

SMFA Recommended Acting Classes and Craft Coaches

Please see page 111 (the chapter on **The Right Training**) in the 4th edition of *Self-Management for Actors: Getting Down to (Show) Business* for a full understanding of the value in consistent, ongoing training as a part of your creative journey.

This ninja list of coaches—grouped by geographical location and specialty—can help you find your best-fit craft training. For the Los Angeles-based folks, the types of coaching are subsets of the location, but please note that many coaches cover several types of coaching, so these are grouped by primary specialty, in general. As always, audit if you can, speak with other actors about their experiences, and ask casting directors whose training makes an impact on a resume alone. Do the (recon) work... before you do the (craft) work!

Please note, this is NOT an exhaustive list. Omission from this list does not mean a particular coach is not the right fit for you (just like the appearance of someone on this list does not mean that person will be a good fit for your training needs). This is simply a compilation of programs and coaches whose training turns the heads of the hundreds of casting directors I interviewed, in whose programs I have sat in to verify the way the coaches treat actors and get to the results they claim, and whose longevity in the industry is secured.

Yes, you can pick up the *Backstage* edition on "top schools and coaches," but please remember that these rankings are lobbied for, paid for with advertising dollars, and rarely represent the quality of training that the actor will receive... much less how the casting directors out there feel about seeing those particular coaches names on an actor's resume. Do your homework! Don't be swayed by flashy testimonials! They're no different than political ads. It all comes down to money.

Please note that many of these coaches, programs, etc., have training centers in multiple cities, may travel to do workshops in various markets, and tend to offer virtual coaching. We're not limited by geography to get the exact training we want. Hooray! Also, if you're working with anyone based out of California, make sure you read up on **AB 1319** and **AB 1660**, as your coaches must be working within these important laws, created to protect actors. (Google my name + either of those laws to educate yourself in straightforward summaries I've written on each.)

If you have suggestions for updates to this resource list, please pop in over at our SMFA Ninjas Facebook group's FILES section and share your toys! Your suggestions may lead

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Bonnie Gillespie

to inclusion here, but there is no formal process for ranking. But what you share will help us keep this list fresh and filled with badassery for markets all over the world!

This list of officially recommended coaches in various markets is periodically updated, so be sure to check back for the latest information!

* = Offers virtual private coaching.

Atlanta

#ActorsLife Studio

Actor's Breakthrough

Alliance Theatre School

Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop

Atlanta Workshop Players

Catapult Acting Studios *

Cathy Reinking *

Clayton Landey

Drama, Inc. (Alex Collins) *

Kristen Shaw *

Nick Conti's Professional Actor's Studio

Sara Mornell

The Company Acting Studio (Lisina Stoneburner) *

The Creative Movement (Dave Pileggi)

The Neighborhood Studio (Tom Thon)

The Robert Mello Studio

Tim Phillips

Vince Pisani

Chicago

Acting Studio (Cinema Lab)

Amro Salama

Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop

Black Box Acting

Jossie Harris-Thacker *

The Green Room Studio (Steven Ivcich)

Vagabond *

Colleges, Universities, and Conservatories with Exceptional Programs

AADA

AFI

AMDA

American Conservatory Theatre (ACT)

Brown/Trinity Rep

Cal Arts

Carnegie Mellon

Chapman

Columbia

Emerson

HB Studio

Juilliard

Northwestern

NYU

Pepperdine

The Actors Center

UC Irvine

UCLA

UCSD

UNC

University of Cincinnati

USC

Yale

Comedy, Writing, Improvisation Groundlings

Impro (FKA TheatreSports)

Second City *

Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB)

Los Angeles: Audition Coaching

Acting Pros *

Amy Jo Berman *

Amy Lyndon

Barbara Deutsch

Candy Kaniecki

Caryn West *

Clyde Bernardy

Craig Campobasso *

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David Nathan Schwartz
Judy Kerr *
Keith Johnson *
Marci Liroff *
Michael Donovan
Tasha Smith *
Taylor Loeb
Warner Loughlin Studios *

Los Angeles: Cold Reading

Annie Grindlay
Margie Haber

Los Angeles: Comedy

Gunnar Todd Rohrbacher *
Lesly Kahn & Co. *
Mary Lou Belli
Scott Sedita *
Stan Kirsch Studios

Los Angeles: Commercial Technique

Bill Coelius *
Fawnda McMahan
Judy Kain *
Killian McHugh
Laurie Records *
Stuart K. Robinson

Los Angeles: Meisner

David Giella
James Eckhouse
Joanne Baron/DW Brown
John Ruskin

Los Angeles: On-Camera

Billy Cowart
Chris Game *
Christinna Chauncey *
Craig Wallace

Doug Warhit
Holly Powell
Mark Sikes
Richard Lawson
Sheldon Frett *
The Actor's Refuge (Brian Hill)
Zak Barnett *

Los Angeles: One-Person Show Development

Andrea Kittelson
Terrie Silverman
Uncabaret *

Los Angeles: Ongoing Scene Study

Adam Marcus
Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop
Arthur Mendoza
Chris Fields
Diana Castle *
Harry Mastrogeorge
Howard Fine
Ivana Chubbuck
John Sudol
Joseph Pearlman *
Larry Moss
Matthew Barry
Piero Dusa
Troy Rowland *
Warner Loughlin *

Los Angeles: Programs That Offer M1 International Student Visas

LA Film School
Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute
Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory/Promenade Playhouse
Michelle Danner/Larry Moss/Edgemar Studio School (F1 Visa)
Stella Adler Studio of Acting

Los Angeles: Stand-Up Comedy

Gerry Katzman

Greg Dean *

Los Angeles: Young Actors

John Homa

Marnie Cooper

Patrick Day (Young Actors Space)

The Actors Circle

New Mexico

Alan Arkin

Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop

New Orleans

Jim Gleason *

New York

Anthony Abeson

Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop

Bethany Kay * (ActSmart Coaching)

Bill Coelius *

Bob Krakower

Brad Calcaterra

HB Studio

Heidi Marshall *

Jason Buyer *

Joan Rosenfels

Josh Pais' Committed Impulse

Kimball Studio (Janine Ditullio)

Maria Psomas

Maria Riboli *

Matt Newton *

Robert Hartwell (The Broadway Collective)

Rosalie Tenseth

Roz Coleman *

Seth May

Susan Aston

Susan Batson *

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Tanya Perez
Ted Sluberski
The Barrow Group (Seth Barrish)
Tim Phillips

On Tour

Jeffrey Tambor

Portland

Brian Sutherland
Katie O'Grady
Rick Lewis

Prague

Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (AMU – Acting, Film, and Music)
Nancy Bishop Audition Masterclasses
Prague Film School
Prague Playhouse Acting Studio
Prague Shakespeare Company

Sydney

AIPA
Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop
Kristy Sexton

Toronto

Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop
Armstrong Studios *
Fraser Studios
John Riven
LB Acting Studio *
Professional Actors Lab

UK

Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop
Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
Effort Productions
Giles Foreman Centre for Acting
London Group Theater (Tom Radcliffe – travels to various locations outside of London)

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Matthew Simandl *
Mel Churcher *
Royal Academy of the Dramatic Arts (RADA)
Royal Haymarket Theatre
Sarah Shepherd
The Actors Centre

Vancouver

Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop
The Actor's Foundry *
Western Professional Actors Lab

Voice/Vocal

Crystal McDaniel *
Susan Bell *

Good luck. Have fun with this. Remember to audit classes to be sure it's a good fit for you at this stage in your career. Don't get stuck with one particular coach for too long—your craft needs growth just like you do!

Come jam with us in the *SMFA Ninjas* Facebook group or the Bonnie Gillespie instructional dojo to go deeper with this badassery. While your craft is vitally important, you'll need the business and mindset balance that **Get in Gear for the Next Tier** provides to help you do the most with those gifts!

Psst! If you find this or any other of these free resources of exceptional value, we'd love a tweet, a photo of you with your copy of *SMFA* for our awesome gallery, or even a nice review at Amazon!