

FLC ACTING CLUB

Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions



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.



IS BACK!!

Improvisation – Beginner to Intermediate

In this class, participants will enjoy dipping their toes into the four fundamentals of improvisation:

- **Fun:** learn to "let your guard down."
- **Failing:** learn how to look at perceived failures in improv as gifts and try again.
- **Offers:** learn how to make and accept offers in improv in order to create a shared reality.
- **Agreement:** learn how to agree ("Yes, And...") and follow your impulses in a scene.

For more experienced improvisers, the class will cover character work and discovering the basics of narrative in long form improvisation.

Instructor Bios and Course Descriptions (cont.)



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 fourth year teaching for FLC Seniors Acting Club.

Instructor: Trevor Rueger

Deymstifying Shakespearean Comedy

Ever sat through a Shakespeare play and wondered what they were talking about? This four-week course will attempt to demystify Shakespeare. The classes will include an overview of Shakespeare's world, an actor's approach to the work, speaking meaning, punctuation (it's more fun than it sounds) and why he is the greatest playwright in the English language. This year we will focus on one of Shakespeare's most renowned comedies – "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Participants are encouraged to read the play in advance of the start of the course. Each week we'll read aloud and discuss particular scenes.



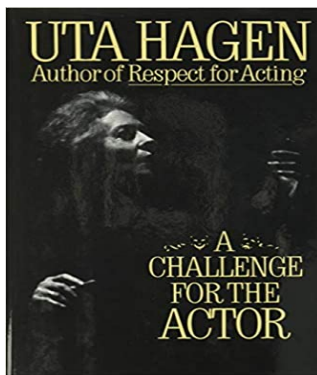
Playwrighting Level II

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 playwrighting 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.)



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

This course will examine the nine steps of the Uta Hagen method of acting including: stakes and conflict, wants and needs, and relationships. Two of Hagen's exercises, The Fourth Side and Changes in Self, that can be used for character development will also be taught. 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.

Along with these activities, participants will engage in some writing exercises, improv, and the exploration of two seemingly routine minutes of life at home executing a simple task.

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).

Introduction to 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. There also seems to be a lot of confusion about what, exactly, you're supposed to change!

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. Using the popular foundation dialects of Standard American and Standard English – usually taught first in most professional actor training programs – we will compare and contrast these ingredients, creating a chance to sample the dialects and make many exciting discoveries. 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: Erin Noble

and acting in *The Recruiting Officer* and *Pandemonium*.

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*. 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*,

Reader's Theatre

Reader's Theatre is a pared down style of performance in which actors use only voice, facial expressions and gestures to present a script. Unlike traditional theatre, actors are not able to rely on costumes, props, sets or lighting to help them with the storytelling. And the best part is, there is no memorization required! In this class we will be exploring several scripts including published works and new works by FLC club members. Bring your imaginations and interpretative ideas!



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.)



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!

Instructor: Megan Fox

Collective Theatre Creation

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.

The Grotowski Method

A full description of this course is coming soon!

