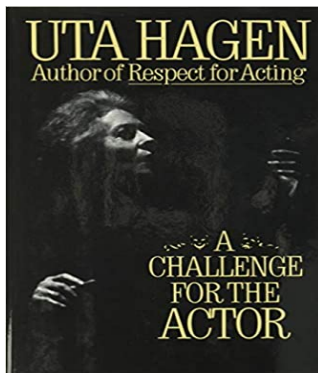


FLC ACTING CLUB

Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions



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.

Introduction to the Uta Hagen Method of Acting – Level II

This course will examine the next stages of the Uta Hagen's nine step method of acting including: stakes and conflict, wants and needs, and relationships. 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.)



Instructor: Laurann Brown

Laurann was based in London, UK for over 12 years, returning to Calgary in July 2020. Specialising in practical voice and accent work, Laurann trained actors at both undergraduate and graduate level at many top London drama schools, including: ArtsEd, Rose Bruford College of Acting, East 15, Central School of Speech and Drama, and The Urdang Academy. Between 2008 & 2013 she maintained ties to Canadian theatre as an associate voice and dialect coach at the Shaw Festival, in Niagara-on-the-Lake. In addition to her work training actors, she maintained a busy freelance career – as a dialect coach, a presentation skills expert, and an accent softening specialist (guiding ESL speakers to improve their English pronunciation).

A firm believer that voice work is inherently holistic in nature, Laurann's goal with each student is to help connect mind, body, and voice, while guiding them to communicate with radiant power, confidence and ease. Laurann holds an MA Voice Studies from the Central School of Speech and Drama (London, UK), and a BA in Theatre Studies from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada).

Accents or Dialects

Accents. Or should I call them dialects? Some people are just naturals at them, right? Don't you have to be good at impressions to do an accent? There seems to be a lot of confusion about what they are, but everyone knows that performing in a dialect means that you have to change something (or many things) about the way you naturally speak.

In this action packed 4-week course, Laurann will take you through the 5 major ingredients that make up any given dialect. You'll learn that each dialect is a 'recipe' that requires more or less of each ingredient in various combinations. The work will be based on the premise that a relaxed body and a centered breath are essential requirements for a natural sounding dialect, so each class will start with a gentle body/breath/voice warm up. 'A-ha!' moments and lots of fun guaranteed!

Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions (cont.)



Instructor: Jordan Lane

Jordan has been improvising since 1997 and a member of the Kinkonauts. Calgary's Improv Lab since 2016. Kinkonauts, the home of bold, boundless, experimental improv, is dedicated to sharing the joys of improvisation with audiences far and wide. As an instructor at Kinkonauts, Jordan has been leading drop-in sessions, coaching individuals and groups and teaching online and in-person improvisation classes for over 4 years now. He also hosts some podcasts, including an improv show, and is a musician and dancer. When he is not having fun improvising, Jordan works as an image consultant as well as a small business consultant focusing on digital asset management and search metadata.



Improvisation – Level II

Improvisation can be thought of as writing, directing and acting all at once. You'll learn techniques to create bold characters, build a "platform" of location and stakes, introduce and resolve conflict, and carry a narrative through scenes, all while having the time of your life and meeting new people.

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 14 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.

Playwriting Level II

In this course, writers will be encouraged to continue to work on the plays that they have begun on their own or in a previous playwriting class. The course will focus on a deep investigation of dialogue, character voices, conflict/crisis, and rising/falling action. Playwriting II offers a much more hands on approach where exercises and homework will be geared to moving your play towards a completed draft.



Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions (cont.)



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 Conner has worked with include, but are not limited to Theatre Calgary, Downstage Theatre, CBC, Netflix, and Disney. He has performed stand up comedy on stages across Canada, and is elated at the opportunity to teach this course.

Instructor:
Connor Christmas

Stand-Up Comedy

The four 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!



Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions (cont.)



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 was director of the FLC Acting Club online production, *The EBFF Wants You* in June 2021 and a co-producer for Imagine Performing Arts' production of *The Woman in Black* in fall 2019. Erin has been involved with the FLC Acting Club since 2018 when she directed their first production, *Ladies at Lunch*, *All the Comforts of Home*, and *the EBFF Wants You*. 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*, 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.)

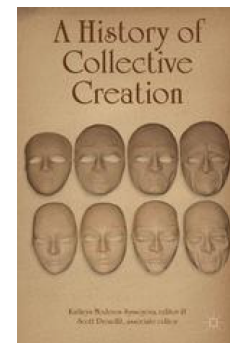


Instructor: Megan Fox

Megan holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Simon Fraser University. She has a passion for physical theatre and has trained with master teachers of the *Grotowski Method* who... have all been seniors. During her time in school, Megan was involved in various independent productions throughout the Greater Vancouver Area. Upon returning to Calgary Megan had a brief fling with improv and stand-up comedy before starting a career with Arts Commons. Megan has a background in and passion for community-based theatre. She has had the privilege of working with the FLC Seniors Acting Club as well as the Senior's Acting Lab, since their inceptions, creating work that focuses on the experiences of seniors. Megan believes that the ability to act and tell stories is an inherent human trait and her role as a teacher is to help you tap into the skills you already possess!

Collective Theatre Creation Continued.

Collective theatre creation is the strategy of creating a play with a group of artists/performers rather than a playwright or dramaturge. It began in Canada, in the 60's and 70's, in an attempt to democratize the process of theatre creation and performance. In collective theatre creation, artists/performers often work in collaboration with members



of a particular community to research themes and topics, around which the play is developed. In this class, we will build upon the last "Collective Theatre Creation" class while allowing room for new voices to join our process. You will engage in conversation with your fellow classmates to explore themes important to the group and explore different exercises and techniques that can be used when collectively creating a play.

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 Musical Theatre 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 song in front of the class. A short musical theatre selection (along with a track) will be chosen ahead of time by each participant with the help of the instructor. Having a song prepared will give everyone a chance to work on their specific talents in class. 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!

Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions (cont.)



Valerie Pearson is a theatre professional who has been in the business for almost forty years. She began as a high school drama teacher at Crescent Heights and went on to become an actor and director. She has worked from Vancouver Island to New Brunswick and most of the provinces in between. Her favorite stage roles were Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and Hagar Shipley in *The Stone Angel*. Her favorite film and TV roles were Maggie in *Solitaire* and Gramma in *Shoebox Zoo*, both of which garnered her an AMPA award.

Instructor: Val Pearson

Directing is her latest venture, with successful productions of the *Buddy Holly Story* and *Ring of Fire* for The Globe Theatre in Regina and *The Paper Bag Princess* for Storybook Theatre, Newfoundland Mary at Lunchbox Theatre and most recently, *The Miracle Worker* for Workshop Theatre. Val and her husband of 54 years this March have two children and two fabulous grandchildren.

Acting for Film

In this course, you will learn the basics of reading and analyzing screen plays to understand character, relationships, storyline and action. You will learn how to tackle a scene, interpret it and act it out in front of a camera. The differences between acting on stage versus acting in front of a camera will also be examined.

