

Weiss Theater

Department Handbook

2018-2019



Table of Contents

Mission Statement and Values.....	pg. 2
Weiss Theater Director Info	pg. 3
Theater Class Schedule	pg. 4
Theater Class Expectations & Consequences.....	pg. 5
Grading Policies.....	pg. 5-6
Late Work/Make Up Work Policies.....	pg. 6
Performance, Script Subject Matter, & Video Policies.....	pg. 6-7
Curriculum Track	pg. 7-8
Course Descriptions & Expectations.....	pg. 9-15
Theatre Arts I	
Theatre Arts II	
Theatre Arts III	
Theatre Arts IV	
Technical Theater 1	
Advanced Technical Theater 2-4	
Musical Theater 1-4	
Extracurricular Play Production Policies.....	pg. 16-22
Grade and Citizenship Requirements	
Script Selection and Season	
Participation Opportunities	
Participation Expectations	
Wolf P.A.C Technicians.....	pg. 21
Letter Jacket Requirements	pg. 22
Student Pledge Form	pg. 23

Mission Statement & Culture

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Weiss Theater Department is to provide a place for all students to be challenged, to collaborate, and to enrich their understanding of the world around them through diverse theatrical production opportunities, and modeling best practices of professional performers and technicians.

OUR CULTURE

FAMILY

- We believe there is a place for ALL people in theater.
- We are excited to learn about you, to learn what strengths and talents that you possess, and to show you the many ways they can be utilized in theater.
- We treat everyone as equals.
- We communicate with respect, patience, and kindness. (even when there's conflict)

COLLABORATION

- We work in teams more often than working as an individual.
- We put the team's needs ahead of our own.
- We work together to create work that we could never create on our own.
- We are constantly learning new skills that will help us be better collaborators, because we know that is one of the most important attributes of being a successful adult.

EXCELLENCE

- We believe in you, care about you, and will challenge you to grow.
- We expect you to work to the best of your abilities every single day.
- We believe that excellence is not achieved without failure. Fail forward!
- We are rooting for you! Every single day. We want to see you succeed.



Weiss Theater Director Information

Mr. Malone's Bio

Mr. Malone is a 2005 graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Studies. He transferred to UT from McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas. Mr. Malone spent the first five years of his professional career in Keller, Texas where he taught theater at Central High School. He helped take Central's Theater Department to the UIL One Act Play State Competition back-to-back years in 2009 and 2010, placing 2nd in the 5A Division in 2009. He then moved back to the Austin area and served as the theater director at Anderson High School in Austin ISD for seven years. While at Anderson, he helped lead them to the UIL One Act Play State competition in 2013. He earned Best Direction for Anderson's musical production of *Curtains* from the Greater Austin High School Musical Theater Awards in 2017. Before he became a teacher, Mr. Malone worked as a professional actor, dancer, and technician across the state of Texas. He's performed with Waco Musical Theater and as a performer in TEXAS, the outdoor musical drama in Palo Duro Canyon. Mr. Malone has also been a part of the Austin theater scene as he has worked for Gobotrick Theater Company and Second Youth Family Theatre.



Bobby Malone

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Ms. Perry's Bio

Cynthia Perry is a native Austinite and a 2018 graduate of the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi University's Department of Theater and Dance. While in attendance at TAMU-CC, Ms. Perry earned her Bachelor of Arts in Theater, as well as her K-12 Texas Theater Education Certificate. She also received a Certificate in Dance from the TAMU-CC Department of Theater and Dance for an outstanding amount of time spent taking dance classes. Ms. Perry is trained in Ballet, Jazz, and Modern dance techniques and has been practicing her choreography skills in shows, dance pieces, and musicals. While at TAMU-CC, Ms. Perry directed six shows, stage-managed three, and acted in over fifteen plays and musicals. During her student teaching, Ms. Perry co-directed with Tuloso-Midway High School, the 2018 5A State Champion in UIL One Act Play with *Moon Over Buffalo*. Ms. Perry has been practicing theater arts (and fine arts in general) since she was six years old, beginning with the Austin Lyric Opera's Children's Ensemble. Since then, Ms. Perry has found her love for educating students in the fine arts and how inspiring they can be on a student's life -- not just in high school, but as a profession. She is so excited to be starting her teaching career as a Weiss Wolf!



Keep up with us on social media!

- **Weiss Theater Dept Facebook PAGE**
- www.weisstheater.com
- Twitter: @weisstheater
- Instagram: @weisstheater



<i>THEATER CLASS SCHEDULES</i>			
<i>MR. MALONE'S SCHEDULE</i>		<i>MS. PERRY'S SCHEDULE</i>	
A Day		A Day	
1st Period	PAC	1st Period	Theater 1
2nd Period	Conference	2nd Period	Tech 1
3rd Period	Tech 2/3	3rd Period	Conference
4th Period	Tech 2	4th Period	Tech 1
B Day		B Day	
5th Period	Tech 1	5th Period	Theater 1
6th Period	Conference	6th Period	Musical Theater
7th Period	Tech 1	7th Period	Theater 2
8th Period	Theater 2/3	8th Period	Conference

Tutoring & Make Up Work

Students can schedule with their theater teacher to meet during POWER HOUR for tutoring and to complete make up work. Most student makeup work can be found on Google Classroom and is available online 24/7.

Classroom Expectations & Consequences

Weiss Theater Class Expectations:

1. The door will be closed when the bell rings. Students must go to get a tardy pass in the main hallway if the door is already closed.
2. 15/15 Rule: No leaving class in first/last 15 minutes of class each day.
3. Phones/earbuds/headphones/electronic devices will be out of sight during class. Mr. Malone or Ms. Perry will let you know if you can use your phones/devices for class related work.
4. No gum is allowed in this class during performances.
5. No food/drinks are allowed in the theater classroom, black box, PAC, scene shop, or dressing rooms. Sealed water bottles only.
6. 3 things must happen before students can leave the classroom: 1) The rows/chairs must be put back into original positions, 2) the room must be clean, 3) students must be seated in their assigned seats.

Students are also responsible for following all policies listed the following places:

- Pflugerville ISD Student Handbook
- Pflugerville Fine Arts Student Handbook
- Weiss High School Student Handbook
- Weiss Theater Department Handbook

Consequences:

1st offense	Warning
2nd offense	Private conference
3rd offense	Parent contact
4th offense	Referral
Severe offense	Immediate referral

Offenses will also cause a reduction in the student's citizenship grade.

Grading Policies

Grading Policies:

All grades are averaged over the nine week period. Students will earn a minimum of 9 Daily Grades and 3 Major Grades each 9 weeks. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated, and will result in a zero being assigned to the student involved. Unauthorized prompting or use of a script during a memorized activity will be considered cheating.

1. Daily Grades: 70%
2. Major Grades: 30%

Daily Grades include: participation in class activities, journal/folder checks, and audience etiquette

Major Grades include: written tests, performances, critiques, and play reviews

Make-up Work:

Most theater classwork will be posted on Google Classroom and is available to students 24/7. Students are expected to check Google Classroom regularly, especially when they miss class. Each student is responsible for turning in all work missed during an absence within the allotted time. The general rule is that a student has as many days to make up work per number of days absent.

Late work:

Performance oriented classes are not like other classes. At the time of a scheduled performance, all members who have committed themselves to the process must be present for the full product to be exhibited. Performances are due for all students on the first day scheduled. **Late performances will receive an automatic 30 points off of the final grade earned.** Students must schedule a time to come in during Power Hour to make up their performance with ALL original group members in order to receive credit. If you are absent on the day prior to a performance, you will still be expected to perform on the assigned due date.

Performance, Script Subject Matter, & Video Policies

PERFORMANCES

Students will be performing multiple times throughout the year. Performances are critical to the learning and understanding of a theater student not only as an actor but as an audience member. Since performances are so important to the class, performance grades may be weighted and will often be used as the 9 weeks test.

Students will be expected to intelligently critique performances that they see as well their own. **To enhance this project some performances will be recorded. These recordings are used as an educational tool in which the student can see first-hand which performance aspects they are doing well on and which ones can be improved upon.**

Script subject matter

Students will be working with a variety of texts in their theater classes. Most of these scripts have been edited for student use, however, there may be times that they work with unedited scripts. Student performances must comply with all district, school, and classroom rules when it comes to subject matter. Students are expected to use reasonable discretion in editing scripts for rehearsal and performance in a classroom setting. Please use good judgment and implement the following guidelines:

- a. Delete all profanity from your rehearsal script.
- b. Do not use profanity or suggestive business (drugs, sex, racially insensitive, controversial, etc) in class, rehearsal, or performance.
- c. Seek teacher approval for any questionable language or business before it is used.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in a failing grade and referral to office.

Videos and DVDs

The students will watch a wide variety of plays, musicals, documentaries, movies, and educational videos during the course of the year. These videos give the students a chance to experience different types of theatre genre, style, talent levels and performance technique.

Weiss Theater Curriculum Track

Theater 1 – Foundations of Acting

- Focus on Naturalism
- Introductory acting technique
- Emphasis on modern American playwrights

Theater 2 – Character Development

- Focus on physical and vocal character
- Laban Movement

- Emphasis on Farce, Commedia dell'arte, and Theater for Youth

Theater 3 – Classical Theater

- Classical performance styles
- Stage Combat and English Department Collaboration
- Emphasis on Greek and Shakespearean plays

Theater 4 – Performance Styles & Genres

- Exploring plays and performance styles around the world
- Directing and Devising
- Audition Portfolio

Technical Theater 1 – Foundations of Stagecraft

- Exploring technical careers in theater
- Drawing & Analysis for technical purposes
- Instruction & experience using scenery, lighting, and sound tools

Tech Theater 2-4 (Advanced Tech) – The Production Team

- Emphasis on specialized technical crews – Scenery, Lighting, Sound, Costume, Makeup, Stage Management
- Drawing, Analysis, and Design for play production
- Instruction & experience as play production team for main stage shows

Musical Theater 1 - Foundations of Singing, Dancing, and Acting

- Emphasis on jazz and ensemble movement
- Introductory vocal training & music theory
- Explore the musicals of Rodgers & Hammerstein

Musical Theater 2 –

- Exploring ballet & continuing jazz training
- Vocal training as a soloist and ensemble member
- Explore the modern musical theater composers

Musical Theater 3 –

- Exploring the movement & musicals of Bob Fosse
- Vocal training as a soloist and ensemble member

Musical Theater 4 –

- Creating choreography for musical theater
- Vocal training as a soloist and ensemble member
- Explore various musical genre/styles current to

Course Descriptions and Expectations

Theatre Arts 1 Foundations of Acting

Course Description

Theater Arts 1 is an introductory acting class that is designed to build foundational performance skills that students can utilize across many different career paths. The goal of this class is to build the student's acting experience through introductory acting technique workshops, scene studies, and performance opportunities.

Content

Throughout the school year the student will experience:

- Team Building & Ensemble
- Acting Technique focused on Naturalism
- Explore Modern American Plays/Playwrights
- Introduction to Voice & Diction
- Stage Movement and Composition
- Script Analysis for performance
- Duet Scene Performances
- Introduction to Audition Technique – 1 Minute Monologue (dramatic)

PLAY REVIEWS

Theater Arts 1 students must attend ONE live theatre production PER SEMESTER. (Total of 2 for the current school year.) Theater Arts 1 students can attend a live theater performance here at WHS, a neighboring high school, or community/professional theater. Play Reviews will count as a **major grade**.

*Students taking multiple theater classes are expected to complete 2 Play Reviews per semester.

Theater Arts 1 students must complete the following procedures in order to receive credit for attending the play:

- 1) Attend the entire play performance and keep a ticket stub, program, or other proof of attendance.
- 2) Complete the Play Review worksheet found under the in your theater class's Google Classroom page.

Theatre Arts 2

Character Development

Course Description

Theater Arts 2 is an acting class designed to challenge students to grow as artists and performers. The goal of this class is to develop an awareness of physical and vocal performance skills, and effectively apply these skills while performing in a variety of play genres. There will be an emphasis on movement techniques in development of a character.

Prerequisite

Successful completion of Theater Arts 1 AND theater director's approval

CONTENT

Throughout the school year the student will experience:

- Team Building & Ensemble
- Emphasis on developing character through movement & vocal training
- Laban Movement Exercises
- Acting Techniques of Stanislavski, Cohen, and Miesner
- Audition Monologue - Character role
- Explore Commedia dell'arte, Farce, and Theater for Youth (plays/playwrights)
- Stage Composition
- Building an Online Process Portfolio for performers
- Produce a touring Children's Show that travels to elementary schools in feeder program

PLAY REVIEWS

Theater Arts 2 students must attend ONE live theatre production PER SEMESTER. (Total of 2 for the current school year.) Theater Arts 2 students can attend a live theater performance here at WHS, a neighboring high school, or community/professional theater. Play Reviews will count as a **major grade**.

*Students taking multiple theater classes are expected to complete 2 Play Reviews per semester.

Theater Arts 2 students must complete the following procedures in order to receive credit for attending the play:

- 1) Attend the entire play performance and keep a ticket stub, program, or other proof of attendance.
- 2) Complete the Play Review worksheet found under the in your theater class's Google Classroom page.

Theatre Arts 3

Classical Theater

Course Description

Theater Arts 3 class is an advanced acting course that will focus on developing skills specific to performing classical text like Shakespeare, Moliere, and more. The goal of this class is to develop the actor's skill in understanding and performing heightened text.

Prerequisite

Successful completion of Theater Arts 2 AND theater director's approval.

CONTENT

Throughout the school year the student will experience:

- Ensemble and performance collaboration
- Explore Greek & Elizabethan plays/playwrights
- Greek Theater History & Performance
- Elizabethan History/Style
- Shakespeare Performance
- Stage Combat
- Classical Text Analysis
- English Department Collaborative Production/Scenes
- Classical Audition Monologue

PLAY REVIEWS

Theater Arts 3 students must attend **TWO** live theatre production PER SEMESTER. (Total of 4 for the current school year.) Theater Arts 3 students can attend a live theater performance here at WHS, a neighboring high school, or community/professional theater. Play Reviews will count as a **major grade**.

*Students taking multiple theater classes are expected to complete 2 Play Reviews per semester.

Theater Arts 3 students must complete the following procedures in order to receive credit for attending the play:

- 1) Attend the entire play performance and keep a ticket stub, program, or other proof of attendance.
- 2) Complete the Play Review worksheet found under the in your theater class's Google Classroom page.

Theatre Arts 4

Performance Genres & Styles

Course Description

Theater Arts 4 class is designed to give the student a dynamic experience through the creation of diverse and expressive productions that are a culmination of theatrical skills in acting, design, and directing.

Prerequisite

Successful completion of Theater Arts 3 AND theater director's approval.

CONTENT

Throughout the school year the student will experience:

- Ensemble and play production skills
- Explore plays/playwrights across various genres & styles
- Performing dialects/audition monologue #4
- College audition preparation & portfolio
- Scene writing and devising new work
- Viewpoints Training
- Stage movement and composition

- Senior Directing Project
- Middle School Outreach Play Production

PLAY REVIEWS

Theater Arts 4 students must attend **TWO** live theatre production PER SEMESTER. (Total of 4 for the current school year.) Theater Arts 4 students can attend a live theater performance here at WHS, a neighboring high school, or community/professional theater. Play Reviews will count as a **major grade**.

*Students taking multiple theater classes are expected to complete 2 Play Reviews per semester.

Theater Arts 4 students must complete the following procedures in order to receive credit for attending the play:

- 1) Attend the entire play performance and keep a ticket stub, program, or other proof of attendance.
- 2) Complete the Play Review worksheet found under the in your theater class's Google Classroom page.

Technical Theater 1

Exploring the Production

Course Description

This course is designed to give the student a hands-on introductory experience in each of the technical elements involved in creating a theatrical production.

Content

Throughout the school year the student will experience:

- Theater Safety
- Theater Architecture
- Careers in Theater
- Script Analysis for Design & Production
- Introduction to Scene Shop tools & construction
- Instruction, Design, & Craftsmanship in: Scenery, Lighting, Sound, & Costumes

PLAY REVIEWS

Technical Theater 1 students must attend ONE live theatre production PER SEMESTER. (Total of 2 for the current school year.) Technical Theater 1 students can attend a live theater performance here at WHS, a neighboring high school, or community/professional theater. Play Reviews will count as a **major grade**.

*Students taking multiple theater classes are expected to complete 2 Play Reviews per semester.

Technical Theater 1 students must complete the following procedures in order to receive credit for attending the play:

- 1) Attend the entire play performance and keep a ticket stub, program, or other proof of attendance.
- 2) Complete the Play Review worksheet found under the in your theater class's Google Classroom page.

Advanced Technical Theater 2-4

Creating the world of the Play

Course Description

This course is designed to give the student a hands-on experience in analyzing, designing, building, running, and striking a production.

Content

- Practice Theater Safety
- Analyze scripts for design purposes
- Design, draft, and construct scenery
- Design & implement theatrical lighting & sound
- Execute Stage Management responsibilities
- Design & build costumes
- Script analysis for technical purposes
- Use and upkeep of tools and facilities
- Model professional technical theater crew work

MAINSTAGE AUDITIONS AND CREW INTERVIEWS: All Advanced Tech students are required to participate in Crew Interviews for Musical. Students are not required to accept a position, there will be an option on the interview form for students participating for the class requirement only.

- Musical Crew Interviews: **TBA**

STRIKE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

All Advanced Technical Theater students are required to participate in musical strike. Advanced Tech students are required to stay for the first hour of strike, strike starts when the show is over and the entire company is assembled for instructions. Musical: December 15th approximately 9:00pm

PLAY REVIEWS

Technical Theater 2 students must attend ONE live theatre production **PER SEMESTER**. (Total of 2 for the current school year.)

Theater Arts 3 & 4 students must attend **TWO** live theatre production **PER SEMESTER**. (Total of 4 for the current school year.)

Technical Theater students can attend a live theater performance here at WHS, a neighboring high school, or community/professional theater. Play Reviews will count as a **major grade**.

*Students taking multiple theater classes are expected to complete 2 Play Reviews per semester.

Technical Theater 1 students must complete the following procedures in order to receive credit for attending the play:

- 1) Attend the entire play performance and keep a ticket stub, program, or other proof of attendance.
- 2) Complete the Play Review worksheet found under the in your theater class's Google Classroom page.

Musical Theater I-IV

Engaged Storytelling through Song and Dance

Objectives

Musical Theatre is a unique class in which students study the fundamentals of acting, dancing, singing, and music through rehearsal and production. Students will learn the history of musical theater as they are exposed to musical theater literature. Students will also study specific techniques for auditioning and performance that will build their confidence to participate in musical productions.

Content

Throughout the school year the student will experience:

- Team Building & Ensemble
- Beginning dance technique – jazz, ballet, and modern techniques
- Individual & ensemble vocal performance
- Basic fundamentals of Music
- Fall Musical performance
- Spring Musical performance
- Musical Audition Technique & Repertoire

Grading Policies: All of these grades are averaged for the six weeks grade.

1. Daily Grades 70%
2. Major Grades 30%

Daily Grades include: participation in class/rehearsals, memorization deadlines (for lines, music, and choreography), wearing proper attire during class.

Major Grades include: dress rehearsals, performances, attendance of performances, peer & self-evaluations.

PLAY REVIEWS

Musical Theater 1 & 2 students must attend ONE live theatre production PER SEMESTER. (Total of 2 for the current school year.)

Musical Theater 3 & 4 students must attend **TWO** live theatre production PER SEMESTER. (Total of 4 for the current school year.)

Musical Theater students can attend a live theater performance here at WHS, a neighboring high school, or community/professional theater. Play Reviews will count as a **major grade**.

*Students taking multiple theater classes are expected to complete 2 Play Reviews per semester.

Musical Theater students must complete the following procedures in order to receive credit for attending the play:

- 1) Attend the entire play performance and keep a ticket stub, program, or other proof of attendance.
- 2) Complete the Play Review worksheet found under the in your theater class's Google Classroom page.

APPROPRIATE DANCE ATTIRE: Students will be expected to dress appropriately for dance/movement rehearsals. It is important that you are comfortable and feel confident in the

clothes that you are wearing while dancing and moving on stage. Students will have the dressing rooms available to them to change clothes after class to prepare for school.

Ladies

Please wear comfortable workout pants and shirts that allow for stretching. Jeans will not be allowed for dancing, stretching, or movement. Athletic shorts will be permitted with tights or leggings underneath. Tennis shoes, socks, jazz shoes, jazz sneakers, or ballet shoes will be acceptable for footwear. All women should wear their hair out of their faces when dancing.

Men

Please wear comfortable workout pants or shorts. Jeans will not be allowed for dancing, stretching, or movement. T-shirts must allow room for stretching. Button down shirts should not be worn to class unless instructed. Tennis shoes, socks, or jazz shoes will be acceptable footwear.

ELIGIBILITY: Students must be eligible in order to perform with the musical theater class. We will adhere to the UIL eligibility standards and follow the PFISD grading policy. Therefore, we will monitor students' performances in other classes. Students will be encouraged to attend tutoring and study sessions in order to help them be successful in the classroom. Students who lose their eligibility status will work on their core classwork during the musical theater time to help them be more successful in that class.

Musical Theater Class Requirements

Members of the Musical Theater Class may be expected to perform in a Fall Musical Performance and Spring Musical in-class Performance, as they are a culmination of the work that the students have prepared in the class. Members of MTC are also required to audition for the annual musical. MTC students are encouraged to be in the musical, but may opt out after auditions, if their schedule does not allow them to participate.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please mark your calendars with the following dates. If you foresee a conflict, please notify Ms. Perry as soon as possible. A separate rehearsal schedule for each performance will be sent out closer to the production.

Wednesday, September 5th 4:30-7:30pm - Musical Audition #1

Thursday, September 6th 4:30-7:30pm - Musical Audition #2

Friday September 7th 4:30-7:30pm - Musical Callbacks TBA

December 13th at 7pm, 14th at 7pm, 15th at 2pm and 7pm - Musical Performance Dates

REHEARSAL/CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attendance in class is imperative for successful student growth, cohesion of the ensemble, and ultimately building an effective production. If you have a conflict class time rehearsal or a performance date, please notify Ms. Perry as soon as possible.

If you have a family emergency, please have your parent notify Ms. Perry immediately. If a student has an excused absence during a blocking or choreography rehearsal, they are responsible for the material that was missed. If a student does not learn the choreography or blocking by the next rehearsal for the material that was missed, they are subject to being removed from the number.

Extracurricular Play Production Policies

Weiss Theater Department

BEHAVIORAL OBLIGATIONS

- It is a privilege to be a member of an extracurricular play production; therefore, students must always remember that their actions reflect upon Weiss High School and the Weiss Theater Department. Students involved in our extracurricular productions must commit themselves to excellence and hold themselves to the highest standards in order to stay in the production.
- All school rules and disciplinary actions apply to students involved in extracurricular play productions. Additionally, students with excessive disciplinary issues may be removed from the extracurricular production by the theater director and/or a school administrator.
- The use of alcohol, cigarettes, or illegal drugs of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in immediate removal from the extracurricular production.
- School and District policies regarding In-School Suspension and Suspension/Expulsion will be upheld in all extracurricular productions. Rehearsals missed due to disciplinary actions will be unexcused absences and may result in removal from the company.

GRADES

- No Pass, No Play. Students are expected to maintain good grades while working on a production. If students receive a failing grade on any 9 weeks grading report then they become ineligible for extracurricular activities and will be subject to removal from the cast.
- It is the STUDENT's responsibility to report a failing grade on their 9 weeks report to the director as soon as possible. GRADES COME FIRST.
- Weiss students are encouraged to use Power Hour in order to seek academic help, study, make up assignments, and attend tutorials. Power Hour is the absolute best time for students to take care of their academic homework and they will be encouraged by the Weiss Theater Directors to do so.

Script Selection and Season

The Weiss Theater Department strives to provide quality theater arts education through diverse and equitable play selections each year. The plays that we choose to produce are based on the

needs of the students that are currently involved in our department; therefore play selection will vary from year to year.

Typically, we will produce four main stage productions throughout the school year.

Fall Play –mid-late October

The Fall Play is usually a large cast production directed by a Weiss Theater director. This production is typically a full length drama or comedy one year and will alternate every other year with a classical play such as a Shakespeare or Moliere.

Musical –mid-late December

The annual Musical is the largest production that we will produce every year. It is a collaborative production that involves the Art, Band, Choir, Dance, and Theater departments here at Weiss. It is directed and produced by the Weiss Theater director.

UIL One Act Play – late March-May

The University Interscholastic League hosts the biggest One Act Play competition in the United States here in Texas every spring. Most of the high schools in Texas are involved in this competition. Each school prepares and presents a One Act Play that is no longer than 40 minutes. Schools compete at Zone, or District, and have the opportunity to advance to Bi-District, Area, Region, and State level competition.

As a UIL rule, there can be no more than 15 actors, 5 technicians, and 4 alternates in each cast.

Spring Play Production -OR- Student Directed 10 Minute Play Festival - mid May

The spring show selection will be chosen based on the experience that is necessary for the students we are currently serving. We may choose to produce a play that is directed by one of the Weiss theater directors in more of a traditional play production style. The 10 minute plays will be chosen by the Weiss Theater directors and will usually revolve around a theme.

Students that are interested in directing will go through an application/interview process in the early spring semester. The student directors will work with student actors and technicians to produce their ten minute plays.

Participation Opportunities

Leadership Roles

The Weiss Theater Department cultivates a community of leaders by providing a multitude of student leadership opportunities in every production. When you come see a main stage performance you will see a production run entirely by high school theater students. Students can apply for leadership in performance and production positions prior to a play's audition date. The student leaders are chosen and mentored by the Weiss Theater directors throughout the production process. Student leadership positions include:

(Student Director, Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Student Technical Director, Dramaturg, Student Choreographer, and Crew heads for Lighting, Sound, Props, Costume, Makeup, and Set construction)

Auditions

Casting decisions are difficult to make. The bottom line is that this is educational theater.

Auditions are subjective with an emphasis on what's best for ALL students involved.

We generally cast every student that comes to audition for our shows, in some capacity. We are not in the habit of turning kids away if we don't have to. The UIL One Act Play is the only production that we produce that has a regulated number of students that we can cast. Students may not always be cast in the role or crew position that they hoped to get, but they will usually be a part of the cast in some form or fashion.

Our main stage production auditions are open to ALL Weiss High School students. Students do not have to be in a Theater Arts class in order to audition for these productions.

We post audition announcements in the theater classrooms, on the theater department callboard, and on all Weiss Theater social media sights a few weeks prior to the audition date.

We also run an announcement for the whole school in the weeks prior to an audition.

Auditions are typically held after school in the theater from 4:30-6:30PM and last 2-3 days. The first day is usually a monologue performance or cold reading. The second day is usually a "callback", which means the directors have posted a list of names of students from the first day of auditions that the directors would like to see again.

Musical auditions are a little different as they are usually three days long. Students will usually sign up for one of three audition dates that are posted on the callboard in the theater department. They will report to the theater on the date that they signed up for and will be led through a singing, dancing, and acting audition. Students must attend one of these three general audition dates in order to be considered for casting. Callback auditions will be posted within a day or two of the general auditions. Students must attend the callbacks, if their name is on the callback list, in order to be considered for casting.

Crew Interviews

Students interested in participating on the Technical Crew will apply and interview for available positions, typically the day after call backs for the current production. The application process will typically include an applications to be filled out prior to interviews, an interview with the directors and crew heads for the production, and/or a presentation of research and design materials outlined on the crew application.

Crew Positions typically available are

- Scenery
- Lights
- Sounds
- Costumes
- Publicity
- Hair and Make-up
- House
- Props

Participant Expectations

Rehearsals

Our rehearsals are generally held in the theater from 4:30-6:30PM, Monday-Friday. Rehearsal days and times will vary based on the production. Students are also expected to attend several weekend work days and rehearsals based on the needs of the individual production.

Rehearsal Etiquette

- Every member of the cast and crew is equally important to the success of the production. There are no “stars” or “prima donnas.” Cooperation is essential to building an ensemble.
- The production staff and crew are the directors assistants and are directly responsible to the director. They are there to support you, as a cast member, and they shall be treated with respect. If a problem arises between any member of the cast or crew, both parties should see the director immediately.
- There can only be one director. Avoid offering unsolicited suggestion, chastising, arguing with, or prompting another actor.
- Conversation backstage, either in rehearsal or performance, should be restricted to matters concerning the production.
- Give your best at each rehearsal or performance and expect the best from those around you. Always work up to your full potential rather than “marking” or “walking through” a rehearsal, so that everyone knows what to expect.
- Cell Phones and/or other electronic devices are not allowed on stage, backstage, or in the booth. Put them away before rehearsal begins. You may check your phone during breaks. This goes for ALL members of the company.

Performances

- Cast and Crew members are generally called one hour before curtain for a straight play and an hour and a half for a musical. (Individual prep times may require actors to arrive before call time in order to be performance ready by warm ups.)
- Students must hang up all costumes and change into their street clothes before they will be allowed to go in front of house after a production.
- Only cast and crew members are allowed backstage and in the dressing rooms before, during, and after a production. The actors will greet their family and friends in the theater lobby after the production.
- If there is an emergency and you need to contact a cast/crew member during a production, please notify one of the theater directors to assist you.

Show Photography and Video

There are very strict copyright laws that we are bound to in our royalty agreements, therefore we do not allow our audience members to photograph or film our productions. We hire a professional photographer to take cast photos of every production. We will make these photos available to our theater students and families once the photos are released. We will also hire a professional videographer to film and edit our productions when it is allowed under copyright. We will make these DVD's available to theater students and families as well.

Show Week

“Show week” is the hectic week before we open a show. The final days of rehearsal are an intricate part of the production process because it usually involves integrating and coordinating all the aspects of production into a final, audience worthy product. Students should be prepared for the stress and heightened work load of this portion of the process. We expect students to be aware of the demands and continue to meet academic expectations during this time. This will mean working ahead in courses and making mature decisions about academic priorities.

Strike

All participants of a production, cast and crew are expected to be present for the entirety of Strike. The goal of Strike is to restore the theater facilities and resources to the state of functioning organization. In other words, EVERYTHING used in the production is returned to its pre-production condition. **No one in the company is released until all of the Strike is complete to the satisfaction of the directors.**

Audience Etiquette

Whether attending an Weiss High School performance, visiting another high school's production, or a professional production, you are expected to serve as an example and an ambassador of Weiss High School and this theater department. Everyone in the audience has been looking forward to seeing the performance. A production team puts in many long hours and a lot of hard work to mount a performance for an audience. If you keep in mind common courtesy for the performers as well as your fellow audience members, everyone's theater experience will be optimized.

Here are a few guidelines to following proper Audience Etiquette:

1. Plan to arrive 15-20 minutes before the performance begins.
2. Respect postings on gum, food, drinks, or candy policies in the theater.
3. Please go to the bathroom before seating for performance or at intermission.
4. Turn OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES and/or anything that can disturb the production, actors and the audience members during the performance. It is very impolite to have it go off during the show.
5. Light will dim just before a performance and then go dark. Show your knowledge by sitting quietly and calmly.

6. Do not talk or whisper during the performance. The actors on stage can hear you which is why you can hear them so way. Laughter is permissible only at appropriate times.
7. No taking pictures or video recording is allowed.
8. Don't leave your seat until the cast has taken their curtain call at the end.
9. Show your appreciation by clapping, and if so moved, stand and clap. The actors love to hear applause. This shows how much you enjoyed the performance.
10. Yelling, screaming, standing on chairs, and noise makers are NOT appropriate for the theater.

WOLF P.A.C. Technicians

HIRING/TRAINING PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TECHNICIANS

Pflugerville ISD allows the staffing of student technicians for the performing arts centers at each of the high school campuses. Student technicians receive hourly pay at \$12.50 per hour and are paid monthly.

The Weiss P.A.C. Manager will use the following Pflugerville ISD policies in order to hire/train the Weiss Performing Arts Center each year:

- Student technicians must be highly qualified and trained in rigging and fly, lighting, sound, stage management and house management.
- Student Technicians must be enrolled in an upper level Technical Theatre course while employed.
- All student technicians interested in becoming a paid PAC technician must apply for the position and submit to the PAC Manager for hire.
- Once hired by the Weiss PAC Manager, student technicians must be able to present the following paperwork in order to complete the hiring process:
 - PAC Technician Application
 - PfISD Volunteer Application
 - W-2
 - Citizen Verification Form
 - Copy of the students DL -OR- student ID
 - Copy of the student's social security card
- Each campus can staff up to 10 student technicians for the year.
- Campus and district events are limited to 3 technicians per event unless more is required. If additional technicians are needed this must be approved by The Fine Arts Director.
- Rentals are limited to 4 technicians per event, unless the rental agreement specifies more is needed.
- At the beginning and end of each shift, technicians must fill out and complete the required duties sheet and log their times. This will be used when verifying timesheets each month.
- Monthly timesheets must be submitted no later than the 3rd of every month for payment of the previous month's work. This applies to both the PAC Manager and PAC student technicians. Late timesheets will not be processed.

Weiss Theater Letter Jacket Requirements

In order to be eligible to earn a letter jacket for theater at Weiss High School, students must participate in a minimum of 8 main stage productions in the Weiss Theater Department and meet the following criteria:

- Have a minimum of 3 Theater Arts OR Technical Theater class credits.
- Participate as a technician in at least one production (if you are primarily an actor) or, participate as an actor in at least one production (if you are primarily a technician).

Special Notes:

- Main stage productions will be determined by the theater director. Student directed and in-class productions will count as a ½ credit.
- Credit for technical participation will be determined by the theater director and will depend on the amount of time the student committed to the production. Ushering & Concessions will not count towards credit to earn a letter jacket as it does not require a time commitment.

Procedures for ordering the letter jacket:

The Weiss Theater director will collect all Letter Jacket forms after the UIL One Act Play cast lists have been posted, so that they will arrive in time for the Theater Banquet. (Usually in mid-February)

All theater students interested in earning a letter jacket must check in with their theater teacher to receive a Letter Jacket Checklist. The directors will verify that the student has met the necessary requirements and will be informed if they will receive a letter jacket.

Weiss Theater Student Pledge & Digital Signature

Student Pledge

I have read the Weiss Theater Department Handbook. (available @ www.weisstheater.com) I understand and accept the duties and responsibilities of a student in this theater arts program. I realize that failure to abide by the policies of this class may result in my immediate dismissal from the class. *I also realize that an unexcused absence from a performance may result in an automatic "F" for the project.*

Digital Signature

All Weiss Theater students must verify that they have read the department handbook by clicking on the following link and completing the short form. This is the first graded assignment of all theater classes and will count as a zero in the gradebook if not completed.

<https://goo.gl/forms/sIcdU6RW5eNIorfp1>