ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Theatre Arts program at Cupertino High School offers something for every student, from basic skills in Beginning Drama to advanced performance or technical techniques and participation in full-scale theatrical production. While Beginning Drama can offer students important practice in teamwork and self-presentation, students who continue in the performing arts have found that they are unique candidates for colleges and have a good basis for a variety of professional careers. Cupertino Actors Theatre participates in theatrical competitions at California colleges and students place in top categories for excellence in performance and design. We believe that participation in the arts contributes to scholastic achievement and that the development of the important skills of teamwork, self-confidence, concentration, observation, imagination and creativity create the well-rounded innovators of tomorrow.

Alumni of the audition-only Advanced Honors program (CAT) have gone to Yale, Brown, NYU, Northwestern, Cornell, Columbia, and USC as well as the UC schools to name a few. Alums of our program are currently active in local professional theatre and working in design and performance in Los Angeles and New York. Former “drama kids” are pursuing careers in tech, finance, law, medicine, law enforcement, education, music production, sound design, film production, and international business in all forms. We have alums at GoPro, Linkedin, Google, Apple and Microsoft. For every student who has what it takes and chooses a career in the performing arts, there are numerous others who use what they have learned in theatre to enrich their studies and make connections in other fields. Our students are innovators, collaborators, and creators, and most importantly, our students can talk to anyone.

CALIFORNIA STANDARDS FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

1.0 ARTISTIC PERCEPTION- Students observe their environment and works of film and theatre and respond, using the vocabulary of theatre.

2.0 CREATIVE EXPRESSION- Students apply processes and skills in acting, directing, designing, and scriptwriting to create original and scripted performances.

3.0 CONTEXT-HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL- Students analyze the role and development of world theatre and media in past and present cultures.

4.0 AESTHETIC VALUING – Students critique and derive meaning from works of theatre on the basis of aesthetic qualities.

5.0 CONNECTIONS, RELATIONSHIPS AND APPLICATIONS- Students apply what they learn in theatre across subject areas, discovering personal competencies and skills.
COURSES OFFERED

BEGINNING DRAMA
Open to all students. Students learn teambuilding skills, self-expression, acting, voice and movement skills, dramatic writing, design skills, theatre history and appreciation, script analysis and production. NO OUTSIDE OF CLASS TIME REHEARSALS.

ADVANCED DRAMA
Open to students who have taken Beginning Drama or incoming students by audition. Students continue their study of acting and acting styles, script analysis of major plays from a variety of historical periods. Students are strongly encouraged to be involved with Stagecraft and audition for mainstage shows. PARTICIPATION IN ADVANCED DRAMA SHOWCASE AND ONE ACTS MANDATORY.

ADVANCED DRAMA HONORS (CUPERTINO ACTORS THEATRE)
Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors by audition only. Production focused course with a heavy rehearsal schedule. Students produce three shows and participate in several outside of school competitions, representing CHS at Lenaea and Ohlone College Theatre Festivals. Time commitment is comparable to that of playing two seasons of sports. PARTICIPATION IN ALL SHOWS, EITHER AS CAST OR CREW, MANDATORY.

CLUBS, ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTIONS 2016-2017

• Stagecraft (Set Design, Sound Design, Costumes, Props, Publicity, Hair and Makeup for mainstage shows) meets every Thursday at Lunch in room 722.
• Festivals and Competitions, Advanced and Advanced Honors students only- TBD
• Tino Shakes (audition only) performs selections of Shakespeare scenes and other world theatre for Literature classes.
• Fall Production: The Drowsy Chaperone, November 4,5,11 and 12, 2016
• Spring Production, Macbeth, Rehearses p. 7 and after school January through March. Performs March 24, 25, 31 and April 1, 2017 at 7 pm in the theatre.
• Overnight Trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, the largest theatre festival in North America. April 12-15. Approximately $525 per student.
• One Acts “We Could Be Heroes”- All Drama Students participate. April 27, 28, 29, 2017 at 7pm in the theatre.

AUDITION INFORMATION
Placement auditions for all levels of theatre take place in April and May. Incoming freshman may audition to skip Beginning Drama, and Beginning Drama and Advanced Drama students may audition for Cupertino Actors Theatre. Please email arcadia_conrad@fuhsd.org for more information.