

Juilliard | Extension

# Acting Essentials: Preparing for a Role





An iconic stage or screen performance is merely the tip of an iceberg; below the surface, there is a methodical, serious level of preparation that the audience never sees. Yet it's that preparation which makes the performance possible in the first place. Great acting is deceptive because it feels like anyone can do it...just act *natural*. But performance for stage and screen is a craft built over hundreds of years, arm in arm with the art of storytelling.

Today, actors can choose from ancient methods of storycraft to the most modern philosophies on performing in front of a camera for a Hollywood blockbuster. The skill resides in properly choosing the techniques needed to embody a great character for a months-long run on Broadway, a demanding film production, or even tomorrow's media platforms.

*Acting Essentials: Preparing for a Role* is the quintessential guide for actors learning how to analyze, research, rehearse, and tune their instrument in order to take on the acting role of a lifetime.

Taught by core faculty and prestigious alumni from The Juilliard School, you will be exposed to a comprehensive preparation process for actors that is applicable to stage, screen, and experimental work. By covering areas like text analysis, character research, rehearsal time, improvisation, life and career sustainability, and more, students will develop a careful, methodical approach to engaging with and imbuing a character with personality, empathy, and fidelity to the source material. Project-based learning will help a student build their own approach to an iconic stage character, a methodology that they can recreate for any future roles they are cast in.



Drawing on video lectures paired with assignments designed to help you design your approach to a new role, *Acting Essentials: Preparing for a Role* is a guidebook to the craft of acting performance. By speaking to veteran actors across Broadway, Hollywood, and independent stage and screen, you can build a lifelong approach that works for you.

**Acting Essentials: Preparing for a Role consists of five course modules:**

- Great Acting: A Mirror Up to Nature
- Close Reading & Textual Analysis
- Research & Inspiration
- In Rehearsal
- Ready to Perform & After

Each course module is broken into several shorter video lessons that you complete at your own pace. Assignments and hands-on projects reinforce key knowledge and help build career skills.

**Student Benefits:**

1. Certificate of Completion (non-credit) from The Juilliard School (Juilliard Extension)
2. A basic to intermediate study of actor preparation for stage and screen performance
3. Insights and guidance from leading academic and industry experts
4. Real industry-scenario assignments
5. 100% online and self-paced





## MODULE 1

### Great Acting: A Mirror Up to Nature

It's often difficult to dissect why a great stage or screen performance is so captivating. It could be because of the actor's charisma, their authenticity, their showmanship, their timing, or more. Upon closer examination, it's usually due to the exacting preparation that the performer underwent to engage with the role. Acting is not only a craft, but a philosophy of life, and we will begin our study by identifying the holistic approach that actors must take to performance in general, and their more targeted approach to a specific role. We will also move inside a rehearsal space where Juilliard acting and directing faculty Claire Karpen will begin work with a group of trained Juilliard students as they begin their preparation.

#### Key Concepts

- Histories & Traditions of Acting Performance
- The Actor as Instrument
- Merging Story & Performance
- First Introduction to the Text
- Active Learning: Introductions & First Inspirations



### MODULE 2

## Close Reading & Textual Analysis

There is no other place to start other than the text of the script or play. But that, in itself, can be intimidating. How does one engage with the text “correctly” as an actor? What are they looking for? This module focuses on time-honored methods of text analysis and “close reading” during role preparation. Students will approach the text like a detective, searching for clues to help them understand the character, as well what interpretations they might bring to the role. In addition, Professor Karpen and her Juilliard students will discuss their findings from the text analyses, helping the learner build their own understanding of the roles.

### Key Concepts

- Textual Analysis
- Given Circumstances vs. Interpretation
- “Breaking the Script” from an Actor’s POV
- Active Learning: Close Reading in Action



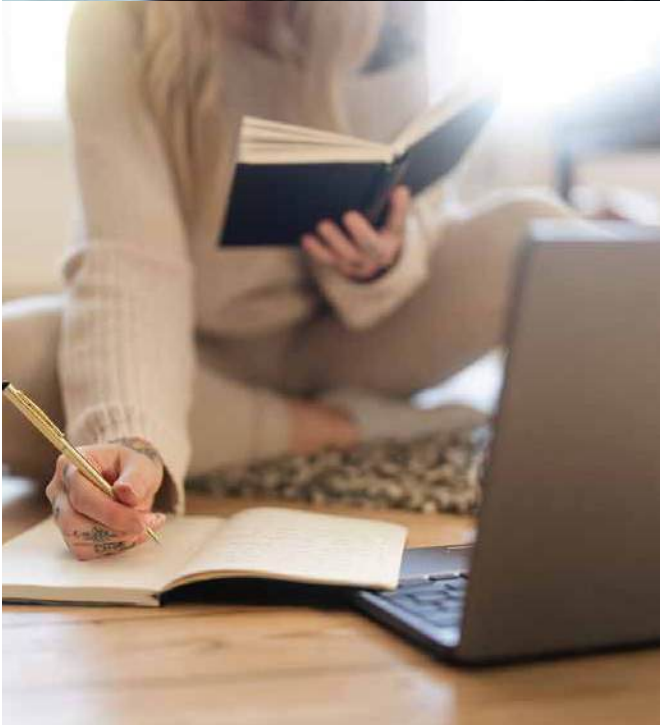
### MODULE 3

## Research & Inspiration

It's one thing to do research; it's another to make the role an actor's own. Once a performer has built a theory on the writer's intent, it's time to start embodying the character and making it unique to the actor. This can be done many different ways: academic research, mood boards, music, wardrobe, physical manifestation, dialogue training, and more. The key is to develop a method for each role that actually works for the actor, that sparks energy and inspiration. Professor Karpen and the Juilliard students also share their approaches to iconic stage roles and how they plan to connect with the character later in the course.

### Key Concepts

- Choosing Research Methodologies
- Determining Research You Can Use
- Finding Personal Connection to Character
- Active Learning: Actor Research Share-Out





### MODULE 4 In Rehearsal

As we move into the rehearsal stage, it's important to have a plan but be flexible to change. Rehearsal is, above all, a process of discovering the character, connecting to other actors, and building a dialogue with a director. Module 4 is focused on demystifying the rehearsal process, and the many ways that an actor can approach the process. Furthermore, tools like improvisation, animal work, and impersonal exercises can help unlock new experiences. This module builds on all the earlier analysis work, while starting to get the play or film "on its feet." Professor Karpen and the Juilliard students will begin workshopping their scenes and characters in rehearsal.

#### Key Concepts

- Mental Approaches to Rehearsal
- Working With Directors & Other Actors
- Workshopping Scenes & Solving Problems
- Improv, Exercises & Other Rehearsal Tools
- Active Learning: Getting the Scene On Its Feet



**MODULE 5****Ready to Perform & After**

As rehearsal concludes, the goal is not to have a “finished” interpretation of the character – that will change all through a theatrical run or filming – but to have a working plan of how to approach the character going forward. A successful run may last months or years; a major film could take a year or more. How can an actor maintain that spark that brought them to the role in the first place? Module 5 focuses on the craft that allows the performer to stay grounded to the character up to and through showtime. Meanwhile, Professor Karpen and the Juilliard students will wrap up their rehearsal with insights about how their approach to the characters changed throughout the experience. Finally, we investigate the life of the working actor: auditions, maintaining the instrument, matching roles to life phases, and more.

**Key Concepts**

- Pulling Insights from Rehearsal Time
- Preparing for Production
- Life & Career as Actors
- Active Learning: Completing the Plan



## Enrollment Details

### 1 **How do I apply for Acting Essentials: Preparing for a Role?**

The application is entirely online and only takes a few minutes to complete.

You can apply here: <https://www.yellowbrick.co/apply/?program=acting>

### 2 **How much does the course cost?**

The cost for all five course modules, related materials, and the Certificate of Completion from Juilliard Extension is \$1,499 USD. Payment plans are available starting as low as \$139 per month. All payment options will be sent upon course acceptance.

In order to receive the Certificate of Completion, all course requirements must be completed and all fees paid in full.

### 3 **What payment methods and currencies do you accept?**

We accept most major credit and debit cards, including Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, and JCB. Students who enroll outside the United States will be charged in the local currency at the prevailing currency exchange rate.

### 4 **Do you offer financial aid or financing plans?**

This course is not eligible for federal financial aid, but payment plans and scholarships are available through Yellowbrick, which operates the course. Once accepted, complete details on pricing will be emailed.

More information about our scholarship program can be found here:

<https://www.yellowbrick.co/scholarship-application/>

### 5 **What is your cancellation policy?**

Students can withdraw from the course for a full refund within 24 hours of enrollment. Students have up to 7 days to withdraw to get a full refund, minus a \$100 cancellation fee. After 7 days, no refunds will be issued. Extension plan subscriptions may be canceled prior to your renewal date by emailing [hello@yellowbrick.co](mailto:hello@yellowbrick.co).

### 6 **How do I begin the course?**

Once we have received the payment, a spot is secured and emails will go out within 24 hours with next steps on how to access your account. The course is 100% online, self-paced, and on-demand so you can complete it on your own schedule.

## The Program

### 1 **Are there any prerequisites, age requirements, or restrictions?**

Students must be at least 13 to apply. There are no academic prerequisites as the course is open for beginners and students with some experience in acting/performing arts looking to grow. All you need is a passion for learning.

### 2 **What do I get when I complete the course?**

*Acting Essentials: Preparing for a Role* is a non-credit course. Students who complete the course will earn a Certificate of Completion from Juilliard Extension.

### 3 **How long do I have to complete the course?**

Students have unlimited access to the course for one year, starting on the date of enrollment.

### 4 **What if I need more time?**

If after one year an extension is needed to complete the course, students will have the option to pay a monthly subscription fee to continue access to the course materials.

### 5 **Can I download course videos or materials?**

Class videos and materials are not downloadable. However, enrolled students will have unlimited access to all videos and materials for one year.

### 6 **What can I expect to accomplish by the end of this course?**

After completing the course, students will have a significantly greater understanding of how an actor prepares for a role. In addition, students will receive a Certificate of Completion from Juilliard Extension that they can proudly add to their LinkedIn profile and resume. This credential can help open doors.

### 7 **Who are my fellow students?**

Students of all experience levels and in any career stage will benefit from enrolling in *Acting Essentials: Preparing for a Role*. All students do have one thing in common — a passion for acting and a desire to improve their craft. Some students might be heading to college, are in college, or just graduated and want to build skills and gain valuable experience. Your fellow students may become part of your current or future network.

## The Program

### 8 Where do I find the course materials?

All course materials are available online. You can access and review the materials whenever you like through the course login page, which you'll receive access to once you enroll.

### 9 Which devices can I use to watch the class videos and access other course materials?

The course and all course materials can be accessed via an internet-connected computer, tablet, or smartphone device. A computer or tablet is suggested for the best user experience.

### 10 When and where do the classes meet?

The course is offered 100% online and is entirely self-paced and on-demand — so students can access the course video lessons, assignments and other materials whenever and wherever they like.

### 11 How much time do I need to dedicate to the course?

It varies from person to person, but be prepared to work hard and dedicate about 30-40 hours in total.

### 12 After I earn the Certificate of Completion in Acting Essentials: Preparing for a Role, what comes next?

This certificate will lay the groundwork for you to pursue your goals in any direction you choose. If you'd like to deepen your knowledge further, Yellowbrick offers numerous online certificate courses. Visit [yellowbrick.co](https://yellowbrick.co) to explore all available courses.

### 13 Who is Yellowbrick and why are they involved?

Yellowbrick is the online learning company that powers the *Acting Essentials: Preparing for a Role* course, in addition to numerous other online university courses. Our mission at Yellowbrick is to empower dreamers to achieve their calling by inspiring learners to pursue a career that aligns with their talents and passions. That's why we partner with top universities and brands to create educational experiences that tap into learners' passion points, spark success, fuel personal advancement, and unlock doors to fulfilling paths and careers. Tap [here](#) to learn more about Yellowbrick and our mission.