

## COSTUME, MOVEMENT, AND MANNERS

Theatre 551

Spring, 2001

Dr. M. Harvey: DA 205 (594-6203)

Maren Lyman (T.A.) DA 4 (594-1179)

This is a course for Actors, Directors, and Costume Designers!

It specializes in organically integrating the mental attitudes with the physical costumes, movements, and manners appropriate to plays, musicals, and operas of three major time periods:

**RENAISSANCE/ELIZABETHAN (1500-1620)**

**BAROQUE/ROCOCO (1660-1790)**

**LATE VICTORIAN/EDWARDIAN (1870-1910)**

### Texts

Required: Oxenford, Lyn: Playing Period Plays

Laver, James: Costume and Fashion: A Concise History

Harvey/Annas: Theatre 551 Resource Materials

(available at Aztec Shops)

Optional (but now out of print):

Chisman & Raven-Hart: Manners and Movements in Costume Plays

Clark, Kenneth: Civilisation

Russell, Douglas: Period Style for the Theatre

### Grading

Your final grade for this course will be determined by averaging grades from seven activities/assignments:

3 rehearsed improvisational period scenes

3 period resource papers

Final Exam activity

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to pass this course, you must turn in all three resource papers.

As you will see from the enclosed calendar, you will get two chances at each rehearsed improv. Although the grade you receive for the improv in each time period is assigned only to the repeat, the instructor will take note of the effort, thought, and rehearsal apparent in the first presentation. I am very aware that you may not get all the elements right the first time, but if you slough off because you know that only the repeat is being graded, that lack of effort will drag down your final grade in this section.

If you do not complete all the requirements for the course as listed on this syllabus, you will receive a final grade computed as though you had received an "F" on any missing projects or segments. If you wish an "Incomplete" grade for the course --which will allow you additional time to complete the missing segments--you must contact the instructor by the date of the final exam, requesting such a grade. If instructor agrees, you must then fill out an "Incomplete Contract" form. Student retains a copy of this Incomplete form, which specifies what must be done and when for the removal of the Incomplete. Students receiving an "Incomplete" grade for any course should read the catalog carefully regarding the procedures for removing the "I" from their record. Please be aware that an "I" if not removed becomes an "F" in one year.

## REHEARSAL COSTUMES

Rehearsal costume pieces, especially designed for Drama 551, will be checked out to each of you periodically throughout the semester. In cut and shape, these costumes are historically accurate reproductions of actual period garments and accessories. They have been chosen because they provide important physical feedback in support of the manners and movement for the respective periods. You are each responsible for the safe-keeping and return of any costume items checked out to you.

The check-out procedure for each group of costumes will be announced in class. **Please Note: Because these costumes are subject to heavy wear-and-tear, and because replacement of the costume elements is an expensive proposition, you will be asked to pay a \$15.00 usage fee for these costumes. This fee is payable at your initial fitting, and should be in the form of a check made out to the SDSU Costume Shop.** Please do not use these costume elements for anything other than the 551 assignments without the express permission of the Costume Shop.

The <sup>Cost. Shop</sup> Design Research Center, DA6, located down the hall from DA5, is the place where these rehearsal costumes are checked out and returned. Maren Lyman, Costume Graduate Assistant, is the person in charge of all 551 rehearsal costumes. Please see her in the Costume Studio if you have any questions about, or problems with, your rehearsal costumes. (Maren will also be available in the Design Research Center from 12:00 to 12:30 on the class day following your initial taping of the scenes to provide additional feedback for your re-working of the scenes.)

I recommend that you get a full-length locker for the semester in which to store your 551 rehearsal costumes. Most items should fit in this locker. Those items that are too big to do so may be stored in the Design Research Center **AFTER YOU HAVE CHECKED THEM OUT.** Be sure you mark any stored items with your name on a piece of masking tape. Make locker and storage arrangements with Teri Tavares, in the Costume Studio.

**BRING REHEARSAL COSTUMES TO ALL CLASSES UNLESS I TELL YOU OTHERWISE.**

551 FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 12, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

A two-hour improvisational immersion in the \_\_\_\_\_ period.

Host/Hostess: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Refreshments Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Entertainment Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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**EACH OF YOU is responsible for helping to create and sustain the period social event that will be the focus of this Final Exam. The success of this Final depends on your ACTIVE effort in RESEARCHING, PREPARING, and DEMONSTRATING mastery of the MIND-SET, COSTUME, MOVEMENT AND MANNERS OF THE CHOSEN PERIOD.**

At the Final, the food will be **real**-made by you from an actual period recipe that you will research.

The **entertainment/activities** will be **real**- actual period games, dances, entertainment, that you also will research.

However, the costumes, environment, props, etc, will be whatever we **imagine** them to be.

**There are THREE MAIN THINGS you must do to prepare for this Final:**

1. INVENT A CHARACTER you will portray throughout the Final, with a specific history (age, family, residence, occupation or avocation, etc.) **DO NOT** come as royalty.

DETERMINE A SPECIFIC GOAL your character must accomplish at this social event. This must be an **active, doing goal**, not a passive state of being. (Example: "To goad X and make her so angry she breaks her fan".) Be prepared to sustain this character and pursue this goal, improvisationally, throughout the entire two-hour Final, no matter what occurs.

ACTIVATE THE APPROPRIATE ATTITUDE, MIND-SET, AND MANNERS FOR THE PERIOD. Be prepared to incorporate suitable etiquette, movement, and management of costume into your character's behavior at the event. Also be prepared to TALK with the other guests at the event about subjects appropriate to the period. This may require additional research on your part. Feel free to draw situations from plays, books, movies, etc. if they would be helpful to you.

2. RESEARCH and MAKE A RECIPE OF THE PERIOD that will feed **up to 4 people** (not an army!). (Consult Resource Bibliography for sources.) Recipe must be for **'finger food'** (i.e., food that does **not** need a fork, spoon, or knife to eat) OR for a period beverage appropriate to the occasion. Bring the food or beverage to the Final, ready to be served at the appropriate time during the event. **Attach a label to the food** identifying what it is and the source from which you got it.  
**Your recipe must be approved in advance by the Refreshments Coordinator.**

3. RESEARCH, PREPARE, AND PRESENT at the Final a suitable example of ENTERTAINMENT OF THE PERIOD. (see Resource Bibliography). **Your entertainment must be approved by the Entertainment Coordinator in advance.**

## FINAL PREPARATION DEADLINES

**TUESDAY, NOV. 21:** Class selects period for Final Exam. Key personnel are identified (Host/Hostess and Coordinators).

**TUESDAY, NOV. 28:** HOST/HOSTESS issue a formal invitation to Final event: specifying date, place and occasion.

**BEFORE Thursday, Nov. 30:** Decide on your character's name, age, history, and social relationship to any other guest who will be attending the event and get this **approved by the Host/Hostess**. This approval is essential in order for your character to be included on the guest list that will be admitted to the Final event.

Research the recipe and entertainment you would like to contribute to the event.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 30:** Guest List officially approved by Host/Hostess

### **TUESDAY, DEC. 5:**

1. Turn in to instructors, in writing:
  - A. Your CHARACTER'S NAME, AGE and SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP to any guest attending the event, plus any DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION regarding your character that YOU WANT THE CLASS TO KNOW ABOUT. (Copies of this information will be distributed on Dec. 7.)
  - B. The specific ACTIVE GOAL your character will pursue at the Final event (For instructor's information only) DO NOT tell others what your goal is. If you need help determining your goal, see instructors.
  - C. Be sure your own name is on the paper you turn in.
2. Have the **Refreshments Coordinator O.K.** the food/beverage you want to bring.
3. Have the **Entertainment Coordinator O.K.** the entertainment you want to provide.

### **THURSDAY, DEC. 7:**

1. Turn into Refreshment Coordinator, in writing, the NAME OF YOUR RECIPE & ITS HISTORICAL SOURCE.
  2. Instructors will distribute copies of the OFFICIAL GUEST LIST for the event.
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### **EVALUATION of the Final Exam will be based on:**

1. Meeting the Preparation Deadlines listed above.
2. The Final Event:
  - A. Skillful handling of your period costume, movement and manners for the duration of the event.
  - B. Sustaining the appropriate period mind-set for the duration of the event.
  - C. Sustaining your character throughout the event.
  - D. Actively pursuing your character's goal so instructors clearly can see you doing so.
2. Contributing to the event an appropriate period recipe and entertainment.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 551 FINAL:  
**VICTORIAN/EDWARDIAN PERIOD**

Tuesday, May 22, 2001: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**\*Read Carefully\***

**A Reminder:** This Final is a 2-hour GOAL-ORIENTED improvisational experience involving period social interaction, conversation, dancing, feasting and merrymaking. The CHALLENGE for each of you will be to SUSTAIN YOUR CHARACTER while PURSUING YOUR GOAL AS ACTIVELY AS YOU CAN, all the while handling with absolute confidence the Victorian/Edwardian costumes, manners, movement, and mind-set appropriate to the occasion, no matter what happens.

**Important Contacts:**

Co-Hostess: Jenny	Phone: (619) 287-5622
Co-Hostess: Sirry	Phone: 992-SIRY
Co-Hostess: Allison Lewis	Phone: (619) 252-7700

Refreshment Coordinators: Jamie F.	Phone: (619) 265-0702
Jomar T.	Phone: (619) 783-3202

Entertainment Coordinator: Abbie Bundy	Phone: (619) 291-9899
Kathy Stockard	Phone:

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**THE FINAL EVENT**

**Occasion:** Debutante Party for Miss Eliza and Miss Elizabeth Bubblebroom given by Lady Cynthia Bubblebroom, wife of the Late Lord Bubblebroom

**Location:** Ballroom at the Grand Palace Hotel, 34 West, New Castle Lane, London

**When:** June 12, 1905 Sundown

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**PREPARATION PRIOR TO THE FINAL:**

1. Follow the **General Instructions** (distributed previously) in choosing, getting approval of, and preparing your character, goal, recipe and entertainment. **Observe the deadlines listed in these instructions.**
2. Review the OFFICIAL GUEST LIST which will be distributed in class, Thursday, May, 17, so you can come prepared to talk appropriate 'Victorian' topics with the guest characters for the duration of the Final.
3. Prepare your approved Victorian food or beverage recipe. **Attach to it a label that identifies what it is. Before the Final begins, bring your food or beverage to 5B where the servants will arrange it on appropriate tables.**
4. **Before the Final begins, bring to 5B your own **teacup** (beverage container) to drink out of. LABEL it clearly with your REAL NAME so the servants can identify it easily.**
5. If desired, you may supplement your rehearsal costumes with added trims and accessories. **Please do not try to check out any actual items from the costume shop. You will be turned away. Invent your own 'fabulous fakes.'**  
Ladies and Gentlemen: you must prepare a calling card for your character. (They are the size of business cards.)

## 551 Spring 2001 FINAL PREPARATION DEADLINES

### **THURSDAY, MAY 3:**

Class selects period for Final Exam. Key personnel are identified (Host/Hostess and Coordinators).

### **TUESDAY, MAY 8:**

HOST/HOSTESS issue a formal invitation to Final event: specifying date, place and occasion.

**BEFORE Thursday, May 10:** Decide on your character's name, age, history, and social relationship to any other guest who will be attending the event and get this **approved by the Host/Hostess**. This approval is **essential** in order for your character to be included on the guest list that will be admitted to the Final event.

Research the recipe and entertainment you would like to contribute to the event.

**THURSDAY, MAY 10:** Guest List officially approved by the Host/Hostess

### **TUESDAY, MAY 15:**

1. Turn in to instructors, in writing:
  - a. Your CHARACTER'S NAME, AGE and SOCIAL REALATIONSHIP to any guest attending the event, plus any DESCRIPTIE INFORMATION regarding your character that YOU WANT THE CLASS TO KNOW ABOUT. (Copies of this information will be distributed on May 17.)
  - b. The specific ACTIVE GOAL your character will pursue at the Final event (For instructor's information only) DO NOT tell others what your goal is. If you need help determining your goal, see instructors.
  - c. Be sure your own name is on the paper your turn in.
2. Have the **Refreshments Coordinator O.K.** the **food/beverage** you want to bring.
3. Have the **Entertainment Coordinator O.K.** the **entertainment** you want to provide.

### **THURSDAY, MAY 17:**

1. Turn into the Refreshment Coordinator, in writing, the NAME OF YOUR RECIPE AND ITS HISTORICAL SOURCE.
  2. Instructors will distribute copies of the OFFICIAL GUEST LIST for the event.
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### **EVALUATION of the Final Exam will be based on:**

1. Meeting the Preparation Deadlines listed above.
2. The Final Event:
  - a. Skillful handling of your period costume, movement and manners for the duration of the event.
  - b. Sustaining the appropriate period mind-set for the duration of the event.
  - c. Sustaining your character throughout the event.
  - d. Actively pursuing your character's goal so instructors clearly can see you doing so.
3. Contributing to the event an appropriate period recipe and entertainment.