THE DIRECTORS’ WORKSHOP COURSE OUTLINE

**ALL SESSIONS AT KFC (KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS)**

SESSION 1 – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER **18**, 2023 1:00 TO 4:00

1. Choosing a Play – Considerations

- The type of play and your audience

- Its length

- The cost of production

- The play’s demands: Do we have the actors; do

 we have the technicians?

- Why do you want to do this particular play?

 - What do you think you can bring to it?

1. Auditions
* Pre-casting vs. Inviting actors to audition
* Choosing Sides vs. Monologues
* Appointments and grouping as dictated by the script
* Where to hold them; the importance of voice
* Directing during auditions
* Callbacks and checking chemistry
* Considerations when casting
1. Setting the Rehearsal Schedule
* How many rehearsals will be needed? How often to rehearse
* Using French Scenes and Runs
* Read-throughs and Table work
* Off book dates and using your Stage Management team

SESSION 2 – SATURDAY, DECEMBER **2**, 2023 1:00 TO 4:00

1. Pre-Blocking - Why, how and when

2. The Principles of Blocking

3. Examples of what does and doesn’t work

By the end of this session, French Scenes from a play with 2 or 3 characters and a bare stage will be distributed to participants to block for the next session. The same scenes will be given to 3 or 4 participants, so that next session’s discussion can include a look at the different approaches taken.

SESSION 3 – SATURDAY, DECEMBER **30,** 2023 1:00 TO 4:00

Participants’ French Scenes will be staged by each participant, with actors who have volunteered to help. Discussion will follow each.

By the end of this session, French Scenes from a play with furniture and 3 or more characters making entrances and exits will be distributed to participants to block for the next session.

SESSION 4 – SATURDAY, JANUARY **6,** 2024 1:00 to 4:00

Participants’ latest French Scenes will be staged by each participant, with actors who have volunteered to help. Some of the first set of scenes may be re-staged. Discussion will follow.

At the end of this session, participants will be given the choice of taking one or more One Act scripts home, to consider committing to directing one for the One Act Festival in the spring/fall. I’ll provide a selection of One Acts for those who do not have one in mind. Before the next session those participants who have chosen a One Act will inform me of their choice and we’ll choose a part of the One Act to work on in the coming sessions.

SESSION 5 – SATURDAY, JANUARY **20,** 2024 1:00 TO 4:00

1. Dealing with the Actors in Rehearsal
* Public and Private Notes
* Volume issues
* Pace issues
* Blocking issues
1. Dealing with your Techies
* Sharing your vision and accepting changes
* Compromising
* Tech week scheduling

Towards the end of this session, we will read and discuss the One Acts that participants have chosen, giving participants who want to work on a One Act some ideas for the preliminary blocking of a part or all of their One Act. Not everyone has to pick a One Act; you have the choice of participating by observing and giving suggestions.

SESSION 6 – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY **3,** 2024 1:00 TO 4:00

This session we will work on the preliminary blocking of the One Acts (or a part of the One Acts) that participants have chosen. We will also discuss how to successfully meet the particular challenges of each.

It is hoped that by this time, a date or dates will have been set by the Roxy for the One Acts. My intention is to assist, as requested, through casting and rehearsals with each participant, whether that be through the balance of the winter to a spring performance, or through the summer to a fall performance.

Kevin Haxell October 29, 2023.