

ACTING CLASS CURRICULUM for MATTHEWS PLAYHOUSE

Level One (5-6 year olds)

A creative dramatics class introducing vocal exercises for projection and articulation. Storytelling, movement and the introduction to improvisation are included in level one.

Level Two (7-8 year olds)

Advanced Storytelling skills are taught with the addition of telling an original story created by each student using a given theme. Students will use skills learned in level one to create their very own fairytale, fable, or story. Stories of two to four minutes will be written, edited, cast and rehearsed for a sharing in December. Shorter two-minute stories will be written, edited, cast and rehearsed for a sharing in February.

Level Three (9-10 year olds)

Introduction to Improvisation, character creations, ensemblizing. The focus is on showing the 'Who' through voice and movement.; showing the 'Where' by how one relates to the space; showing the 'What' by creating and solving a conflict during a scene. Both structured and split-second improvisational skills are taught.

Level Four (11 – 12 year olds)

Advanced Improvisation with continued work on creating a trunkful of characters, where's and what happens. The class will use current events to create a news show, reality show, improv videos and snapchat while advancing their skills in short form improvisations. Long form improvisation is introduced in level four.

Level Five (13-14 year olds)

Stage movement using techniques and activities from renowned directors and theatre movement teachers. Continued work on improvisational skills and honing those skills to create five- to ten-minute-long form improvised plays. Short, scripted plays will be analyzed, rehearsed and performed using Chicago's Neo-futurist plays and adapting some of their '30 plays in 60 minutes'. Introduction of the Alexander Technique - a way to feel better and move in a more relaxed and comfortable way... the way nature intended. The technique helps to identify and lose the harmful habits that have built up over time of stress and learn to move more freely. Audition techniques for monologues and cold readings are also included in the Level Five curriculum.

Level Six (15-16 year olds)

The curriculum for level six includes continued work on at least four of the following:

- Alexander Technique
- Audition techniques
- Scene work using various acting techniques including for example: naturalistic, commedia dell'arte, absurdist, immersive and acting for the camera.
- Advanced stage movement using techniques and activities from renowned directors and theatre movement teachers.
- Continued work on improvisational skills and honing those skills to create five to ten minute long form improvised plays.
- Playwriting. Students will write two-four minute plays and perform them at the end of the semester sharing.

Level Seven (16-18 year olds)

An Advanced acting and performance class for youth aged 16-18. Level seven will focus on the seven C's of performance and life learning: Character building, Collaboration, Creativity, Community service, Current affairs, Critical thinking and Citizenship. The school year class will also focus on at least five of the following:

- Alexander Technique and continued vocal work
- Improvisation
- Stage movement using Anne Bogart's Viewpoints and other techniques
- Neo-Futurist Theatre Style
- Classical and Contemporary Scene work using the Stanislavski technique
- Absurdist theatre
- Devised Theatre (Collaborated script created by class)
- Directing
- Audition techniques
- The Business of Acting
- Playwriting

Students will use the above skills to devise a script around a socially relevant youth issue.