

Syllabus
Fall 2004

ACTING III
Film Acting and Auditioning

Francine Segal, Instructor
DRAM-A309-001
Tues & Thurs 3:30 - 4:45 pm

Marquette 306
Monroe Media Center

Office: Bobet 315
Phone: 865-3840
Leave written message
in box at M312

Office hours:
Tues & Thurs 1:15-2:00 pm
and 4:45-5:45 pm by appt

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for the advanced acting student who wants to develop on camera acting techniques, sharpen auditioning skills and learn film and television terminology.

*The dynamics of maximizing the interview process, the essentials of curriculum vitae, photographs, agency requirements, S.A.G. and E.Q.U.I.T.Y. unions, contracts and code of ethics will be covered.

*Visiting film industry professionals will conduct classes in their areas of expertise as well as serve as respondents to student work on camera (see list)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To gain experience in acting techniques used for film and T.V.
To gain an understanding of film and T.V. terminology
To acquire 8 x 10 photos and resumes
To acquire staged reading and auditioning skills
To acquire business skills and respect for the artist's profession

ROAD MAP

1. The differences between stage acting and film acting - Left Brain vs. Right Brain
2. Single Camera organization: Shooting script, sides, call sheets, production schedules, etc.
3. On the set terminology -make the First A.D. your pal
4. Shot sizes - actor adjustments
5. 8 x 10 photos -Patti Perrett (see bio list) will lecture on what to expect from a photographer, industry photo guidelines, how to prepare for photo session and what elements
make a good head shot
6. Photography session on campus (T.B.A. date) -Conducted by Patti Perrett.
Each student will receive one roll of film and one 8 x 10 head shot or 3/4 shot ready for duplication . Studio fee. (Not required)
7. Making copies of your 8 x 10, borders, name, etc.
8. Resumes: East & West coast formats - one 8 x 10 laser printed resume required
9. Michael Caine Acting Techniques - Video, lecture, and exercises
10. The Interview
Presenting yourself to an auditor, presence, the crucial first 6 seconds, dress code, etc.
11. Name Slating - Who am I? Exercises on camera
12. Sanford Meisner approach and Harold Guskin technique
13. Listening and Reacting -on film
Meryl Streep ¥ My Dinner with Andre ¥ Charlie Chaplin
Ian Bernard exercises on camera
14. Film Auditioning Workshop: Mock audition with memorized sides and held scripts.
Material from major motion pictures. Guest respondents (see list)
15. Film Workshop with guest respondents
Memorized movie monologues on camera in close shot or close-up shot.
Memorized film scenes in medium shot or over the shoulder two shot
16. Commercial Workshop
Analyzing copy, creative chances, improving the take, improvisation
memorized commercial copy on camera
17. Michael Shurtleff Audition Guide Posts for stage and film
18. Visiting Casting Director - work on camera. Lisa Mae Fincannon (Bio-call board)
19. Visiting Talent Agent: Claudia Speicher-New Orleans Talent & Model Agency

20. The Art of the Staged Reading
Similarities between staged reading and auditioning. Specific techniques.
21. Organizing the Theatre Student into a Business Person
S.A.G. + E.Q.U.I.T.Y. unions, trade papers, agents, reels, extra work, data bases,
under fives, contracts, cover letter, postcards, etc.
22. Professionalism - Defining Success & Code of Ethics

GUEST PROFESSIONALS

Visiting professionals will conduct classes in their areas of expertise and serve as respondents to student work on camera

Dennis Maguire a successful L.A. Assistant Director, Producer and Member of the Directors Guild of America, Mr. Maguire has worked as Asst. Director on Rock Star, The Kid, Angela's Ashes, Postman, Evita, The Scarlet Letter, Hard Target, Misery, Soldier, The Specialist, Torch Song Trilogy and more. Respondent.

Patti Perrett a professional still photographer who has produced stills for over 25 major motion pictures and television (The Brooke Ellison Story, Orleans, The Pelican Brief, Miller's Crossing, Saturday Night Live and more). Ms. Perrett has published 2 photography books, shot C.D. covers and has been published in journals. Her portfolio of head shots of young actors is impressive

Claudia Speicher of New Orleans Model and Talent Agency has represented union and non-union actors for over 30 years. She has cast over 200 major motion pictures, as well as TV, national commercials, industrials, voiceovers and more.

Lisa Mae Fincannon Casting Director (see bio on call board)

David Dahlgren film acting teacher, who has worked as an actor in over 25 films (Tightrope, The Big Easy, The Badge, Down by Law, and more) and national commercials, will serve as an on camera respondent.

Dean Cochran former Loyola Drama student, Dean has been working as an actor and in post production for the past 4 years on action films, many of which have been released on video (Target, Air Marshal, Shark Zone and more)

Ashley Nolan a successful stage actress who has worked on both sides of the camera -as a featured actor in The Scarlet Letter, The Specialist and The Big Easy and as Production Assistant on Hard Target, Evita, Soldier and Blank Check. Respondent.

Mike Arata has worked in film as a producer and actor in over 25 films (The Runaway Jury, JFK,

The Badge, Tempted, The Brooke Ellison Story and more). On camera respondent.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- ¥ Audition for Drama Dept Plays
- ¥ Memorization and performance of movie monologue on camera
- ¥ Performance of prepared film and play scenes on & off camera-memorized or cold reading
- ¥ Performance of memorized commercial text on camera
- ¥ Attendance of 0announced0 Theatre Blah-Blah forums
- ¥ Attendance of two Dept. of Drama & Speech plays
- ¥ Attendance of 4 senior projects in Lower Depths
- ¥ Reading of texts (Instructor reserves the right for pop quizzes)
- ¥ One 8 x 10 laser printed resume

REQUIRED TEXTS (all paperback)

Action! Acting for Film and Television by Robert Bendetti
The Sanford Meisner Approach by Larry Silverberg
99 Film Scenes for Actors by Angela Nicholas
Audition by Michael Shurtleff
Optional: Tips-Ideas for Actors by Jon Jory

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

Some handouts from these books will be included in the course. these texts are not required to be purchased by the student. They are available in the library on reserve.

How to Stop Acting by Harold Guskin	True and False by David Mamet
On Screen Acting by Edward & Jean Dmytryk	Acting for the Camera by Tony Barr
Acting in the Million Dollar Minute by Tom Logan	The Actor's Audition by David Black
Television and Radio Announcing by Stuart Hyde	Secrets of Screen Acting by Patrick Tucker
The Working Actor by Katinka Matson & Judith Katz	
A Guide for Actors New to Television by Tristan de Vere Cole	
TV Acting: A Manual for Camera Performance by Hindman, Kirkman & Monk	
Acting in Television Commercials For Fun & Profit by Squire Fridell	
There's Money Where Your Mouth Is by Elaine A. Clark	
How to Act and Eat at the Same Time by Tom Logan	

GRADING

Grading focuses on the development of on camera acting techniques as well as auditioning skills for stage and cold reading. The individual learning process can be enhanced by the group experience. It is necessary for all members of the class to attend classes regularly and to participate in shared work. If you do not come to class prepared when your scene is 0up0, you will not be able to make it up. Regular attendance is mandatory. Absence requires a doctor's note. No late arrivals. Only 3 absences are allowed for illness and other serious

situations. 2 late arrivals equal 1 absence. After 3 absences, the student's final letter grade will be lowered 1/2 letter grade. (Example, if you have an A average and you have 3 absences, your final grade will be B+)

Grading will follow this format: Work on and off camera, scenes, commercial copy/monologues 55%

Class participation, including
punctuality and attendance 35%

Typed resume 5%

Attendance of 2 Dept plays, 4 senior projects, and assigned Theatre Bla Bla forums 5%

CLASS MANTRAS

ACTING IS REACTING

LESS IS MORE