

ACTORS STUDIO DRAMA SCHOOL

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

IN ACTING, DIRECTING AND PLAYWRITING

YEAR 3: CREATING A ROLE
CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The focus of this year is the formation of all the students into a repertory group. While they continue their common and specialized courses, the students develop and collaborate on the dramatic material which will be presented in their Third-Year Repertory Season, a weekly series of scenes, one-act plays and, if possible, full-length plays, some of them written by our playwrights, and all of them directed by our directors and acted by our actors.

Below is a table of the third-year curriculum for actors, directors and playwrights in the Actors Studio Drama School. **Click on the course numbers** to read the complete descriptions.

	Fall Semester		Spring Semester
THR 701	Process Lab 1 All students 4 credits	THR 702	Process Lab 2 All students 4 credits
THR 703	Scene Work 3 Actors 4 credits	THR 704	Scene Work 4 Actors 4 credits
THR 721	Voice and Speech 5 Actors/Elective 3 credits	THR 722	Voice and Speech 6 Actors/Elective 3 credits
THR 711	Classics, Period and Style 1 Actors/Elective 4 credits	THR 712	Classics, Period and Style 2 Actors/Elective 4 credits
THR 733	Movement 5 - Ballroom Elective 3 credits		
THR 735	Improvisational Movement 5 Actors/Elective 3 credits	THR 736	Improvisational Movement 6 Actors/Elective 3 credits
THR 751	Playwriting 5 Playwrights 4 credits	THR 752	Playwriting 6 Playwrights 4 credits
THR 741	Directing 3 Directors 4 credits	THR 742	Directing 4 Directors 4 credits
THR 783	Applied Stage Design 1: Scenic, Lighting, Costume	THR 784	Applied Stage Design 2: Scenic, Lighting, Costume

	Directors 3 credits		Directors 3 credits
THR 707	The Craft Seminar 5 All students 0 credits	THR 708	The Craft Seminar 6 All students 0 credits
THR 709	The Observer Program All students 0 credits	THR 710	The Observer Program All students 0 credits
Actors	18 (3 elective credits)*	Actors	18 (0 elective credits)*
Directors	11 (13 elective credits)*	Directors	11 (10 elective credits)*
Playwrights	8 (13 elective credits)*	Playwrights	8 (10 elective credits)*

***Electives not required**

FIRST SEMESTER

THR 701 PROCESS LAB 1

All students. One 4-hour class per week. 4 credits.

This course reunites students of all three disciplines to develop the works that will comprise the Third-Year Repertory Season.

THR 703 SCENE WORK 3

Actors. One 4-hour class per week. 4 credits.

Advanced scene work, continuing the second year's training. It provides a deeper understanding of scene work, and most of the material is taken from the American and foreign repertoire of realistic and non-realistic plays.

THR 721 VOICE AND SPEECH 5

Actors. Elective for others. Two 90-minute classes per week. 3 credits.

The class will focus on rediscovering and opening up the channels in the body through which thought, breath, emotion and sound can travel to allow for the demands of fully-embodied language. We will move through exercises in colors, anatomy of language and connection to text.

THR 711 CLASSICS, PERIOD AND STYLE 1

Actors. Elective for others. One 4-hour class per week. 4 credits.

The actors bring classic scenes and plays to life onstage, not as museum pieces or textbook readings, but as new extensions of the contemporary students' souls and craft. The works encountered in this course are not approached

as literature or history, but within the context of the Studio's process, employing the techniques that the actors have acquired in the past two years. In addition, they begin to learn and employ the special requirements of language, verse and physical expression required by the play.

THR 783 APPLIED STAGE DESIGN 1: SCENIC, LIGHTING, AND COSTUME DESIGN

Directors. One 3-hour class per week. 3 credits.

This course is a practical workshop in support of the students' Repertory Season projects, with the full attention of the students and the program's Design faculty, staff and stage crew focused on the work that is moving from the rehearsal room to the stage.

THR 751 PLAYWRITING 5

Playwrights. One 4-hour class per week. 4 credits.

This course is the final crucial step in moving the works that have been developed by the playwrights over the past two years, to the stage of the Repertory Season and to the staged readings of their full-length plays. In addition, they will continue to work on screenwriting.

THR 741 DIRECTING 3

Directors. One 4-hour class per week. 4 credits.

Directing 3 is a continuation of the training of the first and second years, in a variety of plays, including classics.

THR 733 MOVEMENT 5—BALLROOM

Elective. Two 90-minute classes per week. 3 credits.

Advanced movement training in ballroom dancing.

THR 735 IMPROVISATIONAL MOVEMENT 5

Actors. Elective for others. Two 90-minute classes per week. 3 credits.

A continuation of Improvisational Movement 4.

THR 707 THE CRAFT SEMINAR 5

All students. No additional credit.

These Craft Seminars, which have been offered since the program's first week in 1994, have become the most famous and visible of its many unique features.

Seen across America and around the world as the award-winning Bravo Network television series *Inside The Actors Studio*, this course is designed to introduce the students to some of the most renowned actors, writers and directors in theater, film and television.

What the television public sees on the Bravo Network in the United States and in nearly every major country in the world, is a one- or two-hour excerpt of the students' three-to-four-hour experience of the Craft Seminars, and the

interview onstage is followed by an hour of students' questions for the guest in an intensive private class, taught by the evening's guest exclusively for the program's students.

THR 709 THE OBSERVER PROGRAM

All students, twice per year, at the Actors Studio. No additional credit.

In the course of the school year, each of the students will attend two two-per-week sessions on at the Actors Studio itself on West 44th Street.

This element of the program, like the weekly Workshop, is designed to broaden the student's experience. It is an element that no other school can offer, since it opens the doors of the Actors Studio's exclusive West 44th Street location to the MFA students.

SECOND SEMESTER

THR 702 PROCESS LAB 2

All students. One 4-hour class per week. 4 credits.

In the weeks of preparation for the Third-Year Repertory Season, the scenes, one-acts and plays are further developed, using all the experience and technique acquired in the previous five semesters. The technical crafts—settings, lighting, costume, stage management, etc.—will now come into play as the work moves from the rehearsal room to the stage. As students complete their theses and Repertory Season appearances, Process Lab 2 affords them a forum in which to assess and expand the lessons learned on stage.

THR 704 SCENE WORK 4

Actors. One 4-hour class per week. 4 credits.

Advanced scene work, continuing the first semester's training. In addition, actors will receive valuable information about auditioning for stage and film.

THR 722 VOICE AND SPEECH 6

Required for Actors. Elective for others. Two 90-minute classes per week. 3 credits.

A continuation of Voice and Speech 5.

THR 736 IMPROVISATIONAL MOVEMENT 6

Actors. Elective for others. Two 90-minute classes per week. 3 credits.

A continuation of Improvisational Movement 5.

THR 712 CLASSICS, PERIOD AND STYLE 2

Actors. Elective for others. One 4-hour class per week. 4 credits.

A continuation of Classics, Period and Style 1.

THR 784 APPLIED STAGE DESIGN 2: SCENIC, LIGHTING, AND COSTUME DESIGN

Directors. One 3-hour class per week. 3 credits.

A continuation of Applied Stage Design 1.

THR 752 PLAYWRITING 6

Playwrights. One 4-hour class per week. 4 credits.

This course offers continuing support to the writers in the Repertory Season, and, of equal importance, a forum in which to assess their experience in the Repertory Season, to apply the lessons they have learned to what they have written and to prepare full-length plays for the staged reading of the work.

THR 742 DIRECTING 4

Directors. One 4-hour class per week. 4 credits.

A continuation of Directing 3.

THR 708 THE CRAFT SEMINAR 6

All students. No additional credit.

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THR 710 THE OBSERVER PROGRAM

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GRADUATION

To earn the Master of Fine Arts degree, actors must complete 99 credits, directors must complete 107 credits and playwrights must complete 83 credits.

BEYOND GRADUATION

AFTER GRADUATION, all students have the privilege, for one year, of the status of Working Finalist at the Actors Studio itself, which means they are eligible to attend sessions and take a Final Audition for Studio Membership, bypassing the usual Preliminary Audition. Some of these students, if they successfully pass their Final Audition, will become Life Members of the Actors Studio.

AFTER GRADUATION, all directing and playwriting students are invited, for at least one year, to be part of the Playwrights and Directors Workshop of the Actors Studio, a unit especially created for the continuation of the training of our directing and playwriting graduates.