

Intermediate Acting Summer Institute Syllabus

Date: July 21th-August 14th 2025

Course: Theater 123 (4 units)

Intermediate Acting For Theater, TV & Film– SUMMER COURSE OUTLINE

Lorene Chesley can be reached at lchesley@tft.ucla.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This intensive will go deeper into exploring the acting craft. Tackling both theater and tv techniques to help create dynamic characters both onstage and onscreen. Not only will they learn a full physical and vocal warm up to take with them on their acting journey. This will serve as the launch pad for the physical and mental state of the characters they create.

II. SAFE SPACE/CONSENT

This is a consent-based practice where personal boundaries will be respected. This is a movement class that involves sharing our bodies in space. All students are expected to maintain the highest level of respect and mindfulness of others' boundaries in this shared and safe space. Note that boundaries can change overtime. Maintaining communication with Ms. Chesley is key, whether it be in person or via email.

III. ATTENDANCE POLICY and GUIDELINES

The show must go on!

Attendance is MANDATORY. Absences disrupt performance schedules and negatively impact the ensemble. Tardiness interrupts the focus of the larger group. An excused absence is approved at the Instructor's discretion and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Contact Ms. Chesley at the beginning of the quarter to discuss any planned absences.

- If you arrive after attendance role call, you are tardy!
- 3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence
- Two unexcused absences drops your final grade one full letter.

IV ATTIRE

Consider the fact that you will be moving in some form or another every class. Therefore, appropriate clothing is necessary. If possible, workout clothing is encouraged, but not required - however, be ready and able to move. Avoid very-tight jeans. Avoid dresses/skirts. No loose earrings, necklaces, or jewelry. No flip-flops or sandals, No watches, No Apple watches, No sunglasses, No caps or large hats. Long hair should be secured away from the face. When in doubt, check with your professor.

Students are expected to show up to class on time and participate in all classes.

- Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit www.cae.ucla.edu.

Title IX Paragraph

- Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 1st Floor Wooden Center West, CAREadvocate@caps.ucla.edu, (310) 206-2465. In addition, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides confidential counseling to all students and can be reached 24/7 at (310) 825-0768. You can also report sexual violence or sexual harassment directly to the University's Title IX Coordinator, 2241 Murphy Hall, titleix@conet.ucla.edu, (310) 206-3417. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD at (310) 825-1491.

Faculty and TAs are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment to inform the Title IX Coordinator should they become aware that you or any student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.

V. CURRICULUM

Instructor has the right to change curriculum at any point during the intensive based off of the classes' understanding and application of techniques.

WEEK 1:

Monologue Assessments
Intro to Warm-Up
Wellness Check In
Review/Refresh Acting Tool Kit
Assign Scenes—Theater Work

WEEK 2:

Warm-Up
Wellness Check In
Refine Acting Tool Kit
Scene Work Sessions

WEEK 3:

Warm-Up
Wellness Check In
Transition to TV/Film Tool Kit
Assign Scenes—TV + Film

WEEK 4:

Warm-Up
Wellness Check In
Refine TV/Film Tool Kit

Scene Work Sessions

FILM Scenes!

RECOMMENDED TEXTS/RESOURCES

Letters to a Young Artist Anna Deveare Smith

Actor's Survival Guide by Jenna Fischer

Audition by Michael Shurtleff

The Intent to Live by Larry Moss

All of Stanislavsky

On the Technique of Acting by Michael Chekhov

Respect of Acting by Uta Hagen

The Right to Speak, Patsy Rodenburg

The Second Circle, Patsy Rodenburg

Freeing the Natural Voice, Kristin Linklater

Vocal Power, Arthur Samuel Joseph

Voice and the Actor, Cicely Berry

The Actor and the Text, Cicely Berry

Improvisation for the Theatre by Viola Spolin

Meisner on Acting by Sanford Meisner

The Artist's Way by Julia Cameron

Speak With Distinction by Edith Skinner

Laban for All by Jean Newlove and John Dalby

On the Technique of Acting by Michael Chekhov

The Creative Habit by Twyla Tharp

Self Management for Actors by Bonnie Gillespie

SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIENCE

Students are encouraged to view as much live theatre, films, exhibits, and other performances involving voice, speech, and dialect work as possible.

Check out Goldstar.com, social media, Plays411.com, todaytix.com

FOR COVID 19: You can also watch plays online through MarqueeTV, BroadwayHD.com, DigitalTheatre.com, Globeplayer.tv, Amazon prime, etc

Theatre Suggestions (You are not limited to these theatres—these are just ideas)

Geffen Playhouse

Ammo Theatre

IAMA Theatre Company

Collaborative Artists Bloc

East West Players

Antaeus Theatre Company

Deaf West

The Falcon

Rogue Machine Theatre

The Fountain

A Noise Within

Theatre @ Boston Court

InterACT Theatre Co

Sierra Madre Playhouse

Pasadena Playhouse

The Odyssey

The Echo

Circle X

Theatricum Botanicum

Center Theater Group (CTG)
Old Globe (San Diego)
La Jolla Playhouse
Pacific Resident Theatre
Shakespeare Orange County
International City Theatre (ICT)
Porters of Hellsgate
South Coast Repertory
Skylight
Sacred Fools
Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts Zephyr
Theatre

Theater 138 (4 units)

Instructors: TBD

Course Description

Exploration of improv, movement, sketch comedy and audition technique. Through screenings of performance-driven films, class discussion, and acting exercises, examination of methods, styles, and performances of some of world's most highly regarded actors and their work, participants will cultivate and elevate their craft

Suggested Texts:

A Practical Handbook for the Actor by Melissa Bruder

Course Goals and Objectives

- Develop skills related to character creation and development
- Enhance storytelling techniques
- Students are expected to implement tools gained from institute classes into a fully realized performance
- Students should be able to analyze, interpret, and communicate text as written by the author.
- Students will be expected to believably create a character in a monologue and a scene, incorporating physical and vocal elements appropriate to that character, while also being aware of, and incorporating, the language and cultural context of the play.
- Students will be expected to work with an acting partner, listening and reacting to them organically, while fulfilling all the demands of the script.

Class requirements: Each section will have its own set of graded assignments, required classwork and rules for participation. A syllabus for each section outlining the requirements and grading criteria will be distributed at the first class meeting.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. In order to successfully complete the program, students must not have more than **2** excused or unexcused absences.

Participation: Participation in class is an expectation. You should always be prepared to be called on, ready and eager to volunteer. The following will aid you in having a successful experience in this class. An open mind and attitude, commitment to the work and process, cooperation with and respect for all students.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students needing academic accommodations based on disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at 310-825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within one week of the start of the summer session institute start date, as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations.

For more information, visit www.cae.ucla.edu

Improvisation For Theater, TV & Film– SUMMER COURSE OUTLINE

Avery Clyde can be reached at aclyde@tft.ucla.edu

Office Hours: On Zoom, by Appointment Only

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This intensive teaches the basics of short and long form improvisation. The course begins with short form improv; solidifying the basics inside the most approachable form-theater games. Next students get acquainted with long form and real world applications in auditions, rehearsals on stage or on set. Improvisation strengthens skills in listening, supporting others, heightening, and taking risks. Performers will develop skills that enable them to write, direct, edit, and act in pieces that are made up on the spot.

This space creates a strong sense of trust in community and in your own instincts and ideas. Students leave with a powerful skill inside or outside the entertainment industry; how to improvise. Come ready to play and jump in!

II. COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Develop skills in short and long form improv as a resource for character creation and development
- Enhance storytelling techniques
- Students are able to implement tools gained from institute classes into future sketch comedy, auditions, rehearsals, performance jobs and outside the entertainment industry..
- Students will be expected to commit to their character in a scene, incorporating environment and suggestions, while also being aware of, and incorporating the other players on stage.

III. SAFE SPACE/CONSENT

This is a consent-based practice where personal boundaries will be respected. This is a movement class that involves sharing our bodies in space. All students are expected to maintain the highest level of respect and mindfulness of others' boundaries in this shared and safe space. Note that boundaries can change over time. Maintaining communication with Ms. Clyde is key, whether it be in person or via email.

IV. ATTENDANCE POLICY and GUIDELINES

The show must go on!

Attendance is MANDATORY. Absences negatively impact the connectivity and trust of the improviser as an ensemble. Tardiness interrupts the focus of the larger group. An excused absence is approved at the instructor's discretion and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Contact Ms. Clyde at the beginning of the quarter to discuss any planned absences.

- If you arrive after attendance role call, you are tardy!
- 3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence
- Two unexcused absences drops your final grade one full letter.

V. PARTICIPATION

Participation in class is an expectation. You should always be prepared to be called on, ready and eager to jump in. The following will aid you in having a successful experience in this class. An open mind and attitude, commitment to the work and process, cooperation with and respect for all students.

VI. ATTIRE

Consider the fact that you will be moving in some form or another every class. Therefore, appropriate clothing is necessary. If possible, workout clothing is encouraged, but not required - however, be ready and able to move. Avoid very-tight jeans. Avoid dresses/skirts. No loose earrings, necklaces, or jewelry. No flip-flops or sandals, No watches, No Apple watches, No sunglasses, No caps or large hats. Long hair should be secured away from the face. When in doubt, check with your professor. Students are expected to show up to class on time and participate in all classes.

- Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit www.cae.ucla.edu.

Title IX Paragraph

- Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 1st Floor Wooden Center West, CAREadvocate@caps.ucla.edu, (310) 206-2465. In addition, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides confidential counseling to all students and can be reached 24/7 at (310) 825-0768. You can also report sexual violence or sexual harassment directly to the University's Title IX Coordinator, 2241 Murphy Hall, titleix@conet.ucla.edu, (310) 206-3417. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD at (310) 825-1491.

Faculty and TAs are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment to inform the Title IX Coordinator should they become aware that you or any student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.

VII. PREREQUISTES

- Acceptance into UCLA's Intermediate Acting Summer Institute
- Artist level: Intermediate-Advanced Acting Students

VIII. CLASS REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Each section will have its own set of graded assignments, required classwork and rules for participation. A syllabus for each section outlining the requirements and grading criteria will be distributed at the first class meeting.

IX. CURRICULUM

Instructor has the right to change curriculum at any point during the intensive based off of the classes' understanding and application of techniques.

WEEK 1

7/19 6:30-9:30p Welcome

Warm-Up, Game
Introductions & Overview
Games
Shoot On-Camera Audition Improvs
Set Intentions

7/21 2-4p Confidence and Support

Warm-Up
Games
Short Form and Application: Theatre
Reflection

7/23 2-4p Listening

Warm-up
Games
Short Form and Application: Theatre
Reflection

WEEK 2

7/28 2-4p Playing from Emotion/Character

Warm-up
Games
Short Form and Application: Theatre
Reflection

7/30 2-4p: Playing in the Space

Warm-up
Games
Short Form and Application: Theatre
Reflection

WEEK 3:

8/4 2-4p: Committing to feeling in the moment.

Warm-up
Games
Introduce the Harold
Long Form and Application: Film & TV
Reflection

8/6 2-4p: Scenes

Warm-up
Games
Long Form and Application: Film & TV
Reflection

WEEK 4

8/11 2-4p

Long Form
Warm-up
Games
Long Form and Application: Film & TV

Reflection

8/13 2-4p

Warm-up

Favorite Game

Review and Application

ReShoot On-Camera Audition Improvs from Day 1

Reflection: Discussion

Favorite Game

RECOMMENDED TEXTS/RESOURCES

Truth in Comedy (great basics)

Improvisation for the Theatre by Viola Spolin

How to be the Greatest Improviser on Earth by Will Hines ("know, care, say")

Improvise & Scene From the Inside Out by Mick Napier

Improv and Impro for Storytellers by Keith Johnstone

All of Stanislavsky

The Creative Habit by Twyla Tharp

SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIENCE

Students are encouraged to watch professional improv groups and performance experiences involving improvisation outside of class.

Check out Goldstar.com, social media, Plays411.com, todaytix.com

FOR COVID 19: You can also watch plays online through MarqueeTV, BroadwayHD.com, DigitalTheatre.com, Globeplayer.tv, Amazon prime, etc

Theatre Suggestions (You are not limited to these theatres—these are just ideas)

Live Theatre:

- The Groundlings
- Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre
- Improv LA
- Laugh Factory
- Hollywood Improv
- Improv for the People
- Impro Theatre
- The Comedy Store

Online:

- Drew Carey's Green Screen Show. ...
- Curb Your Enthusiasm. ...
- The League. ...
- Wild N' Out. ...
- Thank God You're Here. ...
- Outnumbered. ...
- Bosom Buddies. ...
- Kwik Witz.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students needing academic accommodations based on disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at 310-825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within one week of the start of the summer session institute start date, as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations.

For more information, visit www.cae.ucla.edu

