

FLC ACTING CLUB

Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions



Instructor: Erin Noble

Erin graduated from Bishop's University with an Honours BA in drama in 2015. Since graduating, she has been involved with Calgary community theatre in various capacities including as an actor, director and producer. Most recently, she directed *Lady in Waiting* for the Seniors Acting Lab' in the fall of 2021 and is currently producing *Gone to Glory* with Imagine Performing Arts. Erin has been involved with the FLC Acting Club since 2018 when she directed their first production, *Ladies at Lunch*. She has since taught Acting, Directing and Auditioning. She has greatly enjoyed working with this sharp, funny and enthusiastic group and is excited to continue exploring with you this year! Favorite theatre experiences include directing *Nothing is Enough*, and acting in *The Recruiting Officer* and *Pandemonium*.



Directing

This course is designed to give you an introduction to the foundations of theatre directing and help you develop basic skills to work with scripts and actors. Over the four weeks of this course we will explore the basics of being at the helm of your very own production. We will cover the following:

- The director's role
- Other roles on the production team and how they interact with the director
- Script analysis and prep work
- Auditions from the director's seat
- Basics of staging

Participants will also have the opportunity to direct scenes from a published script.

Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions (cont.)



Instructor: Trevor Rueger

Trevor has been an actor, director, writer and dramaturge for over 30 years. For the past 15 years, he has worked as Executive Director of Alberta Playwrights' Network, an organization devoted to the development of playwrights at all stages for stages. In 2011, he received the Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role for his performance as Billy Bibbit in Theatre Calgary's production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. As an actor, he's been seen at Theatre Calgary, Lunchbox Theatre, Sage Theatre, Vertigo Theatre, Stage West and Garry Theatre. Directing credits include *Medea* and *33 Swoons* for Rocky Mountain College, *Courage* for Lost Boy Productions. This is Trevor's fifth year teaching for FLC Seniors Acting Club.

Play Analysis - What's The Writer Saying?

In this course, writers will be encouraged to read scenes from a variety of plays. In class there will be a discussion of the elements of playwriting and writing for the stage. We will be highlighting dialogue, character, exposition, structure, conflict/crisis. The aim of the course is for new and experienced playwrights to investigate how other writers utilize these building blocks so that you can fill your writing toolbox with new and undiscovered tools. We will be reading from the following:

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Death of A Salesman by Arthur Miller

Doc by Sharon Pollock

Jim Forgetting by Col Cseke

Major Barbara by George Bernard Shaw



Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions (cont.)



Instructor: Jordan Lane

Jordan took up improvising in high school and has been performing around Calgary for two decades. As a member of the Kinkonauts, Calgary's Improv Lab, Jordan teaches improvisation to adults through classes, weekend drop-in groups, and individual/group coaching. Kinkonauts, the home of bold, boundless, experimental improv, is dedicated to sharing the joys of improvisation with audiences far and wide. When he's not improvising, Jordan can be found writing, podcasting and working as a men's image consultant.



IS BACK!!

Improvisation II

In this class, participants will refresh their improvisation basics and develop new intermediate character and narrative skills.

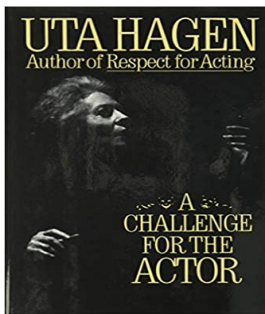
We will build on core skills like having fun onstage by letting your guard down, making and accepting offers (Yes, And...) to build a shared world with your scene partners, making "mistakes" onstage and learning how to recover, and keeping your audience engaged.

We will also work more in depth with character and narrative; participants will learn how to create strong, memorable characters in a hurry, how character choice impacts scenes, how to build narratives and longer scenes, and how to communicate your ideas to your scene partners and audience quickly and clearly.

Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions (cont.)



Instructor: Helen Young



Helen is the Artistic Director and founder of Urban Stories Theatre and Knox Theatre Collective. Her first play, *BONDS*, won a writers circle award at the University of Winnipeg and her plays *A Touch of Grace* and *No Way Back* were nominated for CAT Awards for best original script. Helen has developed and continues to organize the Just Acts Play Fest and The Play Off Series both in the Lower Theatre at Knox United Church. These festivals showcase local playwrights just beginning their journeys and local actors, stage managers, designers and directors looking for experience. Aside from developing these important programs for UST Helen works as an assistant teacher to Joe-Norman Shaw in the drama department at St. Mary's University. She also teaches online workshops in acting and writing through Urban Stories Theatre and works as an acting coach with The Stardale Women's Group for live performances and film. Training: Dance and Musical Theatre in Edmonton (Grant MacEwan Community College) and Manchester England, Stunt work on the sets of *MacGyver*, *21 Jump Street* and a variety of films in Vancouver and Winnipeg, theatre training in New York at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, a joint Theatre/English degree from the University of Winnipeg and completion of the Master Program at Company of Rogues Actors Studio in Calgary.

Uta Hagen Method of Acting

This workshop will examine three of Uta Hagen's exercises, Physical Destination, Finding Occupation While Waiting and Recreating Physical Sensations that can be used for character development.

We will also do some cold readings and games to explore developing relationships and examine stakes and conflict. Through exercises such as finding occupation while waiting and character interviews, participants will be invited to develop methods to:

- Engage in the pursuit of an objective;
- Create and explore the given circumstances of a dramatic situation;
- Behave truthfully and honestly in a performance environment.

Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions (cont.)



Selena Fisher received her BFA in Musical Theatre from Webster Conservatory in St. Louis and has worked as a professional singer/actor for over 15 years. She is best known for her time as lead singer aboard Holland America Cruise Lines. In 2019 she won a CAT Award for Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical for her role as Eva Peron in *Evita*. In Calgary she has performed with Cowtown Opera, Theatre Calgary, Storybook Theatre, Front Row Centre Players, and runs her own home studio called Best Self Studio YYC, providing self tape services for actors, audition prep, demo reels as well as voice lessons. She is also a jazz singer, performing with her pianist throughout various public venues and private events within Calgary.

Instructor: Selena Fisher



Musical Theatre

This class will introduce participants to the world of musical theatre performance. It will include physical and vocal warm-ups, discussions on character development, stage presence, and vocal projection. Each participant will get the chance to work on their own musical theatre works in front of the class and at the end of 6 weeks, perform their piece (or pieces!) at a “recital” for friends and family to attend! Because we are putting on our show in December, the theme will be “Broadway during the Holidays” where each participant performs Holiday themed Broadway tunes. This will be a fun and welcoming environment for everyone involved! You’ll get a chance to “perform” in front of the most supportive community ever, your classmates! And share your work with loved ones at the end of the 6 weeks!

Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions (cont.)



Instructor:
Connor Christmas

Conner is a performing artist who wears multiple hats. They act in Film & Television, produce and perform Stand up Comedy + Improv, they're a writer, and most importantly - a weirdo who likes to play and joke with others more than anything. Conner grew up in High River, AB until graduating in 2012, then moved to Lethbridge where he finished a Bachelor's in Fine Arts with a focus on performance. After graduating in 2017, Conner moved to Calgary to pursue their artistic endeavors. Companies that Conner has worked with include, but are not limited to Theatre Calgary, Downstage Theatre, CBC, Netflix, and Disney. They have performed stand up comedy on stages across Canada, and this past summer, they performed at the 40th annual Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal. Conner is elated at the opportunity to teach this course.

Stand-Up Comedy

The six weeks we have together are going to fly by, especially with all of the laughter that will occur! We'll begin with some basics of joke writing, as well as some principles of comedy (what makes something funny). As the course progresses, we'll start writing our own jokes, brainstorm in groups, and learn what about each individual gives them a comedic spark that no one else has. We'll do writing exercises done by professional comics, and most importantly we'll have fun telling these jokes to each other and connecting because of it. I hope to make everyone the class clown of this workshop!

