoq.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. To integrate the active experience of Italian culture with the study of Italian theatre and Shakespearean plays based in Italy.
2. To develop a “survival vocabulary” of beginner Italian language.
3. To broaden the student’s understanding of Shakespeare from a performer’s point of view.
4. To examine the historical and cultural importance of Commedia dell’Arte in today’s performance arena.
5. To deepen the ability to incorporate personal research, thought and creative impulse into improvisational and devised scenarios.
6. To expand the student’s global experience in life and art in the interest of increasing artistic potential and capability in whatever career path the student chooses.

- **Learning objectives/outcomes**

Upon Completion of this course students should be able to

- Embrace the life-long process of engaging creativity in problem solving and communication.
- Utilize freely aspects of a physical characterization
- Engage effectively in small group improvisations and in a larger ensemble.
- Demonstrate ability to express text convincingly from the genre of Shakespearean comedy and Commedia dell' Arte scenarios.
- Increase understanding of Renaissance literature, architecture and atmosphere in the settings and side trips in and around the Study in Italy Program

- **Methods of Instruction include**

- Lecture by teacher
- Class discussion conducted by teacher
- Supervision of exercising new skills.
- Improvisation around a theme.
- Readings and practice in text analysis.
- Demonstrations of work in progress.
- Assigned readings

Grading Policies for assignments completed and participation:

Ability to read Shakespearean text aloud with ease.	20%
Devised and scripted scene work, book in hand	25%
Group work with lazzis and stock characters	25%
Enthusiastic, ensemble participation	30%

Methods of evaluation of student performance.

- Students may avail themselves of one-on-one or small group assistance by making an appointment with the course teacher after class hours for all assignments.
- Individual growth will be reflected in all grading of performances and exercises.
- Enthusiasm in performance will be recognized and reflected in grading.
- Group participation must be supportive, positive in nature, respectful of maintaining a safe environment for creativity. This includes punctuality and attendance.

DAY-BY-DAY CLASS SCHEDULE (Draft) May 14 – June 12, 2017

Friday, May 12

Departure

Saturday, May 13

Arrive in Rome, bus transfer to Siena

Afternoon in Siena

Sunday, May 14

FREE DAY FOR GETTING ACCLIMATED

6:00 p.m. WELCOME DINNER

Monday, May 15

9 – 11 a.m. Orientation to Italy & Survival Italian (*Study in Italy*)

11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Shakespeare (Hart and Pipino) *STUDIO SPACE*

1:00 p.m. Midday meal

3 – 5:00 p.m. Commedia (*Pipino with Hart assisting*)
STUDIO SPACE

5:00 p.m. Evening free

Tuesday, May 16

9 – 11:00 a.m. Survival Italian (*Study in Italy*)

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Shakespeare (Hart & Pipino) *STUDIO SPACE*

1 p.m. Midday meal

3 – 5 p.m. Commedia (*Pipino with Hart assisting*) *STUDIO SPACE*

5:00 p.m. Evening free

Wednesday, May 17

9 – 11 a.m. Survival Italian (*Study in Italy*)

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Shakespeare (Hart & Pipino) *STUDIO SPACE*

1 p.m. Midday meal

3 – 5 p.m. Commedia (*Pipino with Hart Assisting*) *STUDIO SPACE*

5:00 p.m. Evening free

Thursday, May 18

10 a.m. – 9 p.m. Depart for field trip to Florence & return

Friday, May 19 Saturday, May 20 Sunday, May 21 No Classes

Monday, May 22

9 – 11 a.m.	Survival Italian (<u><i>Study in Italy</i></u>)
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Shakespeare (Hart& Pipino) <i>STUDIO SPACE</i>
1 p.m.	Midday meal
3 – 5 p.m.	Commedia (<i>Teaching Artist #1</i>) <i>STUDIO SPACE</i>
5:00 p.m.	Evening free

Tuesday, May 23

9 – 11 a.m.	Survival Italian (<u><i>Study in Italy</i></u>)
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Shakespeare (Hart & Pipino) <i>STUDIO SPACE</i>
1 p.m.	Midday meal
3 – 5 p.m.	Commedia (<i>Teaching Artist #1</i>) <i>STUDIO SPACE</i>
5:00 p.m.	Evening free

Wednesday, May24

9 – 11 a.m.	Survival Italian (<u><i>Study in Italy</i></u>)
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Shakespeare (Hart & Pipino) <i>STUDIO SPACE</i>
1 p.m.	Midday meal
3 – 5 p.m.	Commedia (<i>Teaching Artist #1</i>) <i>STUDIO SPACE</i>
5:00 p.m.	Evening free

Thursday, May 25

9 – 11 a.m.	Survival Italian (<u><i>Study in Italy</i></u>)
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Shakespeare (Hart) <i>STUDIO SPACE</i>
1 p.m.	Midday meal
3 – 5 p.m.	Commedia (<i>Teaching Artist #1</i>) <i>STUDIO SPACE</i>
5:00 p.m.	Evening free

Friday, May 26 Saturday, May 27 Sunday, May 28 No Classes

Monday, May 29

9 a.m. – noon	Shakespeare (Hart & Pipino) <i>STUDIO SPACE</i>
noon	Midday meal
2 – 5 p.m.	Commedia (<i>Teaching Artist #2</i>) <i>STUDIO SPACE</i>
5:00 p.m.	Evening free

Tuesday, May 30

9 a.m. – noon Shakespeare (Hart & Pipino) *STUDIO SPACE*
noon Midday meal
2 – 5 p.m. Commedia (*Teaching Artist #2*) *STUDIO SPACE*
5:00 p.m. Evening free

Wednesday, May 31

9 a.m. – noon Shakespeare (Hart & Pipino) *STUDIO SPACE*
noon Midday meal
2 – 5 p.m. Commedia (*Teaching Artist #2*) *STUDIO SPACE*
5:00 p.m. Evening free

Thursday, June 1

9 a.m. – noon Shakespeare (Hart) *STUDIO SPACE*
noon Midday meal
1:00 a.m. Departure for Pienza
8:00 p.m. Return from Pienza to Siena

Friday, June 2 Saturday, June 3 Sunday, June 4 No Classes

Monday, June 5

9 a.m. – noon Shakespeare (Hart) *STUDIO SPACE*
noon Midday meal
2 – 5 p.m. Commedia (*Teaching Artist #3*) *STUDIO SPACE*
5:00 p.m. Evening free

Tuesday, June 6

9:00 a.m. Commedia students rehearse in the Palazzo Sergardi Theatre
noon midday meal
2 – 5 p.m. Shakespeare students rehearse in the Palazzo Sergardi Theatre
5:00 p.m. Evening free

Wednesday, June 7

9:00 a.m. - noon Dress rehearsal?
noon Midday meal
9 p.m. Shakespeare students present scenes & monologues in
the Palazzo Sergardi Theatre. Commedia students present scenes
& “lazzi” in the Palazzo Sergardi Theatre. *OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!!!*

Thursday, June 8

10:00 am to 1:00

7:00 p.m.

Final day – spy back

Farewell dinner in Siena

Friday, June 9

9 a.m.

TBA

Saturday, June 10

TBA

Sunday, June 11

Travel to Rome

Monday, June 12

Depart Italy