

# Two-Year Conservatory *in* ACTING FOR FILM



*During the second year students create and perform in an original film adaptation.*



---

## LOCATION

**NEW YORK CITY**

*Location is subject to change.*

*For start dates and tuition, please visit [nyfa.edu](http://nyfa.edu)*

---



## OVERVIEW

**D**esigned for students who wish to further expand upon the skills and knowledge learned in the One-Year Program, the **Two-Year Conservatory Acting for Film Program** is a unique opportunity for students to deepen their exploration of character and exponentially grow their skills in both live performance and acting in front of a camera.

A full-time intensive course of study, the program is intended for students who are passionate, imaginative, and versatile in their craft and who also have a strong desire to further develop these attributes as they apply them to the discipline of acting for film.

Students in the program will be immersed in an environment created for professional development and creative freedom. In a combination of hands-on classroom education and intense acting seminars, students acquire a sound understanding and appreciation of their role as performing artists in the visual medium of film, television, and motion picture arts while learning to integrate this knowledge into their acting work and on camera performances.

Through exposure to the many facets of the professional world of film acting, the two-year program prepares students for a professional relationship to the work of the actor, which includes a full stage performance and Final Film Project. All two-year students must complete a series of highly specialized courses and participate in an eight-day location shoot and film production.

This two-year conservatory program is offered at our New York City campus. Students interested in studying at our Los Angeles campus should consider our two-year MFA in Acting for Film degree program or two-year AFA in Acting for Film degree program.

## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Students enrolled in the Two-Year Acting for Film Program who successfully complete the program will demonstrate the following knowledge base and skill set:

- Episodic television structure and style.
- Development of an original script based on a source text.
- Voiceover technique and advanced Business skills for the actor.
- Personalization of historic periods, places, events, and characters.
- Professional dance techniques for the actor.
- Character creation from both a physical and psychological perspective.
- Advanced combat, movement and dialect training.
- Alternative performance styles including Physical Theatre, Mask, and Clown for heightened character development.

## WHAT YOU WILL ACHIEVE

- Original short film role with a professional director, cinematographer, and crew.
- Edited scenes from full-day camera shoots that replicate a professional television environment.
- Perform a classic play before a live audience.
- Create multiple characters and personas, including a clown presentation to a live audience.
- Develop a personalized dialect with professional coaching.
- Give a live Physical Theatre performance, professionally shot and edited.

*Please Note: curriculum and projects are subject to change and may vary depending on location. Students should consult the most recently published campus catalog for the most up to date course information.*

The first year follows the curriculum of the One-Year Conservatory Acting for Film Program and the second year is comprised of the following classes.

## SECOND YEAR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### ADVANCED ACTING TECHNIQUE I

Students utilize text, image, observation, and personal history as material to inspire an imaginative physical and vocal response to written and suggested material using in-class exercises and prepared scenes. In exercises, we refine the student's ability to work in a relaxed state, using a high level of concentration and a flowing imagination while developing the student's ability to articulate their observations and craft their physical response.

### STAGE TO SCREEN I

In the first part of the Stage to Screen series, actors will work on challenging material and advanced work on analyzing scripts for performance and character development. Students will be directed in a stage version of a classic play presented midway through the total course hours. The characters developed by the students will, in the second half of the year, be adapted and performed for the camera in a film adaptation of the play, allowing students to get the specific experience of modifying a performance and comparing preparation methods between the two formats.

### ACTING FOR THE CAMERA I

Students look at the history and evolution of Situation Comedy, Episodics and Procedural dramas during a full production day that replicates a working television set experience. Attention is paid to current style, structure, and function, as well as what each of these television formats demands of the actor. Students establish a television specific technique for analyzing text and a method to approach characterization while learning to grasp the subtle differences that define the stylistic variations that exist between these forms.



### CHARACTER STUDY

The objective of this course is for the student to learn a variety of practical vocal, physical, and psycho/emotional techniques that he or she can use in the transformation from her or his everyday self into an invented self, a unique theatrical creation and one with distinctive traits that are forged from personal experience, observation, imagination, and textual interpretation.

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERIZATION

In this course, students explore the fundamentals of inhabiting character through the use of movement, physical choices, and the use of the body to inform character creation. Topics include work on body leads, exploration of movement and personal physical habits, physical development of character, and physical sequencing.

## PHYSICAL THEATRE

Students investigate an organic and physical approach to acting that relies on the body and its physical impulses as the main source of creation. Students gain control and flexibility through movement and interpretation of drama via a juxtaposition of physical choices, sound, music, rhythm, light, and text; develop a methodology for examining and analyzing theatrical texts as a foundation for developing believable characterizations; gain sensitivity toward heightened poetic language and its capacity to reveal thought as well as provide audible rhythm and texture to a presentation; document, interpret, and analyze a variety of theatrical methods; and develop a means for communicating critical appraisals of acting styles and methods of presentation.

## ADVANCED MOVEMENT

Students apply the foundational skills acquired during previous Movement classes creating deeper body awareness within diverse modalities such as yoga, pilates, Tai Chi, Alexander technique practice, Viewpoints and Suzuki work.

## ADVANCED VOICE

Students develop their own vocal warm-ups specific to their needs including breath support and control and the use of breath to release emotions. The student will continue to improve articulation work and maintain habits to keep their vocal use productive and healthy.

## ADVANCED ACTING TECHNIQUE II

Using the teachings of Constantin Stanislavsky and Viola Spolin, students participate in scenework exercises that focus on freeing the actor from habit and inhibition, including an exploration of imaginative and physical space informed by the fully expressed given circumstances of the text.

## STAGE TO SCREEN II

Characters developed by the students will, in the second half of the year, be adapted and performed for the camera, allowing students to get the specific experience of modifying a performance and comparing preparation methods between the two formats. They will then be challenged with the task of not only collaborating on a film, but in calibrating their performance to a size appropriate for the screen.

## ACTING FOR THE CAMERA II

Students prepare for auditions, and gain an understanding of the differences between television genres and styles. Class discussions center around the differences between extras, under-fives, day players, and contract roles, as well as on-set decorum, contract and union issues, and functions of creative and technical staff.



### **ADVANCED SPEECH AND DIALECT**

This course provides in-depth, advanced lessons in Standard American speech and the development of dialect in work on character. Students solidify their understanding of IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet), develop skills in Standard American English, review transcription of speech into IPA, approach dialects through lessons in pitch and vowel usage, and use character development techniques, research, IPA, and audio recordings to develop dialect for a character or role.

### **ADVANCED COMBAT**

Students increase their skill set through the study of advanced combat technique to create believable violent actions that may further a story line, while still maintaining the safety of the actors and crew. The course culminates in a professionally shot mini-fight to be edited and shown as a complete film sequence.

### **THEATRE DANCE**

This course is designed to introduce the actor to dance as a means to enhance their body of knowledge and physical skills in movement through forms of theatrical dance. Curriculum may include ballet, jazz, modern, ballroom, or a combination of forms.

### **VOICEOVER**

This class introduces students to the world of voiceover acting. Various voiceover job opportunities available and the language that is specific to that arena are explored. Students review provided voiceover copy and audition without much preparation time to learn how to prepare for a variety of voiceover roles.

### **MASK**

This course is a study/practice in imagination and playfulness. Students will begin with basic mask work, as the mask replaces self-image with physical psychology and pedestrian images of oneself with stronger, more freeing images. Mask breaks through the actor's judgmental mind and create an opening for inspiration and imagination. Actors explore changes in physical and vocal identity to that of a character suggested by a mask.

### **CLOWN**

Clowning is a state of playfulness that brings us to experience a child-like, naïve, and vulnerable state of being. This class moves into character-based clowning work where the actor gets in touch with his/her primal self by stripping away layers of social conditioning. They find their personal sense of humor as they knock down their walls of inhibition to create sketches and performances for their clown.



### **ADVANCED AUDITION TECHNIQUE**

Students develop an understanding of themselves as “a product” and how to situate themselves in the business. Students assess their “types” to make use of reading and monologue performance techniques designed to give stronger auditions. The course includes a review of industry structure and different opportunities for actors, including on-camera TV audition (cold-read) with playback and critique. Students will critique résumés, find auditions, review latest trends in casting and the process of submission for roles. Lessons investigate the difference between casting directors, managers, and agents, and their relationship to an actor's success.