

# ACTORS STUDIO DRAMA SCHOOL - ACTING, DIRECTING, AND PLAYWRITING, MFA

Campus: NYC

The curriculum of this MFA program is designed and supervised in cooperation with the leadership of the Actors Studio. A three-year program with three track options, it provides common and specialized courses to meet the needs of actors, directors, and playwrights individually and in collaboration as a repertory group. In the first year, students are immersed in learning acting methodology and language, as well as training in their individual craft. In the second year, students are introduced to unique collaborative training that encompasses the three disciplines. In the third year, the three groups apply their knowledge and work together as an ensemble to create and perform in a professionally produced Repertory Season that is presented to the industry and the public. This program, moreover, offers workshops on auditioning, creating a strong resume, taking a great head shot, effective self-promotion, building industrial networks, and finding job opportunities.

Updated: November 28, 2023

## GRADUATE PROGRAM CURRICULUM (CREDITS VARY PER TRACK)

### Year 1: Fall & Spring - An Actor Prepares

The program begins with Orientation Week, during which students are introduced to the communal world of the theater in an informal introduction by teachers to the program's philosophy, process and intentions. In these first classes, the students encounter another unique feature of the program: setting out on a side-by-side journey—as actors, directors and playwrights together—learning the common language that will enable them to collaborate productively, harmoniously, and seamlessly.

It is during this first week that the ensemble nature of the Actors Studio process will emerge.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Combined Courses: Actors, Directors, &amp; Playwrights Together</b>		
THR 501	Basic Technique 1	6
THR 503	Theater History 1	3
THR 505	Workshop 1	3
THR 502	Basic Technique 2	6
THR 504	Theater History 2	3
THR 506	Workshop 2	3
<b>Required Individual Group Courses</b>		
Select one of the following groups:		8-18
<i>Actors</i>		
THR 521	Voice and Speech 1.1	3
THR 531	Movement 1 - Improvisational Movement	3
THR 522	Voice and Speech 1.2	3
THR 532	Movement 2 - Improvisational Movement <sup>1</sup>	3
THR 523	General American Speech I	3
THR 524	General American Speech II	3
<i>Directors</i>		
THR 541	Preparing to Direct 1	4
THR 543	History of Directing 1	3
THR 545	Storytelling and the Use of Space 1	2
THR 542	Preparing to Direct 2	4
THR 544	History of Directing 2	3
THR 546	Storytelling and the Use of Space 2	2
<i>Playwrights</i>		
THR 551	Playwriting 1	4
THR 552	Playwriting 2	4
THR 545	Storytelling and the Use of Space 1	2
THR 546	Storytelling and the Use of Space 2	2

### Optional Elective Courses by Group

Select one of the following groups:		0-24
<i>Actors</i>		
THR 533	Movement 1 - West African Dance	3
THR 534	Movement 2 - West African Dance	3
<i>Directors</i>		
THR 521	Voice and Speech 1.1	3
THR 522	Voice and Speech 1.2	3
THR 531	Movement 1 - Improvisational Movement	3
THR 532	Movement 2 - Improvisational Movement	3
THR 533	Movement 1 - West African Dance	3
THR 534	Movement 2 - West African Dance	3
THR 523	General American Speech I <sup>2</sup>	3
THR 534	Movement 2 - West African Dance <sup>2</sup>	3
<i>Playwrights</i>		
THR 521	Voice and Speech 1.1	3
THR 522	Voice and Speech 1.2	3
THR 531	Movement 1 - Improvisational Movement	3
THR 532	Movement 2 - Improvisational Movement	3
THR 533	Movement 1 - West African Dance	3
THR 534	Movement 2 - West African Dance	3
THR 523	General American Speech I <sup>3</sup>	3
THR 524	General American Speech II <sup>3</sup>	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>134-168</b>

<sup>1</sup> For selected actors only.

<sup>2</sup> For selected directors only.

<sup>3</sup> For selected playwrights only.

## Year 2: Fall & Spring - Building A Character

Armed with the technical fundamentals to be used for the rest of their educational and professional careers, students move from preparation of their instrument (themselves) to preparation of the role.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Combined Courses: Actors, Directors, &amp; Playwrights Together</b>		
THR 601	Scene Work 1	6
THR 603	Theater History 3	3
THR 602	Scene Work 2	6
<b>Required Individual Group Courses</b>		
Select one of the following groups:		12-26
<i>Actors</i>		
THR 621	Voice and Speech 2.1	3
THR 622	Voice and Speech 2.2	3
THR 635	Improvisational Movement 3	3
THR 636	Improvisational Movement 4	3
THR 623	General American Speech III <sup>1</sup>	3
THR 624	General American Speech IV <sup>1</sup>	3
<i>Directors</i>		
THR 661	Playwrights and Directors Unit 1	4
THR 662	Playwrights and Directors Unit 2	4
THR 641	Directing 1	8
THR 642	Directing 2	8
THR 681	Principles of Design - Creative Collaboration 1	3
THR 682	Principles of Design - Creative Collaboration 2	3

*Playwrights*

THR 661	Playwrights and Directors Unit 1	4
THR 662	Playwrights and Directors Unit 2	4
THR 681	Principles of Design - Creative Collaboration 1	3
THR 682	Principles of Design - Creative Collaboration 2	3
THR 651	Playwriting 3	6
THR 652	Playwriting 4	6

**Optional Elective Courses by Group 0-24**

Select one of the following groups:

*Actors*

THR 633	Movement 3 Ballroom Dance	3
THR 634	Movement 4 Ballroom Dance	3
THR 681	Principles of Design - Creative Collaboration 1	3
THR 682	Principles of Design - Creative Collaboration 2	3

*Directors*

THR 621	Voice and Speech 2.1	3
THR 622	Voice and Speech 2.2	3
THR 633	Movement 3 Ballroom Dance	3
THR 634	Movement 4 Ballroom Dance	3
THR 635	Improviseational Movement 3	3
THR 636	Improviseational Movement 4	3
THR 623	General American Speech III <sup>2</sup>	3
THR 624	General American Speech IV <sup>2</sup>	3

*Playwrights*

THR 621	Voice and Speech 2.1	3
THR 622	Voice and Speech 2.2	3
THR 633	Movement 3 Ballroom Dance	3
THR 634	Movement 4 Ballroom Dance	3
THR 635	Improviseational Movement 3	3
THR 636	Improviseational Movement 4	3
THR 681	Principles of Design - Creative Collaboration 1	3
THR 682	Principles of Design - Creative Collaboration 2	3
THR 623	General American Speech III <sup>3</sup>	3
THR 624	General American Speech IV <sup>3</sup>	3

**Total Credits****167-205**

- <sup>1</sup> For selected actors only.  
<sup>2</sup> For selected directors only.  
<sup>3</sup> For selected playwrights only.

**Year 3: Fall & Spring - Creating a Role**

This year's focus is the formation of all the students into a repertory group. While continuing with their common and specialized courses, students will develop and collaborate on the dramatic material that will be presented: a weekly series of scenes, one-act plays, and if possible full-length plays, some written by program playwrights and all of them directed by program directors and acted by program actors.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Combined Courses: Actors, Directors, &amp; Playwrights Together</b>		
THR 701	Process Lab I	4
THR 702	Process Lab 2	4
<b>Required Individual Group Courses</b>		
Select one of the following groups:		14-32
<i>Actors</i>		
THR 703	Scene Work 3	4

THR 721	Voice and Speech 3.1	3
THR 711	Classics, Period and Style I	4
THR 735	Improvisational Movement 5	3
THR 704	Scene Work 4	4
THR 722	Voice and Speech 3.2	3
THR 712	Classics, Period and Style II	4
THR 736	Improvisational Movement 6	3
THR 707	Audition Techniques I	2
THR 708	Audition Techniques II	2
<i>Directors</i>		
THR 741	Directing 3	4
THR 783	Applied Stage Design 1	3
THR 742	Directing 4	4
THR 784	Applied Stage Design 2	3
<i>Playwrights</i>		
THR 751	Playwriting 5	4
THR 752	Playwriting 6	4
THR 761	Film and TV Writing Workshop I	4
THR 762	Film and TV Writing Workshop II	4
<b>Optional Elective Courses by Group</b>		
Select one of the following groups:		0-24
<i>Actors</i>		
THR 741	Directing 3	4
<i>Directors</i>		
THR 721	Voice and Speech 3.1	3
THR 711	Classics, Period and Style I	4
THR 735	Improvisational Movement 5	3
THR 722	Voice and Speech 3.2	3
THR 712	Classics, Period and Style II	4
THR 736	Improvisational Movement 6	3
THR 707	Audition Techniques I	2
THR 708	Audition Techniques II	2
<i>Playwrights</i>		
THR 721	Voice and Speech 3.1	3
THR 711	Classics, Period and Style I	4
THR 722	Voice and Speech 3.2	3
THR 712	Classics, Period and Style II	4
THR 736	Improvisational Movement 6	3
THR 707	Audition Techniques I	2
THR 708	Audition Techniques II	2
THR 741	Directing 3	4

**Total Credits****137-179****Total Required Credits**

Actors: 102-115

Directors: 107

Playwrights: 95

**Optional Elective Credits**

Actors: 0-19

Directors: 0-72

Playwrights: 0-79