Directing Workshop – Level 1 Course Outline

Course Description:
An eleven-week directing workshop focusing primarily on how to work with actors. Four directors and eight actors explore all aspects of directing/actor communication. While concentrating on performance issues, the course also touches on script analysis and design.

SCHEDULE:

Week 1
• Auditioning techniques: The directors are shown specific techniques designed to relax actors and maximize performance potential
• They also become familiar with assessment techniques, so they have a better idea of what's in store for them after hiring an actor
• The directors practice running auditions utilizing the actors in the workshop

Week 2
• An introduction to the approach—lecture and exercises
• Exercises include observing improvisations and picking out what frees up the actors and what makes their work more effortful
• More than fifty specific rehearsal techniques are shared
• Directors cast their scenes and begin working outside of class with their actors

Week 3
• Lecture and exercise work continues
• An additional fifty, or so, rehearsal and performance tools are introduced
• Directors rotate working with actors on monologues and experiment with newly-learned 'techniques

Week 4 – Week 7
• The first round of scenes
• Directors rehearse in front of the workshop. The teacher facilitates the rehearsal, making suggestions when appropriate and pointing out communication problems as they occur.
• Each scene will get worked on for 2 hours

Week 8 – Week 11
• Same as weeks four through seven, but now the directors can work on any sort of material they choose.