Dear Candidate:

We’re delighted to introduce you to the BFA Acting program at Brooklyn College, the City University of New York’s flagship school for theater training. Our ensemble-based program prepares undergraduates for the challenges of a professional career in performance, and includes intensive classes in acting technique, improvisation, movement, voice and speech, ensemble building, acting with the camera, the business of acting, as well as foundation courses in theater history and production. The faculty in the Department of Theater is composed of Tony nominees, Obie award winners, Fulbright scholars, professional actors, casting directors, and award-winning authors who bring their diverse experience and knowledge to our students and productions.

The Department of Theater produces eight to nine shows annually directed by faculty, guest artists, and MFA directing candidates. Beginning in 2018, students will have the opportunity to train and perform in the new Leonard and Claire Tow Performing Arts Center. Students will also have the opportunity to take summer intensives in stage combat, acting with the camera, and movement that are taught by professional guest artists in residence.

We’re also proud to announce that Brooklyn College and The Public Theater have created a new partnership that will allow our acting students to participate in a suite of activities. Students can take master classes taught by some of New York City’s most renowned theater artists. After graduating from Brooklyn College, alums will be given the opportunity to receive additional training in internships and fellowships at The Public Theater.

The most frequently asked question we receive is “What kind of work do your alums do after completing the BFA actor training program?” Our answer is that you’ve already seen many of them without knowing it: appearing in New York and in regional theater, at national and international theater festivals, in films, commercials, and on award-winning television programs such as House of Cards, Orange is the New Black, The Deuce (HBO) Outsiders, Chicago PD, Containment, Underground, and Blue Bloods. Our alumni are also working as teaching artists, and as artistic leaders in new and established theater companies. Our students graduate from our program with the in-depth actor training and artistic entrepreneurship necessary for work in the professional industry.

Applicants must submit their CUNY application to Brooklyn College before submitting their application to the BFA Acting program. If an applicant does not meet the college’s admission criteria and is not accepted to Brooklyn College, they cannot be considered for the BFA Acting program. Applicants for the BFA in Acting are required to write and submit four (4) personal essays no later than January 30th, 2018. Once we receive your application, you will be contacted and given an assigned audition.
time for the weekend of February 23rd and 24th (see Audition and Applications Guidelines below). Please note that anyone accepted into the BFA Acting program is also required to complete Brooklyn College’s internationally recognized core curriculum requirements for their baccalaureate degree. For a full description of academic requirements for Brooklyn College, please refer to the college’s webpage: http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu

We encourage you to visit our campus and attend one of our productions to see our current BFA students in action. For our full production schedule please visit: http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/theater/productions_fall_2017.html

Thank you for your interest in the BFA Acting Program at Brooklyn College, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rose Burnett Bonczek
Professor, Department of Theater
Program Head, BFA in Acting
Co-author: Ensemble Theatre Making: A Practical Guide
Brooklyn College
2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210
Rbonczek@brooklyn.cuny.edu
(718) 951-5000 x 2768
http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/theater
Important Contact Information
for Brooklyn College

Patrick Delaney & Monica Mendez
Cerf Assistants to Rose Burnett Bonczek
BFA in Acting Program
Brooklyn College Department of Theater
theater@brooklyn.cuny.edu
(718) 951-5000 x 6263
http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/theater/programs_undergrad_bfa_acting.html

Admissions: (718) 951-5001
Bursar: (718) 951-5200
Financial Aid: (718) 951-5051
Office of the Registrar: (718) 951-5441
Scholarships and Awards: (718) 951-4796
BFA DEGREE IN ACTING

Brooklyn College Department of Theater Requirements
63 Credits

The following is a list of the BFA Acting major’s required courses, semester by semester. Bear in mind that this three-year sequence is part of your four year 120 credit degree at Brooklyn College. If you are entering Brooklyn College with transferable credits, please make an appointment with an advisor in Transfer Student Services as soon as possible.

1st Semester, Fall
- Theater 3401: Acting I: Fundamentals of Improvisation (3 credits) Ensemble based exercises to develop the actor’s instrument through experiential learning
- Theater 3201: Dynamics 1 (3 credits) Alexander Technique, Kinetics, Laban effort theory and experiential anatomy
- Theater 3203: Dynamics 3: Voice (2 credits) Voice production for the actor emphasizing the Chuck Jones and Patsy Rodenburg techniques
- Theater 1202-1207: Any Production Practicum (1 credit: See note below)

2nd Semester, Spring
- Theater 3402: Acting II: Introduction to Scene Study (3 credits) Focus on contemporary playwrights, text and character analysis
- Theater 3202: Dynamics 2: Movement (2 credits) Alexander Technique, 2nd level; Advanced Kinetics and Laban, and Contact Improvisation
- Theater 3204: Dynamics 4: Voice (2 credits) Continuation of Voice Production
- Theater 1202-1207: Any Production Practicum (1 credit: see note below)

3rd Semester, Fall
- Theater 3403: Acting III: Contemporary American Realism (3 credits) Special focus on 20th century American playwrights
- Theater 4702: Speech and Dialects for the actor (3 credits) International Phonetic Alphabet, training in diction and dialects essential to performance skills
- Theater 1202-1207: Any Production Practicum (1 credit: see note below)
- Theater 3207: Dynamics 7: Anatomical Storytelling (3 credits)
- **Required Course: recommended to take in the 3rd or 4th semester:** Theater 1201: Introduction to Theater Production (3 credits)
4th Semester, Spring

- **Theater 3404**: Acting IV, Classics of Modern Realism (3 credits) Focus on the plays of Anton Chekhov
- **Theater 3436**: Speech and Dialects, 2nd Level (3 credits) Continuation of work begun in Theater 4702
- **Theater 1202-1207**: Any Production Practicum (1 credit: see note below)
- **Theater 3208**: Dynamics 8: Applied Voice and Movement (3 credits)

5th Semester, Fall

- **Theater 3405**: Acting V: Shakespeare (3 credits) Introduction to text, structure and style
- **Theater 3205**: Dynamics 5: Stage Combat (3 credits) Focus on unarmed combat and swordplay
- **Theater 3407**: Business of Acting (3 credits) Industry structure, audition techniques and personal marketing skills
- **Strongly recommended**: **Theater 3410**: Acting with the Camera (3 credits)
- **Required, must be taken in Fall or Spring semester**: **Theater 4400W**: Senior Rehearsal and Performance (2 credits) The “W” denotes “Writing Intensive” which fulfills the college’s requirement for students to take a Writing Intensive course within their major

6th Semester, Spring

- **Theater 3406**: Acting IV: Solo Performance (3 credits) Creation, development, and performance of solo performance material
- **Theater 3206**: Dynamics 6: Mask (3 credits) Movement and mask focusing on character development

**Theater History Requirements:**

- You are required to take 6 credits of Theater History, which may be selected from the following courses:
  - **THEA 4501 World Theater History I**: Survey of theater and performance in oral and written cultures before 1600. (2 hours; 2 credits)
  - **THEA 4502 World Theater History II**: Survey of theater and performance in print cultures from 1500 to 1900. (2 hours; 2 credits)
  - **THEA 4503 World Theater History III**: Survey of theater and performance in modern media cultures from 1850 to 1970. (2 hours; 2 credits)
  - **THEA 4504W World Theater History IV**: Survey of theater and performance in the age of global communications (1950 to the present). (3 hours; 3 credits)

We recommend that you complete your Theater History requirements no later than the fourth semester in the BFA program.
Theater Practicum Requirements:

- You are required to take 4 credits of Theater Practicum, which may be selected from the following courses:
  - **THEA 1202 Scene/Electrics Shop Practicum:** Weekly scene/electrics shop hours in a lab setting. May be taken five times for credit. (3 hours per week; 1 credit)
  - **THEA 1203 Costume Shop Practicum:** Weekly scene/electrics shop hours in a lab setting. May be taken five times for credit. (3 hours per week; 1 credit)
  - **THEA 1204 Running Crew Practicum I:** Running Crew on a departmental production. May be taken five times for credit. (3 hours per week; 1 credit)
  - **THEA 1205 Running Crew Practicum II:** Running Crew on a departmental production. May be taken twice for credit. (3 hours per week; 1 credit)
  - **THEA 1206 Running Crew Practicum III:** Running Crew on a departmental production. May be taken twice for credit. (3 hours per week; 1 credit)
  - **THEA 1207 Running Crew Practicum IV:** Running Crew on a departmental production. May be taken twice for credit. (3 hours per week; 1 credit)

| TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS = 63 |

Important Notes:

When planning your schedule, please consider:

- **Theater 1201, Introduction to Theater Production,** is offered every semester. It will not always fit well with your required scheduled acting/voice/movement classes, so we suggest you take the course as soon as the offerings work together.

- Only one section of any BFA class is given each semester; thus, this gives a smaller window of options for a student to include required Core curriculum classes. Organization, time management, and a regular review of a student’s Degree Progress is imperative. Register for Core classes in every semester, and consider using the summer sessions to get ahead with your Core requirements. The senior year in the BFA is quite demanding, and we strongly recommend that you do not leave Cores until your final semesters.

- If you do two or more directing scenes in a single semester, you can register for a single Acting Practicum Theater 2110-2113 (1 credit each). You can combine these two scenes in several ways by working with directors from Theater, TV/Radio, or Film – but to receive credit the director must be registered for a course, and your work together must be in fulfillment of a requirement for that course. Students do not receive credit for appearing in Department of Theater productions. Students can also “bank” the work, but they must fill out the required forms in the semester the work is completed. These forms can be obtained from either Prof. Laura Tesman or Prof. Rose Burnett Bonczek.
BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN ACTING
AUDITION AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- Memorize and thoroughly prepare two (2) contrasting **one and one-half minute monologues for a total of three (3) minutes**. This can be one dramatic and one comedic monologue, or one classical and one contemporary monologue, depending on your experience. (Note: If you have no specific training in classical material, then please choose two contemporary serious/comedic monologues rather than one contemporary and one classical.) Choose monologues that reflect your strengths and how you would reasonably be cast at this moment in your development. For example, if you are 18 years old, do not select a character that is more than four to five years older than you. **Do not exceed the time restriction.**

- Complete the essay questions and send them directly to the Department of Theater. **Do not send them to the Brooklyn College Admissions Office with your CUNY application.**

- Send all other supporting materials, such as your CUNY application official transcript and all standardized test scores, to the Office of Admissions. You may obtain more information from [http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/admissions.php](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/admissions.php). The Brooklyn College Offices of Admissions and the Department of Theater have different requirements and may have different deadlines.

- **Deadline for submission of written material to the Department of Theater is January 30th, 2018.** As soon as your written application is received, you will be contacted and given an audition appointment for the weekend of February 23rd and 24th, 2018. At that audition, you will also be interviewed by the acting faculty and may receive a callback for that same day for additional ensemble work.

- **The deadline for applying for financial aid is in late March 2018. Scholarship deadlines may be earlier.** In order to begin your financial aid application for the 2018-2019 academic year, you need to complete the 2018-2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Please call the Financial Aid Office at the following number: (718) 951-5051 for the correct deadlines.

- You may file with the Federal Government online by going to [https://fafsa.ed.gov/](https://fafsa.ed.gov/) This will be much faster if you complete the entire process on-line. **Please note that you must indicate Brooklyn College’s Title IV code (002687) and CUNY-Brooklyn College as the name of the institution.**
**Personal Essays**

All four (4) essay responses must be typed, double spaced, Time News Roman, 12 point font. **Be sure to proofread your work carefully.** Please be specific and thorough in your responses; please include information about previous training, instructors, and/or productions. **Note: When submitting your essays, be sure to complete and include the application form found at the end of this document.**

1. Please describe what you feel your specific strengths are as an actor. Which of your skills do you feel most confident about at this time? Examples include: listening, collaboration skills, vocal flexibility, being open and receptive to impulses, and physical stamina are examples of acting skills. “I’m good at making people laugh” is **not** an acting skill. This essay should be an honest assessment of where you feel you are in your development — not how you’ve been reviewed by others. Please try to avoid judgmental words such as “good,” “terrible,” etc. Remember, you’re applying to a training program to become stronger for your future — you don’t need to have all of your strengths already developed — but you should have the beginnings of awareness of what your unique strengths and challenges are. Please be very specific, and cite examples to illustrate your point.

2. What do you currently see as your greatest challenge as an actor? That is, which of your acting skills do you want and need to develop further? Examples include: listening, collaboration skills, vocal flexibility, being open and receptive to impulses, and physical stamina are examples of your personal skill set. “I’m not good at crying on cue” is **not** an assessment of an acting skill. This essay should be an honest evaluation of where you feel you are in your development; don’t use this as a forum to denigrate or “review” what skills you feel you do or don’t have (please avoid words such as “good,” “terrible,” etc.). Remember, you’re applying to a training program to become stronger for your future — you’re **supposed** to have many things you want to work on. Be specific, and cite examples.

3. Please describe why you want to pursue a career in acting, and what acting and storytelling means to you personally.

4. Tell us about some of your non-theater related activities and what you enjoy most about them. This can be anything from volunteerism to outdoor activities to other creative pursuits.

Return to: Brooklyn College
Department of Theater
Prof. Rose Burnett Bonczek
Program Head, BFA in Acting
315A Whitehead Hall
2900 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11210
International & Out-of-State Students

Deadline for on-camera auditions: February 24th, 2018

DVD auditions will be accepted only in cases where distance is prohibitive for international or out-of-state students. These DVD submissions must adhere to the following criteria:

- Standard DVD Format or Drop Box (when using Drop Box, be sure to follow all appropriate steps in order for our faculty to view your audition with ease)
- Acceptance of auditions submitted in other formats are up to the discretion of the faculty
- Auditions should be filmed in a studio, classroom or theater. Do not use a home space.
- Two (2) contrasting monologues, no longer than 1½ minutes each, totaling three (3) minutes
- A five-minute on-camera statement in which you tell us a little about yourself, your background in acting, influences on your work and anything else you feel might be important to your application
# Application for BFA in Acting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name of Applicant</th>
<th>First Name of Applicant</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State/ZIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School Attended</th>
<th>Year of Graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date you submitted the CUNY Brooklyn College Application: ________________________________

Status of CUNY Brooklyn College Application:

_____Accepted  _____Not Accepted  _____Pending

Are you currently enrolled in college? If so, which college? ________________________________

If currently enrolled in college, what is your current GPA? ______

How many semesters of college have you attended? ________________________________

How did you hear about Brooklyn College and the BFA Acting program?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________