

**The University of Central Missouri
Division of Theatre & Dance & Department of Communication
Present....**



**A Theatre & Dance and Communication Workshop Festival
Wednesday, November 18th, 2026**

You and your students are invited to attend this one-day festival featuring:

- Workshops in acting, auditioning, design and technology, speech, dance, choreography, digital media, and more!
- A campus tour
- A performance of UCM's main stage production of ***Shrek the Musical***
- A post-show discussion with the directors, designers, production team, and cast of ***Shrek the Musical***.
- The opportunity to visit and share ideas with numerous high school theatre instructors and students.

Admission for the day is \$7.00 per student attending the 2 pm matinee and free for all instructors, sponsors, and bus drivers. **Money is due on the day of the event via cash or check only** (Please make checks payable to the UCM Division of Theatre & Dance). We are happy to send your school an invoice if needed - (email: Sydney Crank: crank@ucmo.edu)

Schedule for the Day (Tentative)

8:45	Arrive at UCM Highlander Theatre
9:00	Welcome and Intros
9:15	Release to the 1st workshop
9:30	1st Workshop
10:30	2nd Workshop
11:30-1	Lunch on your own
1:00	Campus tour or Talking Mules Showcase (Union Auditorium)
2:00	<i>Shrek</i> Matinee, DMP Activity or Talking Mules Workshop
4:30	Talkback with the cast and crew or "Director's Cut" with DMP
5:00	Head home

2026 UCM High School Workshop Titles and Descriptions

Name	Workshop Title	Class Size	Room Numbers	Workshop Descriptions
Caleb Wands	Audition Etiquette	30	Martin 130	Auditions may be scary, and you may not know what to do. This workshop will tackle those audition fears and provide meaningful audition practice.
Sydney Crank Ashley Miller-Scully	Teacher Roundtable	N/A	Martin 128	Join us to discuss the current state of education, contribute content for future educators, and bring a fun lesson plan to share. Teachers only. Dual-credit teachers are strongly encouraged to attend.
Dr. Kasey Lynch	Murder at the Met Gala	30	Morrow 165A	There is a murderer on the loose at the Met Gala! Focus on formulating and committing to character in this Augusto Boal-inspired activity where worlds collide, characters collude, and dramatic stage deaths abound. You will explore how to critically analyze and embody a character's physical, vocal, and emotional life. But, be careful not to break character when the other Met Gala attendees start pointing fingers at you in this high-energy improv activity!
Alice Combs	Color Theory for Lighting Design	25	Martin 134	Have you ever wondered what colors make something look happy or scary? This class will teach you all that and more through the art of lighting design!
Caleb Klaus	CORE in Improvisation	40	Union 236	Students will learn all about CORE (one of the basic concepts of improv). We will have tons of fun playing and watching our peers play improv games and exercises. Bring nothing but yourself!
CJ Miller	Debate & Conquer: Unlocking the Secrets of College Speech	30	Martin 223	Have you ever wondered about college Forensics & Debate? Dive into the thrilling world of college speech and debate! Whether you're a future champion or just curious, join us for an interactive workshop where you'll discover the strategies, skills, and stories that make this academic sport so electrifying.

Grace'e Carr	The Bard's not Boring: The Basics of Performing Shakespeare	30	Martin 126	Do you think Shakespeare is boring? Or have you ever avoided reading or auditioning for his plays because the text is "too hard?" Well put down the <i>No Fear Shakespeare</i> and learn to trust the text. In this interactive workshop we will learn the acting cues Shakespeare embedded in his writing to unlock the original text, making it easier to understand and perform!
Cassie Kay Hoppas	Hand Sewing: Owls	20	Wood 104	Learn some basic hand sewing techniques while you assemble a hand sewn owl! Materials will be provided, and you are welcome to take your owl with you.
Dr. Eric Newsom	Hit Me With Your Best Shot—How to Talk About Film	30	Martin 125	Why do we like movies? How do they work? How do we know if a movie is any good? Why do we still think about some movies long after we've seen them? This session invites students to analyze a scene from a film to discover what makes it successful in terms of story, production design, cinematography, acting, editing, sound, ideology, and more.
Dr. Steve Price	How to Shoot Photos that Don't Stink	32	Wood 100	Phones shoot pretty good photos these days, but there are still things that a professional photographer does that set their pictures apart from the rest. Learn a few things (hands-on with our DSLR cameras) about shooting professional photos.
Dr. Michael Graves	Map Your Movie: A Three-Act Screenwriting Workshop	20	Wood 103	Step into a screenwriting class and see how screenwriters use formatting, visual storytelling, and the three-act structure to turn an idea into a movie. Then choose a movie premise and develop it into a feature film by mapping its five major turning points.
Spencer Musser	Mask Making	18	Martin 104	Students will learn how to create theatrical masks with materials found in a scenic shop.
Paige Showen	Managing Performance Jitters	30	Wood 108	Students will participate in a variety of speaking warm-ups that focus on preparing mind, body, and voice for presentations, performances, and even interviews!
Hannah Rodriguez-Nemeth	Can I Speak to Your Manager?: Learning the Intricacies of Stage	30	Martin 115	Students will learn who a stage manager is, where they land in a production, and all they exactly do. They will also learn what it means to

	Management			communicate with your production team. Students will understand why having a stage manager is so important to a show's production.
Rae Weber	<i>tick, tick... BOOM!</i> Choreography	40	Morrow 167A	Join us to learn some choreography to “BOHO Days” from <i>tick, tick... BOOM!</i> Come dressed to move and ready to dance!
Allie Whitbey	<i>Shrek the Musical</i> Choreography	40	Morrow 166A	Join us to learn some choreography from our very own production of <i>Shrek the Musical</i> ! Come dressed to move and ready to dance!
Dr. Joe Moore	Podcasting: News and Beyond	10	Martin 136C Comm Conference Room	Podcasting isn't just a radio talk show that is available on demand. Discover the various options available and learn how to use it as a public speaking tool.
Dr. Nicole Freeman	Leaders, Teammates, and Your True Colors	20	Martin 227	Are you a GOLD, BLUE, GREEN or ORANGE type of leader? Participants will identify their true colors and learn how to leverage their natural strengths while adapting their leadership style to collaborate effectively with others.
Hayden Etter	QuickWit: Speak Up, Think Fast!	30	Wood 307	In this interactive workshop, high school students will explore the power of impromptu speaking and discover how it can enhance their confidence in everyday conversations. Whether it's answering a surprise question in class, speaking up in a group chat, or handling an unexpected situation, this session will equip students with fun techniques to think quickly, speak clearly, and make an impact without breaking a sweat. Perfect for anyone looking to elevate their communication skills in real-life scenarios!
Shannon Johnson	Foley in Film	20	Wood 305	Take a peek into the world of a Foley artist. We will create all the audio sounds you hear in a film.
Dr. Jordan Compton	Speech and Debate Student Talkback	30	Martin 127G	Ever wonder if you can continue to participate in speech and debate in college? You can! Come and talk to our Talking Mules Director about all the benefits of college forensics! Feel free to ask any questions as they talk about the travel, content, and social aspects of becoming a Talking Mule!

Dr. Aaron Scully	Stage Combat	40	Union 238	Learn unarmed stage combat techniques and skills in this interactive workshop.
UCM Students	Talk to UCM Students about how to get Involved	30	Wood 310	Learn about the student organizations you can get involved with while you are at UCM. This panel discussion will be made up of current students in our theatre and communication organizations.
Ashley Singh	The Persuasion Playbook	20	Martin 226	This workshop teaches high school students how to strengthen their persuasive speaking skills. They will learn how to make strong arguments, connect with their audience and use emotion, logic and evidence. Students will also practice creating and giving their own short persuasive speeches.
Kelly Akers Alex Demint	Theatre Games	30	Union 240	Students will engage in acting and character games.
Ty Schroeder	Putting it All On Paper: Understanding Playwrighting	20	Wood 205	Students will have the chance to engage in the first stage of all theatre: writing. Through thematic activities, plot dissections, and evocative image exercises, students will have the opportunity to see how the thematic pieces of a show all fit together, and explore resources and tactics they can use to improve their material both on and off-stage.
Chase Dernier	Build-a-Character	20	Martin 228	This workshop will teach you how to create unique and believable characters. You'll explore their personalities, emotions, backgrounds, and motivations. We will partake in fun activities that will teach you how to make each character feel real and interesting, and you will walk away with resources to help you build future characters.
Radio Club	Radio Club Talkback	20	Martin 100A	
Darin Plummer	Media Tech	10	Martin 24B (CTV Studio Basement)	In this session, we will set up cameras and tripods, hook up microphones, and conduct interviews. Students will get hands-on experience with prosumer camcorders and lav mics, and will utilize the rule of thirds in video production.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All students and faculty members must submit a waiver of liability and a photo waiver upon registration to participate in the Workshop Day. Both are located at the bottom of this packet!

Food Services Information

You'll be on your own for lunch! Feel free to grab a bite at the Elliott Student Union [dining options](#) or head over to The Crossing for Spin! Pizza or Dunkin' Donuts. If you want a full meal, we recommend bringing \$8 to check out the all-you-can-eat campus dining halls. More detailed information can be found on the [Registration Site](#) (clickable link).

Parking Information

Buses can load/unload in front of the Wood/Martin Buildings on Clark Street, but must park behind the UCM JCKL Library in lot 32. A campus map is attached.

Highlander Theatre Rules

Please cover the rules of our beautiful theatre space with your students before you arrive on campus.

1. No food or drink is allowed in the Highlander.
2. Please refrain from placing your feet on the seats.
3. Please sit correctly in your seat and remain fully seated throughout your experience.
4. Students should only access their seats via the side house stairs. Please refrain from using the spaces between the seats, as this poses a safety hazard.
5. Any photography or videography of *Shrek the Musical* is prohibited, but feel free to take other photos throughout the day!

Attire

Please encourage your students to wear tennis shoes/sneakers and clothing that allows them to move comfortably as they walk around campus. The majority of our workshops are ACTIVE! If they intend to take a dance workshop, please encourage them to bring dance shoes if they have them!

UCM Faculty/Student Ratio Campus Visit Policy

There must be 1 adult chaperone for every 20 high school students.

See below for the UCM Campus Map and important student waivers!

WAIVER OF LIABILITY & HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT
THIS IS A RELEASE OF LEGAL RIGHTS – READ AND UNDERSTAND BEFORE SIGNING

1. In consideration for participating in the _____ and other valuable consideration, I hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the University of Central Missouri, the Board of Governors, their officers, servants, agents, and employees (hereinafter referred to as RELEASEES) from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, or to any property belonging to me, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, or otherwise, while participating in such activity, or while in, on or upon the premises where the activity is being conducted or in transportation to and from said premises.
2. To the best of my knowledge, I can fully participate in this activity. I am fully aware of risks and hazards connected with the activity, including but not limited to the risks as noted herein, and I hereby elect to voluntarily participate in said activity, and to enter the RELEASEES' premises and engage in such activity knowing that the activity may be hazardous to me and my property. I VOLUNTARILY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY RISKS OF LOSS, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR PERSONAL INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH, that may be sustained by me, or any loss or damage to property owned by me, as a result of being engaged in such an activity, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES or otherwise.
3. I further hereby AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE RELEASEES from any loss, liability, damage or costs, including court costs and attorney's fees, that may incur due to my participation in said activity, WHETHER CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES or otherwise.
4. It is my express intent that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement shall bind the members of my family and spouse (if any), my heirs, assigns and personal representative, shall be deemed as a RELEASE, WAIVER, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the above-named RELEASEES. I hereby further agree that this Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri.
5. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE RELEASEES WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MEDICAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH AN INJURY I MAY SUSTAIN.
6. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE I CAUSE TO THE FACILITIES.
7. IN SIGNING THIS RELEASE, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND REPRESENT THAT I have read the foregoing Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement, understand it and sign it voluntarily as my own free act and deed; no oral representations, statements or inducements, apart from the foregoing written agreement, have been made; I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and fully competent or I am signing as a Parent/Guardian; and I execute this Release for full, adequate and complete consideration fully intending to be bound by same.

x _____

Participant

Date

x _____

Parent/Guardian

Date

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI.

Content/Photo Release (Subject)

I hereby authorize the University of Central Missouri to photograph or video record me and reproduce any content I have provided in any form and for any purpose associated with the university, including illustration, marketing, promotion, and advertising. I understand that I will not be compensated in any way for such use.

Printed Name

Date

Signature