Course Descriptions ~ ELECTIVES
Dance-based courses

Body Conditioning- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
This yoga based class aims to strengthen the core by working internal muscle groups, balances your body, and builds strong lean muscle. This class also focuses on improving posture, concentration, flexibility, efficiency of movement and mobility.

Character Dance- *Open to: Dance students only*   **Class length: Full year**
This class will focus on the stylized representation of a traditional folk or national dance, normally from a European country. Some examples of character dance are Irish, Russian dance, Polish mazurka, tarantella and flamenco.

Dance for Non-Majors- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
This class is intended as an introductory class for non-majors. This class helps the non-dancer become stronger, more flexible, body aware and comfortable with sequencing in any dance situation. Class will include: line dancing, easy dances from tik tok, zumba, dances through the decades with jazz/contemporary undertones.

Hip Hop Ensemble- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
Students will learn to create, explore and express themselves through movement.

Improv/Composition- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
Fundamentals of choreography through improvisation. Great for beginners as well as "non-dancers" can be a tool for basic movement for theater class. This class will also potentially work with media students to explore dance on film as well as how lighting and other choices can impact choreography.

Jumps and Turns/Contemporary Jazz- *Open to: Dance students only*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
This class focuses on developing the strength, power, flexibility, and technique necessary for jumps and turns. An emphasis will be placed on proper body alignment, spotting, and strength. Students will be taught combinations that will enhance their dance repertoire for multiple dance styles.

Pre-Pointe– *Open to: Students taking ballet in any department*   **Class length: Full year**
Pre-Pointe is a pointe preparation class for ballet students interested in dancing en pointe. The class is taken barefoot. A portion of the class is spent doing foot/ankle exercises and stretches on the floor. Students also do strenuous core strengthening exercises and repetitious barre exercises aimed at strength-building.

Pointe- *Open to: Dance students only, pre-pointe class and placement audition required*   **Class length: Full year**
Beginning pointe class can be taken on flat or in pointe shoes at the instructor's discretion. All pointe classes are designed for students with previous ballet training. Students will utilize previously learned ballet technique while working in pointe shoes. Each class includes barre exercises, center floor work and across the floor combinations. These exercises focus on strengthening the feet and ankles. Pre-Pointe Class is required before being considered to dance en pointe.

Tap- *Open to: Dance, Theater & Musical Theater students only.*   **Class length: Full year**
This class is a mix of rhythm and broadway tap that focuses on musicality and syncopation by learning basic tap steps and implementing them in choreography. Can be a tool for basic movement for theater class.

World Dance- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
This class explores international dance forms. Fun collection of line, partner and circle dances in Latin American, European and Middle Eastern styles, while learning specific techniques inherent to each dance.

Music-based courses

Combo-*Open to: All interested students only by audition in September*   **Class length: Full year**
Students <u>cannot</u> select this class, but can audition for it in September. The Combo is a self-run group that organizes all aspects of its own performance including rehearsals, repertoire, stage set-up, and presentation. The combo serves as a support group for the choir and other departments that require musical accompaniment. (**by audition only**)

Chamber Ensemble- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
The Chamber Ensemble plays a varied repertoire drawn from the Western European classical canon. Focus will be on listening, balance, and reading. All instruments and voices are welcome!

Guitar I & II- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
Students will learn the basics of playing guitar including scales, chords, strumming patterns, and the reading of standard notation. Students must own a guitar in or to practice weekly homework assignments. Students must demonstrate knowledge of the guitar strings and be able to play the C, D, E, and G major chords prior to being admitted into this class. **Guitar I required before Guitar II**.

Introduction to Music Technology (Garageband)- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
Students will use I-pads to develop their skills in music production and recording. Students will acquire a basic understanding of Garageband to create their own musical selections.

Keyboard I & II- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
Students will learn the basics of playing piano including scales, chords, technique, and the reading of standard notation. Students are graded on the successful presentation of homework assignments. Any student who cannot practice at home is welcome to use RCA's pianos to practice before classes or during break.

Pit Orchestra- *Open to: Instrumental students only by audition*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
Students are chosen for the Pit Orchestra by audition. The Pit Orchestra provides the music for the musical theater production each semester; therefore, enrollment is based on the needs of the production and will change each semester. **(by audition only)**

Radio Plays- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
Radio plays come from the days before television when families gathered around the radio to listen to dramas and comedies. The use of sound effects to create doors closing, people walking, and action is an integral part of the performance, while the actor's use of the voice is incredibly important to the audience understanding the plot. This class will feature live music, sound effects, and actor performance to create the world of the radio play, culminating in a live performance. This would be offered in collaboration with the theater dept.

Rhythmic Development In Drumming And Dance- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
Students will develop their inner sense of rhythm and the ability to play both simple and complex rhythms on percussion instruments and with their bodies. This course would benefit musicians, dancers and actors.

Sight Reading- *Open to: All instrumental and vocal students only.*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
This class covers the skills needed to feel comfortable reading music. Each week, new pieces of music focusing on a specific key signature and rhythmic phrase will be analyzed and performed by the class. By the end of this course, students will feel comfortable reading music in a variety of keys and genres.

Voice I– *Open to: All students who are interested in singing*   **Class length: Full year**
A foundational class that provides introductory training for healthy vocal techniques for all styles of singing, as well as an understanding of the anatomy of the voice, and provides opportunities for singers to improve audition and performance skills. (**required for vocal majors**)

Voice II- *Open to: Any student who has successfully completed Voice I*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
This class can be taken by those who have successfully completed Voice I. More complex music will be explored. This class will often be combined with Guitar II to allow students to develop their ability to play and sing or to play OR sing with someone else. May be taken without Voice I through permission from vocal teacher.

Musical Theatre-based courses

Advanced Auditioning for Musical Theatre- *Open to: Juniors & Seniors only*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
A class open to juniors and seniors who have a good basic grasp on auditioning for musicals. Attention will be given to selection and preparation of material, understanding how to sell yourself when given "16 bars" and overall audition presentation etiquette. This class is especially good for students who plan to audition for competitive college musical theatre programs.

Musical Theater Production- *Open to: Theatre or Mus. Theat. students by audition*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
Students will be part of a main stage musical theater production. This class begins with auditions and continues through the final performances. Emphasis is placed on the process- character development, blocking, staging, choreography, set, costumes, props. (**by audition only**)

Musical Theatre Dance (Jazz)- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
Students will improve their ability to learn and perform dance specifically in terms of its place in musical theatre. Learn elements of how to create musical theater choreography.

Stage Managing for the Theatre- *Open to: all students <u>with teacher approval</u>*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
Students will study how to be a good stage manager. Students will learn how to create a prompt book, take down stage directions, call a show and other responsibilities of the stage manager. Some information about the basics of technical theatre will be shared. Successful students would be eligible to stage manage shows the following semester. **(by teacher recommendation only)**

Theatre-based courses

Children's Theatre- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
Performing for children and young adults is an exciting and fun genre of theatre. Making big, bold choices, using animated expression and capturing the audience's attention with your energy will all be explored in this class. Students will learn to write and perform children's theatre with the goal of performing for a children's audience at the end.

Creative Writing- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
In this class we will read, analyze and discuss short works of fiction and non-fiction that may include plays, prose and poetry. Students will create their own writing and will work toward a performance. Based on student interest, focus could be on playwriting, screenwriting or other forms of creative writing.

Film Acting and Production- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
Acting on film requires a somewhat different approach than stage acting. This class will use a variety of genres from commercials, to comedy to drama in order to explore successful film acting. Students with a background in film will focus on the production and editing aspects of film. (Collaboration with Media)

Film and Literature- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
This class will explore different film adaptations of literature in many genres. Students will read and analyze excerpts from pieces of literature and watch the accompanying film adaptations. They will also study basic film terminology as well as theatrical terminology and techniques.

Intro to Stage Combat- *Open to: Theatre or Mus. Theat. students only*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
Students will learn the basics of safe stage combat. This is a fully participatory class where students will learn all the elements of stage combat safely and believably. Students will be immediately removed from the class if they are not able to be serious and focused. Due to the nature of the course, students may not join after the course has run for 3 weeks. Not recommended for freshman.

Performance in Film- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
Students will examine a variety of films in order to evaluate the performance of the actors in the film. Students will attempt to employ a variety of techniques to create performances based on the film actors they've analyzed. (Collaboration with Creative Media)

Radio Plays- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
Radio plays come from the days before television when families gathered around the radio to listen to dramas and comedies. The use of sound effects to create doors closing, people walking, and action is an integral part of the performance, while the actor's use of the voice is incredibly important to the audience understanding the plot. This class will feature live music, sound effects, and actor performance to create the world of the radio play, culminating in a live performance. (This would be offered in collaboration with the music dept.)

Stage Managing for the Theatre- *Open to: all students with teacher approval*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
Students will study how to be a good stage manager. Students will learn how to create a prompt book, take down stage directions, call a show and other responsibilities of the stage manager. Some information about the basics of technical theatre will be shared. Successful students would be eligible to stage manage shows the following semester. **(by teacher recommendation only)**

Techniques of Performance- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
This class will explore the fundamentals of performance in all RCA art forms. This may include: volume/projection, diction, stage presence, selecting a piece, etc. All are encouraged to take this class to enhance their ability to perform effectively in front of an audience.

Understanding and Performing Shakespeare- *Open to: Theatre or Mus. Theat. students only*   **Class length: Full year**
Shakespeare is widely considered the greatest playwright of all time. Yet many actors seem to avoid Shakespeare altogether. Performing Shakespeare is one of the most exciting things an actor can do.. This class will give you the tools to understand and perform Shakespeare through scene study, sonnets and theatre games. Note: This is a required elective for Theater Majors before graduating and the prerequisite for this class is one year of acting classes at RCA **or** by special invitation.

Voice and Speech- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
In this class, students will focus on how the voice can be used in theatrical performances. Emphasis is put on appropriate warm-up and projection. Topics include: breathing techniques, understanding diction, physicalizing the voice, and the use of voice and speech to explore character. Note: This elective is required for all freshman or sophomore theatre majors and must be taken once before junior year. For the class of 2024, it is highly recommended to take this course in the 2022-2023 school year.

Creative Media / Technical Theatre-based courses

Art of Animation- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
This course allows students to express their visual creativity through drawing, storytelling, and other visual mediums. This is not a course in how to draw, although students will be required to draw.. Throughout the course students will examine the history and evolution of animation in film. They will learn basic techniques for original character design, the natural flow and movement of objects, and background/ environment development. Students will work through story treatments, to a finalized animatic. Students will use a combination between Apple's Pro Studio Apps (Final Cut Pro X + Motion), Blender, and Autodesk's Maya Animation Software. Some of the drawing is expected to be completed as homework, while the animation process itself will be accomplished in class

Backstage in Production- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
This class is meant to prepare students for working backstage in the many productions at RCA and beyond. Students will learn about practical elements of tech theatre including hanging and focusing lights, properly working with microphones and sound equipment, running a show as a full production staff, how to comport themselves backstage, in the lighting booth, and behind the soundboard. There will be a strong focus on fast set transitions, mixing a live musical with microphones, and calling cues for lights, sound, and projections. Our goal is to translate these skills into practice for our productions here at RCA. This may be particularly suited for non-tech majors who want to learn about the production elements of live theater.

New Media- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
New Media is an introductory course to video production that utilizes the camera as an alternative stage space. Students will use professional production equipment and become familiar with Final Cut Pro Studio X, Logic Pro X, and QLab. In collaboration with one of our dance classes, students will develop a dance film, (or new Media work), throughout the year-long workshop based on an industry standard workflow. They will go from treatment, to timeline, storyboard, shot list and filming schedule *(Collaboration with Dance)*

Film Acting and Production- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
Acting on film requires a somewhat different approach than stage acting. This class will use a variety of genres from commercials, to comedy to drama in order to explore successful film acting. Students with a background in film will focus on the production and editing aspects of film, while acting students will focus on performing techniques for the camera. (Collaboration with Theatre)

Introduction to Creative Video- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
Intro to Creative Video is an introductory course to Video Production. Students will experience a professional production process starting from story concept and development, through shooting and editing. They will learn editing skills in Apple's Final Cut Pro Suite. Once a month students will have a film analysis class where they will examine story concept, character development, editing, scripting, colors, and angles.

Photography- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
This course covers basic concepts and practice of digital photography. Including understanding and use of the camera, lenses, and other basic photographic equipment. Students will learn Photoshop techniques and participate in group discussions to give feed-back and share thoughts on each other's work. The course will also address aesthetic and creative principles as they relate to composition, space, exposure, light, color, angle and environment. Note: **Students must own a decent camera in order to take this elective.**.

Stage Managing for the Theatre- *Open to: all students with teacher approval*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
Students will study how to be a good stage manager. Students will learn how to create a prompt book, take down stage directions, call a show and other responsibilities of the stage manager. Some information about the basics of technical theatre will be shared. Successful students would be eligible to stage manage shows the following semester. **(by teacher recommendation only)**

Technical Theatre In Practice (TD Assistant)- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
Students may request this course, but **must be approved by the technical director**. Students will employ their skills learned through technical theatre classes to assist the TD in preparing for performances including hanging and focusing lights, preparing sound equipment, programming the board, creating props, building and painting sets, and other technical tasks needed for production. Must have taken Intro To Technical Theatre before taking this class.

Voice Acting for Animated Films- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
This course is for students who wish to develop the skills needed to be an animation voice talent. It will explore the acting skills, the vocal skills, and the hands on techniques of voicing to picture, auditioning and script analysis. Students will work together to redub different animated sequences from films.

COURSES OFFERED BUT NOT THIS YEAR

Inter-Disciplinary Performance- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
This course focuses on strategies for successful collaboration between artists from different disciplines including, discussion, debate and the articulation of ideas. Students will work in groups to create a theatrical presentation that will be edited, refined and performed. Students must have original ideas, but must be willing to sacrifice those ideas in the spirit of cooperation.

West African Drumming & Dance- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
This course is a study of music and dance traditions of the Ga and Ewe people of Ghana. Activities include drumming, dancing and singing.

Introduction to Technical Theatre - This course is designed for non-majors to learn the basics of technical theatre including lighting, sound, set design, costuming and prop making. Students will do both hands-on work and design work.

Design for the Stage- This class will focus on the 4 Main fields of Stage Design: scenic, costuming, lighting and sound. Projects will include drafting a set, drafting a light plot, programming boards and completing a costume sheet.

Sound Design for Film- This class will focus on different aspects of audio production used in radio, television and film. Projects will include a radio commercial, a radio documentary, a foley workshop and a complete re-dub of a film scene.

Music Composition for Film/Video Games- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
In this class, students will learn about how music is used to augment the design and characterization of a narrative. Why does the hero's theme utilize major chords? Why does a

Immersive Theatre- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, not repeatable**
This class will take a look at the different tech elements of building an immersive experience. Students will learn how to create ambient sound bytes, lighting effects, prop building, and the value of utilizing all senses to fully immerse an audience in the world of the experience. In October, the students will devise a haunted house that can go up in the Black box, and/or the back hallway. Their work will culminate in a design for the musical and the play that goes up in December.

Playwriting- *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: Full year**
In this class, students will improve on their writing skills by learning how to write plays. Starting with the basic six elements of drama: plot, character, theme, language, music/rhythm and spectacle, students will write short stories, monologues, scenes and plays around topical issues that they are passionate about, ultimately finding their own voice. The class will culminate with one act plays written by the students that will be performed by actors in a public setting.

Building a Character- This class will focus on how to approach a character from both an analytical and physical point of view. Developing the physical traits, voice and mannerisms of a variety of characters will be the goal of this class. Students will use observation to explore physical, movement and vocal choices.

Improvisation- In this class, students will learn how to interact with others in improvised exercises, games and scenes. Students will develop the skills, control, confidence, mental agility, trust and spontaneity to improvise dialogue and scenarios without a written script.

Theatre Games   *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: ½ year, not repeatable**
This course will introduce students to a variety of theatre games and exercises intended to increase their ability to make spontaneous creative choices. Improvisation will be part of the class. Full participation is expected in all activities.

Costume For Theatre and Film   *Open to: all interested students*   **Class length: 1/2 year, repeatable**
This course will explore the practical elements of costuming in theatre including selecting costumes, hemming costumes, creating costumes and making sure costumes fit the period and motif of the production.

***As a department we would like to explore adding the Costume Club, Sketch Comedy, Interactive Theater, Concert Reading, and Moth Performance.