

ACTING (MFA) AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE

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In the first-year the candidate, with the support and focused attention of the professional faculty, explores, expands, and frees the body, voice, imagination, and emotions through the release of habitual physical, emotional, and psychological holding patterns. In all the studio classes of acting, voice, speech, movement, and improvisation, the emphasis is on exploring the actor's imagination, development of personal resources, and knowledge of the physical instrument, the use of the self, the extension of the vocal range, power through full breath, and greater awareness of body alignment and articulation, to encourage change and flexibility to enhance artistic and truthful expression. The texts studied in the first year are predominantly contemporary texts.

Second-year work extends and broadens the first-year with a focus on language demands, elements of style, and modes of behavior in classical texts that demand specific vocal and physical skills. Studio classes are also introduced to prepare students for the "business of acting"; professional auditioning and focus on the practical processes involved in becoming professionally employed.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES (60 credits required for the degree; curriculum is subject to flexibility)

First Semester (Fall)

7311X – Improvisation for the Actor I

7321X – Acting I

7331X – Alexander Movement Technique for the Actor I

7341X – Voice Production for the Actor I

7351X – Diction and Dialects for the Actor I

7360X – Kinetics I

Second Semester (Spring)

7322X – Acting II

7332X – Alexander Movement Technique for the Actor II

7342X – Voice Production for the Actor II

7352X – Diction and Dialects for the Actor II

7345X – An Actor's Approach to Shakespeare **and/or** 7312X – Improvisation for the Actor II

Third Semester (Fall)

7323X – Acting III

7333X – Movement for the Actor III

7343X – Voice Production for the Actor III

7353X – Diction and Dialects for the Actor III

7325X – Acting for the Camera

Fourth Semester (Spring)

7324X – Acting IV

7326X – Audition Techniques & the Business of Acting

7334X – Movement for the Actor IV

7344X – Voice Production for the Actor IV

7354X – Diction and Dialects for the Actor IV

7442X – Thesis Project

The following Theater Practica will be offered at the discretion of the program head as the budget permits:

7721 – Theater Practicum (a skill/technique class)

7722 – Theater Practicum (a skill/technique class)

7723 – Practicum (movement skills)

PARTICIPATING FACULTY

All Acting Program Faculty members at Brooklyn College are experienced New York theater professionals who continue to work in their specific areas of expertise. Regularly, workshops and seminars are led by a variety of guest master teachers and artists.

ON-CAMPUS PRODUCTIONS

The Brooklyn College MFA Acting Program offers acting students abundant opportunities to be involved in production. The Department of Theater produces up to four mainstage productions a year in the new 250-seat Performing Arts Center, directed by faculty and professional guest directors, as well as four to five MFA Directors' thesis productions in the flexible New Workshop Theater.

MFA actors work on a continuing collaborative basis with their graduate-director colleagues in scene-study work for directing classes as well as on the directors' thesis productions. MFA directors are encouraged to plan for their own theater companies when they graduate, and their two-year collaboration with the MFA actors fosters valuable artistic relationships that endure well beyond graduation from Brooklyn College. The MFA dramaturges work on all the main stage and directors' thesis productions as well, as do the MFA designers who create and build the sets and costumes for all the productions.

Besides providing an excellent experience of the collaborative effort that is fundamental to the creation of theater, we hope that this close cooperation between all the theater disciplines will help foster a network of theater professionals who will provide support and work for one another in the real world of professional theater, film, and television.

EVALUATION AND CONTINUATION IN THE MFA ACTING PROGRAM

Professional evaluation of the student's progress in the program is ongoing. Students meet with individual teachers at midterm for evaluation and at the end of each semester with all the performance faculty for evaluation of their progress. Students are expected to meet a high standard of work and discipline, including maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA. Continuance in the program is dependent on the faculty's assessment of the individual's progress, commitment, and continuing professional promise. Continuation into the second year of study is by invitation only.

Participation in a thesis project is an essential part of the training. This is comprised of performing a major role in a department production during the second year and preparing a written MFA thesis on the development of the role and the actor's process. The actor keeps a specific and detailed journal of the performance experience, which will serve as the foundation for the written portion.