



## Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting [Alumni] Program Overview and Course Descriptions

The Alumni Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting offers performance immersion courses and elective offerings that include advanced training in acting, voice production and speech and improvisation. Critical Studies courses provide academic coursework designed specifically for the performing artist. Every class is immediately relevant to the life and success of a working actor. Additional courses focus on career preparation, industry networking, and audition techniques. Courses in entrepreneurship will allow students to create performance opportunities, build business plans and explore the role of the producer.

### YEAR THREE

#### Fifth Semester

English Composition for the Actor  
*Critical Studies: English 3 credits*

Kinetic Anatomy for the Actor  
*Critical Studies: Science/Tech 3 credits*

Theatre Roots  
*Critical Studies: Theatre Roots 3 credits*  
Masterpieces of Drama  
Great Playwrights & Great Composers  
World Theatre

Advanced Acting: Ensemble Acting  
*Performance Immersion 3.5 credits*

Film/TV: TV Genres  
*Performance Immersion 2 credits*

Intermediate Acting: Make-up Design & Application  
*Performance Immersion 0.5 credits*

#### Sixth Semester

Creative Writing  
*Critical Studies: English 3 credits*

Creative Exploration  
*Critical Studies: Creative Exploration 3 credits*  
Cultural Diversity in the Arts  
Surrealism in the Arts  
History of Cinema 1

Advanced Acting: Exploring Contemporary Theatre & Film  
*Performance Immersion 2.5 credits*

Advanced Acting: Classical Repertoire  
*Performance Immersion 3.5 credits*

Performance Immersion Electives  
*Performance Immersion 3 credits*

Advanced Improv: The Serial Story  
Intermediate Acting: Audition Monologues  
Advanced Voice Production & Speech: Dialects  
Advanced Combat: Theatrical Firearms Training

### YEAR FOUR

#### Seventh Semester

Entrepreneurship in the Arts  
*Critical Studies: Creative Exploration 3 credits*

Playwriting/Screenwriting  
*Critical Studies: English 3 credits*

Theatre Roots  
*Critical Studies: Theatre Roots 3 credits*

Advanced Film/TV: Advanced Audition for the Camera  
*Performance Immersion 1 credit*

Advanced Acting: Directing Theatre  
*Performance Immersion 3.5 credits*

Intermediate Acting: Advanced Techniques & Scene Applications  
*Performance Immersion 1.5 credits*

#### Eighth Semester

Theatre Roots  
*Critical Studies: Theatre Roots 3 credits*

Creative Exploration  
*Critical Studies: Creative Exploration 3 credits*

Slam Poetry Workshop  
Gender in the Performing Arts

History of Cinema 2  
Industry & Networking; Career Preparation  
*Performance Immersion 2 credits*

Advanced Acting: Final Project – Camera  
*Performance Immersion 3 credits*

Advanced Acting: Final Project – The Producer  
*Performance Immersion 4 credits*

## Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting [Alumni]

#### Fifth Semester

**English Composition for the Actor**  
**(Critical Studies: English) 3 credits**

Balancing the requirements of standard written English with subject matter that is relevant to the performing artist, this course will help students achieve confidence and competency in the areas of effective writing: a focused and unified thesis, compelling content and supporting details, a variety of rhetorical and organizational modes, grammar and mechanics, and accepted formats and documentation.

**Kinetic Anatomy for the Actor**  
**(Critical Studies: Science/Tech) 3 credits**

Students will gain a fundamental knowledge and understanding of human skeletal and muscular anatomy, as well as basic concepts of biomechanical balance, momentum, and leverage. These lessons will be complimented by a movement “lab” where students will apply their anatomical knowledge to develop a “physical vocabulary” in order to refine their Characterization skills and help them be more safe, efficient, and effective in the physical aspects of their performances.

#### Theatre Roots

**(Critical Studies: Theatre Roots) 3 credits**

All Theatre Roots courses are humanities courses geared towards providing an artistic, intellectual, historical, sociopolitical, and overall cultural context for the major playwrights, traditions, and thematic areas of theatre and the performing arts. These interdisciplinary classes will combine theatre history, literature, philosophy, art history, and even scientific theories to help illuminate significant dramatists and works. These courses are divided into three categories, at least two of which will be offered each semester:

**Masterpieces of Drama:** Introductory surveys of a significant period or style of drama.

**Great Playwrights & Great Composers:** In-depth focus upon important playwrights and composers.

**World Theatre:** Studies of global theatrical and performing arts traditions.

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Theatre Roots course offerings and descriptions.

**Advanced Acting: Ensemble Acting**  
**(Performance Immersion) 3.5 credits**

Through existing and/or original texts, actors will explore a concentrated and expedited rehearsal-to-performance project. Faster processes, varying periods, and assorted styles may be included as part of the exploration.

**Film/TV: TV Genres**  
**(Performance Immersion) 2 credits**

An on-camera acting class providing an introduction to the acting styles required of the network television series. An examination of such conventions of TV genres as the sitcom, the soap opera, and the one-hour drama.

**Intermediate Acting: Make-up Design & Application**  
**(Performance Immersion) 0.5 credits**

Basic principals relating to stage make-up for an actor. Shading, contouring, highlighting, and use of proper materials will be components of this course. Make-up for roles requiring specific looks such as: animal, extreme age, naturalistic, and or special enhancements may be explored.

**Sixth Semester****Creative Writing****(Critical Studies: English) 3 credits**

This course offers to the performing artist a dynamic creative writing workshop. Study will include reading and analysis of some of the most inspired creative works. Focus will be given to comparing the fundamental structure of various writing forms, such as the short story, one-act play and screenplay.

**Creative Exploration****(Critical Studies: Creative Exploration) 3 credits**

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Creative Exploration course offerings and descriptions. Choices may include:

**Cultural Diversity in the Arts** – A course exploring issues of race, gender, ethnic and cultural identities as expressed within diverse theatrical and cinematic forms.

**Surrealism in the Arts** – This course examines works of art, literature, theatre, and film from the late 1800's through today that deal directly with dreams and hallucinations. This course also examines surrealist and dream texts from a cultural and historical perspective, presenting the various cultural differences and viewpoints associated with surrealist and dream texts. This course examines these cultural and historical underpinnings in order to grasp the nature of dreams from a larger global and historical perspective.

**History of Cinema 1** – This course (and its companion, History of Cinema 2) will explore the development of cinema from its beginnings in the late 19th century to the present. Emphasis is placed on major directors, films, and movements that contributed to the development of cinema.

**Advanced Acting: Exploring Contemporary Theatre & Film****(Performance Immersion) 2.5 credits**

This course examines the creative processes behind interdisciplinary works that defy the traditional categories of filmmaking and/or theatre practice. Many of these works are classified as "avant-garde" and/or "integrated" projects. A wide variety of artists whose works utilize "non-linear" and "non-realist" techniques will be explored.

**Advanced Acting: Classical Repertoire****(Performance Immersion) 3.5 credits**

This course provides the student an opportunity to perform works from the classical repertoire including, but not limited to: the Greek dramatists, Shakespeare, Calderon, Moliere, Racine, Ibsen, Chekhov, etc.

**Performance Immersion Electives****(Performance Immersion) 3 credits**

Choose 3 total credits. Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Performance Immersion course offerings and descriptions. Choices may include:

**Advanced Improv: The Serial Story** –

Students will use Improvisation to create a "Soap Opera" or some other on-going story with established characters. The serial show will be created as a live performance within class and could possibly (based on class progress) partner with the film and television department to shoot "episodes" for weekly viewing on campus.

**Intermediate Acting: Audition Monologues** –

This course will provide actors the opportunity to create a "repertoire" of varied and contrasting monologues for audition and/or performance opportunities. Texts may range from classical to contemporary, comedic to tragic.

**Advanced Voice Production & Speech:**

**Dialects** – Advanced dialect work designed to increase the actor's casting potential. In addition to dialect work, Voice Production, warm-ups, and overall vocal technique will be reinforced. Student may be assigned work based on skill level and/or assigned dialects.

**Advanced Combat: Theatrical Firearms**

**Training** – Students will develop and practice the basic awareness and knowledge of the use of theatrical firearms. Students will also be given firearms tactical training as it relates to actors playing roles required to carry, operate and fire weapons.

**Seventh Semester****Entrepreneurship in the Arts****(Critical Studies: Creative Exploration) 3 credits**

The purpose of this course is to help each student achieve an individualized understanding of "entrepreneurship" and the creation of new artistic ventures and to allow each student an opportunity to envision a career in (or related to) the arts based upon their own creative and professional interests.

**Playwriting/Screenwriting****(Critical Studies: English) 3 credits**

This course is designed to explore the fundamentals of Playwriting and Screenwriting while allowing students to develop their skills in creating compelling characters, dialogue and plot. This course will survey the basic elements of dramatic structure, and the parallels and differences between the two art forms, playwriting and screenwriting.

**Theatre Roots****(Critical Studies: Theatre Roots) 3 credits**

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Theatre Roots course offerings and descriptions.

**Advanced Film/TV: Advanced Audition for the Camera****(Performance Immersion) 1 credit**

This course puts the student in front of the camera, using existing and/or original scripts to audition actors for roles in film, sitcoms, soaps, and commercials. Techniques for rapid script and character analysis are introduced; the process from submission to screen test is examined; and aspects of dress, appearance, demeanor, and protocol are discussed.

**Advanced Acting: Directing Theatre****(Performance Immersion) 3.5 credits**

Participants will acquire a perspective on the historical development of directing as a profession. Emphasis will be placed upon understanding the wide range of responsibilities surrounding the directorial process, as well as methodologies for effective communication within a creative process.

**Intermediate Acting: Advanced Techniques & Scene Applications****(Performance Immersion) 1.5 credits**

Advanced scene study with emphasis on complete characterization, physical actions, scoring of rhythm in text, physicality of character, and the application of various styles and acting methods.

**Eighth Semester****Theatre Roots****(Critical Studies: Theatre Roots) 3 credits**

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Theatre Roots course offerings and descriptions.

**Creative Exploration****(Critical Studies: Creative Exploration) 3 credits**

Courses will vary each semester. Please see course catalog for a complete list of Creative Exploration course offerings and descriptions. Choices may include:

**Slam Poetry Workshop**

Over the course of this writing workshop, students will learn how to create spoken word poems and monologues intended for public performance. Poets studied will include Daniel Beaty, Saul Williams, Maggie Estep, Mayda del Valle, Gina Loring, and Suheir Hammad. The workshop will culminate in students performing their own poems at AMDA's Late-Night Poetry Slam.

**Gender in the Performing Arts**

The seminar explores the distinctions and complex relationships among the concepts of sex, gender, and sexuality in relation to the performing arts. It will take a cultural studies approach informed by feminist, gender, and queer theories.

**History of Cinema 2**

This course (and its companion, History of Cinema 1) will explore the development of cinema from its beginnings in the late 19th century to the present. Emphasis is placed on major directors, films, and movements that contributed to the development of cinema.

**Industry & Networking; Career Preparation****(Performance Immersion) 2 credits**

This course provides valuable information regarding agents, casting directors and the practical business aspects of a career in the performing arts. Interviews, auditions, pictures/resumes, mailings, and similar professional responsibilities are included. 50% of credit hours assigned to this course will be acquired through out-of-class room assignments which are designed to introduce the students to industry professionals and establish contacts.

**Advanced Acting: Final Project – Camera****(Performance Immersion) 3 credits**

This course is designed to provide each student the opportunity to participate in one or more processes that will culminate in the creation of a filmed production. A large portion of the assigned credit hours will require students to work independently (individually or in groups).

**Advanced Acting: Final Project – The Producer****(Performance Immersion) 4 credits**

This experience compliments information gained through the "Entrepreneurship in the Arts" course. Students will individually formulate an arts-related business plan while working within a team to produce an entrepreneurial project.