

# **LOS ANGELES PERFORMING ARTS CONSERVATORY**

**1404 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Promenade, Santa Monica CA 90401**

**laconservatory.com**

**310-656-8070**

## **Acting Certificate Program (1 calendar year)**

### **Annual Start Dates:**

**April 9, 2018**

**July 9, 2018**

**October 1, 2018**

### **Number of Lessons Included:**

Classes are typically Monday thru Thursday

3 hours long

18 hours per week (about 6 classes per week)

Sessions are in 10 week quarters

3 quarters per calendar year

**Maximum number of students:** 20 per class

### **MISSION**

To allow those not seeking a formal degree to attend and benefit from a highly skilled and professional staff and faculty through carefully tailored classes.

To allow Domestic and International Students who already have training but not a formal degree, the possibility of an American/Hollywood experience without having to invest the time and money necessary for a 2-year degree.

### **PURPOSE**

To offer the four basic standard techniques of American acting: Meisner, Adler, Strasberg and Chekhov, in one location.

To have access to segments of our signature program, The Creative Keys to Success, which offers to the actor the necessary edge in the creation of characters, in the world of auditions and effective communication with colleagues in the work place.

To provide a meaningful introduction to film and television acting techniques, setting the groundwork for careers in Hollywood.

To provide an introduction to the actors' physical and vocal instruments creating the groundwork for the reduction of accents and regionalisms, setting the platform for a career in Hollywood.

## **OBJECTIVES**

To support the acting student through this specialized training so that they can be better in tune with their instrument, emotions and imagination, preparing them for more advanced character work.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **ACTING CORE**

**360 HOURS**

#### **TITLE: INTRO SANFORD MEISNER TECHNIQUE**

**G101 60 hours**

Based upon some of the original theories of the great Russian teacher-director Constantine Stanislavski, the Meisner Technique is a systematic and methodical approach to bringing the artist back to his emotional impulses and to acting that is firmly rooted in the instinctive. The Meisner Technique builds a solid acting methodology through a series of vigorous exercises. The artist will develop the fundamental skills of trusting one's instincts, applying the use of objectives, working moment to moment, and the ability to authentically listen. Students use the imaginary world to be emotionally full and expressive. Each student's individuality, spontaneity, and theatricality are enriched. An invaluable course for an artist; as the study of Art, in its purest form, is the study of self.

#### **TITLE: GENRES IN FILM**

**G150 30 hours**

In order to write a good screenplay, it is important to understand the parameters of the story's genre. Through the study of classic screenplays and writing exercises students will explore a wide variety of genres. Meets 30 hours for 2 Credits.

#### **TITLE: VOICE & SPEECH KEY**

**G121 (2 credits)**

Using the voice as the Actor's Instrument, the actor learns De-Structuring Techniques that are utilized to release habitual tensions in the body and free the breath impulse, allowing the actor to connect to an authentic, truthful voice. The actor learns techniques for the fundamentals in breath, posture, resonance, and basic articulation skills. Focus is on releasing habitual tensions using yoga, the "Alexander Technique" and movement. The actor also learns fundamentals in anatomy and physiology of good vocal support.

#### **TITLE: SCRIPT ANALYSIS & BREAKDOWN**

**G220 30 hours**

In this class, students will learn how to analyze a script by understanding the basics of three-act structure: rising action, reversal, and resolution. Story telling is studied in a way that will allow the artist to reveal the core story that lies beneath the words on the page. The essential ingredients and skills necessary for the telling of a compelling story are explored; as well as the well defined elements of story structure in plays and commercial, modern high tech cinema. Students will learn the appropriate language to create riveting characters and performances.

#### **TITLE: LAUNCHING YOUR FILM CAREER**

**G301 30 hours**

A course in the basics of The Business of Entertainment. Using the book, *The Pocket Lawyer for Filmmakers*, by Thomas Crowell as a foundation, the artist will learn to balance their creativity with the realities of show business. Specialized modules are covered for the actors,

screenwriters and directors such as: talent agency agreements, manager agreements, production contracts, location and materials agreements and crew deals. A business perspective of the film and television studios is introduced as well as: independent production; formation of networks, internet, Trade Marks, Copyrights, IP Protection, Entities and Securities Development, the Art and Technique of Pitching to Production; Development, Acquiring Rights, Titles, Pre-Production, Packaging; Pre-Sales; PFD Deals; Turnaround, Employment contracts for Children, On the Set Rules, Third Party Rights, Network Licenses, Documentaries, Reality Shows, Post-Production, Editing, VFX & MUSIC, Distribution, How to get the money flow from the box office to the net profits, The Artist Unions: SAG: Screen Actors Guild, AFTRA: American Federation for Radio & Television Artists, EQUITY: The Union of the Theatre, WGA: The Writers Guild of America and DGA: The Directors Guild of America.

**TITLE: INTERM. SANFORD MEISNER TECHNIQUE     A102 60 hours**

Intermediate Sanford Meisner Technique, A102, builds on the experience, technique, and fortitude established in C101. This course leads the student through gradient steps of the established Sanford Meisner Technique, leading to a procedure of self-investigation. Much more independent work is encouraged and required. Outside rehearsal, written homework assignments, and detailed, structured notes on all crafted activities, (projects), and circumstances created for class, are required. Some of the exercises that are covered are: the use of Independent Activities, Entrances, Point of View, Emotional Preparation, Action, and Scene Work. The actors learn to craft their work to their fullest emotional, sequential, imaginative, and challenging possibilities. Other aspects of the improvisational exercises include, the Domestic Exercise, the Shared Circumstance, and the Life Goes on Activity. Students are challenged to use their imaginary world to be emotionally full and expressive. Each student's individuality, spontaneity, and theatricality are enriched.

**TITLE: ADVANCED SANFORD MEISNER TECHNIQUE     A103 60 hours**

In this advanced level course, the students will be challenged into applying all that they have learned in the two previous Sanford Meisner Technique courses, through the introduction of physical, mental, psychological and emotional impediments. This marks the beginning of character work and the actor embarks on the next level of discipline in creating specific choices, script interpretation, analyzing text, execution of actions, pursuing objectives, shaping the scene and how to create variety and contrast in each role. Texts, such as *The Spoon River Anthology* and "Nursery Rhymes", are utilized to challenge the actors into creating specific and detailed imaginary circumstances surrounding these texts to promote clarity of text and delivery of meaningful interpretations.

**TITLE: AUDITION FOR FILM & TELEVISION                     A141 30 hours**

A dynamic course that deals with all aspects of Film and Television Auditions; including establishing place and character, basic scene breakdown into units of action, and emotional preparation. The student will explore the physical adjustments necessary for the camera, how to control facial expressions; how to transition from stage to film and how to get used to the frame. The course includes scripts from sitcoms, soaps, television dramas and films.

This class is a step by step learning experience for the student that demystifies the Commercial Audition process. The actor is introduced to most types of commercials and the specific techniques for each one. Some of the styles covered: Character One Liners, Food and Beverage One Liners, MOS Spots (no dialogue), Improvisations, Slice of Life, Group Spots, Character and Corporate Spokespersons.

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>HISTORY OF THEATRE</b>	<b>G110 30 hours</b>
<p>This course provides students with a comprehensive examination in the historical background of drama from the development of theatre in ancient Greece and traveling through each of the major periods as a context for understanding the climate in which dramatic literature is developed. Students will be exposed to plays representative of each period providing them with a wide variety of world drama.</p>		

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>HISTORY OF FILM</b>	<b>G111 30 hours</b>
<p>A comprehensive examination of the history of film, from the first moving images through the film of today. An exploration of what makes the medium of Cinema unique amongst the arts. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of film critics and theorists as well as films from the silent masters, to the cutting edge directors of today; providing them with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the complexities of this art form.</p>		

**TITLE: MYTH IN FILM & THE CREATIVE PROCESS      G160 30 hours**  
In this course students will learn the foundations of the mythic model and its applications to life, acting, screenwriting, and directing. Using Joseph Campbell's book, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, as a foundation, the artist will experience how to leverage this powerful human and psychological paradigm to enrich their personal lives, writing, performance, emotional impact and tension.

**TITLE: VOICE & GENERAL AMERICAN SPEECH** **A122 30 hours**  
Restructuring Techniques are taught to develop an energetic and flexible voice while maintaining a relaxed instrument and sound vocal health through the basics of General American Speech. Continued techniques are taught on breath, posture, resonance and articulation. Focus is on building elements of vocal expression and vocal power along with increased work on diction and phrasing. **PRE-REQUISITE: VOICE AND SPEECH A121.**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>THE ACTOR'S INSTRUMENT KEY</b>	<b>A131 30 hours</b>
<p>Through the use of basic movement exercises and techniques, such as Ballet, Yoga, Pilates, Alexander and Feldenkrais, the actor becomes aware of his body as an instrument. The course focuses on posture, breathing, flexibility and fluidity within and through the body.</p>		

**TITLE: EXPLORATION - LEE STRASBERG TECHNIQUE A201 (4 credits)**

Lee Strasberg's "Sense Memory and Method Technique," are used to help the actors develop and explore all their senses, bringing their instrument in tune with their environment and their emotional states. The use of Imagery is introduced to connect with Emotionality and Body Language.

**TITLE: CHEKHOV ACTING TECHNIQUE A202 60 hours**

Students learn how to create a character using their body as a physical and emotional tool. Selections from plays, poetry and prose are utilized to train the actor to approach the text from a "physical and emotional" point of view. The course investigates the actors' movement and relationship to space, to each other, and to situations. Exercises including Psychological Gesture, Sensory and Improvisational movement; and relaxation help bring awareness to their body, emotions, and mind. Students then apply these techniques to a monologue, scene, or poem in a final performance.

**TITLE: FOUNDATION STELLA ADLER TECHNIQUE A203 60 hours**

This course deals in depth with Script Analysis through the Stella Adler Technique, utilizing the works of Anton Chekhov as a base. The actors will master the breakdown of a script into beats and the use of action exercises and emotional doings to understand the character's through-line.

**TITLE: STANDARD SPEECH & TEXT A221 30 hours**

This course focuses on expansion of the voice through the basics of Standard Speech, working on rhetoric, clarity of thought and communicating complex arguments. As the actor understands the fundamentals of voice and articulation, application is made to classical text using Shakespeare monologues, sonnets, and scenes.

**TITLE: CHARACTER ACCENTS & DIALECTS A222 30 hours**

Character development and acting with the voice are applied to classical monologues. Fundamentals are taught in British, Cockney, Irish, and a review of some of the American dialects most common for auditions.

**TITLE: MOVEMENT STYLES A232 30 hours**

In this course the student learns how to consciously use the body as a means of communication, character creation and stage/set presence, exploring different archetypes and time periods. The actor is taught character movement techniques such as finding the center of the character, the animal within, and skeletal breakdown. The actor learns to connect with the character's emotions through their primal needs and desires, bringing those elements to life through body language and articulation, as well as tempo, rhythm and shape.

**TITLE: PLAY PRODUCTION A190 30 hours**

This class takes the actor through the experience of producing and performing a play from beginning to end by staging the works of well-established playwrights. The actor will

enjoy a challenging rehearsal process that will include voice and movement, as well as portraying characters that are multi-dimensional and intricate.

**TITLE: ON CAMERA DYNAMICS A340 30 hours**

A hands on course in front of the camera dealing with Types of Camera Shots, Studio Location Disciplines and the Challenge of Continuity. Principles are taught through a Monologue and Scene Study, Blocking, Rehearsal and Character Development. Scenes are shot in Masters, Two Shots and Close Ups, providing an invaluable real-world experience. The actors will develop a winning on-camera, on set technique that continues to explore the use of objectives, bringing them to life through sub-textual body language and learning to play to that all-seeing camera eye. PRE-REQUISITE: AUDITION FOR FILM & TELEVISION A141

**TITLE: ON CAMERA DRAMA A341 30 hours**

This course is a detailed study of every aspect of film and television performance. The class includes Psychological Action Breakdown, Silent Action and Reaction Breakdowns as well as emotional and practical tools for creating memorable filmic performances. PRE-REQUISITE: AUDITION FOR FILM & TELEVISION A141

**TITLE: SCENE STUDY A304 30 hours**

An In-depth course that examines the Who, What, Where, Why, and When of the Character. The actor is made aware of connecting what proceeds and follows each scene as a tool for creating reality. A clearer grasp of the author's given circumstances is developed through exploration, improvisation, and manifestation of place. Finally, the actor learns to create character through behavior, and understands blocking through motivation.

**TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO SHAKESPEARE G205 30 hours**

A stimulating study into Shakespearean drama, not only as printed texts but as works written for performance. The students will get a good grounding in reading, analyzing and performing Shakespeare's language. The course will also explore Shakespeare's treatment of marriage, family and gender; linking the plays with the society in which they were written.

**TITLE: VOICE OVER TECHNIQUE A320 30 hours**

A course that allows the actor an exploration into their vocal range through television commercials, radio spots, animation, promos, and narration. The course teaches the actor to create character with their voice, through phrasing and instinctual connection. It is a vocal journey; wherein the actor gets clear on where they fit into the market place.

**TITLE: ADVANCED COMMERCIAL TECHNIQUE A321 30 hours**

This course is designed for actors who understand basic commercial audition principles. The environment is set up to allow each actor their own sense of artistry and creativity mixed in with many adjustments and surprises, much like professional actors find in the real world. The course focuses on the call back, mastering the cue card and boosting improvisational skills.

**TITLE: HOSTING & INDUSTRIALS A322 30 hours**

An introduction into the world of Commercial Hosting and Corporate Industrial Films: The Hour Format, The Half Hour Format, The Segment Format, Entertainment Programming, Informational Programming, Travel Shows, Documentaries, News and Public Affairs, Specialty Programming, Educational Videos, Infomercials and New Media Webisodes. The course explores the audition process in this venue, from the casting session to the set, role hierarchy: The Show Host, The Co-Host, The Segment Host as well as basic acting tools like Breathing, Relaxation, Articulation, Audience Rapport, Maintaining Energy, enthusiasm, momentum and the right emotional tone to suit the subject matter.

**TITLE: FUNDAMENTALS OF IMPROVISATION A121 30 hours**

A course designed to give the students the necessary tools to create scenarios alone and with others in a spontaneous manner. These tools will sharpen the actor's memory and develop the actor's ability to take risks. This course is a must for all auditions, teaching the actor to think and act quickly while taking adjustments and being present and alive for every moment.

**TITLE: SKETCH COMEDY A382 30 hours**

Actors explore their creativity and wit, while learning to place their thoughts into the format of sketch comedy incorporating Improvisation, Scene Study, Character Development and Sketch Writing.

**TITLE: STAND UP COMEDY TECHNIQUE A383 30 hours**

Actors learn from working professionals how to master the art of Stand-Up Comedy by writing their own material and presenting themselves to a live audience in a show.

**TITLE: INSIDE FILM & TV COMEDY A384 30 hours**

The course introduces the student to the basics of comedy structure; from the casting session, to the screen test, to the set. The actor is taught to create a true reality, develop an emotional life and marry the technical with the comedic. The actor explores the depth and comedy of his screen persona and is encouraged to stretch his imagination into the heightened world of comedy. The course teaches how to master comic timing, rhythm, and differentiating between the 'straight guy', and the 'fall guy.' The course includes scripts from Romantic Comedy, Situation Comedy, Absurdist Comedy, and Farce.

**TITLE: PHYSICAL COMEDY TECHNIQUE A385 30 hours**

A course that teaches the actor the use of his body as a tool for understanding and conveying comedic expression. By utilizing the Grotowski Technique and the Charlie Chaplin model, the actors explore the use of props, facial and body language to convey a story and finding their inner clown.

**TITLE: WRITING THE SHORT FILM S121 30 hours**

Like the short story, the short film is a specific genre with its own set of rules and demands. In this workshop, students will learn the basic elements of this unique and demanding form, they will sharpen writing skills and develop character and structural elements.

From the Idea to the Page, students learn Screenplay Structure, Character Development, the Creation of each Act, Scene by Scene Breakdown and to invent incidents that raise the stakes of every plot. This course outlines a Paradigm of Screenwriting that enhances the writer's imagination and capacity for creating an extra dimension in character depth.

Actors are the artists who bring the characters and the stories of each script to life. Through hands on work with actors, directing students will acquire the skills necessary to elicit powerful performances. Directors will expand their knowledge of the actors' language to construct and guide talent through their vision. They will also learn effective communication and the technical terms in this experiential process. Acting students can take this course and be the actors that are directed by the film directing students; as well as trying their hand at directing.

Once the directors have acquired a basic knowledge in “the actor’s language”, they will now move into what an actual rehearsal process would consist of with the actors in order to insure and extract their best performance. Acting students can take this course and be the actors that are directed by the film directing students; as well as trying their hand at directing. PRE-

Staging is one of the director's most powerful tools. Directors will learn the basics of stage blocking, how to enhance performance and create powerful visual pictures with this essential skill. Acting students can take this course and be the actors that are directed by the film directing students; as well as trying their hand at directing. Culminates in final presentation.