



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

**COURSE SYLLABUS/OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT FORM**

1. **Name of Course:** **Acting On Camera I** *(as led by Francine Michelle)*

2. **Number of Clock Hours:** **18 hours**

3. **Course Description:**

This is a beginning-to-intermediate class focusing on acting on camera. It is required that you have had at least a basic acting class before joining — such as Acting Fundamentals or equivalent. The emphasis is on developing a naturalistic acting style, practicing subtlety and nuance of film acting including learning to adjust the performance for specific shot size, finding the arc of the character and learning to maintain the integrity of the script while shooting out of sequence. The student's work will be explored through exercises and scene study from film and television scripts. Some videotaping and playback will be used for critique. Film set terminology and etiquette is also addressed. Class is limited to 12 students.

4. **Course Objectives:**

Through the six weeks students will gain an understanding of:

- Comparative analysis of theatre acting vs. film acting.
- Understanding the requirements of continuity, matching, and set etiquette.
- The examination and implementation of various film acting tools
- Development of the actor's essence and adapting it to on-camera technique.
- Exploring motivations and actions through script analysis

5. **Rationale: State the reason for offering the course:**

The film industry is ever growing and expanding, requiring new talent.

This class provides the nuts and bolts of dealing with camera technique imperative for any actor desiring to work in film/TV and the new online venues.

6. **Required Materials:**

Paper and pencil for notes and marking scripts.

Water bottle with lid

7. **Course Outline:** **What topics and sub-topics will be covered in this course?**

1. Introduction to the craft and disciplines of on-camera acting with exercises to exemplify the differences from acting for the stage
2. Reveal an organic approach to film acting and analyze the actor's obligation to illuminate the writer's intent utilizing open scenes
3. Explore intimacy, intensity, and specific choices as keys to film acting with assigned scenes
4. Cover basic technique for approaching a script/scene/character along with on-camera exercises with assigned scenes to develop a deeper connection
5. Continue on-camera exercises utilizing improvisation
6. Final scenes filmed with master and coverage using the skills learned. Understanding the importance of *Continuity* will also be employed in the final tapings.

### **8. Suggested reading:**

This is not a requirement for the class but recommendations of where the actor might start to self-educate:

- *Building a Character & Creating a Role* - Constantin Stanislavsky
- *The Technique of Acting* - Stella Adler
- *Acting for the Camera* - Tony Barr