

# 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 the studio classes of acting, voice, speech, movement, and improvisation, the emphasis is on exploring the actor's imagination, development of personal resources, knowledge of the physical instrument, and the use of the self: the extension of movement and vocal range, finding power through full breath, and gaining a greater awareness of body alignment and articulation, to encourage change and flexibility so as to enhance artistic and truthful expression. The texts studied in the first year are predominantly contemporary.

Second-year work extends and broadens the work from 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. Students also learn the specific skills required for acting for the camera. Professional studio classes that prepare students for the business aspects of building an acting career are introduced: audition techniques, professional conduct, and 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 – Acting Techniques I: Clown/Movement

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  
7731X - Acting Techniques II: Intro to Acting for the Camera/Clown 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

*Theater Practica (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. The program also features workshops and seminars led by a variety of guest master teachers and visiting 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 main stage 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, costumes, and lighting 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 offer each other support and be able to offer one another work in the professional world of 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 then serves as the foundation for the written portion.