

ASA THÉÂTRE





HSA Theatre offers a wide ranging menu of classes led by working professionals. Classes are offered for ages 3 through adult, for all levels of interest, from the curious beginner through the young professional. Our more advanced theatrical work emphasizes performance based training in Musical Theatre, Physical Theatre/Improvisation and Ensemble work. Performance opportunities exist for all students through participation in our main stage season, open classes and special presentations. Reflecting recent technical upgrades in our theatre we will be offering new classes in lighting, scenic and sound design.

The study of theatre and acting provides multi-faceted benefits in improving speech, critical thinking, and confidence in public situations. Whether you are exploring theatre for the first time as a hobby or preparing for professional schools and work, HSA Theatre has something to offer you.

DIRECTOR

Alfred Preisser

FACULTY

Lisa Arrindell

Tracy Johnson

Amanda McDowall

Chris Myers

Amber Nicole

Alfred Preisser

Kaili Turner



THEATRE CLASSES

EARLY CHILDHOOD ACTORS

Young children respond with joy and energy to creative play, drama and storytelling. With the encouragement of their instructors they generate imaginative scenarios and learn to interact with others their age, thereby providing group opportunities to develop social and language skills.

- Listening, responding, taking turns and working cooperatively in a group.
- Recognizing, re-creating, identifying, differentiating and sequencing basic dramatic elements.
- Expressing and creating elements of theater through creative play.

Early Actor Ages 3-4

A Pre-K level class using music and theatre games to enhance language skills, socialization and coordination. Parents are invited to participate in this introductory class.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACTORS

As emergent readers, theater activities provide an opportunity for children to demonstrate physically and vocally their understanding of character, conflict and action. They also become skilled in memorization, allowing them to use scripted materials in activities and performances. Theater develops physical and vocal skills, which encourages confidence and creative thinking.

- Cooperating, planning, and respecting others' opinions.
- Interpreting, comparing, and analyzing works of theater and introductory dramatic literature.
- Personal and artistic choices in creating theater and releasing impulses and language.

Acting I Ages 5-7

Using theatre games and language exercises young actors begin to explore the concept of ensemble work and scene presentation. Scripts are introduced at this level, along with continued development of imagination through movement and improvisation. Clarity of speech and vocal projection are emphasized, and students are eligible to audition for main stage productions.

Acting II Ages 8-11

Continued exploration of acting through improvisation, movement and language exercises. At this level, full scripts (usually 20-30 minute short plays) are introduced and the concept of working as an ensemble is heavily emphasized. Acting II students are eligible to audition for main stage productions.

Apprentice Ensemble Ages 9-12

This is a repertory class for advanced young actors focusing on creating and performing ensemble work. Pre-Requisite: Acting II or Musical Theatre II



MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTORS

Students at this age are increasingly concerned with meaning and message, both personal and social, and are beginning to think in more independent ways. Rapid emotional and physical changes at this age present both challenges and opportunities for the growth of skills and personal expression in theater. Students are capable of focused work in various techniques and styles of theater, and enjoy the "safe space" that a structured and defined challenge provides.

- Building confidence and a defined sense of self, trust among peers, working independently, and taking risks.
- Exploring different styles of theater and developing personal creative expression.

Improvisation Ages 11-14

Students explore theatre games and story building exercises to help encourage spontaneity and free the actor's impulse in rehearsal and in life. Non-scripted stories/plays are developed, using the concepts of commedia dell'arte stock characters and situations. A fun and creatively liberating approach to storytelling is emphasized, ideal for shy young people looking to break through and express themselves.

Acting III Ages 11-13

Continued use of improvisation and theatre games is combined with an introduction to scene study and audition technique (monologues).

HIGH SCHOOL ACTORS

Teen Acting Ages 13-18

An introduction to acting basics is explored: objective vs. obstacle, speech and vocal projection, and creating a character. Additionally, Teen Acting reads and works on sections of an entire full-length play, with the objective of developing analytical and interpretive skills.

Spoken Word Ages 13-18

A performance based exploration of poetry, forensics, and famous historical speeches. Students are also encouraged to write their own material and explore their feelings and opinions via the written and spoken word. The class also involves developing strong speech and diction.

Writing for Stage & Screen Ages 13-18

An introduction to writing for performance. Plays/screenplays will be read in class and analyzed for content and form. The formats and structure of stage vs screen writing are explored, as well as developing characters, creating dramatic conflict/tension and resolution of conflict. The objective of the 32 week course is for students to have produced at minimum a working draft of a one act play that will be presented in a public reading

Advanced Acting Ages 13-18

Technique is an exploration of current major acting philosophies that have dominated stage and film work in the United States and beyond. Stanislavski, or Method Acting, Meisner, Michael Chekhov and the "No Acting Please" technique of Eric Morris are all covered, along with new and evolving approaches to working for both stage and film/television. *Required for HSA Theatre Alliance Company; open to all students by audition only. Contact Department Director to schedule an audition.*



Alliance Company Ages 13-18

Ensemble class for HSA Theatre Alliance members.
By audition only, dedicated to production work.

Physical Acting Ages 13-18

Students express impulse and emotion without a text, using the body and imagination as their “instrument”. This class works to improve the actor’s voice, impulse and physical approach to character and dramatic situation, applying theatre games, improvisation, neutral mask, Suzuki, View Points and Grid Work techniques. This course often incorporates relevant scene work and choreography associated with our full productions.

ADULT ACTING

Adult Acting Scene Study Ages 18 + up

A beginner to intermediate level scene study class for adults, exploring basic acting technique: objective/ obstacle, creating a character and analyzing a script. Offered in 2 consecutive 16-week sessions, Adult Acting will culminate in a public presentation, a “scene night” for friends, families and other adventurers.



THEATRE PRIVATE COACHING

Available for children through adults, private coaching is designed to meet the individual needs of performers who are preparing for specific roles/auditions, preparing to audition for specialized performance arts high schools or universities, or working on specific issues of technique, speech and concentration.

Private Coaching Per Session

- 30 minutes - \$45
- 45 minutes - \$60
- 60 minutes - \$75



THEATRE CLASS SCHEDULE

AGE GROUP	DAY	CLASS	TIME
Ages 3-4	Wednesday	Early Actor (<i>Spring 2019 Only</i>)	10:00 am - 10:45 am
Ages 3-4	Saturday	Early Actor	9:00 am – 9:45 am
Ages 5-7	Saturday	Acting I	9:00 am - 10:00 am
Ages 8-11	Saturday	Acting II	10:00 am - 11:00 am
Ages 8-11	Tuesday	Acting II	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Ages 9-12	Wednesday	Apprentice Ensemble	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Ages 13-18	Saturday	Spoken Word	1:30pm - 2:30pm
Ages 11-13	Saturday	Acting III	11:00am - 12:00pm
Ages 11-13	Saturday	Improvisation	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Ages 13-18	Saturday	Teen Acting	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Ages 13-18	Saturday	Writing for Stage & Screen	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Ages 13-18	Saturday	Physical Acting	2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Ages 13-18	Saturday	Advanced Acting	4 pm - 5:30 pm
Ages 13-18	Saturday	Alliance Company	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Ages 18 & Up	Saturday	Adult Scene Study	11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Apprentice Ensemble and Alliance Company are by assessment only. Questions regarding assessment should be directed to Alfred Preisser, Director of Theatre, at apreisser@hsanyc.org or (212) 926-4100 ext. 338.

PLEASE NOTE: Schedule is subject to change. Please visit www.HSAnyc.org for the most up-to-date information.