



**ADVENTIST YOUTH THEATRE CERTIFICATION
(AYT)**

Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Department of Youth Ministries
Adventist Youth Theatre Certification Syllabus
Spring 2014-Fall 2014

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES: Adventist Youth Theatre Certification (AYT) - is designed for students who are interested in using the art of theatre as a catalyst to bring forth the message of Christ's Gospel to life. This program highlights the theoretical, critical and historical approaches for preparing theatre as a tool for evangelism, while providing and requiring a hands-on experience in drama. Students are taught all aspects of this performing art, allowing their expertise to be used effectively in a myriad of other ministries, including within and outside the Adventist Community in the Greater New York Area.

The main goal is that you learn the art of Theatre and that you understand its great significance as an instrument for evangelism in God's work and in our Church. All participants will be required to be heavily involved and engaged in class discussions as well as activities.

FEES:

Each potential graduate must make the following payments prior to examination day:

- Graduation fee: \$35 *Sun, Sept 14th*
- Uniform fee: (AYT Long Sleeve Shirt) \$35 *Sun, Sept 14th*
- Mandated Spiritual Retreat: \$15 *Sat, May 10th*

**Each candidate can only graduate from one (1) GNYC Adventist Youth Ministries course at a time*

PRE-REQUISITES

Be at least 16 years of age by graduation.

Be a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Be a member of the leadership team for at least one of the following:

Adventist Youth Society, Teens Club, Young Adult or Small Group Ministry, Youth Council, Youth Choir, Collegiate Ministry, Youth or Young Adult Elder, Youth or Young Adult Sabbath School, Adventist Youth Emergency Services Corps (AYES), Local Church NSO Representative, Youth Media Ministry or Conference AY Coordinators Advisory, Passion Play.

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**REQUIRED TEXTS: SOME BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT AMAZON.COM, KINDLE,
AND THE YOUR LOCAL ABC STORE.**

BOOKS:

- *THE HOLY BIBLE*
- Ellen G. White, *EVANGELISM (You can also find the app)*
- Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* and *The Desire of Ages*
- Steve Pederson, *Drama Ministry*
- Michael Rohd, *Theatre for Community Conflict and Dialogue: The Hope is Vita Training Manual*
- William Ball, *A Sense of Direction: Some Observations on the Art of Directing*
-

ARTICLES: THESE ARTICLES WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU IN CLASS

- Chapters from Stella Adlers, *THE ART OF ACTING*
- Chapters from Uta Hagen, *A CHALLENGE FOR THE ACTOR*
- Chapters from Mira Felner, *FREE TO ACT: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ACTING* (2nd Ed)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

- **REGULAR, PROMPT ATTENDANCE: 20%**
You are expected to be in attendance for every class and be on time and ready to start. If you must be absent or late for medical reasons, please speak to me and provide appropriate documentation. Every UNEXCUSED absence after the third will reduce your final grade by 5%. Any lateness counts as half an absence (e.g. two lateness's equals an absence).
- **IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION: 20%**
Theatre is a hands-on, collaborative art form. You will be expected to come to class having carefully prepared the assigned materials, engage in in class theatre games, improvisations, physical, sensory, and emotional exploration; monologues, character and text analysis, scene study, the working relationship between actor and director, final performances, and the elements that contribute to a full theatre production.
- **IN-SERVICE TRAINING: 20%**
Must complete both In-service requirements
 - A. Serve in the Passion Play *The Risen* as part of any production teams (acting, assistant stage management, costumes, backstage crew, make up, or construction) for the next 4 months. A time sheet will be given to you to note down the crew hours you have accumulated while in service, including the signature of your designated supervisor.

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Please speak with Passion Play Production Director to get approval. Please note the quality of your work and hours that you invest will be taken into account to help advance your grade. *You will be required to write a two page double spaced **RESPONSE** paper on your experience in working on a full length ministry production due Saturday, April 26th, 2014*

- B. Within the eight (8) months, prior to graduation, lead or assist a team in the planning and operation of a theatre production in ONE of the following areas. Please make sure to bring evidence of your programs (*program bill with your name included and signature of your Pastor or first Elder*). If you don't provide the required documentation you will not get credited for your work and it will affect your grade.

____ Youth or Young Adult Week of Evangelism
____ Adventist Youth Society in your church
____ Youth or Young Adult Sabbath School

- **PERFORMANCE REVIEWS: 5%**

You are required to attend two productions. One from our network of Adventist churches who will be holding production performances of biblical themes. And a main stage production (e.g. Sight and Sound Theatre). There are other Main stage productions out, but you must obtain a prior approval from the instructor. For each production that you attend you **MUST** bring the program bill for that performance as proof of your attendance, and ticket stub if possible. You will be required to write a **REACTIONARY** two (2) page double spaced paper on what you experienced. Here are some questions to help you begin thinking and observe with a constructively critical eye to then write your paper.

1. *What were significant choices made by the actors, director, and designers?*
2. *Which choices did you like, and which did you find unnecessary or not thought out well?*
3. *What were your intellectual, emotional, or visceral responses to the production?*

Your paper will be evaluated based both on your ideas and how well you communicate them. So spelling, grammar, and composition count!

- **JOURNALS: 10%**

Keeping a journal sharpens your thinking; helps untangle confusion, and develop understanding. It is also an effective means of assessing your progress. Bring your journal to each class. Start your acting log to record the following after each class:

1. *A log of the exercises and warm ups done in each session*

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2. *Acting class notes*
3. *Technical points learned from other students' scenes*
4. *Rehearsal notes*
5. *Scene and character analysis*
6. *Personal experience that affect acting*
7. *Interesting observations about people and their situations to draw on for character work.*
8. *Remember you should make an entry after every class. Use the class time for doing and watching, the journal for evaluating and understanding. There will be occasions in which you will be provided some time before the sessions end to write on your journals.*

- **PAPERS: 5%**

The Reactionary and Response papers are designed to challenge your thinking about the material, activities, and progress covered in class in regards to its relationship to God's ministry and spirituality. Please note there is no right or wrong answer to the questions given to you. They should offer you an opportunity to develop your critical thinking skills, hone your opinions into cogent arguments and formulate your thoughts into structured writings. All papers must be written two (2) pages double spaced and emailed by the beginning of class time when it's due, plus a hard copy brought to class and given to me by the due date. You are to submit a total of four (4) papers (two Reactionary papers and 1 Response paper on the Passion play "*THE RISEN*", and 1 Response paper on one of the assigned readings). Please use the following format: double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt.

LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If you have not e-mailed your response before the beginning of the class time when it is due, and fail to bring in a hard copy, you will receive a zero on that reactionary/response paper. Only illness with a doctor's note will be accepted as an excuse. So please do them (and print them) in advance.

- **READING/QUIZZES: 5%**

All readings should be completed before the class meeting for which they are indicated. Additionally there will be in-section, unannounced quizzes (pop quizzes). If you are absent without an excuse you will get a zero on the quiz. **The best three of your four quizzes will be counted.**

- **CREATIVE PROJECTS: 10%**

Create and submit the following:

1. One (1) educational drama program for an Adventist Youth Society

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2. One (1) outreach program in the community or one (1) program for young people who have left the church (with spiritual focus) for outside the walls of our church program.

Please include references where possible, must be originals.

The best one will be used as a performance piece for Graduation on Saturday, November 15th, 2014

- **BINDERS: 5%**

All written assignments must be part of the binder. Headers and footers are required. Obtain template from your instructor. Please use the following format in all papers: double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt. **DO NOT INCLUDE THIS SYLLABUS IN THE BINDER.** Binders must have dividers for each section (provided) by the instructor).

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

Greater New York Youth Department: www.gnycyouth.com

Atlantic Union Youth Department: www.auyouth.com

North American Division Youth Department: www.adventistyouthministries.org

General Conference Youth Department: www.gcyyouthministries.org

PLAGIARISM POLICY:

Copying any elements of another candidate's binder or cheating of any kind during the exam or papers is UNACCEPTABLE and won't be TOLERATED. Each element of the binder should be expressed in the candidate's own words. Please be aware that the official definition of plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of three (3) or more words from another person's writing, or of any of their ideas without proper attribution. You must site your sources. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Each candidate must be able to complete the final exam using his/her own efforts in an honest manner. Any plagiarism or cheating will result in the candidate's ineligibility to graduate. If you have any questions about how to cite a source, or if you are unsure about any material that you have included in your assignments, please contact the instructor.