

PREPARATION

Course Descriptions

All courses are required

Sonnets - In this acting class, students use their own sonnets as monologues and small scenes in individual and partner work. This course emphasizes making bold choices, committing fully, and connecting in an authentic way with a text. We will explore your sonnet in multiple ways involving voice, movement, and improvisation. How much you get out of this experience depends on how well you know your sonnet--start memorizing now. I encourage you to be able to say it confidently while running, washing dishes, and jumping up and down.

Before you arrive, please memorize thoroughly one of Shakespeare's sonnets-- available to you in any volume of the complete works of Shakespeare or see the link below to sonnets online. Choose one you like a lot.

- Be certain you know what every word means, and also be sure that in saying it, you are speaking for sense--not just pausing at the end of each line if there is not punctuation to indicate a pause.
- Decide what you want to communicate in speaking the sonnet--approach this as a monologue, not as a poem to recite for English class.
- It's important that you feel very comfortable with the memorization because you will be doing it almost immediately as part of your audition for the shows.
- Please don't use a sonnet you have already memorized for an English or drama class. Try a new one!
- **Please know the sonnet extremely well--do not wait until you arrive to start working on it.**
- Remember these are love poems, but although Shakespeare intended them as romantic love poems, you may find in them other kinds of love as well.
- Bring a copy of the sonnet with you. You will use it for the audition as well as for acting class. If you wish, you may also bring a Shakespearean monologue in addition to the sonnet.

Note to returning students: Please learn a new sonnet, which you feel will challenge you to explore a side of yourself you may not often choose to explore. (Think RISK)

[Link to Sonnets Online](#)

Improvisation - We will begin by doing, "basic improv" - without even getting into playing any improv games until you know how to do a basic improvised scene. Then we will have a theme for each class (ie: Listening Skills, Justification, Mime Work, etc). We will work on using each improv games to target many different topics, and focus on recognizing that each time you play a game, it's going to be different. The class will cover basic improv, short scenes, short form improv (games) with a goal of moving into long form improv.

Movement - This class combines movement for actors and physical characterization work with modern-based dance techniques. Lots of stretching, some yoga, fun improvisation and combinations. Something for everyone.

Basic Musicianship and Philosophy - This class will include the basics of note reading, ear training, vocal technique, composition, a little history and topics such as *what is music?*, *Is there anything universal about music?*, *thoughts on how musical sound and text work together*, and *is technique necessary?* This is an introductory class for actors rather than a music class for musicians.

Students with extensive musical backgrounds may choose a class which covers advanced sight singing, advanced harmonic studies, elements of composition , harmonic analysis, issues of setting lyrics to music, singing and interpretation, harmonizing a melody, and audition preparation.

Individualized sessions covering theory, composition, or coaching on instruments will be available on a limited basis for advanced students. Guitar lessons are available to all students as time permits.

AUDITION INFORMATION

The auditions for the main stage productions will be held the first Monday evening of the program. You are required to prepare for auditions, which include movement and music components as well as acting components. Since we are developing our play (Wish You Were Here) you will prepare for that portion of the audition once you arrive at ETC.

1) Please prepare the following:

- A Shakespeare sonnet (see above).
- A poem or short story for children that you know by heart and in which you act out all the parts yourself. Of We will look for your willingness to take risks, your daring physical and vocal choices and your creativity. Please prepare no more than 2 minutes.

2) The movement for the audition will be taught to you prior to auditions.

3) You will have time to prepare your auditions in small groups with a faculty member after you arrive.