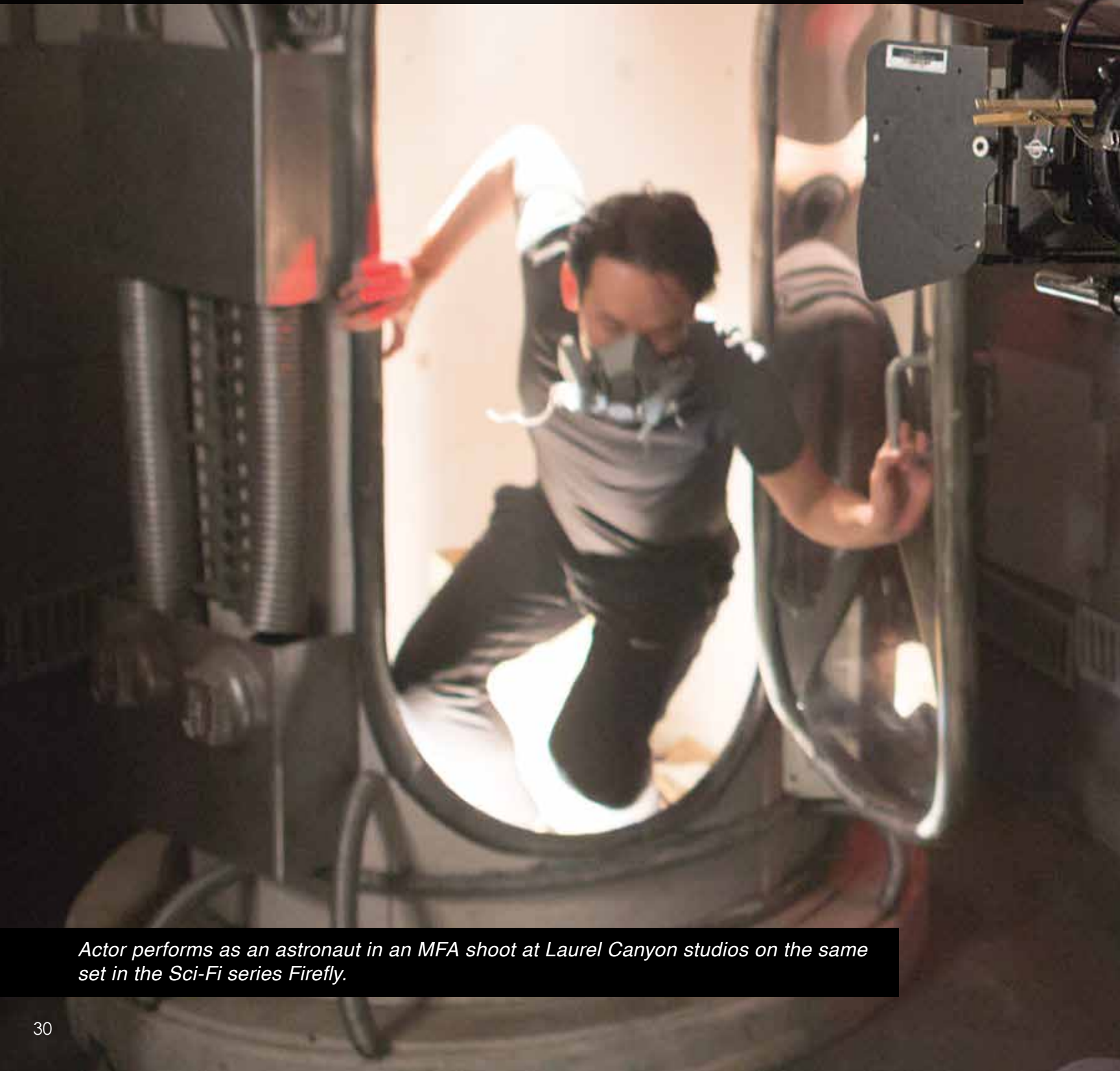


Two-Year Accelerated
MASTER OF FINE ARTS
in ACTING FOR FILM



Actor performs as an astronaut in an MFA shoot at Laurel Canyon studios on the same set in the Sci-Fi series Firefly.



LOCATION

**LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA;
SOUTH BEACH, FLORIDA**

Locations are subject to change.

For start dates and tuition, please visit nyfa.edu

OVERVIEW



People? I ain't people. I am a shimmering, glowing star in the cinema firmament. ”

- Gene Kelly

While many successful film and television actors have natural talent, **the ability to perform effectively in front of a camera or cameras on a busy set is not a skill that one simply masters overnight.** After all, unlike stage acting, a film or television audience can see every facial tick and body movement. The trained actor is able to demonstrate absolute mastery over her or his execution to create a truly memorable and affecting performance.

In the Academy's two-year MFA in Acting for Film program, students spend four sixteen-week semesters fully immersed in the study and practice of acting along with additional time required in the evening and on weekends for classes, rehearsals, and shoots.

Our intensive and challenging curriculum guides students from the stage to the screen, providing them with a solid foundation in the craft of acting. They then apply what they learn in class and in faculty-supervised workshops to project-based assignments and collaborations with our MFA Filmmaking students that prepare students for the professional realities of pursuing a career in acting.

Students can enroll in the Academy's MFA in Acting for Film program at either our Los Angeles or South Beach campuses where they can shoot on location amongst the gorgeous backdrops of either city. **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 MFA ACTING FOR FILM DEGREE PROGRAM.**

Since the best way to learn how to act in films is to actually act in films, our students begin acting in front of the camera from the first week of the program. Every week, students get the opportunity to practice the techniques and skills they have gained in class in exercises that are shot and reviewed.

In addition, students study under our prestigious faculty of professional actors who are working veterans of Hollywood and independent film, television, Broadway, and Off-Broadway.

Our MFA in Acting for Film program features the production of short films or scenes that star our acting students. We provide all of our students with shot and edited materials that are suitable to put on an actor's reel. **The program places a strong emphasis on real-world training as students gain extensive experience learning the best practices for auditions and how to successfully navigate a competitive industry.**

In addition to the above, our Acting for Film and Filmmaking MFA programs work hand-in-hand, providing all of our students with resources such as film equipment, live film shorts, and a network collaborators: filmmakers, actors, screenwriters, producers, and editors. This collaborative atmosphere familiarizes students with the demands and challenges they will face on professional film sets while providing them with a network that they will take with them after graduating from the New York Film Academy.

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.



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- Text and Script Analysis.
- Broad Range of Acting Techniques.
- Voice and Movement Techniques.
- Acting Skills for the Camera.
- Auditioning Techniques.
- Writing Principles.
- Technical Film and Production Techniques.
- 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.
- Original One-Act Stage Play.

SEMESTER FOUR

- Thesis Film.
- Short Original Ensemble Film.
- Professional Industry package.
- Industry Showcase.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

YEAR ONE OVERVIEW

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

SEMESTER ONE

TECHNIQUE & SCENE STUDY 1

This course provides students with the preparatory building blocks that lay a solid foundation from which to go deeper into the craft of acting. Students will learn about their responsibility to the script, and fellow actors as they analyze their emotional and physical instrument and begin to practice technique exercises, which will give them insight into the primary function of the Actor; that of making clear, readable choices for a character in a given imaginary circumstance. Students will practice relaxation, concentration, and specificity exercises as well as learn how to prepare emotionally for a performance. Students learn to analyze scripts and break them down into units or “beats” and develop a solid grounding in establishing a character. Students will work on exercises, monologues, and short scenes from plays applying the techniques they have studied.

ACTING FOR FILM 1

The focus of this course is to provide students with an environment to get comfortable acting in front of the camera. The primary emphasis of the class is the practice of the subtlety and nuance of film acting, including learning to adjust the performance for specific shot size, 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 are also addressed.

VOICE AND SPEECH 1

In this course, students will begin to develop a free and healthy voice and an awareness of vocal tendencies through the teaching of various techniques. 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 direct connection to their voice unimpeded by habitual tension which will serve their scene and stage performances.

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 through the teaching of various methods. Immersion in a variety of techniques will provide the foundation of movement analysis and the application of movement exercises to develop the physical life of a character which they may utilize in a filmed performance.

FILMCRAFT

An exploration of filmmaking from the actor’s perspective, including cinematography, directing, producing, screenwriting, and editing. Learning the roles of all the players on a film set dramatically increases the actor’s ability to collaborate with filmmakers in developing dynamic performances. Students will participate in an in-class shoot, utilizing skills gained in the course.

CINEMA STUDIES

This course studies the development of film history from its beginnings in the late 19th century up to the present day. Students will look at the growth of cinema and the major films, filmmakers, actors, and studios in the United States and around the world. This course will provide reference points for key film performances and a working vocabulary of historically important films.

SEMESTER TWO

TECHNIQUE & SCENE STUDY II

This course 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 while increasing awareness of their instrument. They will also develop their ability to create detailed and vibrant imaginative worlds. The student will learn the value of observation and replication in character work, and have an increased awareness of real and imagined stimuli to create points of concentration to ground their performances in the given circumstances of their acting work. Emotional preparation will be more deeply explored and students will further understand the concept of a personal process. Students will perform in a recorded live presentation for an audience at the end of the semester.

ACTING FOR FILM II

This course teaches more advanced Acting for Film skills necessary for creating a fully realized performance. Students will prepare a script and digitally film a variety of scenes during class and learn to edit their own exercises and scenes to better understand how the mechanics of a performance effect the final edit. They will also do pre-production prep in class as well as rehearse final scenes for an on-location shoot. Students will be intensively involved in production as well as acting throughout the shoot days. They will edit their own scenes for a final screening.

VOICE AND SPEECH II

Building upon the foundations established in Voice and Speech I, students explore the application of learned vocal techniques to text in order to expand their 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 through the study of various techniques. The students will explore text work by focusing on the enhancement of the variety of vocal choices, along with intelligibility and breath support that is connected to image and character.

“The actor should be able to create the universe in the palm of his hand.”

- Laurence Olivier

MOVEMENT II

Expanding upon the techniques and skills learned in Movement I, students continue their exploration to refine their ability to express character and emotion through the body, using multiple approaches to movement and its analysis. Movement II hones and expands students' proficiency of their physical instrument by applying physicalization to character through improvised and scripted performance.

IMPROVISATION

Improvisation encourages students to skillfully nurture their instincts and freely release their creative impulses through a variety of individual and group exercises. The ability to improvise is a powerful tool for film and television actors.

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 where they shoot on 16mm film and HD.

These practice scenes are fully pre-produced (storyboarded, cast, scouted, rehearsed, and pre-lighted) and planned during elaborate crew meetings prior to the start of each production. Filling all of the necessary crew roles, students spend a full day shooting scenes with a more advanced grip and electric equipment package.

YEAR TWO OVERVIEW

Through exposure to the many facets of the professional world of film acting, the second year prepares MFA students for their thesis projects.

SEMESTER THREE

WRITING FOR ACTORS

Students will learn sound writing principles and create the script for their Stage to Screen I one-act play that will be performed in the same semester.

ACTING FOR FILM III: SCRIPTED TV

Students are exposed to the various techniques necessary for both multi-camera and single camera shoots for television. Students will learn the technical aspects of working on a set with multi-camera and single camera set-ups. The course contains two in-class shoots and a series of lectures by industry professionals.

VOICEOVER WORKSHOP

Students will learn the highly specialized skill of voiceover acting, discovering what kind of voiceover work they are most suited for and learning how to use their voice in different ways. They will also get information about job opportunities available in this field and record material for their own voiceover demo reel.

STAGE TO SCREEN 1 (PLAY)

Students will learn the nuances and differences in acting styles and technical demands for both staged and on-camera performances. They will also study and analyze contemporary plays and screenplays, and rehearse and perform scenes from an existing play on stage followed by a film shoot of the same script.

SHAKESPEARE

Students learn to evaluate what the language is doing in Shakespeare's plays and the action that is implied while developing the fundamental concepts of scansion, meter, text analysis and scene study. Performing Shakespeare will guide them to further develop their vocal and physical dexterity demanded by the text.



SEMESTER FOUR

MASTER'S SCENE STUDY

Students work on advanced scenes, furthering their development in emotional availability, personalization, transference, stakes, and urgency in performance. They are encouraged to explore more intense and emotionally deeper material, choosing scenes that expand one's characterization work.

THESIS DEVELOPMENT

This class will be geared toward assisting the student in the creation of the Thesis Project, which will include intensive research, writing, and preparatory work. Students will also be able to troubleshoot areas of concern.

BUSINESS OF ACTING/AUDITION TECHNIQUE

This course teaches advanced Business of Acting skills to MFA students with the aim of preparing students to enter today's highly competitive industry. Students will create a business plan that includes research on headshot photographers, writing resumes, researching and targeting appropriate agencies and managers, understanding basic contracts and industry standards as well as honing auditioning skills for today's industry.

STAGE TO SCREEN II (FILM)

After completing Stage to Screen I in Semester Three, students immerse themselves in learning to adapt their live performance to the screen for a filmed production, to be screened at the end of the program.



Working on a professional sound stage, Acting for Film students gain extensive in front of and behind the camera.

ELECTIVES

Electives are subject to change and are offered based on enrollment 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. This approach has grown increasingly popular in web series and content created for the internet.

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. Dance ability adds to the arsenal actors can bring to a role.

STUNT WORKSHOP

Designed to develop the specialty skills and techniques of stunt work with specific emphasis on film combat, students will focus on the awareness and development of body mechanics as a tool for the actor. This course also includes an instructional component where the students choreograph their own staged fight scenes.

SINGING FOR ACTORS

This course offers actors the opportunity to experience the techniques and joy of singing in order to feel comfortable and competent in an audition or in a role that requires singing. 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 filmed live performance of a theatrical performance for an audience. The student will synergize all of the methodologies and skill sets developed in their other acting courses.

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 all aspects of the entertainment industry.