

## Course description for First Year PATP Studio with Mark Jenkins

### Etudes

Fall 2008

The first purpose of this first-year Studio is to allow you to investigate your deeper self, your core being, and how to bring your authentic self to your work as a matter of course. We go about this sometimes long and arduous process by trying to provide a safe and productive atmosphere where you can effectively experiment, investigate, organize and exercise your internal/subjective resources. We will provide situations where you will call upon your imagination, memory, impulses, thoughts and purpose, physical behavior, the use of analogy and metaphor, focus on self so that vivid and true expression will follow. Cathy Madden, our Alexander faculty, is a crucial resource in this process for helping actors open physical pathways so that internal experience can actually fully occur in a way that will naturally lead to vivid external expression.

Mark will give you a series of assignments and “etudes” of increasing complexity that encourage personal investment in clear circumstances which lead to focus and purpose and increase your capacity to “live in the moment” and has the stamp of your individuality. Much of the early work will be drawing from yourself rather than written text; from your own experiences, and desires, your relationships with inanimate and animate objects, with other people. Sometimes you will be asked to work from the “inside out” but often from the outside in and sometimes in combination. You will present solo and partnered etudes. Eventually we will introduce written text into the assignments.

This class falls under the general category within the Stanislavski System of “The actor’s work on self”.