

*The General Practice Program at Vermont Law School
& Northern Stage Present...*

Improv for Advocates

Taught by Jim Maxwell & Eric Love
VLS Faculty Supervisor Gary Brooks

June 23rd & 24th, 2018

10:00am-4:00pm

Northern Stage

This is a 1 Credit (42.5 hours) Pass-Fail course. Evaluations will be based on the following curriculum requirements:

I. PRE-WORKSHOP READING MATERIALS

Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Rose (2 Hours)

Drama and the Law. Theater and the Courtroom. Two perspectives, each with its own potent effect, on our struggle toward a common definition of justice in any given time. The ageless interplay between the possible and the real.

Antigone by Sophocles (2 Hours)

The western world's first enactment of a conflict between the needs of a civil society, the rationale for civic order, and the imperative of individual conscience, the passion in the heart.

An Actor Prepares by Konstantin Stanislavski (24 Hours)

An Actor Prepares was written by the visionary Russian theater director and teacher Konstantin Stanislavski in 1936. This book is presented as the fictional diary of a student named Kostya while learning Stanislavski's system of acting. Stanislavski's teachings revolutionized modern acting and his techniques are still used as a bedrock of theater training all across the world.

II. IMPROV FOR ADVOCATES WORKSHOP (12 Hours)

III. 3 PAGE POST-WORKSHOP REFLECTIVE ESSAY (2.5 Hours)

Improv for Advocates Workshop Day 1

June 23rd from 10am-4pm

10:00a Introductions

10:15a Workshop Ground Rules

10:20a Physical & Vocal Acting Training (Eric Love)

11:20a BREAK

11:30a Introduction of Stanislavsky & Sanford Meisner

11:40a Meisner's basic technique: Doing, not Showing.

12:20p Reflection & Discussion

12:30p LUNCH BREAK

1:00p Improv Games: Freeze, What Are You Doing?

1:20p "Keys" Listening Game

2:20p BREAK

2:30p Meisner \$100 Dollar Bill Exercise

3:00p Twelve Angry Men (People!)

As a lawyer, how would you want to influence this group of people?

4:00p End of Day 1

Improv for Advocates Workshop Day 2

June 24th from 10am-4pm

10:00a Physical & Vocal Acting Training

10:50a BREAK

11:00a Passionate Story Exercise

12:35a LUNCH BREAK

1:00p Mirroring/Repeating Vocal & Physical Exercise

1:30p Christian Science Exercise

2:00p BREAK

2:10p Antigone Reading & Exploration

3:00p BREAK

3:10p Reflection & Discussion

3:40p Improv Games

4:00p End of Day 2

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

- To learn how to bring “who you are” to the demands of the situation: be it client interview, negotiation, or court appearance. Developing your confidence in yourself as a presenter and advocate: What is it you care about? What inner resources do you have that you can bring to bear on the task at hand?
- To increase your awareness of your physical resources: your body, your voice, how you “inhabit” yourself when you are interacting with others
- To practice and understand what it means to proceed through a task on a moment-to-moment basis. You know the forest you want to create, but you proceed tree by tree.
- To increase ability to make effective decisions in rapidly evolving situations.
- To develop empathic skills. Using what you observe and hear from the other person to understand that person’s situation or predicament. To listen more closely and accurately. To observe more closely and accurately
- To increase ability and willingness to work in a group giving individual attention and support toward a shared goal.