

Two-Year Degree Program
ASSOCIATE OF FINE ARTS
in ACTING FOR FILM



AFA Acting students prepare to perform a scene in collaboration with Filmmaking students.



LOCATION

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Location is subject to change.

For start dates and tuition, please visit nyfa.edu

OVERVIEW

There are numerous elements and skills that go into making a critically acclaimed film that viewers will appreciate. Yet an audience's connection to an actor's performance is often the most immediate and intimate relationship one makes with a movie. **A good performance must appear effortless, yet still convey a rich tapestry of emotion and depth to create a convincing character.**

Unlike acting in the theater, when performing on a film or television set, an actor must contend with a far more chaotic environment where numerous crew members are running about, high wattage lights are aimed directly at the actor, and one is expected to give a believable and engaging performance take after take. **Regardless of an actor's inherent talent, he or she must learn how to effectively handle the countless variables at work on a film or television production.**

The Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) Degree Program in Acting for Film provides students with the opportunity to exclusively focus on their professional and artistic development as actors. Over the course of the four-semester, two-year program, students gain a strong foundation in acting principles through such classes as Scene Study, Acting for Film, Voice and Movement, Improvisation, and Audition Technique.

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.



Students shoot a scene for their Production Workshop class in New York City with the guidance of their cinematography instructor.

Through our philosophy of learning by doing, students start acting in front of the camera from day one. Students at NYFA supplement what they learn in class with continuous practice, gaining substantial on-set experience in supervised, in-class workshops and through acting in original films made by the Academy's filmmaking students.

To become a professional actor, we believe it is essential that one understands the many nuances of filmmaking. Therefore, our AFA Acting for Film students are trained in the different aspects of filmmaking, such as directing, producing, and screenwriting. Not only do students graduate from our acting school with a practical foundation in acting, but also with comprehensive filmmaking experience.

To facilitate our acting students' immersion in filmmaking, students work directly with filmmaking students to get hands-on training with state-of-the-art film equipment. They also collaborate with a network of students—including screenwriters, producers, editors, and cinematographers—to better learn the filmmaking process and understand how to best work with creative filmmakers of all stripes.

Through constant practice on camera, students graduate with a reel of their performances expertly shot and edited, which is an essential tool in obtaining work after the Academy.

Furthermore, students study under our acclaimed faculty members of professional actors. By being active in the industry, our acting instructors give students the most current insight into the state of the business, so that students better understand how to navigate such a competitive industry.

Students get the additional benefit of having a steady schedule of notable and award-winning guest speakers who impart invaluable experience and knowledge about the craft of acting.

The AFA in Acting for Film program is exclusively offered at our campus in Los Angeles. However, **QUALIFIED STUDENTS HAVE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING COURSE WORK AT THE NEW YORK FILM ACADEMY IN NEW YORK CITY IN A ONE-YEAR NON-DEGREE PROGRAM AND THEN APPLYING THEIR COURSE WORK TO BE ACCEPTED FOR ADVANCED STANDING IN THE AFA ACTING FOR FILM DEGREE PROGRAM.**

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- Text and Script Analysis.
- Broad Range of Acting Techniques.
- Voice and Movement Techniques.
- Acting Skills for the Camera.
- Auditioning Techniques.
- Technical Film and Production Techniques.
- History of Acting Styles.
- Business Practices and Marketing Tools for the Entertainment Industry.

WHAT YOU WILL ACHIEVE

SEMESTER ONE

- Scene and Monologue Presentations.
- On Camera Shoots.
- Filmcraft Shoot.
- Production Workshops with Film Students.

SEMESTER TWO

- Short Film Shot on Location.
- Short Film directed by student filmmakers.
- Scene Presentation on Stage.
- Filmed Voice and Movement Presentations.

SEMESTER THREE

- Multi-Camera and Single Camera Television Shoots.
- Voice-over Demo Reel.
- Filmed Shakespeare Presentation.
- Filmed Improvisation Presentation.
- Scene Presentation on Stage.

SEMESTER FOUR

- Short Film Shot on location.
- Professional Industry Package.
- Industry Showcase.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

YEAR ONE OVERVIEW

In Year One, AFA students undergo a thorough regimen of classwork and film acting that lays the groundwork for a professional life in the film arts.

SEMESTER ONE

TECHNIQUE & SCENE STUDY 1 (PLAYS)

Acting Technique and Scene Study I provides students with preparatory building blocks, which lay a solid foundation from which to go deeper into the craft. They will learn of the rich Acting Technique traditions that have shaped the craft today. The focus of Technique and Scene Study I is process not product. Students will work on exercises, monologues, and short scenes from plays applying the techniques they have studied.

ACTING FOR FILM I

This course introduces to the beginning Acting for Film student the skills necessary for creating a fully realized performance. The primary emphasis of the class is the practice of the subtlety and nuance of film acting including learning to adjust performances for specific shot sizes, finding the arc of the character and learning to maintain the integrity of the script while shooting out of sequence. Film set terminology and etiquette is also addressed. Students collaborate in a supervised Production Workshop with film students, which is a full immersion production approach to Acting for Film instruction.

VOICE & SPEECH I

In this course, students will begin to develop a free and healthy voice and an awareness of vocal tendencies and adverse conditioning. Various techniques will be taught, including and not limited to, Fitzmaurice Voicework, Knight-Thompson Speechwork, Linklater, Lessac, and Skinner. Through exploration of phonetic sounds and optimal vowel formation, a deeper, more precise and nuanced experience of sounds will be felt. Students will experience a more visceral and more direct connection to their voice unimpeded by habitual tension.

MOVEMENT I

In this course, students will explore their ability to engage the body in a full and courageously unedited manner as a tool for performance. A focus of this course is to cultivate tools with which the students can externalize their internal life in an authentic manner on impulse and through movement. Various training methods will be taught, including but not limited to Viewpoints, the Suzuki Method, Dance, Yoga, Laban Analysis, Contact Improvisation, Grotowski, and Chekhov Technique.

FILMCRAFT

Filmcraft provides the Acting for Film student with a full immersion experience into the world of film production. Students gain basic working knowledge of directing, cinematography, writing, producing, editing, and inhabiting crew positions, allowing for real-time experience on a short in-class shoot, supervised by the instructor.

INTRODUCTION TO FILM

This seminar teaches students to identify the techniques used by cinematic innovators in the history of filmmaking. Through screenings and discussions, students will grow to understand how filmmakers approached the great challenge of telling stories with moving images from silent films to about 1960. The course explores ways that the crafts of directing (particularly shot construction), cinematography, acting, and editing developed over that period. Students are then challenged to identify which techniques they are learning in their own ongoing film projects.

SEMESTER TWO

TECHNIQUE & SCENE STUDY II

Acting Technique and Scene Study II continues the exploration of relaxation, sensory awareness, and creative choice-making and individual performance elements in exercises designed to enhance the students' ability to synthesize their own practical techniques for performance on screen or stage. This course will heighten the actor's awareness of his or her instrument. Students will also develop their ability to focus their attention and create detailed and vibrant imaginative worlds. Exercises may be taped for in-class critique and evaluation. Students will perform in a live presentation for an audience at the end of the semester.

ACTING FOR FILM II

This course teaches intermediate Acting for Film skills necessary for creating a fully realized performance. Students will prepare a script and digitally tape a variety of scenes during class. Students edit their own exercises and scenes to better understand how the mechanics of a performance effect the final edit. Edited exercises and scenes will be screened for critique in class. Students will also do pre-production prep in class, as well as rehearse final scenes for shooting. In addition to acting, students will be intensively involved in production throughout the shoot days. They will edit their own scenes for a final screening.

VOICE & SPEECH II

Building upon the foundations established in Voice and Speech I, students explore the application of learned vocal techniques to text to expand vocal variety and organic connection to the character and story. There will be a focused refinement of vocal production and a deeper connection to images and text. The students will explore text work by focusing on the enhancement of the variety of vocal choices, along with intelligibility and breathe support that is connected to image and character.

“

Life is a tragedy when seen in close-up, but a comedy in long-shot. ”

- Charlie Chaplin

MOVEMENT II

Expanding upon the techniques and skills learned in Movement I, students will continue their exploration to refine their ability to express character and emotion through the body. Continuing the use of multiple approaches to movement and its analysis, which includes, but is not limited to, Viewpoints, Composition work, Contact Improvisation, Dance, Yoga, Laban Movement Analysis, Grotowski, Chekhov Technique, Movement II will refine and expand students' proficiency of their physical instrument. This course will focus on applying physicalization to character through improvised and scripted performance.

SCREENWRITERS & PLAYWRIGHTS

Students study contemporary playwrights and screenwriters, examining style as it relates to current forms and genres. Text analysis and plot structure are treated as fundamental tools of critical analysis. Students learn how to interpret given elements of writing, such as mood and subtext, to enhance performance. Written work is an integral part of this course.

COLLABORATION WORKSHOP

A course designed to further expand upon the etiquette of the film set, students explore the importance of the actor/director relationship required for a successful and professional film shoot. Filmmaking and Acting students come together for a series of audition technique, rehearsal, and screening classes, in addition to a series of full-fledged production exercises.

YEAR TWO OVERVIEW

Through exposure to the many facets of the professional world of film acting, the second year prepares students for their final projects, which include a Showcase and a Final Film Project. All Year Two AFA students must complete a series of highly specialized courses, participate in multiple film productions, and, ultimately, deliver a Professional Portfolio that they may take with them upon graduation.



SEMESTER THREE

TECHNIQUE & SCENE STUDY III

Students learn how to assess the needs of the scene through application of text analysis, inhabiting given circumstances, development, and pursuit of strong objectives. They will also incorporate voice and movement training and technique through moment-to-moment communication with scene partners, break text into beats, and make strong choices to create engaging and believable performances. Scenes will be taped during a live presentation at the end of the semester.

VOICEOVER

Students will learn the highly specialized skill of voiceover acting. They will discover what kind of voiceover work for which they are most suited and learn how to use their voice in different ways. Students will also get information about job opportunities available in this field and have an opportunity to create their own voiceover material during a final recording session in one of NYFA's professional studios.

IMPROVISATION

Improvisation encourages students to skillfully nurture their instincts and freely release their creative impulses through a variety of individual and group exercises.

ACTING FOR FILM III: SCRIPTED TV

This course introduces the concepts and skills that students need for today's television shows. The instructor will work with the class to determine casting needs. A full or partial comedy script, and a full or partial dramatic episodic script will be chosen to accommodate the class. Students assist with crew positions, when not acting. The aim of this course is to have the actor experience the acting and production techniques used in today's television shoots. The final product is not the focus here; emphasis is on students gaining practical experience of on-camera acting so that they will be prepared for the pacing, tone and adjustments necessary for today's TV actor. They will shoot both a full and partial sitcom and a full or partial dramatic episode, teaching them the techniques of a traditional multi-camera set, as well as single camera shooting.

SHAKESPEARE

This is an Actor's course for performing Shakespeare. The student will learn to evaluate the language and the actions implied. Students will develop the fundamental concepts of scansion, meter, text analysis and scene study as it pertains to the demands of performing heightened language. Performing Shakespeare will guide students to further development of the vocal and physical dexterity demanded by the text. The course will culminate in either a taped and/or live performance of Shakespeare's works via sonnets, monologues, soliloquies and/or scenes from his various plays.

SEMESTER FOUR

TECHNIQUE & SCENE STUDY IV

In preparation for their final showcase, students will work on selected scenes and further assess the needs of the scene through application of text analysis, inhabiting given circumstances, development, and pursuit of strong objectives. They will also incorporate voice and movement training and technique through moment-to-moment communication with scene partners, as well as breaking text into beats and making strong choices. Performances will be taped in a live showcase presentation for Industry and invited guests at the end of the semester.

ACTING FOR FILM IV

The primary emphasis of the class is to rehearse and shoot a variety of more complex material. Students will prepare a year-end shoot to be shot by an on-staff DP and Director. Students will both produce and act in the shoot.

BUSINESS OF ACTING/ AUDITION TECHNIQUE

This course teaches advanced Business of Acting skills to students on the verge of graduating with an AFA in Acting for Film. Students will create a business plan, which includes research on headshot photographers, writing résumés, researching and targeting appropriate agencies and managers, understanding basic contracts and industry standards, as well as honing auditioning skills for today's industry. Students will put together a Professional Portfolio, which will include their headshot, résumé, and demo reel.

HISTORY OF ACTING

Starting with the Greeks and Romans, the course examines ideas of acting including those from Shakespeare's time to the present day. The course also considers contribution and theories of key figures such as Diderot, Stanislavski, Meyerhold, Brecht, Artaud, and Grotowski, and concludes with an examination of the history of acting styles and techniques for film and new media.

ELECTIVES

Electives are subject to change and are offered based on demand and teacher availability.

SKETCH COMEDY

This workshop is designed for actors with comedy improvisation experience who are interested in writing and performing sketch comedy. Each class will involve instruction on the variety of ways sketch comedy is created, using improvisational comedy to bolster the writing process, and brainstorming to help each student discover their unique comic voice.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE

This course will provide an opportunity for students to experience a variety of dance styles and choreography inside and outside the parameters of western contemporary dance. Students pursue weekly research and movement based activities that explore a range of choreographic themes.

STUNT WORKSHOP

This course is designed to develop the specialty skills and techniques of stunt work with specific emphasis on film combat. The students will focus on the awareness and development of body mechanics as a tool for the actor through emphasis on stage fighting, circus skills, stage stunt work, as well as complex on-camera combat techniques and choreography.

SINGING FOR ACTORS

This course offers actors the opportunity to experience the techniques and joy of singing to feel comfortable and competent in an audition or on set. This is a voice workshop, not a performance workshop. The skills practiced are intended to create expressive freedom in a musical environment.

ADVANCED STAGE PROJECTS

This course is an individualized project-based curriculum culminating in a taped live performance for an audience. The scope of learning includes creating and developing a theatrical performance.

ENTERTAINMENT LAW

This course is an overview of basic entertainment law and how it affects actors, the business of acting and basic content creation. Acting students will study legal issues that affect actors and content creators in television, film, recordings, live performances and other aspects of the entertainment industry.