ACTING (BFA)

Core Principles for Our Work Together in the Bachelor of Fine Arts Acting Program at Brooklyn College

Rose Burnett Bonczek, Program Head
Direct line/voicemail: 718-951-5000 x2768
Email: rbonczek@brooklyn.cuny.edu

To live truthfully as an artist, we must first live truthfully as a human being. Our lives will be dedicated to the honest creation of human behavior within storytelling; to do that, we need to learn what it is to be human.

The foundation of this training program is made up of these six core values. They are essential for your education, for our work together, and for life. We will be doing a great deal of traveling together – and each journey begins and ends with these:

**SELF** – *Your essential being; that which distinguishes you, your essence.*
Respect, honor, and take care of yourself, so that you can give yourself fully to your education.

“An actor's instrument is the self.” — Joan Juliet Buck

**COMMUNITY** – *An ensemble with shared interests and common goals.*
Respect, honor, and nurture the fellowship and bonds of your community.

“What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured.” — Kurt Vonnegut

**INTEGRITY** – *The state of being whole and undiminished; the quality of being honest and adhering to moral and ethical principles.*
Commit fully to your principles, and to your personal, professional and artistic honesty.

“They're certainly entitled to think that, and they're entitled to full respect for their opinions...but before I can live with other folks I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience.” — Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*
**RESPONSIBILITY** – The state of being responsible, accountable for what is within your power.

Take full, honest and complete ownership of your thoughts, words, and actions.

“You may believe that you are responsible for what you do, but not for what you think. The truth is that you are responsible for what you think, because it is only at this level that you can exercise choice. What you do comes from what you think.” — Marianne Williamson

**COMMUNICATION** – The open and meaningful exchange of thoughts, ideas, information and needs between two or more people.

Be open, share, be heard, and above all, listen – and allow yourself to be affected by what you've listened to.

“Communication is truth; Communication is happiness. To share is our duty; to go down boldly and bring to light those hidden thoughts which are the most diseased; to conceal nothing; to pretend nothing; if we are ignorant, to say so; if we love our friends to let them know it.” — Virginia Woolf, *The Common Reader*

**HUMANITY** – The human race, or the quality or condition that makes us human; being humane, kind, compassionate.

Embrace your humanity, choose compassion and generosity in your work and collaborations.

“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.” — Mahatma Gandhi

“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.” — Dalai Lama