

HUDSON THEATRE WORKS SUMMER CLASSES

COURSE OFFERINGS

(OPEN TO BEGINNER OR EXPERIENCED STUDENTS GRADES 6-12)

11:00-12:00: **Scene Study**

12:00-1:00: **Monologue/Audition Workshop**

1:00-2:00: **Playwriting**

2:00-3:00: **Improvisation**

MEETING INFORMATION

Dates: Each Class Meets 3 Times per Week for 3 Weeks

Tuesday, 7/9, Wednesday, 7/10, Thursday, 7/11

Tuesday, 7/16, Wednesday, 7/17, Thursday, 7/18

Tuesday, 7/23, Wednesday, 7/24, Thursday, 7/25

Location: Progressive Dance Studio, 27 S. Van Brunt St., Englewood, NJ

PRICING

Enrolling in **one** class: \$360 for 3 weeks (9 classes total)

Enrolling in **two** classes: \$630 for 3 weeks (18 classes total)

Enrolling in **three** classes: \$810 for 3 weeks (27 classes total)

Enrolling in **four** classes: \$1260 for 3 weeks (36 classes total)

REGISTRATION AND INQUIRIES

Email: vsagona17@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All courses are designed with a two-fold philosophy: To provide a professional, challenging level of instruction from active, experienced artists to earnest, dedicated students, regardless of their past experience or future acting intentions. To combine this principle with the maintenance of a fun, supportive, safe environment to foster trust and promote play and a sense of joyous discovery and accomplishment.

SCENE STUDY: Scene Study is an actor's gym - a place to hone craft and keep skills sharp. It's an environment for actors to learn new techniques and exercises, tackle new material, and gain confidence in the process. Actors will engage in group warmups, relaxation techniques, sensory work, and work with partners on an assigned scene from a play. They will also apply personal in-depth work, reading techniques, character exercises, and relationship improv designed to tap into their inner lives and imagination.

MONOLOGUES/AUDITIONS: This course will allow students to bring in contemporary monologues from any source, including those self written. Skills covered will include text analysis, actions and objectives, characterization, vocal presence, developing instincts to make highly personal and spontaneous choices, meeting the demands of acting for the camera, learning how to command the body and voice for maximum range and impact, body language awareness for auditions, and making the who/what/where/when of a character real and specific.

PLAYWRITING: Each week, students will have the opportunity to bring written work to be read out loud by the class. The teacher will foster discussion of the work, bringing together questions about character and plot. Students will learn how to build a storyline by using conflict and resolution, developing dialogue, establishing setting, linking scenes to build tension, and bringing the play to its conclusion. The class will also focus on the broader questions of playwriting: What does it mean to you to have your voice heard? What subjects draw you in the most? What do you want to accomplish in your plays? What is the effect on the audience of attending a play, as opposed to listening to music or watching a movie?

IMPROVISATION: This class is dedicated to the exploration of spontaneity. Students will engage in theater games aimed at awakening the actor's natural instincts. Based on the famous Viola Spolin technique of theater games, actors will learn to trust their impulses and to find joy in the wonder of play. Each class will begin with relaxation and warm-ups in an effort to center the actor, followed by improvisations and unscripted exercises that include situations, ideas, or physical objects. The goal of this class is to encourage actors to stop *thinking* and start *reacting*.

MEET THE TEACHERS



T.C. Tanis has taught acting and comedy classes for several years at all age levels. He currently teaches at a private high school and is an adjunct professor at Bergen Community College. He has been in theater since starting in the drama department at Brandeis University, where he began performing standup comedy while also playing comedic stage roles. He became a featured player in a campus comedy troupe and developed a solo act, soon appearing locally with *Chicago City Limits* and some of Boston's hottest comics. Tanis went on to

appear on *Boston Cablevision* and at countless East Coast venues, clubs, and theaters. T.C. captured first place in a national competition for a *Star Search* affiliate, and finished atop several competitions at *STANDUP NEW YORK*. His act was praised in the *New York Times*, and he was interviewed for a WWOR television feature. A member of Actors' Equity, Tanis has performed in numerous stage roles, including Taylor in *Curse of the Starving Class*, Pa in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Marc in *Art*, Norman in *Table Manners*, and Lyons in *Please Go On*, which he wrote and which was accepted to the American Globe Theater play festival. He has written and performed several one act plays, as well as humor pieces for the *New York Times* and other publications. Tanis has also written and performed his one man show, *Next to Nothing*.



Vincent Sagona has been a professional actor in theater and film for 30 years and the drama teacher at Professional Children's School for 24 years. He earned his MFA at Brooklyn College where he studied with F. Murray Abraham and spent two years in advanced scene study with the world renowned acting teacher, Uta Hagen. Through his extensive acting work in the professional theater, Vincent has honed his craft in numerous productions playing such roles as; Happy in *Death of a Salesman*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's*

Dream, Father Flynn in *Doubt*, and the critically acclaimed one man show, *My Italy Story* for which he earned a New Jersey Star Ledger Peter Filichia Best Actor nomination. These experiences have enabled him to impart to his students first-hand knowledge of the challenges of acting as well as the realities of being an actor for hire. Vincent has a deep appreciation for the importance of ensemble and, perhaps most importantly, he believes that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.



Frank Licato has been in the business for over 40 years as an actor, director, producer, and teacher. He is a Tanne Award winner for artistic excellence and is Artistic Director of Hudson Theatre Works, a professional Equity company in Hudson County, N.J. He has worked with such theater luminaries as Joseph Chaiken and Peter Brook, and was named best actor in Boston twice, for his performance as Lt. Vukov in the American premiere of *Judgment* and as Jekyll/Hyde in the world premiere musical of the same name. He was considered for an Obie award for

his performance in Jean Genet's *Deathwatch*, which the New York Times called a "performance on another plane." He has appeared on Sidney Lumet's *100 Centre Street* with Alan Arkin and with Frank Sinatra in the movie *First Deadly Sin*. As a director, he has received an Applause Award from the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and a Perry Award for Best Production and Best Director for *The Grapes of Wrath*. His production of Neil LaBute's *The Shape of Things* was selected as a regional finalist in the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival and his production of Robert Clem's *Fever* was a top ten show at the 2001 New York International Fringe Festival. His production of *On the Waterfront* was made into an award winning documentary, *Waiting for Budd*, named for legendary writer Budd Schulberg, who attended the show a week before passing away.



Joanne Hoersch received her BA in drama from Emerson College. She studied fiction at Columbia University, where she was the recipient of a Woolrich Fellowship for creative writing. While at Columbia, her short story "Josie Going Places" was awarded best story of the year in a university-wide competition. Joanne was also a semi-finalist in the Heekin Foundation's national short story contest and a grant recipient from the NJ State Council on the Arts for fiction writing. Her first full length play, *Jackson Is Gone*, for which she received her second grant from the NJ State Council on the Arts, was produced by Hudson Theater Works. Her play *Starring Elizabeth* was read at Playwrights' Theatre of New Jersey, the Lark Theater in NYC, and Hudson Theatre Works' play series. Her play *Bunnies*, based on her experiences as a Playboy Bunny in New York in the early 70's, was produced by Hudson Theatre Works and was recently published by Next Stage Press. It is available at The

Drama Bookshop in NYC. *Bunnies* was also selected by the NJ Theatre Alliance for a staged reading at NJTC to celebrate Women's Month in 2019. Her recent play *Shelley*, about the genesis of Mary Shelley's idea for *Frankenstein*, was produced by Hudson Theatre Works. Joanne is a member of the Dramatists Guild and studies playwriting with Julian Sheppard.