Whether you're brand new to acting or a seasoned vet, it's crucial to the success of an actor that he or she keeps their skills sharp while also learning new techniques, methods, and approaches. Acting class is the perfect way to do just that. From beginner level courses that teach the basics to something more specialized—voice, movement, combat—there are an incredible amount of classes to choose from. In addition to training what makes **The Million Dollar Actor** stand out from the rest is that we encourage our participants to attach their passion for acting with a great cause. For example, use their talent to help promote world peace, fight against racism, encourage mentorship, stand up against bullying, support all love in support of the LGBT/GLBT community or even educating on healthy eating. The end result is taking *action* to help make our world a better place.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP

Become a <u>Million Dollar Actor Monthly Member</u> and splurge on all the incentives! Paying the monthly membership fee includes:

- Your membership card (expires 1 year from date of purchase or if you discontinue monthly payments)
- One FREE class per/month (duration approximately 1-2 weeks)
- Certification (based in part on accumulated class hours)
- Certification means you also get your own demo reel from class projects!
- A copy of our book 'Being the Star You Already Are'
- Invitations to private events;
 - Panel discussions w/Hollywood Actors
 - Movie premieres
 - Group travel to annual film festivals
 - Networking events



Note: The duration of each class last approximately 1-2 weeks with a class time of 2 hours. To earn the Certification you are required to take 3 different classes for a total of 2 consecutive months. Class locations are held either near or within the downtown areas of Atlanta, Georgia and Washington D.C. conveniently accessible to public transportation, hotels and restaurants. They may be held on college campuses. Details on location are shared after you submit payment.

BEGINNER STUDIES

Scene study + technique

According to Backstage Expert and acting coach Carolyn Berry, "Scene study primarily involves individual scenes or monologues from a play or film, which are assigned to the student actors. The instructor directs and teaches his/her approach using material as the vehicle. He/she might have some warm-ups or exercises, but the main focus of their instruction is the scene work."

Auditioning

Though auditioning and performing go hand-in-hand, these classes focus on the former. Even if you're a fantastic actor, if you're not a good auditioner, that talent won't ever be acknowledged. To help students nail their auditions, these classes teach script analysis, proper audition behavior, monologue prep, and how to approach a casting panel.

On-camera (screen)

Unless otherwise specified, most classes focus on acting for the stage, which requires a very different approach than acting for the screen. An on-camera class teaches students the technicalities and nuances of acting for the medium, as well as knowing how to interact with and move for the camera, and voice level control.

Cold reading

Cold reading, the act of performing from a script or text with little-to-no rehearsal or practice, is one of the most important skills an actor can have (especially those who audition for commercials frequently). Cold reading classes teach the skills needed to quickly prepare a text—understanding the character and situation so you have more time to think about the performance, instead of interpreting the text.

Improv

As the name implies, these classes teach actors how to improvise, a crucial skill in this industry. "It is the best work for helping actors to build confidence, courage, creativity, and teaches them to trust their instincts," says Barry. "Also, it's helpful in teaching (anyone) to stay out of their head, listen, and respond honestly."

Commercial

For actors interested in auditioning for commercials, this is an obvious necessity. Though they're all filmed work, a commercial shoot is a very different experience than TV and movies—things move much faster and actors often have to improvise. Commercial classes can teach you what to expect and how to handle it.

Vocal

For anyone looking to pursue a career in musical theater, vocal classes teach actors how to properly use their voices and the technique necessary to not injure their vocal cords. That said, vocal classes can also be useful for non-singing actors, especially when it comes to handling emotional dialogue and sounds, such as shouting or screaming, without fatiguing or damaging the voice.

Body + Movement

Whether it's yoga, the Alexander Technique, or stage combat, movement classes are important when it comes to actors really knowing how to use their bodies. These types of classes will bring awareness to your limbs, how they move, and the space they take up.

ADVANCED STUDIES

Technique

According to Backstage Experts and acting teachers Risa Bramon Garcia and Steve Braun, "Acting teachers are often guilty of desperately clinging to the validity of the technique they teach. When you stake your honor and your mortgage payments on one technique, you're probably not going to be super objective about it. You may even talk smack about another technique in order to build yours up. But make no mistake. There is no one correct way to act. No technique can guarantee that you'll book work or be a brilliant actor. If a teacher tells you that her or his way is the only way, walk away lickety-split."

That said, it's important to know what you're getting yourself into should you choose a class or teacher that focuses on one technique in particular. Below, you'll find brief explanations of the most well-known acting techniques, courtesy of Jackie Apodaca, associate professor and the head of performance at Southern Oregon University, and actor KC Wright.

Stanislavski

Developed in the late 1800s and early 1900s, Stanislavki's system advocates naturalistic behavior and believable emotions, placing an actor inside a character's "magic if," establishing motivation, and identifying objectives and obstacles. The technique evolved over the years, moving from personal memory-driven emotionality ("emotional memory" or "affective memory") to more physical, active preparation ("method of physical actions"). Simply put, an actor who studies Stanislavski's system searches for inner motives or experience to justify action and what the character seeks to achieve in a given moment.

Method

Inspired by but diverging from Stanislavsky, "Method acting" was created by Lee Strasberg, and encourages actors to magnify and intensify their connection to the material by creating their characters' emotional experiences in their own lives.

Adler

Stella Adler studied under Stanislavski, and her "method" built on the work of Stanislavski and Strasberg. Adler's technique differs from Strasberg's in that it emphasizes imagination in addition to emotional recall. She famously said, "Drawing on the emotions I experienced—for example, when my mother died—to create a role is sick and schizophrenic. If that is acting, I don't want to do it."

Meisner

Meisner taught his students to "live truthfully under given imaginary circumstances." His approach is an eminently practical one; his famous repetition exercise, in which two actors sit opposite each other and respond in the moment with a repeated phrase, breaks down overly structured technique and builds openness, flexibility, and listening skills.

Chekhov

Stanislavski's star student, Chekhov pioneered a "psycho-physical" approach to acting, focusing on mind, body, and a conscious awareness of the senses.

Practical Aesthetics

This action-based acting technique was developed by playwright David Mamet and actor William H. Macy, and incorporates elements of Stanislavsky and Meisner. It involves a four-step scene analysis that simply focuses on pursuit of an action; actors are taught to focus on what is literally happening in the scene and what is desired of the other characters.

Hagen

Uta Hagen's technique emphasizes realism and truth above all else; "substitution" (or "transference") encourages actors to substitute their own experiences and emotional recollections for the given circumstances of a scene.

Theater Games

Viola Spolin's unique "Theater Games" approach focuses on directorial and improvisational exercises, and teaches actors to live in the moment and respond quickly and truthfully to their present circumstances.