

## ACTING FOR THE CAMERA

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THEA 265Z-01  
Winter Intensive 2026  
Maria-Christina Oliveras  
Schedule: M-F; 6-10pm EST  
Supplementary Viewings (contingent upon student schedules)  
Location: via ZOOM  
<https://wesleyan.zoom.us/j/91831265634>

### COURSE DRIVE:

#### ACTING FOR THE CAMERA-WINTER INTENSIVE 2026

*Office Hours: By appointment*  
*email: moliveras@wesleyan.edu*

### Course Description:

This studio course will explore the fundamentals of acting for the camera. A wide range of exercises and techniques will be used to cultivate a sense of ease and freedom and to develop the imagination, relaxation, concentration, focus and technical skills required to create life in front of the camera. The course will explore both film and television, and include auditioning and current industry film/tv practices, as well as how to navigate ZOOM and other online platforms in professional readings, workshops, livestreams, and auditions. By the end of the course, students will have honed techniques enabling them to bring their full selves to the camera with confidence and a lack of self-consciousness, and be familiar with self-tapes, auditioning, and current industry practices and protocols in the film/tv/theater industry.

### Course Policies/Requirements:

- Attendance at all classes is mandatory. This is a studio course and everyone will work every class. Unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade, and tardiness will not be tolerated. If you must miss a class due to illness, accident, family emergency, etc., please inform me as soon as possible. All absences and tardiness require a dean's excuse and all illnesses require a doctor's note. Two latenesses will equal one unexcused absence.
- Please come to class in clothes conducive to scenes/monologues you are performing in.
- Students will be graded on their attendance, preparation (including memorization, outside rehearsal), commitment to choices, and *active* participation and flexibility to all classroom exercises. This is a studio class, so students should be prepared to work every class.
- Paper (min. 3 pages): More specific guidelines to be distributed, but this is a paper analyzing your work/progression throughout the semester as it relates to Michael Caine's Acting in Film, and the specific techniques learned in class.

**Pre-Assignments include:** Typing Sheet, Presentation on favorite actor in film/TV. Selecting preliminary choices of a Film/TV Scene (3-4 minutes) and a monologue (2-3 minutes), viewing the Raul Julia documentary and the Ann Cuddy Body Language talk. **HERE IS THE LINK TO DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PRE-ASSIGNMENTS.**

**Pre-Course Assignments-PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY**

**\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE SUBMIT THE TYPING SHEET AND RESPONSE TO RAUL JULIA DOCUMENTARY BY TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH AT 4PM; PLEASE SHARE AS GOOGLE DOC SO I CAN ENTER COMMENTS DIRECTLY**

**TYPING SHEET:** [Pre-Course Assignment #2-Types.docx](#)

**PROMPTS TO RAUL JULIA DOCUMENTARY:**

**Pre-Course Assignment: Raul Julia: The World's A Stage PROMPTS**

**Course Policies/Requirements:**

- All Pre-Assignments must be completed before each class.
- Class attire will be customized to assignments. On days where you are “auditioning,” interviewing, self-taping, etc, please dress accordingly.

**Required Texts/Viewings (Please see supplementary list below of other Texts which will be referenced throughout the session):**

- Each module will have a number of handouts and readings and extensive resources/recommended book lists. All books will be available at the library on reserve or pdfs will be provided.

**Recommended Books/Resources**

**(Excerpts will be Distributed/Referenced Throughout from Selected Titles):**

**Acting**

Auditioning by Joanna Merlin  
The Actor at Work by Robert Benedetti  
Acting in Film by Michael Caine  
Action! Acting for Film and Television by Robert Benedetti  
Acting for the Camera by Tony Barr  
Making Movies by Sidney Lumet  
On Filmmaking by Alexander MacKendrick  
The Intent to Live by Larry Moss  
An Actor's Companion by Seth Barrish

**Creativity**

- Letters To a Young Poet - Rainer Maria Rilke
- The Power of Now - Eckhart Tolle
- The Artist's Way – Julia Cameron
- Letters to a Young Artist by Anna Deveare Smith

- Discovering the Clown by Christopher Bayes

## Other

- American Theatre Wing - Working in Theater Series (available to watch online)
- <http://americantheatrewing.org>
- Ted Talks : <http://www.ted.com/talks>(Ann Cuddy, Brene Brown, among others)
- Super Soul Podcasts with Oprah
- NPR and PBS offer up great arts programming.
- A Number of Theaters Offer Up Wonderful Free On-Line Programming specifically The Public Theater, NYTW, Atlantic Theater, Freeman Studio, Barrow Group, and Primary Stages
- New York Times, Playbill ([www.playbill.com](http://www.playbill.com)) and Time Out NY provide listings of live streamings.

Every Frame A Painting

The Story of Film: An Odyssey

- <https://wesleyan.kanopy.com> (Use Wesleyan SSO)
- Also available on Amazon Prime

**\*\*RITA MORENO: JUST A GIRL WHO DECIDED TO GO FOR IT**

- <http://ezproxy.wesleyan.edu:7790/login?url=https://wesleyan.kanopy.com/node/11433940>

- WES LIBRARY ONE SOURCE DATABASES:

1. Digital Theatre
2. Routledge Performance Archive
3. On the Boards TV
4. Kanopy

## FILM SCRIPTS:

[www.dailyscript.com](http://www.dailyscript.com)

[www.IMSDB.com](http://www.IMSDB.com)

[www.script-o-rama.com](http://www.script-o-rama.com)

[www.simplyscripts.com](http://www.simplyscripts.com)

<https://nofilmschool.com/11-great-websites-download-movie-scripts>

<http://www.ivanachubbuck.com/studio-vault/couple-scenes/>

## Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

Presentations of Favorite Actors  
Introduction to On-Camera Techniques  
Theater vs. Film

## Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

MONOLOGUES: please come prepared with your monologues. Be sure to have an understanding of context/story/journey, as we will start to “storyboard” and it is vital to know their story in order to serve their story. You might also want to take a look at the monologue readings before “landing” on your choices.

- **Here is the sheet to help find monologues:**
- [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qYPfY9bsyJmojzeaV1YZrP4N9r9BLg\\_m/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qYPfY9bsyJmojzeaV1YZrP4N9r9BLg_m/view?usp=share_link)

### READINGS:

Here are the monologue readings and the brief reading on Theater vs. Film.

- **GUIDEPOSTS/QUESTIONS TO KEEP IN MIND**—we will be using this in class, but take a glance as it will help ground your choices.  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u6CYMyfAp4YMFGZFgDnhYEnkpVAb3-2f/edit?usp=share\\_link&oid=118131159008180170010&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u6CYMyfAp4YMFGZFgDnhYEnkpVAb3-2f/edit?usp=share_link&oid=118131159008180170010&rtpof=true&sd=true)
- **MONOLOGUE EXCERPT by Joanna Merlin**  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d9WZ7xzDmpg6-\\_R\\_4QLWfK8mx0Z-V566/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d9WZ7xzDmpg6-_R_4QLWfK8mx0Z-V566/view?usp=share_link)
- **THEATER VS. FILM**  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wGdVu93MhxNEOY7fjuF2nif3P\\_Td4gPp/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wGdVu93MhxNEOY7fjuF2nif3P_Td4gPp/view?usp=share_link)

Open Scenes/Basics to Acting/Storyboarding/Actions/Objectives

Monologues Discussion

Raul Julia Documentary discussion

## Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

- Watch the Michael Caine Documentary and Respond to Prompts  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZPLVDwEr7Y&t=2654s>
- **Complete Monologue Guideposts & Joanna Merlin Reading**  
GUIDEPOSTS  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u6CYMyfAp4YMFGZFgDnhYEnkpVAb3-2f/edit?usp=share\\_link&oid=118131159008180170010&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u6CYMyfAp4YMFGZFgDnhYEnkpVAb3-2f/edit?usp=share_link&oid=118131159008180170010&rtpof=true&sd=true)
- **MONOLOGUE EXCERPT by Joanna Merlin**  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d9WZ7xzDmpg6-\\_R\\_4QLWfK8mx0Z-V566/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d9WZ7xzDmpg6-_R_4QLWfK8mx0Z-V566/view?usp=share_link)

- **Record and Upload self-tape of monologue** here by *4pmEST, Friday, January 9th*

**Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**

Review/Coach Monologues

On-Camera Technique

Discussion of Scenes (Preparation over weekend)

**Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

Scene Work Intro/How to Breakdown a Scene

Joanna Merlin Reading

On-Camera Technique/Readings

Exercises

**Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**

Scenes

**Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

Scenes/Work Session

**Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Scenes

Casting By

Rita Moreno Documentary and Prompts

**Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**

Industry Module

Auditioning/Self-Tapes

**Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

“Film” Festival

Final Wrap

Industry Guest: Allison Estrin