Powering Creativity Drama
Drama

The highly ranked School of Drama produces some of the most versatile and successful actors in theater, film and television. Our rigorous conservatory training is grounded in classical values and forward-looking methodologies that prepare students for careers on stage, screen, and the emerging media landscape. Plays are selected from different periods and styles and are intentionally curated to highlight voices from communities that have been historically been neglected by the entertainment industry. Invaluable on-camera training is incorporated into all four years of study. Showcases in New York, LA, Chicago and Atlanta offer coveted exposure to industry professionals. Working with other UNCSA disciplines — Design & Production, Filmmaking, Music, and Dance — our students benefit from developing a variety of skills and knowledge.

ACTING

Training for both stage and on-camera work will be deeply integrated into all four years of an actor's time at UNCSA. In addition to a variety of approaches to acting technique, students will engage in physical training that includes musical theater dance repertory, stage combat (leading to the opportunity for multiple Society of American Fight Directors certifications), and mask and movement training. Students will study vocal production, singing, speech and dialects. In the third year, students will study heightened language and Shakespeare while simultaneously learning the deeply personal process of creating devised theater pieces. The fourth year focuses heavily on learning about the business of being an actor, and entrepreneurship.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our one-year intensive program is offered by audition to rising high school seniors. Courses focus on acting, singing, dance, arts for social change, directing, dramatic writing, devised theater and creative practice. Students also participate in a comprehensive college audition preparation process and share unique performance experiences in the community. They give back to Winston-Salem through the Artists Reaching Children in the Hospital program that allows them to use their developing skills to entertain patients at Brenner Children’s Hospital.

CONCENTRATIONS

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Acting

Directing

High School Diploma

Act on-camera with expert direction all four years.

Participate in motion-capture work, voiceovers, animation and more through collaboration with the highly ranked UNCSA School of Filmmaking.

Create your own work during a yearlong devising curriculum in the third year.

Learn the business of being an actor with classes in personal finance and accounting, copyright law and intellectual property rights, formation of not-for-profits and more.

You'll train across the full spectrum of the industry.
“Faculty members taught us how to develop as authentic and honest individuals. It’s not just about having the right skills; it’s about becoming your most authentic self.”

— Isaac Powell (B.F.A. Drama ’17), Broadway actor in “West Side Story” and “Once on This Island”
Each spring, graduating seniors present a showcase for agents, casting directors and producers from all branches of theater, film and television. Our showcase has resulted in the majority of actors signing with top agents and many others securing their first jobs right out of school.

RANKINGS

No. 6 of The Best 25 College Drama Programs Around the World and third among B.F.A. programs in the U.S. The Hollywood Reporter

No. 9 of The 10 Most Represented Colleges on Broadway Playbill

Top 30 College Acting/Performing Arts Programs OnStage

ALUMNI “LIFE AFTER UNCSA”