



ACTING (MFA) AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE

ACTING PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The first-year of study in the acting, voice, speech, movement, and clown/improvisation studio classes emphasizes the integration of the Active Breath, the development of awareness and functional knowledge of the physical instrument, the exploration and expansion of the actor's imagination, and the use of the self. Students extend their range of movement and voice, find power through the Active and fully supported Breath, and gain greater awareness of body alignment and articulation. Most importantly, the program demands flexibility of the mind, body, and heart, and a dedicated willingness to risk change, thus heightening artistic and truthful expression. The text work studied in the first year is predominantly contemporary. During the second, third and final semester, students participate in the department's production season.

The second-year extends and broadens the work from the first year with a focus on heightened language, developing specific vocal and physical skills needed to approach texts that are more classically inclined. Greater attention is given to understanding the structure of storytelling, as well as the nuanced skills necessary for acting for the camera. In addition, professional business classes are introduced which thoroughly prepares the graduate to build successful acting careers in New York and LA, from audition techniques, professional networking and research, technology skills, and resources available to support actors in becoming professionally employed. In their third semester, students play a role that is the foundation of the research and development of their MFA thesis that must be completed for graduation. During their final semester, students also prepare for their showcases, which introduce them to the professional industry.

SAMPLE COURSE LOAD

(Subject to change) 60-66 credits

First Semester (Fall) - 18 Credits

- Theater 7311X (Improvisation for the Actor I) Lucid Body
- Theater 7321X Acting I
- Theater 7331X Movement for the Actor I/Alexander Technique I
- Theater 7341X Voice for the Actor I
- Theater 7360X Kinetics/ Clown
- Theater 7351X Dialects & Diction for the Actor I

Second Semester (Spring) - 15-18 Credits

- Theater 7322X Acting II
- Theater 7332X Movement II/ Alexander Technique II
- Theater 7342X Voice II
- Theater 7345X The Actor's Approach to Shakespeare
- Theater 7352X Dialects & Diction for the Actor II
- Theater 7731X Special Topics: Skills/Intro to On-Camera Acting

Third Semester (Fall) - 15-18 Credits

- Theater 7323X Acting III
- Theater 7343X Voice III
- Theater 7333X Movt III/Alexander Technique III & Butoh
- Theater 7353X Diction & Dialects for the Actor III
- Theater 7325X Acting for the Camera
- Theater 7723X Practicum (Potential)

Fourth Semester (Spring) - 18 Credits

- Theater 7324X Acting IV
- Theater 7344X Voice IV
- Theater 7326X Audition Techniques and The Business of Acting
- Theater 7353X Diction & Dialects for the Actor IV
- Theater 7334X Movt IV/ Alexander Technique IV
- Theater 7742X Thesis Project

Thesis Production/Project: Each graduate acting student, must fulfill a thesis project: this is comprised of developing a major role in a department production during the second year of the program. The academic thesis, which consists of a 30-page paper, is based on the development of the role and the actor's process.

Alumni Panels: Alumni of the MFA Acting program are invited to speak about their professional experiences and developing careers.

Due to the intensity of the MFA Acting Program, the graduate acting student is strongly encouraged to work on campus—Federal WorkStudy (FWS) opportunities are available on campus (early application is crucial)—or to find support jobs with flexible schedules. Priority must be given to your academic training and study.

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. The program also features workshops and seminars led by a variety of guest master teachers and visiting artists each semester.

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 then serves as the foundation for the written portion.

CONTACT

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