

THEA 4310
Acting for the Camera: Spring 2024
Wednesday 2:00pm – 5:50pm
RTFP 130

Instructor: Sarah Rutan

Office Hours: T/Th 8-9am (Appointments Appreciated)

E-mail: Sarah.Rutan@unt.edu

Class Requirements: USB Drive (to be handed in for each assignment)

All text used will be available on Canvas Files or a hard copy in class

Description:

The exploration of camera acting and audition technique in order to prepare the student for the diverse opportunities in the medium, with an emphasis on building confidence with the camera, expanding acting range, and preparing for the profession.

Objective:

Students will:

- Demonstrate basic on-camera acting performance techniques for a diverse range of projects
- Analyze the demands of screenplay and media script analysis and apply those observations to their performances
- Interact with and take direction from a film medium director
- Practice audition technique (including prepared auditions, cold reads, and taped submissions)
- Demonstrate a comprehension of basic camera and industry terminology and protocol
- Observe and discuss the lessons of existing on-camera performances from film and television and allow that to inform their own work
- Critique and offer feedback for both their own on-camera performances and those of their class colleagues
- Document information about the process of seeking agency representation, as well as other forms of marketing, promotion, and professional conduct.

Specific units/projects will include:

- The on-camera slate
- Commercials
- Motor only shots (MOS)
- Public Service Announcements (PSA's)
- Testimonials
- Film, television, and corporate scenes
- Self-taped audition submission

By the end of this course, a student will have a solid foundation in what performance opportunities outside of the theatre await the actor, and what is expected of an actor in the real world of media production. The time spent on camera acting and audition technique throughout the semester will provide the student with a more acute sense of their acting range, an expansion of creativity, and greater self-confidence with both the medium and acting, in general.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY:

Punctual attendance is critical for your success in the course. Thus, students are expected to be present and punctual for all classes.

The following policy is consistent with all acting courses in the department:

- Students are allowed no more than a total of TWO excused (2) absences during the semester for any reason.
- Students are considered tardy if they arrive for class no more than 30 minutes late. Arriving more than 30 minutes late for class is considered an absence.
- Students are expected to attend class for the duration of the period. Leaving class before then is considered an absence.
- An occurrence of tardiness for the class FOUR (4) times is the equivalent of ONE (1) absence.

- A total of THREE (3) absences means that the highest grade the student can earn in the class is an F.

Any student with an issue in the area of attendance and/or punctuality will be referred to the Acting Faculty for guidance.

The policy is not negotiable, as that would constitute holding one student to a different standard than all students in all acting classes.

If a student's absences have resulted in a grade with which they are not pleased, they may choose to withdraw from the class.

The professor's roll is the official record of absences and tardiness. At any point, the students are welcome to check the grade roster with the professor to be sure that their attendance/punctuality record is accurate.

KEEPING IT REAL...

I am very aware that the unexpected comes up in life, and many times it is beyond your control. The attendance policy of acting classes in the Department of Dance and Theatre at UNT is set up to ALLOW for those occasional issues that may come up (illnesses, deaths in the family, emergencies, traffic, car trouble, unavoidable commitments, weather, etc.). All of these things could occur to you during the semester (even a couple of times). Please DO NOT ask for further leeway on this, because there is none. The leeway for these unexpected occurrences is already BUILT IN to the attendance policy. Do not ask me is

there is any extra credit you can do to make up for excessive absence. Do not ask me to "work with you" on this issue. Changing the policy for you means that it must, in the interest of fairness, be changed for students in all acting classes. There is NO NEED to bring me a doctor's note when you are sick. If you tell me you were ill, I absolutely believe you.

The attendance policy already allows for the fact that you might get sick and miss a class or two as a result. However, there have to be limits, particularly since your absence may have an impact on a fellow actor. If you are ill and/or absent excessively, it means you are missing the actual content of the course. You are seeking to be a professional actor—get used to the fact that you simply have to BE THERE, and you have to be there ON TIME. Once you have used up the two excused absences (or the allowed amount of tardiness), I will treat absence and lateness as the INDUSTRY will treat them. It is important that you are aware of this before undertaking the challenge of the course.

Disability Accommodations:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodation anytime, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323 or <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>

Major Assignments:

Commercials/MOS

PSA/Industrial

Film Monologue

TV Scene/Film Scene

Final

Monologue/ Scene Work:

Your work in class on monologues and scenes will be based on:

- level of preparation (appropriate set up, lighting, sound, reader, USB drive...work outside of class)
- level of memorization
- clarity of given circumstances /text analysis
- ability to engage in and explore techniques discussed in class

GRADING

Slate - 5pts

Commercial #1- 5pts

Commercial #2- 5pts

MOS #1- 5pts

MOS #2- 5pts

PSA- 5pts

Industrial- 10pts

Film Monologue- 10pts

TV Scene- 10pts

Film Scene- 10pts

Final- 10pts

Self Critiques (10 x 1pt)- 10pts

Terminology Quiz- 10pts

TOTAL: 100pts

GRADING RUBRIC

5pts:

10pts:

0	DID NOT DO	0	DID NOT DO
1	Met Minimal Requirements	1-2	Met Minimal Requirements
2	Met Some Requirements	3-5	Met Some Requirements
3	Met All Reqs/Met Expectations	6-7	Met All Reqs/Met Expectations
4	Exceeded Expectations	8-9	Exceeded Expectations
5	Excelled/Perfect	10	Excelled/Perfect

Weekly Schedule (subject to change)*

****All Self Critique Due Dates are in BOLD.****

- Wk1 Syllabus and Intro
Terminology Lecture
Assign Stage to Camera Assignment
- Wk2 Stage to Camera Day
- Wk3 Terminology Quiz (**Self Crit #1 DUE- Stage to Camera**)
Slate Lecture/Assignment
- Wk4 View Slates
Commercial 1 & 2 Demo/Assign
- Wk5 View Commercial 1 & 2 (**Self Crit #2 DUE- Slates**)
MOS Demo/Assign
- Wk6 View MOS 1 & 2 (**Self Crit #3 DUE- Commercial 1 & 2**)
PSA Demo/Assign
- Wk7 View PSA (**Self Crit #4 DUE- MOS 1&2**)
Industrial Demo/Assign (partners)
- Wk8 View Industrial (**Self Crit #5 DUE- PSA**)
Film monologues Assigned
- Wk9 View Film monologues for notes (**Self Crit #6 DUE- Industrial**)
Multi/Single Cam Lecture & Researching Auditions
- Wk10 View Film Monologues Final Present
TV Scenes Assigned
- Wk11 View TV Scenes for notes (**Self Crit #7 DUE- Film monologue**)

Wk12 View TV Scenes Final Present

Film Scenes Assigned

Wk13 View Film Scenes for notes **(Self Crit #8 DUE- TV Scene)**

Wk14 View Film Scenes Final Present

Final Assignment Explained

Wk15 View Final Assignment **(Self Crit #9 DUE- Film Scene)**

Wk16 **(Self Crit #10 DUE- Final Assignment - EMAILED)**