

APPRENTICE HOUR with the Olney Theatre Center Apprentices

Thursdays from 3:00pm-4:00pm

Join the Olney Theatre Center Apprentices for a discussion about their experience in the post grad theatre world, applying for jobs, and figuring out what to do with your life, followed by a Q&A.

ACTING FUNDAMENTALS with National Players Saira Grewal and Emma Stern

Mondays 2:00pm-2:55pm EDT

Learn some tricks of the trade with the National Players to help you become a better actor. Practice taking risks and thinking on your feet through fun virtual theatre games and activities.

AUDITION Q+A with Associate Artistic Director/Casting Director Jenna Duncan

FRIDAY 3:00pm-3:55pm EDT

There is so much that goes into auditioning, and not all of it is the acting work. Often in audition panels and classes the longest part (and the one that gets cut off for time) is the Q+A. This class is a discussion space that will allow us to ask any questions you have about the audition process, choosing material, presenting yourself, etc. This will not be a lecture, so please come ready to ask and discuss!

THE AMATEURS TALKBACK/DISCUSSION with Associate Artistic Director/Casting Director Jenna Duncan

TUESDAY 4:00pm-4:55pm EDT

One of the best parts of our programming is being able to discuss it with our audiences in talkbacks on Saturday afternoons each week. While we are unable to gather in person for THE AMATEURS, that shouldn't stop us from talking about this thought-provoking piece. If you already saw THE AMATEURS live and weren't able to make it to a talkback, or if you are watching the show online, we'd love to have you a part of this discussion. You may notice this is a much longer time than our typical talkbacks. This won't be an actor Q+A as our live ones are, but a space for audience members to discuss their experiences with one another. It's the type of discussion we often get into towards the end of our talkbacks when we run out of time, so come join us for the longer version with more time to delve in!

THE CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC: THREE PLAYS IN SIX WEEKS with Artistic Director Jason Loewith

Fridays 4:00pm - 5:30pm EDT

Modeled after his popular University of Chicago classes at the Graham School, Artistic Director Jason Loewith takes a deep dive into three classic plays with contemporary relevance over the next six weeks.

This is a discussion class, seminar-style, not a lecture! So

participants should read the plays beforehand and come ready to give their opinions. No prior experience needed, except a love of theater. Participants don't need to attend every class (but you'll be happy if you do!). Scripts available for download here.

[THE DOCTOR'S DILEMMA](#) by George Bernard Shaw, one of Shaw's "Problem Plays", in which a doctor with limited resources must decide who he saves from tuberculosis (April 3 and 10)

[HENRY V](#) by Shakespeare, a patriotic History Play, in which a young man learns how to lead a nation through a time of crisis (April 17 and 24)

[THE IMAGINARY INVALID](#) by Moliere, a Comedy in which a wealthy, miserly hypochondriac demands his daughter marry a doctor so he doesn't have to pay his medical bills (May 1 and 8) (Note: A different translation of this script will be made available at least a week prior to May 1)

CRAFT WITH ME with Education Administration Apprentice Hannah Ensign

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:00 AM

Tune in to do a guided craft with Hannah three times a week. Please make sure you have your materials ready before the class begins. For each craft you will need.

Monday

- [Head and tongue outline](#)
- 5 pieces of paper
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Tape

Wednesday

- Egg carton
- Straw or stick
- Crayons or markers
- Paper
- Scissors
- Tape or glue

Friday

- Paper
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Scissors
- Crayons, Markers, or colored pencils

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO TEACHING CREATIVE DRAMA with Education Administration Apprentice Hannah Ensign

Mondays 3:00pm-3:55pm EDT, Thursdays 4:00pm-4:55pm EDT

Are you interested in theatre education but don't know where to start? Creative Drama is an improvisational, non-exhibitional, process based form of theatre, and an amazing way to introduce young people to the world of playing a character in a story. This is a class for teens and young professionals to learn the ins and outs of planning and teaching a Creative Drama class. You will need this [PDF](#), and a writing utensil.

BEGINNING PLAYWRITING with Community Engagement Coordinator and Playwright Rebecca Dzida

Mondays or Wednesdays 11:00am-11:55am EDT

Ever thought about writing? Bored out of your mind at home? Put your daydreams to good use and write a play. Learn about what distinguishes plays from other types of art forms, and get inspired to tell your own dramatic tales through writing exercises and story sharing. You will need writing utensils (pen and paper, computer, etc.) and your imagination.

This class is intended for people who have not taken playwriting courses before ages 12 and up.

DIRECTING SHAKESPEARE IN A NEW ERA with Senior Associate Artistic Director Jason King Jones

Tuesdays 3:00pm-3:55pm EDT

Fifty years ago Peter Brook revolutionized Shakespearean performance with his A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. Since then, directors of all stripes have reinterpreted the Bard in a host of ways. This class will examine the challenges and opportunities in telling Shakespeare's stories in a radically different world.

This class is intended for directors, dramaturgs, theatre students, and any interested people of any age. Previous knowledge of Shakespeare is helpful but required.

MONOLOGUE COACHING with Associate Artistic Director/Casting Director Jenna Duncan and National Players

TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS 12:00pm-12:55pm EDT

This is a master class style class where we will focus on tackling an audition monologue. Participants are encouraged to come with a monologue ready to work. While we may not be able to work with every person in every class, the goal is for participants to see how others work and apply similar questions to their own monologues.

MOVEMENT: GET MOVING! With Education Administration Apprentice Hannah Ensign

TUESDAYS from 10:00am-10:55am EDT

This is a class for young people in elementary school to explore imagination and storytelling. We will be playing games and telling stories to engage our body, mind, and imagination.

MOVEMENT: "COMMAND THE ROOM" with the National Players

Tuesdays 11:00am-11:55am EDT with Faith Ore and Cedrick L. Riggs, Jr.

Or Thursdays 11:00am-11:55am EDT with Emma Stern and Annah Shafer

Your body communicates even more information than your words. Through movement exercises, the National Players will help you take command of your space and use your body to communicate effectively and safely both on and off the stage.

MUSICALS with Associate Artistic Director of Music Theatre, Chris Youstra

Wednesdays 4:00pm-5:00pm ED

This is a seminar style discussion class. Join Chris Youstra as he discusses "behind the scenes" of some of his favorite musicals. The music is readily available on Spotify, linked below.

April 1: [Pippin](#)

April 8: [Beauty and the Beast](#)

April 15: [She Loves Me](#)

April 22: TBD

April 29: TBD

April 29: TBD

NEW PLAY READING CLUB with Dramaturgy Apprentice, Sarah Kiker

Mondays, 4pm - 5pm EDT beginning March 30

This is a discussion class focused on reading and examining new plays from a variety of contemporary playwrights. Participants should read the plays beforehand and come ready to share thoughts and reactions. Drop in for as many discussions as you'd like; it's not necessary to attend every class, but we're happy if you do!

Scripts available for download here:

March 30 - [FLEABAG](#) by Phoebe Waller-Bridge - A hilarious, award-winning, one-woman show that inspired the BBC's hit TV series *Fleabag*. Fleabag may seem oversexed, emotionally unfiltered and self-obsessed, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. With family and friendships under strain and a guinea pig café struggling to keep afloat, Fleabag suddenly finds herself with nothing to lose.

April 6 - [SWEAT](#) by Lynn Nottage - Filled with warm humor and tremendous heart, SWEAT tells the story of a group of friends who have spent their lives sharing drinks, secrets, and laughs while working together on the factory floor. But when layoffs and picket lines begin to chip away at their trust, the friends find themselves pitted against each other in a heart-wrenching fight to stay afloat.

April 13 - [TINY BEAUTIFUL THINGS](#) by Cheryl Strayed - Based on the best-selling book by Cheryl Strayed, *Tiny Beautiful Things* personifies the questions and answers that "Sugar" was publishing online from 2010 - 2012. When the struggling writer is asked to take over the unpaid anonymous position of advice columnist, Strayed used her own empathy to help those seeking guidance for obstacles both large and small.

April 20 - [ANNA IN THE TROPICS](#) by Nilo Cruz - ANNA IN THE TROPICS is a poignant and poetic new play set in Florida in 1929 in a Cuban-American cigar factory, where cigars are still rolled by hand and "lectors" are employed to educate and entertain the workers. The arrival of a new lector is a cause for celebration, but when he begins to read aloud from Anna Karenina, he unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners, for whom Tolstoy, the tropics and the American dream prove a volatile combination.

April 27 - [DOUBT: A PARABLE](#) by John Patrick Shanley - In this brilliant and powerful drama, Sister Aloysius, a Bronx school principal, takes matters into her own hands when she suspects the young Father Flynn of improper relations with one of the male students.

May 4 - [I AM MY OWN WIFE](#) by Doug Wright - Based on a true story, and inspired by interviews conducted by the playwright over several years, I AM MY OWN WIFE tells the fascinating tale of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a real-life German transvestite who managed to survive both the Nazi onslaught and the repressive East German Communist regime.

RESUME AND AUDITION TIPS with Senior Associate Artistic Director Jason King Jones and Associate Artistic Director / Casting Director Jenn Duncan

Thursdays 2:00pm - 2:55pm EDT

Jenna and jkj see a TON of resumes and audition a TON of people every year. They have advice for you on how to make your resume work better for you and how to help you show yourself the best in your audition. Spend some time with them as they share their thoughts and give you individual advice.

SHAKESPEARE BASICS with the National Players

Mondays 12:00pm-12:55pm EDT with Anna Shafer and Lisa Danielle Buch

Or Wednesdays 12:00pm-12:55PM EDT with Saira Grewal and Lisa Danielle Buch

Shakespeare isn't intimidating when it's taught by the National Players. The characters and themes of his plays are relevant even in modern situations. See Shakespeare through new eyes with this engaging class that is a combination of text study, discussion, and performance practice.

SHAKESPEARE MASTERCLASS with National Players Miranda Pepin and Emma Stern

Fridays 11:00am-11:55am EDT

Want to brush up your Shakespeare? Work with members of the country's longest-running touring company to dig deeper into your monologues to find hidden meaning and greater truth. Bring your monologues and your webcams, and leave your inhibitions in the other room.

SING AND DANCE ALONG with Education Administration Apprentice Hannah Ensign

Thursdays from 10:00am-10:55am

Sing fun songs and learn silly dances with Hannah.

STAGE MANAGEMENT BASICS with National Player Liz Monasky

Tuesdays 2:00pm-2:55pm EDT or Fridays 12:00pm-12:55pm EDT

So what exactly does a stage manager do? Not sure where to begin with a rehearsal report? No clue what should be in your SM kit? Join us to find out the answers to these questions and more! This class will cover the basics of a stage manager's duties from rehearsals to performances to the joys of paperwork. Learn from the National Players Tour 71 stage manager about the general tools and skills that will help you get on your feet and be ready to collaborate with a stage management team!

STORYTIME with Senior Associate Artistic Director Jason King Jones

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 9:00am-9:55am EDT
and

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 1:00pm-1:55pm EDT

Twice a day every weekday jkj will read some of his and his children's favorite stories for ages 2-6, or for anyone who wants to watch jkj read stories. Guest artists may join jkj along the way to read some favorites of their own.

TEEN PLAY READING CLUB with Dramaturgy Apprentice, Sarah Kiker

FRIDAYS, 2pm - 3pm EDT beginning April 3

This is a discussion class meant for teens and focused on reading a variety of plays from the Greeks to contemporary playwrights. Participants should read the plays beforehand and come ready to share thoughts and reactions. Drop in for as many discussions as you'd like; it's not necessary to attend every class, but we're happy if you do!

Scripts available for download here:

April 3 - [I AND YOU](#) by Lauren Gunderson - One afternoon, Anthony arrives unexpectedly at classmate Caroline's door bearing a beat-up copy of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, an urgent assignment from their English teacher. Homebound due to illness, Caroline hasn't been to school in months, but she is as quick and sardonic as Anthony is athletic, sensitive, and popular. As these two let down their guards and share their secrets, this seemingly mundane poetry project unlocks a much deeper mystery that has brought them together.

April 10 - [A RAISIN IN THE SUN](#) by Lorraine Hansberry - Set on Chicago's South Side, the plot revolves around the divergent dreams and conflicts within three generations of the Younger family: son Walter Lee, his wife Ruth, his sister Beneatha, his son Travis, and matriarch Lena. When her deceased husband's insurance money comes through, Mama Lena dreams of moving to a new home and a better neighborhood in Chicago. Walter Lee, a chauffeur, has other plans: buying a liquor store and being his own man. Beneatha dreams of medical school. The tensions and prejudice they face form this seminal American drama. The Younger family's heroic struggle to retain dignity in a harsh and changing world is a searing and timeless document of hope and inspiration.

April 17 - [CLYBOURNE PARK](#) by Bruce Norris - *CLYBOURNE PARK* explodes in two outrageous acts set fifty years apart. Act One takes place in 1959, as white community leaders anxiously try to stop the sale of a home to a black family. Act Two is set in the same house in the present day, as the now predominantly African-American neighborhood battles to hold its ground in the face of gentrification.

April 24 - [NOISES OFF](#) by Michael Frayn - *Noises Off* presents a manic menagerie of itinerant actors rehearsing a flop called *Nothing's On*. Doors slamming, on and offstage intrigue, and an errant herring all figure in the plot of this hilarious and classically comic play.

May 1 - [MEDEA](#) by Euripides (adapted by Ben Power) - Medea is a wife and a mother. For the sake of her husband, Jason, she's left her home and borne two sons in exile. But when he abandons his family for a new life, Medea faces banishment and separation from her children. Cornered, she begs for one day's grace. It's time enough. She exacts an appalling revenge and destroys everything she holds dear.

May 8 - [THE WOLVES](#) by Sarah Delappe - Left quad. Right quad. Lunge. A girls indoor soccer team warms up. From the safety of their suburban stretch circle, the team navigates big questions and wages tiny battles with all the vim and vigor of a pack of adolescent warriors. A portrait of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for nine American girls who just want to score some goals.

YOU ARE YOUR OWN BUSINESS with Senior Associate Artistic Director Jason King Jones

Wednesdays 3:00pm-3:55pm EDT

Early-Career Theatre Artists get a lot of training in their respective field, but they seldom get any guidance about essential business skills like tax preparation, networking, and interview tips. Jason King Jones provides this type of guidance to Olney Theatre Center Apprentices every year, and in this class he'll pass along much of that guidance and answer your questions as well.