

# Theatre Department Philosophy and Class Offerings

The theatre department at HSPVA provides a pre-professional program, which reflects the traditions and working relationship of all professional theatres. Because our art is special in that the product results from ensemble work, designers, playwrights, actors, technicians -- all create one art form/product together -- the relationship requires a personal commitment, self-discipline, the ability to relate to one's natural instincts and to communicate those instincts. Also required is a willingness to support other individuals, as well as the team. A successful theatre person is always in the process of learning about himself or herself and about life.

The theatre artist approaches the craft physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. As their theatre teachers, our job is to develop a supportive atmosphere and to help them experience the practicing of their craft at their highest potential. We will teach them the skills. They respond by committing wholeheartedly.

We find parental involvement to be integral to the success of our students. We can be reached at **713-942-1966** and look forward to your calls.

Our email addresses are:

jblackjr@houstonisd.org (James Black; Director, Design and Production, Stagecraft)  
cogden@houstonisd.org (Cynthia Ogden; Dept. Chair, Director, Movement, Musical Theatre, Acting IV)  
sjenning@houstonisd.org (Suzanne Jennings, Director, Acting I, II, III/Shakespeare, Directing)  
mduncan@houstonisd.org (Intro to Design & Advanced Design, Facilities Manager)

## LEVEL ONE CLASSES:

Introduction to Theatre:  
(Philosophy and professionalism)  
Acting I  
Voice and Diction I  
Stagecraft, Intro to Design  
Movement/Yoga  
Introduction to Musical Theatre  
Advanced Design I (Design focus)  
Production, (after school crews)  
Showcases

## LEVEL THREE CLASSES:

Theatre Business  
Playwriting  
Directing & Acting Shakespeare  
Building of a professional portfolio (all focus areas)  
Advanced Design III (Design focus)  
Production, (after school crews)  
Showcases

## LEVEL TWO CLASSES:

Acting II  
Voice and Diction II  
Introduction to Design  
Speech  
Make-up  
Movement/Dance/Yoga  
Sight-singing (Musical Theatre focus)  
Advanced design II (Design focus)  
Production, (after school crews)  
Showcases

## LEVEL FOUR CLASSES:

Acting IV for Acting & M/T focus  
Preparation for Senior Recitals (all focus areas)  
Preparation for college auditions (all areas)  
Physical conditioning  
Building of a professional portfolio (all areas)  
Advanced Design IV (Design focus)  
Film Studies

Our part-time faculty includes:

**Brooke Barnes-Meeks**, Dance, Movement for the Actor 1, Choreography & Director

**Matt Hune**, Acting 4

**Laurie Hussmann**, Costumes Design and Foreman, Stagecraft

**Chesley Santoro Krohn**, Dance, Acting IV Coach & Guest Director

**Julia Krohn**, Movement for the Actor 2, Acting 4

**Michael Mertz**, Musical Theatre, Musical Director

**Terry Ogden**, Playwriting, Combat, Special Movement & Director

**Ben Sayeg**, Intro to Theatre, Film Studies, Guest Director