

Brooklyn College: Department of Theater

MFA: MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN ACTING

If you are a passionate actor, committed to being a hardworking artist invested in sharing stories about what it is to be human; if you are committed to confronting your life and work habits that restrict growth to expand your sense of self, who you are, and look beyond yourself to others, develop your skills, and awareness, then we are looking for you!

The journey through our Master of Fine Arts Acting Program is a two-year rigorous experience within a cohesive cohort of 8-10 MFA actors. The MFA Acting Program offers our students a uniquely individual and collective journey through an advanced and integrated curriculum of exciting courses that: train the actor's instrument holistically for stage and screen acting; teaches the actor to value a dedicated and integrated practice of techniques and skills that empower the actor to live in present reality, under the pressure and expectations of performance with ease and vulnerability, and to behave spontaneously as recognizably human. Our faculty, all respected New York professionals, inspire and support individuals to invest in a lifelong practice of techniques and skills.

Our foundational and sequential courses of Acting (stage & screen), Voice & Speech, and Movement work together to identify and redirect habitual behaviors, release imagination, and structure a coherent technique that allows actors to bring their full selves to the work. Additional classes are introduced and determined by the specific needs of each cohort and each semester culminates with an original solo performance rooted in the actualization of the power of the Voice. The final semester of training concludes with a Business Class/Industry Showcase collaboration.

The Department of Theater produces approximately 8 departmental productions per academic year and graduate students receive the unique opportunity to perform once per semester in a fully realized production, with the exception of their first semester.

Our program is involved in an exciting collaborative community of playmakers on campus: graduate and undergraduate Actors, Directors, Designers, and Technicians in the Theater Department and Playwrights in the English Department.

Off-campus we enjoy collaborative partnerships with The Public Theater Resident Artists, LAByrnth Intensive Education Program, The Movement Studio of NYC, CUNY Dance Initiative and The Tank Theater.

MFA Acting Program Highlights:

- Rigorous and collaborative two-year program.
- A cohort of 8-10 MFA actors to provide ample individual attention in classes.
- M.F.A. acting candidates work collaboratively with M.F.A. directors, playwrights, and designers on full productions, staged readings, and scene work.

- Faculty members are respected working professionals in New York theater and film, many of whom are award winners and nominees.
- Our acting cohorts are diverse and multicultural; the greater the inclusivity of our student body, the more exciting, informed, and relevant the work will be in both the studio and on stage.
- Students receive many performance opportunities each year that challenge them to apply the learned techniques/skills in a professional environment.
- Competitive CUNY tuition costs, and opportunities for graduate teaching fellowships.
- Scholarships and Awards are available in the 2nd year of training.
- The two years culminate in a filmed digital showcase marketed to industry professionals in all major markets.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS:

- **Public Theater Resident Artists:** Resident Artists from The Public Theater hold workshops and seminars in their various areas of interest with our students.
- **LAByrnth Intensive Education Program:** Auditions are held at the end of May for acceptance into a week-long intensive education program with the LAByrnth, culminating in a performance.
- **The Movement Studio of NYC:** Scholarships are available for further physical theater classes in Clown, Le Coq, Buffon, and Commedia with the Movement Studio of NYC.
- **CUNY Dance Initiative:** Emerging young choreographers collaborate with students in the laboratory of the classroom.
- **The Tank Theater:** Led by Brooklyn College Alumna, Meghan Finn, The Tank offers rehearsal space and production opportunities to program alumni.

FACULTY:

- Kaliswa Brewster: The Business of Acting
- Maria Dizzia: Acting (2nd year)
- Patrick Mulryan: Speech - Idiolect & Dialects; Director of Industry Showcase
- Paul Pryce: Acting (1st year)
- Virginia Scott: Physical Theater: Clown/ Mask
- Laura Smith: The Alexander Technique
- Antonio Edwards Suarez: Acting (2nd year)
- Welker White: Acting for TV/Film; Audition Techniques
- Ian Wen: Butoh: Expressive Japanese Dance
- Katherine Knipp-Willis: The Lucid Body Technique
- Judylee Vivier, Program Head: Voice/Acting

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must have, or be about to receive, a Bachelor's Degree prior to applying for graduate admission. While a degree in theater is not required for admission, previous acting experience is

essential. The applicant must offer at least 18-21 credits in undergraduate theater or equivalent professional experience, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Program Head.

A 3.0 or better grade point average in the last two years of undergraduate or post-baccalaureate work is required. The GRE is NOT required for MFA Acting applicants.

Please note that due to the nature of our program, students may enter *only in the fall semester*; we do NOT accept transfer credits from other programs; and due to the intensive demands of the MFA Acting training, full-time commitment is essential on the part of every candidate.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: [February 15th deadline](#) (January 25th for International students).

Applicants must submit their application materials to the Brooklyn College Graduate Admissions Office before the deadline. If the deadline has passed, and you are still interested in applying, please contact gradacting@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

We look forward to meeting you and beginning a relationship with you!

PLEASE NOTE:

Brooklyn College MFA Acting Program offers two audition options for prospective students:

1. Applications via the URTA Unified Auditions:

To register for this event, visit urta.com:

In person: January 19th-January 22nd, 2023

Hilton Midtown, Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY

2. Applications directly submitted to the Graduate Admissions Office at Brooklyn College:

Auditions and Callbacks will be held on campus (*unless otherwise noted*):

January/February. **Exact Dates TBA.** ****Please keep checking this website for updates!**

APPLICATION MATERIALS: What else to submit besides an application form?

In *addition* to completing Brooklyn College's online application for Graduate Admissions, all applicants must submit the following materials via the same online portal:

1. A headshot and a resume of previous theater training and experience.
2. Three letters of recommendation.
3. Official transcripts.
4. A three-page **Statement of Intent** explaining why the applicant would like to be considered for an MFA in Acting at Brooklyn College, and provide information about their artistic journey up to this point.
5. A description of the applicant's current **Acting Preparation Process**: How do you approach the text and the development of a character before entering rehearsals for a

play/scene? [****If it is not possible to submit two separate documents digitally, please put both the above essays into one document (items 4 and 5).**]

6. **Each candidate must be interviewed and present an audition.** Immediately following the submission of the application, please contact the head of the program at: gradacting@brooklyn.cuny.edu to confirm your submission of an application and to arrange for an audition/interview date and time.
7. **Please Note: If you audition through the URTAs and receive a callback from the Brooklyn College MFA Acting Program,** and want to pursue consideration for acceptance into the Program, please submit an application immediately to the Graduate Admissions Office to facilitate the application process.
8. The Brooklyn College in-house auditions/callbacks will take place some time after the New York URTAs are held. To be considered for acceptance into the program, an application and a second round of auditions/callbacks with Brooklyn College is **required**. This allows both candidates and auditioners an opportunity to learn more about each other since the experience URTA offers is brief.

AUDITION GUIDELINES:

- The audition consists of two contrasting monologues—one classical (Shakespeare, Greek, Chekhov, Ibsen) and one contemporary. One monologue must be **close to type**. If you would like to include another skill that reveals your process as a developing artist, please bring that along.
- You will have three-four minutes for your audition in total. Your selections must reveal who you are and how you see yourself at this moment in your process.
- Applicants must audition in person in real time unless that is not possible; only then will a Zoom audition be arranged.
- Bring a copy of a headshot and resume to the audition.
- **Callbacks will take the form of a large group event.** Should you receive a callback, please wear comfortable clothes in which you can move easily.
- International candidates must be fluent in spoken and written English and must contact the International Student Office for further detailed information regarding the application process required for international students.

****Please note:** The selection and admission process are based on the candidate's audition/interview, undergraduate and/or professional experience, written statements, and letters of recommendation.

CONTACT:

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