

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA BARBARA

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Program in Acting

The general purpose of the BFA acting training program is to provide professionally oriented training within a liberal arts framework to undergraduate students who wish to make acting their career. This is accomplished through an integrated, synthesized curriculum of specialized acting, voice, and movement laboratories. More specifically, and at the heart of the training, are four goals of the Acting Faculty:

1. To infuse in student artists an appreciation for and knowledge of past and present cultures, civilizations, and philosophies found in dramatic literature and performance arts, and to instill in them the importance and uniqueness of the university environment which can inform and expand the potential for artistic choices in their creative work. Their experience within such a program will enable them to grow as intelligent, feeling, humane individuals and theatre artists;
2. To create a sense of joy and integrity in the performance arts and teach a respect for the art of theatre;
3. To assist the student artist in the process of discovering wider ranges of emotional and physical truth, revealing the rich inner resources of the human spirit, and to encourage the student to understand that the exploration and development of these resources are the artist's callings;
4. To excite and nurture the understanding of a personal and creative sense of time and space in the student artist.

The BFA differs from the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree, also offered by the department. The BA is a more broadly-based degree with a liberal arts orientation not focused toward the acting profession (see University General Catalog for details). Students with a general, rather than career, interest in acting would not enter the BFA program, but take such courses as THTR 5, 14, 16, 17, 111D, and 140 as part of their BA degree.

The BFA program in acting is highly selective. It prepares exceptionally committed, disciplined and talented students to the level at which they might gain entry into leading graduate conservatory training programs and/or regional theatres with excellent internship programs, or begin to audition within the profession.

The program is essentially geared to the stage actor, and gives the student understanding of and practice in a wide range of styles and techniques. Work in the classics, modern world drama, and the avant-garde provides a challenging acting experience. The core training consists of a comprehensive series of acting, voice, and movement classes. In addition, students gain opportunities to consolidate their training in the yearly departmental repertory of productions. The BFA Acting Faculty believes that university production work is an extension of the process training that is conducted in the classroom.

Students who are accepted into the final year of the program enroll in an audition course focused toward national auditions for advanced professional theatre training programs and/or acting companies. Nomination for the URTA, (University/Resident Theatre Association), will be determined on an individual basis by the BFA faculty.

The BFA Acting Program is intended to attract students who are committed to finishing the entire training process. Entry to the program is by audition, and the completion of the course depends upon successful progress and recommendation by the faculty. The faculty believes that it has a responsibility to discourage students who, in its judgment, have not maintained the expected professional standards. The drama programs of the Department are so designed that students who enter, but do not complete the BFA program in acting due to dismissal or a change in emphasis may graduate with a BA degree in their four-year undergraduate period.

BFA ACTING FACULTY

Irwin Appel – Acting/Directing

Risa Brainin – Acting/Directing

Jeff Mills-Movement/Performance

Michael Morgan – Voice/Speech/Acting

Tom Whitaker – Acting/Directing

GUEST FACULTY

Jessica Claire-Voice/Speech

Doug Kaback-Acting

Sage Parker-Lang-Acting

Requirements for the BFA Degree in Acting

GENERAL EDUCATION

The General Education requirements for the BFA degree are somewhat different from those for the BA degree. YOU are ultimately responsible for following the correct G.E. requirements and completing appropriate courses. Seek out advisors in the College of Letters and Science Office and here within the department; ask questions, be sure you understand, and keep track of your progress. PLEASE NOTE: Dramatic literature courses do NOT satisfy GE Area G - Literature.

CORE REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR (Same as for BA Degree)

THTR 1 - Play Analysis [Fall Quarter, Freshman year]

THTR 5 - Introduction to Acting [Freshman year]

One from:

3, 4 or 6 Life of the Theater, Performing the Here and Now, or Behind the Scenes

Three from:

THTR 29A-B-C-D - Scenic, Lighting, Costume, Run Crew Practicums – [1 unit each]

THTR 49/149 - Theatre Workshop - 4 units [25 unit max]

LITERATURE REQUIREMENTS

THTR 188S [Winter Quarter, Sophomore year]

One course from:

THTR 180-A-B-C

One course from:

THTR 182AA-ZZ

Two courses from:

THTR 180D-E-F-G

THTR 183AA-ZZ

THTR 184AA-ZZ

THTR 194L

Or additional courses not used above; or one from: AsAm 125, Chin 137, Japan 149

Requirements for the BFA Degree in Acting: (continued)

BFA REQUIREMENTS IN ACTING

Sophomore THTR 10A-B-C Movement for the Stage
Year: THTR 11A-B-C Voice Laboratory
THTR 15A-B-C Fundamentals of Acting
THTR 26 Stage Makeup
PA 1-13A Elementary Fencing

Two courses from:

Dance 44A-B-C-D-E-F Elementary Modern Dance

[also complete THTR 188S: Shakespeare - Core requirement; previous page]

Junior THTR 110A-B-C Advanced Movement for the Stage
Year: THTR 111A-B-C Advanced Voice Laboratory
THTR 151A-B-C Advanced Acting

Senior THTR 110D Advanced Performance Projects
Year: THTR 112 Senior Voice Laboratory
THTR 151D Advanced Acting - Modern Trends
THTR 151F Senior Auditions
THTR 151G Alternate Acting Styles

and throughout THTR 149 Theatre Workshop - performance, including
BFA program: Senior Production (6 units beyond Core)

Sub total: 68-70 Upper Division Units

Recommended elective courses:

THTR 151S Senior One-Person Shows
Dance 150 Historical Dance Forms
Plus Dramatic Literature electives (See General Catalog)

BFA IN ACTING - GENERAL REGULATIONS

Progress Through the Program:

1. THTR 1, Introduction to Theatre, is taken in the Fall Quarter of Freshman year. THTR 5, Beginning Acting, must be taken in the Freshman year in Fall, Winter, or Spring Quarter.
2. To enter THTR 15A, students must be recommended by their THTR 5 instructors and successfully pass an audition with the Acting Faculty, either at the end of Spring Quarter or in September, prior to the beginning of Fall Quarter. (See next section on transfer students.)
3. Students formally enter the BFA program upon successful progress to THTR 15B. At that time, they must petition to change their major to Theatre-Acting (BFA) Degree.
4. Students in THTR 15A will not audition or perform in departmental productions during the first quarter (Fall) of their training. The Acting Faculty believes that the serious acting student needs laboratory and workshop time to develop the skills and maturity necessary to build a solid foundation and discipline to meet the demands of professional level work. It is felt that after one quarter of intensive voice, movement and acting process training, Sophomore BFAs will be better prepared to audition for and accept roles in departmental productions. At that point, auditioning for departmental productions, including student directed one-acts, becomes mandatory and continues to be so during each quarter of the student's training. (See p. 6, "Production Work and Auditioning," for further details.)
5. To enter THTR 151A, students must have completed not only all **lower division performance class** requirements, but also **THTR 1, and 188S** . They must also have completed **all crew requirements in the THTR 29 series**. Students are strongly advised to complete crew requirements during the Freshman year and the first quarter of Sophomore year. (Exception will be made for Junior transfer students; they will be expected to make up these requirements before the completion of THTR 151C.)
6. Progress through the BFA program depends upon successful completion of all courses at each level, and recommendation by all BFA faculty. Students are regularly counseled by the BFA faculty as to their progress and status. No student will be dismissed from the program without first being placed on probationary status prior to the end of a quarter.

Progress Through the Program: (continued)

7. There may be probationary status or dismissal after 151B in extreme or unusual circumstances. *
8. Students who are at any time discouraged from continuing the BFA program will be able to complete a BA degree in one of the other departmental programs in the normal undergraduate time span.

Transfer Students:

1. Transfer students must provide two letters of recommendation from former instructors or directors and verification that they have received grades no lower than “B” in previous acting classes.
2. Candidates will participate in a workshop audition for acceptance in the BFA Acting Program. The audition for transfer students is held at the beginning of each Fall quarter. It is possible to participate in an earlier audition held each Spring, or at other times by special arrangement with the Department. Audition candidates should prepare two contrasting monologues, each not to exceed one minute, selected from contemporary plays.
3. Transfer students will be placed in THTR 15A upon successfully auditioning. Students entering at the THTR 15 level must understand that they will have a further three years to complete the BFA degree, irrespective of their current class standing.
4. Upon acceptance into the program, students should immediately seek counseling with the department Undergraduate Advisor as to requirements and progress toward program completion.

Production Work and Auditioning:

Students who wish to make acting a career should gain as much performance experience as possible. The BFA Faculty is concerned that the performance work should take place in a supervised environment with good artistic values. For this reason, all students in the BFA program, with the exception of first-quarter Sophomores, must audition each quarter for all Main Stage, Studio, and One Act productions until cast. Outside performance work may be allowed if all audition requirements have been met, the student has not been cast, and outside rehearsal and production schedules do not conflict with future departmental schedules. Through both classes and the productions that support their work, the Department wishes to inculcate in students a valid sense of professionalism that will stand them in good stead when they embark upon their career.

All students must make themselves available for all auditions, rehearsals, and performances.

*Failure to audition, attend rehearsals, or meet production responsibilities may be cause for dismissal from the program without prior probationary status. Failure to follow these audition procedures is a cause for dismissal from the program.

Requests for exceptions to any of the procedures must be made in the form of a written petition to the Director of the BFA Acting program.

Students are advised to consult the University General Catalog for further information, or to inquire at the Theater and Dance Office.

BFA Acting Student Supplies:

Students who enter the BFA Acting Training Program should have the following items for use in rehearsals, workshops, project and performance work:

MEN:

rehearsal sports coat
hard-soled dress shoes and/or character shoes
hat (not baseball cap)
ballet slippers
knee pads
makeup kit (Ben Nye can be purchased at Harlequin's, downtown Santa Barbara:
NOTE: a makeup kit is required of all students who take the Stage Makeup class)
plain, black, soft rehearsal/studio clothing; i.e. sweats, t-shirts, etc.

WOMEN:

strapless bra
hair scrunchies and bobby pins
character shoes
ballet slippers
long, full (not tight) rehearsal skirt
knee length rehearsal skirt
knee pads
makeup kit (see note above)
plain, black, soft rehearsal/studio clothing; i.e. sweats, t-shirts, etc.

B.F.A Acting Program Statement of Commitment

To be signed by the student at the beginning of the first quarter of the program.

1. I understand that progress through the BFA program depends upon successful completion of all courses at each level, and recommendation by all BFA faculty. Students are regularly counseled by the BFA faculty as to their progress and status. No student will be dismissed from the program without first being placed on probationary status prior to the end of a quarter. All students are on probation the first three quarters of the program.

2. I understand that I am required to complete the following Theater Core classes in order to be **eligible for enrollment in the Junior level acting courses THTR 151A-B-C:**

THTR 1 – Play Analysis
THTR 5 – Introduction to Acting
THTR 29A - Scenic Practicum
THTR 29B - Lighting Practicum
THTR 29C - Costume Practicum
THTR 29D - Run Crew Practicum
THTR 188S - Shakespeare

3. I also understand that I must complete the Acting Program prerequisites prior to enrolling in THTR 151A-B-C:

THTR 10A-B-C - Sophomore Movement for the Stage
THTR 11A-B-C - Sophomore Voice Laboratory
THTR 15A-B-C - Sophomore Fundamentals of Acting
THTR 26 - Stage Makeup

4. I agree to abide by departmental audition policies stated in the BFA green sheets.

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____