Electives 2020

All students get to participate in three different electives over the course of the program – one each week. Choose from:

Digital Photography

Move beyond auto and begin to master your digital camera’s features. Shutter speed, aperture and ISO all demystified and made to work for you. Explore techniques such as finding flattering light, shoot in shade, harsh sunlight and challenging low light. Discover inspiring ideas for compelling compositions and start taking more professional photographs.

Final Cut Pro

Learn how to edit films with one of the world’s leading editing programs, Final Cut Pro. Learn how to add media from different sources, keep your clips organized, add music and titles and how to perform editing essentials. The course is one-to-one hands on tuition and is suitable for complete beginners or those wishing to get more advanced.

Meditation and Mindfulness

Learn traditional Buddhist meditation techniques through a series of sitting and walking practices, cultivating the sensory experience and learning to live more fully in the moment. Some of the tangible benefits of meditation include: increased concentration, better coping abilities and personal acceptance, a reduction in persistent negative thinking, and an increase in overall feelings of calm and happiness.

Master the Self-Tape

Putting yourself on tape for an audition has become an essential skill for any working actor. And it is not always as easy as it sounds! Learn what makes a good self-tape as you get hands on practice including tips and techniques from our faculty who do it for a living. You’ll get advice on how to handle sides, who should read in with you and what that should sound like, and how to frame, shoot and send your audition.

Improvisation

Students hone their moment to moment reflexes onstage through a series of games and exercises. Emphasis is on building truthful, creative scenes through collaboration rather than trying to “entertain” an audience. Actors form an Improv Troup which will perform at the end of the workshop.

Personal Storytelling

Discover how your personal stories can translate into powerful performances on stage and on screen through the Narativ Storytelling Technique with Dan Milne, Director of London Narativ UK. You will develop a personal story according to their “What Happened?” method, telling your story as perceived by the five senses creating a more raw and immediate contact with the storyteller’s experience. Stories will be performed at the end of the workshop.

Audition Monologues

A course designed for those who need to prepare monologues for college auditions or are just interested in having an arsenal of audition material at their disposal. A packet of contemporary and Shakespeare monologues will be explored, and class discussion will centre on how to choose a monologue that suits you, how to challenge yourself with different monologues, and how to prepare and stage your piece. There will be an opportunity to share your monologue at the end of the workshop.

Writer/Performer

Discover your unique voice and get writing! This course helps you get your ideas onto paper, organize and edit them to start creating your unique one-person show that can be performed anywhere. Get suggestions on how to stage and produce your show as well as one-to-one workshopping and feedback sessions. There will be an opportunity to perform your piece at the end of the workshop.

Essential Playwrights

Want to start reading great plays but don’t know where to start? This course will get you excited about reading plays and covers essential contemporary American and British playwrights, including: Arthur Miller, Paula Vogel, Nick Payne, Sarah Ruhl and more. The class includes discussion around good dramatic structure, what makes a play a classic, and different styles of plays including contemporary, avant-garde and experimental theatre. A reading list will be provided for ongoing, take home study.

Musical Theatre Group

Sample the professional experience of mastering a musical theatre number under a time pressure as you prepare a complex piece for performance, including vocal harmonies, staging and choreography, in just six hours. A special emphasis is put on “acting through song” exploring how to convey feeling and narrative through words and music. Past performance pieces include songs from Hamilton, Chicago, Spring Awakening, A Chorus Line, Footloose and The Greatest Showman.

Musical Theatre Group 2

Can’t get enough Musical Theatre? Then you are welcome to take a second Musical Theatre class! A different number will be prepared for performance in week two. The difficulty level will be set after assessment of the skill level of the previous week’s participants.

Basic Chef Skills

Get some experience in the kitchen and learn some basic chef skills as you serve as a sous chef under our Berridge Chef Bogdan Silaghi. Learn about selecting fresh ingredients, weights and measures, safe knife skills, proper seasoning, food handling and safety in the kitchen as you prep the evening meal from start to finish. Some essentials of French cuisine will be covered including basic sauces and classic dishes.

Screenwriting

Get your screenplay off the ground as you begin to transform your story idea into a structured narrative. Learn how to properly structure and format a screenplay, outline shots and translate your visual storytelling onto the page. There will be opportunities to workshop your screenplay with professional actors as well as feedback and ideas for continued development of your screenplay.

Building and Making for Stage and Screen

This course gives you hands-on experience in building and making set pieces and props for stage and film. Basic use of tools, choosing materials, construction techniques and tips and tricks for bringing it all together are explored. Students will work on real pieces to be used in our Final Showcase. If you need to brush up your DIY skills or just enjoy getting your hands dirty, this course is for you!