

ACTING PERFORMANCE STUDIO

WELCOME TO APS

CORE CURRICULUM

GRADES 7 - 10

TEENS



OUR STUDIOS

We have four studios in the APS School in different areas around Melbourne. The addresses of each site can be found below:

MOORABBIN

HEAD OFFICE

1/34 LEVANSWELL ROAD
MOORABBIN, VIC 3189

BRUNSWICK

ROOMS 1+7, SITEWORKS
33 SAXON STREET
BRUNSWICK, VIC 3189

RINGWOOD

MAROONDAH FEDERATION ESTATE
32 GREENWOOD AVENUE
RINGWOOD, VIC 3134

NARRE WARREN

FOUNDATION LEARNING CENTRE
4A MALCOLM COURT
NARRE WARREN, VIC 3805

GIVE US A CALL ON: (03) 9078 1454

COURSE OUTLINE

WHAT WE OFFER

Understand the nature of film set life and the various roles both in front and behind the camera. You will learn about the call sheets, the work of the cinematographer and director, grip, sound, clapper, assistant directors, the importance of continuity, wardrobe/make-up, acting techniques and why working as an extra is good grounding. Each participant gets to learn all the roles of a functional film set, practicing and developing their skills. We work through the different levels of responsibility for the equipment, learn how to memorise a script and learn industry tips for rehearsing and executing your performance.

Once we have established our new skills, we create a 5 minute short film. We split the class into two groups and each group creates their own film from scratch. In one group, you will be the cast, in the other group, the crew. You will learn all aspects of pre-production (developing a plot and characters to write the script, rehearsing, sourcing costume, props and set design), production (cinematography, directing, acting, grip, clapper and assistant director) and post-production (basic film editing techniques with Final Cut Pro). The final films will be presented at a cinema or online, subject to Victorian Government regulations.

After the filming of the short films has wrapped, we will work on your acting techniques, developing your skills in front of the camera. We help you develop technical awareness such as effective stillness, posture and eyeline for camera and help you understand your character objectives along with executing beats and subtext to make you a more authentic and professional actor. Every two weeks you will get to participate in a different scene and have the opportunity to watch your footage back on screen to learn how you can improve with the guidance of your acting tutor. This will prepare you for audition life in the industry and give you a taste of what it really means to be an actor.

TERM 1

CREATING THE FILM WORLD

WEEK 1 - 3: INTRODUCTION TO FILM SET

Students will be introduced to all the basic roles and requirements for a functional film set. Each student will learn the purpose of each role on set and learn how to successfully operate necessary film equipment through practical 'hands on' learning to a basic degree.

*During **Week 1** students will learn:*

- 1. Call Sheet: Observe and breakdown a real life call sheet from a TV/Film production (this will introduce all the roles which are required for a professional film set)*
- 2. Cinematographer: How to successfully operate a Camera (Framing, Zoom, White balance)*
- 3. Grip: How to assemble a Tripod and attach the camera correctly (Levelling and height) inclusive of creating marks for actors*

*During **Week 2** students will learn:*

- 1. Sound: How to successfully record sound during filming*
- 2. Clapper: How to successfully use a Slate to connect sound and film whilst shooting*
- 3. Director: Exercise different ways to direct actors to enhance life within a scene*
- 4. 1st Assistant Director: Learn and exercise the importance of 1st AD on set*

*During **Week 3** students will learn:*

- 1. Acting: What is required of an actor before coming to set*
- 2. Continuity: Learn the importance of continuity on a set*
- 3. Wardrobe/Makeup: How to successfully dress actors to suggest character life*
- 4. Extras: Learn the importance of background acting to help shape a scene*

NOTES:

TERM 1

WEEKS 4 – 5: CREATING A FILM SCENE

After learning and exercising all the key roles involved to create a functioning film set, the students will now put all the roles into practice. APS will provide a simple scene for the students to film and the tutor will delegate roles each week to the students. With the guidance of the tutor, the students will practice professional set life and personal responsibility.

Over the two weeks, all students will rotate the roles on set so they each get a taste of what is required and get to see which may pique their interest. The idea is that the students create the film world from scratch. They turn up, set up all equipment on their own, and once filming is complete for the session, safely pack down equipment into necessary storage.

WEEKS 6 – 7: CREATING A COMMERCIAL

Now that the students are familiar with the process, we will spark their creative side by filming a new TV commercial which students will create from scratch.

Students will help film each others commercials and by this point their confidence in set discipline will be growing.

NOTES:

TERM 1

WEEK 8: OPEN SESSION*

In Week 8, the students will present their skill sets to their friends and family in an open session that will showcase the skills learnt over the prior 7 weeks. Students will set up and rehearse in the first 1 hour of the session, and the open session will run for the next 30 minutes where the tutor will give all attendees a breakdown of what has been learnt followed by a live filming session where the students will run the set.

**These sessions will be subject to COVID and current Victorian Government regulations at that time.*

WEEK 9: INTRODUCTION TO SCREEN WRITING

In Week 9, students will be introduced to story theory and will learn and discuss the essential elements of a story with a professional screenwriter. This will introduce students to the pre-production phase of the short film process and where it all begins.

Before students begin building a story of their own, it helps to understand how stories work. We'll ask a number of questions that can be applied to any film or TV show to help them see through the surface to the nuts and bolts of how a story is designed.

WEEK 10: SCREEN WRITING & STORY THEORY

In Week 10, students will continue with story theory and will apply the diagnostic questions to a number of short films and familiar television shows and compare notes. Then the screenwriter will take the students through a series of exercises to help the students generate ideas for their own stories.

NOTES:

TERM 2+3

CREATING FILM: FROM PRE TO POST-PRODUCTION

From Weeks 1 - 5, students will continue to work and understand the importance of screenwriting. They will learn techniques to help create, develop and complete their own scripts.

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO SHORT FILMS: FROM IDEA TO SCRIPT

In Week 1, students will be introduced to the concept of a short film and begin workshopping ideas to start developing their short film script. The class will be split into two groups. In these, students will begin to brainstorm and discuss potential short film ideas.

It can be hard to come up with a good idea for a story. Often you have to try out a lot of ideas that don't work before you get one that does. In this first session, we will learn some brainstorming techniques that help develop and test your ideas.

WEEK 2 – 5: PRE-PRODUCTION

In Weeks 2 - 5, students will begin to write their short film script. Each week students will explore a new essential element to script writing, planning through this pre-production process of their short film.

Below is an outline of what the students will be working on during each session between Weeks 2 -5:

Week 2: Plotting

Students will continue to work on their ideas from Week 1. As a group, they will select two of the potential script ideas and begin developing the plot.

NOTES:

TERM 2 + 3

Week 3: Writing the Outline

In Week 3, students will learn how to strengthen their story, before beginning the writing process.

It often helps to write the story in a simple form so you can test it before moving onto the script. Students will work to make sure the story is as strong as possible before starting to write the script.

Week 4: First Draft

In Week 4, students will work on writing and developing their short film scripts. Students will work with their tutor editing the draft and fine tuning. Diagnostic questions will be revisited from Term 1 to help improve the script.

Week 5: Second Draft and Beyond

In Week 5, students will keep working on the rewriting process, refining and improving their scripts. This will conclude all sessions for the screen script writing classes before students begin the filming process in Week 6.

WEEKS 6 – 9 + 1 – 4: PRODUCTION

Filming will begin starting Week 6, and is to conclude Week 4 in Term 3. This allows 4 weeks of filming per short film, equating up to 8 hours of filming for each group. Whilst one group is acting, the other group is filming them and doing all the crew roles. Now that students have gained the required skills to run a set, they will be responsible for setting up and packing down all film equipment.

NOTES:

TERM 2+3

WEEKS 5 – 10: POST-PRODUCTION: EDITING

Over the next 6 weeks, the students will be introduced to the world of editing on APS computers. They will learn the basics of editing in professional software such as Final Cut Pro. In Week 5, students will get the chance to watch all the footage back inclusive of bloopers.

During this editing block the students will get the chance to practice the basics of film editing:

- 1.Syncing up film recording with sound recording on a timeline*
- 2.Introduced to cutting and trimming techniques*
- 3.Adding music/sound scape for dramatic effect*
- 4.Adding titles/credits*

During Weeks 5 - 10, in tandem with learning editing skills, students will exercise improvisation and acting skills through as series of drama techniques.

In the case that editing completes early, the class may have the opportunity to create a blooper reel.

*The short film is the main outcome for Terms 2 & 3. Shorts will be presented at either a cinema or online.**

**These will be subject to COVID and current Victorian Government regulations at that time.*

NOTES:

TERM 4

SCREEN ACTING TECHNIQUES

WEEKS 1 – 8: ACTING TECHNIQUE FOR CAMERA

During Term 4, students will focus on effective acting techniques for the camera. These classes will begin with group warm ups, such as improvisation, then work on scripts from TV and Film. Students will breakdown and rehearse scripts one week and film them the next. We film these scenes as actors would in a self-tape or audition room scenario.

During this term, students will learn basic acting techniques for screen inclusive of:

- 1. Stillness, posture and eye-line on camera: What reads best in a mid-shot?*
- 2. Character objectives: What the character wants?*
- 3. Beats: Understanding and executing beats in a scene*
- 4. Subtext: What is my character actually saying?*

After filming, students will have the opportunity to watch their work back on our screens. Reflecting provides the best opportunity for students to learn and improve their acting craft.

NOTES:

TERM 4

WEEK 9: CHOOSING AND REHEARSING A SCENE FOR PRESENTATION

In week 9, the students will choose their strongest scene from the past 8 weeks to present to friends and family in the final week. Tutors will help them rehearse and explore different ways to execute the scene in this session.

WEEK 10: ACTING PRESENTATION (OPEN SESSION)

In the final week, students will present their scene on camera in a live filming session to friends and family. This is not a performance rather a representation of the work students have explored through the term.

The first hour and 20 minutes of the session will be warm up, set up and rehearsal. The final 30 minutes will be the open session for family and friends to view students filming the scene.

Students will receive their footage from this session. It will be sent via a private downloadable link.

NOTES:

CONTACT US

GET IN TOUCH

HEAD OFFICE

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