

ACTING (MFA) AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE

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TRAINING

WHAT MAKES OUR TRAINING UNIQUE AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE?

We look for actors who are diverse, multicultural, and come from a variety of experiences: the more variety our student body brings to the program, the more exciting the work that can be created, in class and on stage. We are interested in the personal story of each individual as well as developing an ensemble in each class. We seek individuals who are socially conscious, disciplined, and hungry for a new experience; individuals who desire a guided opportunity to look into themselves through varied techniques and skills that form the foundation for the acting craft; to acknowledge, confront, and release the physical, emotional, and psychological tensions and holding patterns that inhibit the full creative potential of the actor's imagination, impulses, and truth.

The emphasis of our training is on the journey of the actor toward self-discovery: only then can they grow artistically and professionally. Our training is rooted in the work of Stanislavski and Michael Chekhov, but special attention is given to the development of a deep mind-body awareness in each actor and a nurturing of each actor's individual process.

The first-year of study in all the acting, voice, speech, movement, and improvisation studio classes emphasize the expansion and exploration of the actor's imagination, the knowledge of the physical instrument and use of the self: the extension of the range of movement and the voice; power through full supported breath; greater awareness of body alignment and articulation. Most importantly, the program demands flexibility and a willingness to risk change and so heightens artistic and truthful expression. The text work studied in the first year is predominantly contemporary.

Second-year work extends and broadens the first-year with a focus on the demands of heightened language, elements of style, and modes of behavior in classical texts that require specific vocal and physical skills. Professional studio classes that prepare students for the "business of acting" are introduced: acting for the camera, audition techniques, and practical processes involved in becoming professionally employed, which includes the preparation for the actors' showcase produced in Manhattan.