RTD369  TV Directing:  
Directing the Camera and the Actor

Mon 2:00-4:50PM     NMC 9E

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Office:  Comm2222     Office Hours:  T 9-12, W 2-5P
And by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS
This course is part lecture and part workshop; it is designed so that you will
learn creative and technical skills for directing both camera and actors, in order
to create the best work you can.  The goal is to give you the tools of
communication with both a DP and actors, to give them what you as a director
need to achieve your vision, to tell the story, and to get the performance that you
want.

Throughout the semester, you will work in pairs, with one person the director
and one person the Director of Photography (DP).  The DP will be almost as
important as the director, especially when deciding how and why a scene should
be shot.  Both individuals will have to collaborate to achieve the best possible
results.

Topics covered will include, but not be limited to, script breakdown, script and
character analysis, casting, directing actors. This information will come to you in
lectures, selected readings, Skype interviews, as well as observations of the
acting classes we will attend.

At the end of the course, you will have two directing/acting exercises, as well as
a final short film (or scene) that could be used on a creative reel for you and for
the actors in the film/scene. This final project should be festival ready when it is
screened during finals week, at a public screening.

COURSE PREREQUISITES
RT365A or B Producing for TV; Similar production courses

READING MATERIALS
There is no text for this class. Readings will be posted on D2L or provided in
class.
COURSE WORK

We will begin with scene analysis both on the page and on the screen, picking apart the words and images to discover the story and the emotions that the writer and the director wanted to convey to the audience.

Eventually, we’ll look at overall structure, character arcs, and editing. Primarily, however, we’ll be looking at mise en scene in existing work, as examples of how you can interpret and tell your stories and scenes.

The first assignment will be a deconstruction of a scene and/or sequence (even a short film) into the various aspects of mise en scene that you will present to the class in a 15 minute discussion.

After the deconstruction assignment, all other work will be with the actors, beginning with Screen to Stage to Screen, in which the actors will choose a film/TV scene to reenact on stage. You will take the stage performance and take it back to the screen. One Scene, Two Ways is one scene shot in two different styles: comedy and drama. Finally, the end of semester project will be a five minute short film or scene that will be completed for a public screening during finals week.

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screen to Stage to Screen</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Scene, Two Ways</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Scenes</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance 5 pts/meeting</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>375</td>
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A  338-375 points
B  300-337
C  263-299
D  225-262
F  Below 224
COURSE SYLLABUS

1/20 WEEK ONE
Discussion: Course Overview
Image and Word
Scene Analysis: Image

Assignment: read “Character Inner Life”

1/27 WEEK TWO
Discussion: Scene Analysis: Word
Talking to Actors: Language of Directing

Presentation: Scene Breakdown
Barton

2/3 WEEK THREE
Presentation: Scene Breakdown
Ayers, Eversmann, Lewis

Exercise: Screen to Stage to Screen
Observing performance work

2/10 WEEK FOUR
Presentation: Scene Breakdown
Brown, Fimoff, Orange

Exercise: Screen to Stage to Screen
Capturing the performance

2/17 WEEK FIVE
Presentation: Scene Breakdown
Castaneda, Hayes, Russell
Exercise: Screen to Stage to Screen  
Critiquing the performance work

2/24 WEEK SIX  
Presentation: Scene Breakdown  
Donson, Keenan, Starr  
Exercise: One Scene, Two Ways  
Rehearsal with Actors

3/2 WEEK SEVEN  
Lecture: Skype Interview Drama Director  
Exercise: One Scene, Two Ways  
Shoot Drama with Actors

3/9 WEEK EIGHT  
Lecture: Skype Interview Comedy Director  
Exercise: One Scene, Two Ways  
Shoot Comedy with Actors

3/16 SPRING BREAK!

3/23 WEEK NINE  
Lecture: Skype Interview Casting Director  
Exercise: One Scene, Two Ways  
Screening with Actors

3/30 WEEK TEN  
Lecture: Auditioning  
Exercise: Auditions

4/6 WEEK ELEVEN  
TBD  
Production Meetings for final projects

4/13 WEEK TWELVE  
Exercise: Final Scenes  
Table Read with Actors

4/20 WEEK THIRTEEN  
Exercise: Final Scenes  
Table Read with Actors
4/27  WEEK FOURTEEN  
   Exercise: Final Scenes  
   Critique Rough Cuts

5/4  WEEK FIFTEEN  
   Exercise: Final Scenes  
   Critique Rough Cuts

5/11  Finals Week  
   Public Screening of Final Scenes

   Syllabus is subject to change . . .