

John Dewey High School
Dr. Michael J. Costelloe, Principal

English Department
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REPCO: Jerome Majzlin, instr.

REPCO: AN INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM FOR A
DRAMA REPERTORY COMPANY IN A SECONDARY
SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The company is an English class, offered for Communications or Elective credit. It functions for five cycles, presenting four rounds of plays beginning with the second week of cycle 2, and thereafter the second week of succeeding cycles. Performances run for a full week, providing for at least three performances of each play produced.

It is a production company; all roles and responsibilities relative to play production are filled by members of the company. These roles and responsibilities generally reappear from round to round, but are filled by different people with the changing needs of each play from round to round.

Directors by and large form the nucleus of the group. They are always volunteers; the only prerequisite is that they have stage-managed at least once. They select their plays (usually one-act plays; they may select a full-length play only in consultation with the instructor), stage managers, lighting designers, set designers, costume designers, props persons, sound people, and any other crew people they need for their productions. They cast from among the company only, auditioning any and all who wish to act. The directors cast "in concert" so as to provide a balanced program of plays as well as to equitably distribute the work load among actors. The directors determine the dress and technical rehearsal schedules, as well as the performance schedule. Each director is responsible for a production schedule detailing the goals of each rehearsal session for his/her own play.

With the exception of the first round of plays (9 week production period), the typical production period for each round is about 7 weeks, as follows:

- I. Critique sessions of previous round of performances
Auditions for new round of plays; casting of plays
- II. Blocking of plays
Design concepts established
- III. Characterization developed
Floor plans, set design plates, costume plates finalized
Lighting plots drawn and finalized
- IV. Characterization continued
Sets constructed; construction of costumes begun
Lights begin to be hung
- V. Pacing of plays
Sets finish construction; painting; costumes finished
Lights finish hanging; begin focussing
- VI. Dress/tech. week
- VII. Performance week