

**LOS ANGELES PERFORMING ARTS CONSERVATORY**  
1404 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Promenade, Santa Monica CA 90401  
laconservatory.com  
310-656-8070

**Associate Degree of Occupational Science in Fine Arts /Acting (2 calendar years)**

**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**

Associate of Occupational Science in Fine Arts / Acting at the Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory is designed to train the actor in a formal academic setting and offers a variety of techniques that allow the expression of emotional truth in every performance; accompanied with skill, imagination, passion and discipline.

**PURPOSE**

The actor will receive a well-rounded education from the classic, to the contemporary, to the avant-garde. Experiencing a variety of world drama and comedy through training in film, television, and stage, the Conservatory continues its tradition of supporting and nurturing talent who, equipped with the right tools, have no choice but to succeed and excel in chameleon-like performances on the stage and on the screen.

Graduates will become accomplished in voice, speech, movement, on-camera experiences, live performances, and acting techniques. The Conservatory also places a strong emphasis on- stage and film experience through in-house productions.

**OBJECTIVES**

To complete a formal, well-rounded, comprehensive degree program tailored to the actor.

To achieve fluency in the techniques of American acting: Meisner, Adler, Strasberg and Chekhov, placing the actor in an echelon above all others.

To realize mastery of our signature program, The Creative Keys to Success, giving 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 solid film and television acting techniques, setting the groundwork for careers on the screen.

To develop the actors' physical and vocal instruments ensuring careers of longevity, depth and diversity.

To realize the ultimate goal for the acting student which is to behave moment to moment, spontaneously, truthfully, emotionally and imaginatively all at the same time so that the actor is grounded and prepared to develop character work from a real place.

To benefit from the technical and professional support, faculty, structure, and fellow alumni only available from a degree granting institution.

### **Associate Degree of Occupational Science in Fine Arts / Acting**

#### **GENERAL EDUCATION CORE**

24 Credits

All Associate of Fine Arts students enrolled at the Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory are required to complete the following General Education Core subjects as part of their degree program.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

##### **TITLE: INTRO TO THE SANFORD MEISNER TECHNIQUE G101 (4 credits)**

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: LAUNCHING YOUR FILM CAREER**

**G301 (2 credits)**

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: HISTORY OF THEATRE G110 (2 credits)**

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.

**TITLE: HISTORY OF FILM G111 (2 credits)**

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.

**TITLE: GENRES IN FILM G150 (2 credits)**

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: MYTHOLOGY IN FILM & THE CREATIVE PROCESS G160 (2 credits)**

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 & 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



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: THE ACTOR’S INSTRUMENT A131 (2 credits)**

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.

**TITLE: FUNDAMENTALS OF IMPROVISATION A121 (2 credits)**

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: VOICE & GENERAL AMERICAN SPEECH A122 (2 credits)**

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. Meets 30 hours for 2 Credits. PRE-REQUISITE: VOICE AND SPEECH A121.

**TITLE: AUDITION FOR FILM & TELEVISION A141 (1 credit)**

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.

**TITLE: BOOKING THE COMMERCIAL A142 (1 credit)**

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.

**TITLE: EXPLORATION THE 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 (4 credits)**

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 OF STELLA ADLER TECHNIQUE A203(4 credits)**

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. Meets 60 hours for 4 Credits.

**TITLE: STANDARD SPEECH & TEXT A221 (2 credits)**

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: MOVEMENT STYLES A232 (2 credits)**

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 (4 credits)**

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: ACTORS GRADUATION SHOWCASE A290 (4 credits)**

The preparation of an actors’ showcase designed to highlight their strengths to be presented to industry professionals: talent agents, managers, casting directors, and producers as a way to introduce the artists into the entertainment world and begin their professional careers.

## **ACTING ELECTIVES**

Any 8 Credits

All Associate of Fine Arts students enrolled at the Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory majoring in Acting are required to complete any combination of the following Acting Elective subjects as part of their degree program.

**TITLE: CHARACTER ACCENTS & DIALECTS A222 (2 credits)**

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: ON CAMERA DYNAMICS A340 (1.5 credits)**

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 (1.5 credits)**

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 (1.5 credits)**

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: VOICE OVER TECHNIQUE A320 (1.5 credits)**

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 (1.5 credits)**

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 (1.5 credits)**

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: SKETCH COMEDY A382 (1.5 credits)**

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 (2 credits)**

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 (1.5 credits)**

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 (2 credits)**

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 (2 credits)**

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.

**TITLE: WRITING THE FEATURE FILM S201(2 credits)**

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.

