

On-Camera Acting

Curriculum excerpt. Identifying course and institutional information, contact details, dated schedules, administrative policies, and grading logistics have been omitted for portfolio use.

Course description

A performance course focused on the study of acting technique related to film and television.

Teaching philosophy & methodology

I strive to emphasize separating artistic expression from external validation, urging students to focus on their unique journeys rather than comparing themselves to others. My class will be a space to play and explore. To bring in the work we do on our own and present it free of our own judgment. To deepen our connection to our emotional life so that when we tie it to our own creative process we can produce authentic, undeniable, rigorous characters.

Learning outcomes

Students complete a combination of in-class explorations on camera and self-tapes outside of class. Through trial and error and guided exploration, each artist begins developing a process for reading, analyzing, editing, and performing on-camera sides and scripts. Partnered work uses wide and close-up frames to explore film as a visual medium and apply a repeatable creative process.

Materials

Laptop or computer; smartphone or tablet; tripod that holds the recording device horizontally at eye level; video editing software capable of joining clips and exporting video files; a light source as needed.

Practice & progression

In-class exploration

Exploration on and off camera emphasizes preparation, physical and mental engagement, and attention to the work of classmates.

Self-tapes

Self-tapes provide opportunities to apply the creative process outside of class and evaluate performance within the conditions of the camera.

Original short films

Students create original content through filming, editing, and sharing completed work.

Application of technique

Students implement tools and techniques from preceding work. Evaluation requires critical thinking and context-based application rather than a single right or wrong way of working.

Final evaluative exercise

A two-person scene filmed and edited by the performers. Students select, memorize, film, and edit their material, with in-class rehearsal. A written reflection and individual discussion examine progress.

Curricular progression

Open-scene explorations; original short-film work; commercial material; scripted material; partnered scene rehearsal; filmed-scene viewing and reflection.

Supplementary resources

Federico Garcia Lorca on Duende; Vicky Krieps interviews with Peter Rinaldi; The Actor and the Target by Declan Donnellan.

Assessment philosophy

Professionalism, participation, preparation, and effort are central to assessment. Questions and curiosity are encouraged. Evaluation centers on doing the work and engaging in exploration.