SYLLABUS
DNC 127 Improvisational Technique
Sam Houston State University
Department of Theatre and Dance
Fall Semester 2007 M/W/F 10:00-10:50 am

Instructor: Maggie Lasher    E-Mail: myl001@shsu.edu
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Hours: Tues./Thurs. 12:30-2:00 pm   Dance Office: (936)294-1875
(and by appointment)

Course Description:
Improvisation is a learned skill that assists the performer and choreographer in a number of ways.
For the choreographer, improvisation can aid in the discovery of new movement and help to find the true
essence and meaning behind a dance. Through improvisation, the performer can expand his or her
movement potential, discover new ways of moving, become comfortable with a wide range of movement
styles, learn how to react and interact with other dancers, and discover a myriad of ways to unleash his or
her creative being.

In this class students will be introduced to a variety of movement explorations. Students will be
asked to leave all inhibitions and judgement at the door and make themselves available to the ideas being
introduced through improvisation. Class time will be spent on moving alone as well as in pairs and
groups, having open and honest discussions, exploring contact improvisation, learning how to use the
voice as a dance tool, plus writing, drawing, and reflecting on exercises and personal development.

Course Objectives:
• become comfortable with exploring the unknown through dance
• discover ways of finding new movement
• build camaraderie, trust and relationships with each other
• create a safe environment where each student feels comfortable enough to allow his or her true
  personal expression to let loose

Course Requirements:
• The main requirement is that all students are open to the exercises and ready to participate.
  Students must demonstrate a positive attitude to try new things and show a willingness to
  participate at all times. Individual participation and attitude will be assessed at the end of each
  week and assigned a grade.
• Throughout the semester a number of opportunities for reflections will be presented. These will
  occur in class and will come in the form of writing, drawing, and visual art. These reflections will
  be turned in for a grade. Reflections cannot be made up, however, missing two or three
  reflections will probably not effect your grade.
• Students will compile boxes of inspiration and create improvisational dances from the
  inspirations. These will be presented for a grade. More information on your inspiration boxes will
  be given throughout the semester.
• A few readings and take home writings will be given throughout the semester and will be turned
  in for a grade.
• Students will present a graded final improvisation for Major’s Workshop at the end of the
  semester. Students will be graded on this performance.