

ACTING FOR FILM PITCH POINT

Our goal is to help you develop your individual acting skills and form a unique artistic vision that will allow for continued growth as an artist within the Entertainment industry.

All of our programs build on foundational skills, with focus on **Technique and Scene Study, Acting for Film, Voice and Movement**. Each program begins actor development with **classical theatre training, then advances to adjusting your work for on camera**. The degree program includes further training in their acting skills, as well as in cross-departmental areas such as Writing, Film craft, Editing and Producing. Students will also create professional portfolios and learn the tools they will need for entering the Industry. **All Degree program students and Two-Year Conservatory students will participate in an Industry Showcase.**

One Year Program

Students learn foundational skills of acting as well as the basic technical skills of filmmaking. Students will take part in an onstage filmed Final Presentation at the end of their course. They will also have screenings of their Final Films. Students will leave with: a short film, a filmed monologue presentation, and filmed final scene presentation.

Two-Year Program (offered in NY)

Students undergo a thorough regimen of class work and film acting that lays the groundwork for a professional life in the film arts. Students deepen their understanding of Acting for Camera and expand their ability to express through intensive movement, voice, acting and audition preparation. All 2-Year actors build a reel, act in a seven-day shoot with a faculty director and cinematographer, and participate in an industry panel where they can showcase their work to casting directors, agents, managers and industry professionals.

AFA Degree (offered in LA and SB)

Includes several stage presentations, two short films, creation of a voice over demo reel and professional portfolio. The program culminates in an Industry Showcase and screening of students' Final film. Students will leave with: a short film, filmed Industry Showcase, voice over demo reel and Industry Portfolio (headshot, resume and demo reel).

BFA Degree

Students develop a strong foundation in both critical thinking skills and the craft of acting, preparing them to realize their professional ambitions. They will perform and produce a full length play, write, produce and perform in an original screenplay as well as their own Thesis film. Students will leave with: Filmed Industry Showcase, Voice over demo reel, Original Short ensemble film, Thesis Film, Industry Portfolio (headshot, resume and demo reel).

MFA Degree (offered in LA and SB)

The MFA is a five-semester intensive degree program. Admission is by audition only. Students will be fully immersed in the study and practice of acting, building upon their foundational training to achieve mastery both on stage and on camera. Master degree students will write, produce and perform in a screenplay for a short film, develop and shoot a pilot for a webisode project, shoot their own Thesis Film, and participate in an Industry Showcase. Students will

leave with: Filmed Industry Showcase, Voice over demo reel , Original Short ensemble film, Webisode Pilot, Thesis Film, Industry Portfolio (headshot, resume and demo reel).

NYFA Alum- <https://www.nyfa.edu/nyfa-news/alumni>

NYFA Headlines- <https://www.nyfa.edu/film-school-blog/nyfa-stories-recent-top-10/>

Faculty

Students study under our acclaimed faculty members of professional actors who bring their **knowledge of the current state of the business** to students in order to help them understand how to navigate the Industry.

Drop-In(s) and Studio Classes (offered in LA)

These are **advanced and additional courses**, free for both alumni and long term students. These may change each semester and may include: Drop-In(s): Dance, Comedy, Audition Technique, Yoga, , Accent Reduction, Beginning Meisner. Studio (2nd and 3rd year students): Adv. Meisner, Method Technique, Chekhov Technique, Ballroom Dance, Singing, Dialects, Playwriting.

Drop-In Classes are available for **long-term students & alumni** to come & go. Alumni may only attend DropIn Classes. However, we also have an audition-only Alumni class in Scene Study.

Studio Classes require a **commitment to attend all sessions**. Studio Classes must be signed up for at the beginning of the semester, and students must attend all classes (usually 12) or be dropped from the course.

Production Workshops

NY Acting students have the opportunity to participate in production workshops on location in New York City. BFA students shoot on-location short films in semesters 2 & 3, a television workshop where they will participate in a three-camera shoot in semester 4, and a 7-day shoot of a film in semester 6. They audition to perform in short films with the Filmmaking students which fosters successful student collaboration, as well as giving them great onset experience! Students also create and star in their own original film with their thesis project.

LA Acting students have the opportunity to participate in **production workshops** on the **Universal Studios backlot** in Semester 1 & Semester 2 or 3. They perform in short films for Filmmaking students, which fosters successful student collaboration, as well as giving them great onset experience!

Student Directed Plays

LA & SB- The Acting Department oversees 56 student directed plays each semester, chosen by submission , directed and performed by **students and alumni**.

Open Casting

The Acting & Filmmaking Departments hold **Open Casting sessions twice** each semester for Actors who have an opportunity to audition in front of students from Filmmaking, Cinematography, Producing, Screenwriting and Documentary departments.

Performance Groups

NY All students and alumni are invited to participate in the **Improv Collective** and **biweekly table reads of plays and screenplays**.

LA & SB All students & alumni are invited to participate in NYFA's **Glee Club, Improv Troupe, & Dance Troupe**.

Post Graduation

NYFA LA'S Chair of Industry Outreach, Barbara Weintraub, works with each student before they graduate to create a **professional resume** and a **postschool career game plan**.

Students are encouraged to keep in contact with Barbara Weintraub & NYFA after graduating, for **industry opportunities**.

FACULTY BIOS

Josephine Wilson | *Chair of Acting for Film, NY*

Josephine received her MFA from Pennsylvania State University, and is a company member of the nationally - acclaimed **Shakespeare & Co** in Lenox, MA, where she spent nearly 10 years acting, directing, and teaching. While there, she studied under **Tina Packer** and dove deeply into **Kristen Linklater's** work in the place where it was created and developed. Josephine has also helped **Lincoln Center Theatre** develop its Shakespeare curriculum for schools, and has taught in its programs since moving to New York in 2015. She is a member of **The Humanist Project**, a theatre company that devises new pieces rooted in the classics. She has recently been a part of a five-person **Macbeth** performed at the Secret Theatre, was in **Macbeth** for South Brooklyn Shakespeare, was a part of the **Shakespeare Society's** exploration of **Richard III**, and cocreated a clown show called *Quantum Fairy Tales*. She has also written and developed her own show, *Psyche*, that she recently performed at **Dixon Place**. Regionally, she has performed as Annie in *Table Manners*, Lady Macbeth in **Macbeth**, Titania in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, and Miss Jean Brodie in **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**.

Amy Van Horne | *Creative Director, NY*

Amy Van Horne is an actor, teacher, and professional on-camera audition coach. She holds an MFA from Rutgers University-Mason Gross School of the Arts where she studied under the tutelage of Master Teachers **William Esper** and **Maggie Flanigan**. Amy has been a professional film and television actress for over 20 years, working in both LA and New York. Selected film/TV credits include: **Cost of Living, The City, The Big Easy, Hitz, Two Guys a Girl and a Pizza Place, Push, Veronica's Closet, Family Rules, The Beach Boys: An American Family, Judging Amy, Strong Medicine, Cold Case, and Final Sale**. She has also appeared in dozens of national network commercials. Having firsthand knowledge of the many technical challenges actors face working in front of the camera on professional film/TV sets, Amy developed and led on-camera acting technique and scene study classes that she taught for over 10 years in LA. Teaching actors to find freedom on camera became Amy's passion, and she returned to New York in 2013 to train as a master teacher under her mentor Maggie Flanigan.

Lynda Goodfriend | *Chair of Acting, LA*

Lynda received her BFA for Southern Methodist University. She has also studied with the legends, Lee Strasberg and Sandy Meisner. Lynda is a veteran of both Broadway and Off-Broadway productions appearing in shows such as Good News, West Side Story, She Loves Me, Fiddler on the Roof, The Boyfriend and No Strings. She was a series regular on the iconic hit television show "Happy Days," and on the series "Who's Watching the Kids," and "Blanksy's Beauties." She guest starred on shows such as Love Boat, Fantasy Island and Vegas. She has also appeared in feature films such as "Pretty Woman," "Taxi Driver," "The Front," "Beaches," and "Nothing in Common." Lynda was owner and

principle instructor of the Actors Workout School for 15 years with locations in both Los Angeles and Orange County. Her theatre, the Actors Workout Theatre in NoHo, won numerous awards for their theatrical productions. She has also directed for television and film including a Disney pilot, and television movie Four Star. Lynda opened her management company in 1983 and developed many actors' careers until she became Chair of the Acting Department for NYFA in Los Angeles in 2011.

Isabella Hofmann

Isabella Hofmann is a seasoned television & film actress. She's appeared in television shows such as **"Dear John"**, **"Touched By an Angel"**, **"Party of Five"**, **"Cold Case"**, **"JAG"**, **"Close to Home"**, **"Boston Legal"**, **"Ghost Whisperer"**, **"CSI: Miami"**, **"Lie to Me"**, **"NCIS"**, & **"Criminal Minds"**. She's been in films such as **"Burlesque"**, with Christina Aguilera & Cher, **"The Princess Diaries: Royal Engagement"**, & **"Renaissance Man"**.

George McGrath

George McGrath was a member of the **Groundlings Company** from **1984 to 1993**. He performed with the company, taught in the school, directed the Sunday Show, created the longrunning Your Very Own TV Show, costarred in Olympic Trials: A Chick Hazard Mystery with the late great Phil Hartman, and costarred in another longrunning show, Ultimate Idol. He was **nominated for an Emmy Award for his first writing job, PeeWee's Playhouse**, and was a **series regular**, appearing as puppets Globey, The Flowers, The Fish, Cowntess and the liveaction character Zyzzyballubah. He was nominated again for writing the second season with Paul Reubens, and **cowrote his Paramount film Big Top PeeWee**. He **created, wrote, and starred** in NickAtNite's first original series, **On the Television**, and coexecutive produced 40 episodes. George created the CBS children's series **Riders In the Sky**; was the head writer for **Later With Greg Kinnear**; and wrote the Fox TV movie, **Based On an Untrue Story**.

For the next several years he worked on a dozen sitcoms and became one of the highest paid and sought after **creative consultants** working in network TV. He returned to his roots, sketch comedy, working with the brilliant Tracey Ullman writing/producing her HBO series **Tracey Takes On** and special Tracey Ullman's Trailer Tales. He also had a recurring role on Tracey Takes On as Jonathan Meade. He **won a GLAAD award**, and received his third and fourth Emmy nominations for writing and producing Tracey Takes On. He is also a **songwriter**, with **over 90 songs in his BMI catalogue**, including PeeWee's Playhouse Theme Song, which won the Theme Song of the Year Award.

Matthew Modine

Matthew has studied with **Stella Adler at her Conservatory of Acting**, and while still a student of hers, he began landing starring roles in film, and later theatre and television. Matthew has worked with many of the **most highly regarded directors** including, **Christopher Nolan, Oliver Stone, Sir Alan Parker, Stanley Kubrick, Robert Altman, Abel Ferrara, Alan J. Pakula, John Schlesinger, Tony Richardson, Robert Falls, Sir Peter Hall, Spike Lee, Tom DiCillo, Mike Figgis, Jonathan Demme and John Sayles**. A partial list of his films include: The Dark Knight Rises (2012), Birdy (1984), Vision Quest (1985), Full Metal Jacket (1987), Married to the Mob (1988), Gross Anatomy (1989), Memphis Belle (1990), Pacific Heights (1990), Short Cuts (1993), The Browning Version (1994) and Any Given Sunday (1999).

Matthew is the **recipient of a Golden Globe Award, Venice Film Festival Volpi Cup and Golden Lion**. Mary (2005), directed by Abel Ferrara, costarring Juliette Binoche and Forest Whitaker, won the **Special Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival**. Birdy won the **Cannes Film Festival Gran Prix**. Equinox (1992), directed by Alan Rudolph, received four **Independent Spirit Award nominations** including Best Actor and Best Film. For his work in television, Matthew was

part of the Emmy winning Showtime series **Weeds**(2005). He has received Golden Globe and Emmy Award nominations for the **M.O.W. What the Deaf Man Heard** (1997) and HBO's Emmy winning **And the Band Played On**(1993). Modine has **directed several distinguished short films**: When I Was a Boy (1993), Smoking (1994), Ecce Pirate (1997), I Think I Thought (2008) and To Kill an American (2008).

SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NYFA Alum- <https://www.nyfa.edu/nyfa-news/alumni/>

NYFA Headlines- <https://www.nyfa.edu/film-school-blog/nyfa-stories-recent-top-10/>