Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama
SPEECH AND PHONETICS
Natalie M. Baker
Associate Professor, Voice and Speech
Freshman Syllabus
Fall 1999
326 Purnell Center for the Arts phone:412-268-5751 email:nbaker+@andrew.cmu.edu
http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/nbaker

SWD is Speak with Distinction (Edith W. Skinner)
DEP is Distinct Efficient and Pleasing (Natalie M. Baker) to be used with accompanying tape

Mini semester The Joy of our Language
Aug. 23-Sept.10 (Introductory course for entire Freshman class-actors, directors, designers)
Linkage of Voice and Speech: the Words and the Music
World Standard English in America 39 sounds
Regionalisms and “Good Speech” Dialects and Idiolects
Spelling Inaccuracy “English is Tough Stuff”
Phonetics: Not a Language but a Study of Speech Sounds
International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
The Distinct, Efficient and Pleasing Voice
Identifying the Movable Articulators
The ESSENTIAL ARTICULATION WARMUP Jaw, Tongue, Lips, Soft Palate

Selections
They All Want to Play Hamlet Carl Sandburg
I Would Rather be Ashes than Dust Jack London

Second Mini Speech and Phonetics (Required Course for all Freshman Acting Majors)

Week 1
September 13 Exploring Sounds YOUR VIBRATIONS MEAN SOMETHING
Investigating the Varieties of Sounds of English via Gilbert and Sullivan
Vowels and Diphthongs Stop plosives and Continuants Fricatives and Glides
Sounding the Sounds Why we work on Poetry in this course
Selections Iolanthe The Pirates of Penzance Princess Ida Trial by Jury
SWD iii-16 376-383
DEP 1-12 (includes taping of special material “For the Record”)
PRES Sympathy Paul Louis Dunbar

Week 2
September 20 Vowels: your true voice LIKE WARM WATER FROM THE HOSE
Charting the Sounds Voiced and Voiceless Sounds Counting the Sounds
Syllabification: Phonetic and Phonological Viewpoints
The Prominence theory in regard to Degrees of Stress
SWD 17-57
DEP 13-16
PRES The Road Not Taken Robert Frost

Week 3
September 27  
Fifteen Vowels not Five  
In the Interest of Producing Conversational Sound, Avoiding Pedantic Speech...  
First Front Vowel  
Principles of Vowel Length (Applicable to Five)  
Guidelines for Aspiration and Unaspiration  
SWD 58-60 192-201  
DEP 17-21  
PRES  
In My Craft or Sullen Art Dylan Thomas  
QUIZ  
Vowel and Consonant Charts, SWD Phonetic Transcription

Week 4  
October 4  
Second and Third Front Vowels  
Tonetics Hermann Klinghardt  
Intonation Inflection  
SWD 61-72 202-213  
DEP 22-29  
PRES God's World Edna St. Vincent Millay

Week 5  
October 11  
Fifth Front Vowel  
SWD 68-72 214-227  
DEP 30-33  
PRES When I Heard the Learned Astronomer Walt Whitman

Week 6  
October 18  
Sixth Front Vowel The “ask” list: When it is used Faults of nasal resonance:  
Assimilation Nasality and Denasality  
SWD 73-78 229-235  
DEP 34-37 38-48 49-51  
PRES Goblin Market Christina Rosetti

Week 7  
October 25  
Front Vowel Review  
SWD 79-85 236-240  
DEP 49  
PRES Rosetti memorized  
QUIZ Front Vowels

Week 8  
November 1  
Physical work with Kaf Warman on Goblin Market  
SWD 86-87 241-244  
DEP 55  
PRES Goblin Market Rosetti

Week 9  
November 8  
First Back Vowel  
Origins Paper Checklist  
SWD 111-118  
DEP 56-60  
PRES Goblin Market Rosetti

Week 10
November 15  Second and Third Back Vowels
Preliminary outline of Origins Paper due
SWD  119-124   245-252
DEP  61-63
PRES  Seasonal selections:  T.S. Eliot  Journey of the Magi
     Edna St Vincent Millay  To Jesus on His Birthday

Week 11 and 12
November 22-29  Fourth Back vowel
SWD  125-126   320
DEP  64-67
PRES  Personal Seasonal Selection

********    ORIGINS PAPER DUE DECEMBER 3    ********
Attach to DEP

Origins Paper

You are required to write a paper (5-7 pages typed), concerning the early influences on your voice and speech patterns. It is expected you will have already begun to reflect on this idea in September. Set up a meeting with relatives, close friends and teachers, to hear their speech sounds and intonational patterns. Make recordings to illustrate particular aspects of your findings and include a tape with your final paper to support your conclusions. Steer away from psychological profiles and chattiness. Cite the facts. Use the information gained in class to describe sounds phonetically and to speak with some confidence about support, tension, resonance and voice quality.

Grading is based on the standards of excellence of the School of Drama and on the following:
- promptness and preparedness for class
- quality of presentations and workbook assignments
- quiz scores, scheduled and impromptu
- rate of progress in the work
- Final paper Origins

A=Superior work
B=The approach to the work was clearly strong
C=Mediocre work
D=Poor quality of effort, attitude or result

It is advisable to check progress and grade status periodically. Phone or e-mail N. Baker.

Fridays 1:00-2:00  are open, casual meetings for any clarification of instruction in N. Baker’s office, Purnell 326. No appointment necessary.