



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

## Acting Fundamentals

Instructor: Cliff Miller, M.F.A.  
Voiceover, Speech, and Acting Faculty  
Email: clifford.miller@austincc.edu (email preferred)  
Office: online  
Ph/Text: 512-635-9084

### Course Description

A playful approach conducive to the beginner, this class focuses predominantly on character development through games, exercises, and script analysis for film and stage. Discover how to make specific, unique, personal choices to find your character's circumstances and energize moment-to-moment work. We will practice stillness, listening, alertness, and relaxation to unleash creative impulses and deepen your intuition. Through questions and other analytical skills, we will "breakdown" a scene or monologue to more fully imagine the world of your character and freely inhabit this world.

### Course Objectives

- To create a safe, playful and supportive environment for students to explore the art and craft of acting
- To practice techniques to develop awareness and relaxation
- To study character through improvisation
- To study character through analysis of text
- To practice making grounded and intuitive character choices
- To implement slow, intentional, and physical techniques to effectively learn lines
- To train attention to stay in the moment

### Reason for Offering the Course

To answer what each person in the class most wants to know and learn about becoming an actor and/or artistic explorer through the craft of acting

## Required Materials

Self

Notebook

Pen or pencil

Course Outline (next page)

## Course Outline *(subject to change)*

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| <p><b>Week 1</b></p> | <p><b>Introduction to Acting Technique</b><br/> <b>TOPICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introductions - discuss syllabus, goals, and acting</li> <li>- Improv Games - Names, Clap, Object Pass</li> <li>- Mirror Exercise</li> <li>- "Open" Scenes</li> </ul> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT (due next class)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Space Exploration. Imagine a space you have occupied to prepare for next class. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- how you enter the space</li> <li>- what you "see" in the space</li> <li>- what you can touch in the space</li> <li>- an object you can find in the space</li> <li>- how you can exit the space</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Week 2</b></p> | <p><b>Space and Scene Work</b><br/> <b>TOPICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improv Games</li> <li>- Space Exploration Sharings</li> <li>- "Open" Scenes - Goals/Objectives, Given Circumstances, Expectations</li> <li>- Step Exercise</li> <li>- Line and Movement</li> </ul> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT (DUE MONDAY before class)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Select 3 possible scenes from "TAS AF_Scene Breakdown" and share these three selections with me the MONDAY before class. I will then assign your scene.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Week 3</b></p> | <p><b>Character Work</b><br/> <b>TOPICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improv Games</li> <li>- Begin Scene Work for Scene #1</li> </ul> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT (due next class)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare your scene by addressing in-class feedback and meet with your scene partner. Remote meetings are fine if in-person doesn't work.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Week 4</b></p> | <p><b>Scene Work</b><br/> <b>TOPICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improv Games</li> <li>- Sharing #2 of Scene 1</li> </ul> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT (due next class)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Send an update of scenes or monologues you would like to work on next. Review and revise Scene 1 for final sharing.</li> </ul>  |

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| <b>Week 5</b> | <b>Scene Work</b><br>TOPICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Improv Games</li><li>- Sharing #3 of Scene 1</li><li>- Begin work on Scene #2</li></ul> ASSIGNMENT (due next class) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review and revise Scene 2</li></ul> |
| <b>Week 6</b> | <b>Finals Sharing and Thoughts</b><br>TOPICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Improv Games</li><li>- Final Sharings</li><li>- Review "Open" Scenes</li><li>- Discussion on business of acting and further study</li></ul>                                    |