

Theatre Department Directory

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Season Subscription Office — 799-7800 x5100

Subscriber Services, Ticketing Exchange

Academy Theatre Tickets —

StarTickets.com or (800) 585-3737

Academy Theatre Box Office 799-7800 x5103

ACADEMY THEATRE

Sudent
Handbook

2011 ~ 2012



Important Information about
Academy Theatre
for Students and Parents

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Past Academy Theatre Seasons



2010-2011

Southern Hospitality

The Crucible

It's a Wonderful Life

Hairspray

DREAM

The Case for Showcase

2009-2010

Almost, Maine

I Never Saw Another Butterfly

Expectations

Antigone

West Side Story

The Spitfire Grill

2008-2009

The Elephant Man

The Concrete Rose

The Wiz

You Can't Take It With You

The Diviners

Ascension Day

Bang Bang You're Dead (Premiere of the 2009 Edition)

2007—2008

Sweeney Todd (presented at the International Thespian Festival)

Execution of Justice

Cats Las Vegas

the red chair

Dearly Departed

A Piece of My Heart

2006 — 2007

Little Women

Miss Saigon

Journey Home

The Grapes of Wrath

The Great Easter Egg Hunt

As You Like It

2005 — 2006

Anatomy of Gray

Once On This Island

Shadowland

Thoroughly Modern Millie

Short Play Project

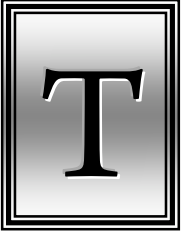
2004 — 2005

Beauty and the Beast

Native Son

Ragtime (produced for the International Thespian Festival 75th Anniversary)

Las Vegas Academy Theatre Department
MISSION STATEMENT



he mission of the Las Vegas Academy Theatre Department is to provide the opportunities and nurturing environment so that students may pursue individual and collective goals in the study, understanding and achievement of skills in theatre, musical theatre and theatre technologies, and develop an appreciation of the art form as an enjoyment and enrichment in the students' lives.

There is an expectation from every student to ...

Be on time.

Be a good example.

Be focused and committed—

to your academics,

to your craft,

to Academy Theatre.

Take care of your instrument and live a healthy lifestyle.

Show respect to each other and to faculty and staff.

Take care of our wonderful facilities.

Be a member of our ensemble.

Learn to love the theatre.

We have been a theatre company for 18 years—

Let's be proud of our accomplishments and humble enough to know that we cannot do it without cooperation and collaboration.

Welcome to Academy Theatre!

**This handbook will serve as a good faith agreement
between the student, parent/guardian and the
Las Vegas Academy Theatre Department.**

LAS VEGAS ACADEMY THEATRE DEPARTMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the objectives of Academy Theatre?

The objectives of the Las Vegas Academy Theatre are:

- ✓ To promote, uphold and advocate for the study and understanding of the discipline of theatre
- ✓ To develop a positive work ethic
- ✓ To develop a sense of good professional behavior
- ✓ To promote a well-rounded sense of self that includes academic, intellectual and artistic balance
- ✓ To promote good relationships between the department and other departments, other schools and the community at large
- ✓ To promote a safe, nurturing, diverse, hate-free environment in which to learn and work
- ✓ To build bridges to the future that include networking, college preparation and realistic work experiences
- ✓ To learn about theatre in a way that students will develop a life-long understanding of, and love for, the art and craft of theatre.

What if I cannot attend school or rehearsal due to illness or emergency?

You must call or email your instructor and/or director **prior to 7 am** on the day you are to be absent. You would have to call in to your employer; we as faculty and staff expect no less courtesy and respect. For now, school *is* your job.

What is a “block” class?

The Academy utilizes a modified block schedule that provides an extended period of 84 minutes a day for instruction in a student’s selected course of study.

What is a “major” at the Academy?

A major at the Academy is an arrangement wherein a student can select a specific and required course of study within the disciplines of performing arts, visual arts or language and culture studies. The Academy major can be compared to a major in college; one must do well in both general academia and major course classes.

It is possible for a student at the Academy to “double major,” which means that the student can have two blocks a day in two different departments at the Academy. While this may prove to be extremely challenging, for some students it is a way to maximize the Academy experience. Double majoring is available only to juniors and seniors. A problem that many double majors face is that of being able to prioritize and balance commitments to both departments.

What is the Academy’s academic standard?

All students at the Academy must maintain a MINIMUM 2.0 grade point average, and maintain a “C” average in major courses. If a student’s GPA falls below 2.0, s/he will be placed on academic probation for one semester. The student must then bring his/her cumulative GPA above 2.0 in order to remain at the Academy. Those who do not pass their block may not be allowed to return to the Academy.

What is the Academy’s behavioral standard?

The Academy follows the CCSD standards for behavior. In addition, the Academy believes that attendance at LVA is a privilege that can be revoked due to behavior that disrupts the academic process at the Academy. *These disruptions include public displays of affection and any other sexually explicit behavior, substance and alcohol use on campus, weapons possession, etc.*

What is the department’s behavioral standard?

The Academy Theatre Rules for Conduct

- ✓ Be on time. Instructors will enforce the LVA tardy policy.

- ✓ Dress appropriately and be prepared to work. (See Department Dress Code on page 9.)
- ✓ Know your limitations and how/when to say “no.”
- ✓ Prioritize.
- ✓ Do your best to eat healthily, drink plenty of WATER, and get plenty of rest.
- ✓ Live a healthy lifestyle. Stay away from tobacco use, alcohol and illegal substances. If you have already developed bad habits, there are resources that can help you; however, there is little we can do once the problem has become criminal. Get help *before* you get arrested for use or possession. **Substance abuse is the number one reason that students fail at LVA.**
- ✓ Treat others—teachers and staff, administrators, and other students—with respect and kindness. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.
- ✓ Each student has a responsibility to the ensemble—the classroom ensemble, the cast/crew ensemble, the club ensemble, and the departmental ensemble. An ensemble is created only when every member “buys in” to the concept.

What does it mean to be “academically eligible?”

There are certain standards of academics and behavior that must be met in order for a student to be eligible to participate in after school/extra-curricular activities. The CCSD eligibility policy is summarized on page 12 in this handbook. Please become familiar with this policy. In addition, failure in academic or major courses may result in a student being removed from a production, or prevented from participating in productions and other school/ department activities.

Cast and crew eligibility lists are disseminated to all teachers. If an academic teacher has a concern about a student’s progress, s/he will discuss it with the director/technical director, and they will work together to help that student. All instructors want their students to be successful; however, **academic and behavioral eligibility is ultimately the responsibility of the student and the parent(s).**

What is the grading policy for the department?

All instructors use a simple points system (with no curving) for assessing class progress and assigning grades. All block classes require a significant portion of the grade to be dependent on class participation and after-school work hours.

What is the Theatre Hours policy and how does it work?

The theatre department has adopted a **co-curricular participation program** called Theatre Hours. Approximately 20% of a student's grade is based on this participation. A student can obtain required hours by participating in any department-sanctioned after-school activity. The activity must be approved and supervised by a faculty or staff member, and must be related to the instructional or developmental goals of the school and the theatre department.

Hours can be obtained by working on a crew (either for a department show, another department's approved show or for the theatre manager), being a cast member, ushering, working in the box office, participating in Thespian service or fundraising activities, or otherwise working for faculty, staff or administration in the business of the performing arts at LVA.

Theatre Hours Requirements

Acting Students:

- Theatre I — 20 hours/qtr
- Theatre III — 30 hours/qtr
- Theatre III — 40 hours/qtr
- Theatre IV— 50 hours/qtr

Technical Theatre Students:

- Technical Theatre I — 20 hours/qtrs 2, 3 & 4
- Technical Theatre II — 30 hours/qtr
- Technical Theatre III — 40 hours/qtr
- Technical Theatre IV— 50 hours/qtr

What are the basics of casting/crew selection?

The faculty is committed to fair casting/crew selection. Fair casting means we cast the best person for the role. Fair crew selection means we select the best person for the crew position. There are not enough

roles/positions for everyone to have a part every time. However, we are also committed to providing as many opportunities as possible. *It is important to remember that no one is guaranteed a role or position.*

Those students who have failed their block class may not be eligible through the next grading period, and must prove eligibility before they will be considered for cast or crew.

All Sophomore, Junior and Senior Theatre Acting Majors may be required to audition for departmental shows. Freshmen are strongly encouraged to audition. Required auditions may also be considered as a class assignment or grade at the instructor's discretion.

Production Hours will be granted for participation in the audition process for all students in all grade levels regardless of whether the audition is required or not. See *Important Dates (pg 13)* for audition dates and *The Bottom Line (pg 14)* for show conflicts.

What are the requirements if I get cast or selected as a crew member?

- ✓ All cast and crew and their parents must sign a **performance agreement** outlining each show's expectations.
- ✓ Cast and crew are required to attend ALL dress/technical rehearsals. Medical/dental appointments should not be scheduled during these times unless it is a medical emergency.
- ✓ Make all rehearsals. There will always be an accurate rehearsal schedule for at least a week in advance.
- ✓ Cast members will be allowed only two (2) excused absences from rehearsals before being replaced. (An excused absence is one that is prearranged, in writing, and unavoidable.)
- ✓ Cast and crew members are required to attend a FULL DAY of school on rehearsal and performance days, unless their absence is officially excused through the Principal's office before 8am. *Students who do not comply with this requirement will not be permitted to rehearse or perform on that day.*
- ✓ Those cast in any mainstage show may be assessed a costume fee of \$50. There are options for making this commitment.
- ✓ If you drop out of a show without legitimate cause you **will be placed on "show probation,"** and will lose all co-curricular hours for

that grading period, and may not be considered for the next production.

Can I work “outside” the department in other shows, or on other companies’ crews?

Academy Theatre requires total commitment, alongside school and family. Therefore, **students can only participate in activities outside LVA by submitting a written request to the faculty prior to auditions or crew assignments.** Permission will be granted only after the student has not been cast or not been assigned a crew position for the current production(s).

What does it cost to participate in Academy Theatre?

LVA is a CCSD school, so all eligible students may participate in the program free of charge, except for a \$40 lab fee assessed in each block class per semester. Musical Theatre class has a lab fee of \$20. Musicals may require a costume fee. Often we will sell a meal ticket for a nominal fee during production weeks.

What about issues regarding transportation?

There will be times when cast/crew members will need to find their own transportation. There is a 3:45 pm activity bus that will take students to their neighborhood drop-off points. However, rehearsals and crew calls will begin by 2:25pm, and will often extend beyond that late bus time. Rehearsal will end between 4:30pm and 5:30pm except for the final week, when they may run as late as 8:30pm. There may also be weekend calls. Mandatory rehearsals, performances and work calls will not be held on Sundays (except possibly lighting crews). Late rehearsals will be scheduled in advance.

The district policy regarding picking up students after rehearsals and performances insists that **all students are to be picked up within 30 minutes of the end of the event.** Those students that are not picked up within that time will be placed in a juvenile detention facility, and their parents/guardians may be subject to further disciplinary proceedings through the Office of Child Protective Services.

How do I earn a Theatre Honor Cord?

In order to earn the Theatre or Tech Theatre Honor Cord, the graduating senior must have:

- Full four-year participation in the program
 - No semester grade below a C in a major class
 - Never been placed on academic probation
 - Never been suspended.
- ✓ If a student changes major, s/he will receive the cord for his/her current major only.
 - ✓ Students who double major for two years will receive both cords.
 - ✓ Students can apply for an exception to the four-year rule by proving Meritorious Dedication to the Department. The onus will be on the student to provide solid proof for this exception, in writing, to the theatre faculty, one month prior to graduation.

What if my parent/guardian wants to help out?

Good! Parents/guardians are **always** welcome to offer assistance or donate goods or services. Any donation of time, materials or services is tax deductible. If you or your parent sees a need that can be filled, or have skills or materials that might be helpful to the department, please have them contact the department coordinator.

What do I do if I have a question or concern that is not addressed in this Handbook?

ASK THE QUESTION! Do not assume that your instructors/ directors can read minds. If there is something that you do not understand, ask about it. The only stupid question is the one that remains a question.

S u r v i v a l S u g g e s t i o n s

- Make friends right away. LVA students are the friendliest in the district. ☺
- Say NO once in awhile. Don't take on more than you can handle, but take on as much as you can possibly handle.
- Stay sober. And don't smoke; it's the single worst and most preventable teenage habit.
- Though it may sound impossible at times, try to get some sleep.

- Bring your homework to rehearsal. Those students that can motivate themselves to study in any environment tend to be more successful. Use your time wisely.
- Don't be afraid to ask for a ride! But also be willing to cough up some gas money.
- Stay on campus. If you must go off campus, NEVER go alone. Especially, STAY OUT OF THE ALLEYS!
- Don't be afraid to ask for help, from students and teachers.

LAS VEGAS ACADEMY THEATRE PAC/TPA/BLACK BOX RULES

- ✓ No food, drink or gum is allowed in any part of the theaters. Persons caught with food, drink or gum will be subject to removal from the building. Bottled water only, please.
- ✓ No one is permitted to be in any space in the theaters without a supervisor. This includes the spot booth, main booth, coves, stairwells or on the grid. If caught you will be referred to the Dean's Office. *This especially applies to stairwells, tech areas and 2nd floor lobby lounge of the TPA.*
- ✓ Do not attempt to operate any of the theater equipment without authorization from the theater managers.
- ✓ Do not use the theaters as a shortcut to other classes. This includes the Black Box.
- ✓ Do not "borrow" anything until you have cleared it through a theatre manager. This includes tables, chairs, etc.
- ✓ The theaters are our performance spaces; it is up to each of us to protect them.
- ✓ All storage rooms are **off-limits** for changing, taking shortcuts or otherwise trespassing. Taking things from costume, prop or furniture storage without following procedure will be considered theft.

LAS VEGAS ACADEMY THEATRE DEPARTMENTAL DRESS CODE

While it is understood that fashion is an acceptable way of expressing one's individuality and personality, nevertheless it is important to develop a feeling of inclusiveness, ensemble and safety in the theatre class, technical theatre class, shops and backstage. Therefore, this **Departmental Dress Code** has been adopted and will be strictly enforced. *Your instructor will have additional individual classroom rules pertaining to dress and deportment.*

All clothing is expected to be maintained, clean and free of strong body odor.

Acting Class

- ✓ Black sweats or black jazz pants — No shorts
- ✓ Shirts are to be loose fitting, crew necked, white T's with no slogans or writing of any kind.
- ✓ Athletic shoes or jazz shoes required
- ✓ All Theatre Class dress-out clothing, including shoes, **MUST** be labeled clearly on the inside with your name.
- ✓ No bare or stocking feet, open-toed shoes, flip-flops or shoes with thick and/or hard soles: socks strongly recommended
- ✓ All acting students are required to keep and maintain comfortable black character shoes in good repair.
- ✓ Hair must be neat and off the face (use elastic bands, headbands or bobby pins, etc.) This includes the boys.

Technical Theatre Class/Shop/Backstage

(This applies to both male and female students.)

- ✓ Pants that are free of holes and neat in appearance (Shorts are not recommended.)
- ✓ Comfortable, close-toed footwear **with socks** (Leather upper athletic shoes or light work boots at minimum)
- ✓ NO flip-flops, sandals, "clunky" shoes, or open-toed shoes of any kind—EVER
- ✓ Long hair must be kept neat and tied back.

- ✓ No dangling or loose-fitting jewelry or clothing
- ✓ No “elephant leg” (extreme flared) pants
- ✓ No sagging
- ✓ No derogatory slogans or innuendo may be worn.
- ✓ **Students are required to keep and maintain approved safety glasses, and to wear them in the shop at all times.**
- ✓ Appropriate safety gear (harnesses and fall protection, ear/eye protection, etc.) must be worn as the instructor requires.

Performance

Actors

- ✓ All performers must wear appropriate undergarments whenever wearing stage costumes.
- ✓ All performers are expected to keep their bodies clean while wearing stage costumes.
- ✓ All performers are expected to happily wear the costume they have been assigned by the designer/director.
- ✓ All costumes and accessories must be checked out and in for every performance.
- ✓ All costumes and accessories must be left with the costume crew during the run of a production.
- ✓ All actors are required to furnish their basic stage makeup kit (Ben Nye Crème Makeup Kit recommended).

Technicians/Backstage Crew

(This applies to both male and female students.)

- ✓ Clean black clothing
- ✓ **Black** pants, slacks or jeans, no shorts, pants must be clean and in good condition — No flares, no sagging
- ✓ **Black** long-sleeved shirt, no slogans except for designated show shirts (The departmental crew shirt is recommended.)
- ✓ **Black** shoes with **black** socks: soft-soled black athletic shoes are recommended. No clunky boots can be worn during technical rehearsals or performances, except for safety reasons.

Ushers

(This applies to both male and female students.)

- ✓ **Black** dress slacks
- ✓ **White**, collared dress shirt or blouse with a necktie
- ✓ Comfortable and conservative dress footwear
- ✓ Neat and tidy appearance—You are the first person the patron sees.

Hygiene

Part of respecting yourself and others is to keep your body, clothing and footwear neat, clean and free from strong body odors. You are expected to practice good hygiene.

Hair and Piercings

Those students who are serious about their education and experiences at LVA and in the theatre in general keep their appearance neutral. As an actor assumes a role mentally and emotionally, so does the actor also assume a physical appearance. Tattoos, body piercings and unusual hair color are discouraged for these reasons. In addition, body piercings, *especially in the tongue and mouth*, are extremely prone to infection and get in the way of good diction.

Tongue adornments (studs, rings, etc.) are not allowed during rehearsals and performances, or in the Tech Studio or Scene Shop. Other piercings will have to be removed if they are visible and incongruous with the director's/ designer's conceptions.



CCSD/LVA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

(EXTRACTED FROM CCSD REGULATION 5135.1)

Tobacco

Any student using tobacco will be denied the privilege of participation in all extracurricular activities for a minimum of one week.

Alcoholic Beverages

Any student using or in possession of an alcoholic beverage will be denied the privilege of participation in all extracurricular activities for a period not to exceed 90 academic days, not including summer school attendance. A student may appeal for full eligibility after 45 academic days of suspension.

Controlled Substances and Narcotics

Any student using or in possession of a controlled substance and/or narcotic will be denied the privilege of participation in all extracurricular activities for a period of 180 academic days, not including summer school attendance. A student may appeal for full eligibility after 90 academic days of suspension.

Absence

Any student absent from class on the day of an activity will not be permitted participation that day or evening unless an excuse has been granted, in advance, by the principal.

Truancy

Any student who is declared truant will be ineligible for a period of one week after the infraction is discovered.

School Discipline or Law Enforcement Referral

Any student referred to the office for school rule violations or to law enforcement authorities by school officials for school rule violations may be denied the privilege of participating in all extracurricular activities for a period determined by the principal.

Las Vegas Academy Eligibility Policy

Any student who has been expelled, is on RPC, suspension or in Opportunity School may not attend or participate in school activities during the duration of that disciplinary procedure. Students must be in attendance on the day of the performance in order to perform. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action.

At all times, academic eligibility is the responsibility of the student and parent.

LAS VEGAS ACADEMY THEATRE

IMPORTANT DATES 2011-2012

Ms. Lilly's Birthday	August 27
Labor Day-No School	Sept 5
Auditions for <i>Big River</i>	September 7-9
Scene Shop Opens for the Year	Sept 12
<i>Possible</i> Black Box Show	Oct. 6-8, 13-15
End of First Quarter	Oct 26 - Wednesday
CCSD Inservice Day – No Classes	Oct 27 - Thursday
Nevada Day – No School	Oct 28 - Friday
Mrs. Kanduth's Birthday	Oct 30
<i>Big River</i> performs	Nov 10-12, 17-19
CCSD Inservice Day – No Classes	Nov 10 - Thursday
Veteran's Day Holiday	Nov 11
Academy Theatre Day	Nov 16 - Wednesday
Thanksgiving – No School	Nov 24-25
Auditions for <i>Guys and Dolls</i> and <i>Our Town</i>	Nov 29-Dec 1
<i>Touched</i> Performs	Dec 8-10, 16-17
LVA Dance Day	Dec 13 - Tuesday
Winter Break begins at dismissal	Dec 16
Mr. McFall's Birthday	Dec 24
Classes resume	Jan 3 - Tuesday
MLK Day – No School	Jan 16
Semester Finals, End of 1 st Semester	Jan 17-20
CCSD Inservice Day – No Classes	Jan 23 - Monday
<i>Possible</i> Black Box Show	Jan 26-28, Feb 2-4

Unified Auditions	Feb 9 - Thursday
President's Day - No School	Feb 20
CCSD Inservice Day - No Classes	Feb 21 - Tuesday
<i>Guys & Dolls</i> Performs	Mar 1-3, 8-10, 15-17
End of Third Quarter	Mar 23, Fri
Roncalli Theatre Festival in Italy	March 25-April 4
Spring Break	April 2-6
Mr. Berman's Birthday	April 4
<i>Our Town</i> Performs	Apr 19-21, 26-28
Prom	May 5
Ms. Anderson's Birthday	May 10
Memorial Day - No School	May 28
Mr. Edward's Birthday	May 28
Exams	June 4-7
Ms. Passagno's Birthday	June 7
Mr. Connor's Birthday	June 19
Mr. Morris's Birthday	June 24
Int'l Thespian Conference, Lincoln, NE	June 25-30
Ms. Sosniak's Birthday	July 15

The Bottom Line —

You will have to choose between:

Guys and Dolls and *Our Town*
Roncalli Festival and *Our Town*

You may have to choose between:

Big River and *Touched*
Touched and *Guys and Dolls*