MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN ACTING
Welcome to The Theatre School at DePaul University, one of America’s oldest and most respected theatre conservatories. For over 90 years, we have prepared students for careers in professional theatre. Our highly specialized programs employ a learning-by-doing approach, featuring student work in all areas of production in more than 30 shows each season. Our students learn their profession under the guidance of a diverse and talented faculty and staff of working artists. All of this takes place in the heart of Chicago, acclaimed as one of the greatest theatre cities in the world. Forged at our founding as the Goodman School of Drama and strengthened by our move to the major urban university that is DePaul, our tradition remains—to educate, train and inspire those who will shape the future of American theatre.
The Theatre School’s Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in acting teaches dynamic “truth in action.” This highly physical three-year acting program is informed by our Chicago roots and prepares you to work on stage and screen all over the world.

**YOUR FACULTY**

Meet with full-time faculty who are theatre artists, and guest artists from the Chicago theatre community and beyond. Studied topics include acting, movement, visual work, puppetry, solo performance, dance, film-making and more. Each student has the opportunity to generate projects of interest for themselves, collaborating with fellow students, teachers, mentors, writers, artists and school resources. The third year involves professional industry preparation, including the option to take a class where artists learn everything they need to create a successful theatrical company.

**FIRST YEAR**

The first year asks you to explore the question “Who am I?” as it relates to your own body/mind/feeling/perception. That self-knowledge is then applied towards developing a truth-filled approach to role, asking the question: “Who am I also?” Production work begins in the spring quarter with a first-year ensemble studio production directed by a professional guest or faculty director. Self-generated projects are developed in winter and spring quarters via the actor-as-entrepreneur workshop class.

**SECOND YEAR**

The second year asks you to explore the questions “What is the world of this play?” and “How do I inhabit that world?” You will take a two-tiered journey through classical and modern, scene study consists of texts from the Greeks to Shakespeare to plays currently in production nationwide. Movement, voice and speech work continue to refine your instrument and help you master dialects and the use of period style. You will be continually engaged in rehearsal and performance of plays in our studio and mainstage production series.

**THIRD YEAR**

The final year of the program explores the questions “How do I enter the world of acting?” and “What does it mean to create?” It prepares you for the transition into the profession, delivering powerful new skills for success as working actors in professional stages, in theatre companies, on film or television. You will be continually engaged in rehearsal and performance of plays in our studio and mainstage production series.

**YOUR TRAINING**

You will be trained by some of the best artists of your midwest to be comprehensive theatre professional through year-round acting development and professional training. Our faculty have spent many years developing common themes from which to teach you the fundamental skills for success as working actors in professional stages: developing character, technical skills, expanding your range, and understanding your craft.

**YOUR CITY**

Chicago has long been recognized as a world-class destination for drama and grandeur—by the theatre. The city is home to hundreds of theatre companies ranging from small independent, non-profit companies to major commercial theatres with multi-million dollar facilities and productions. There is no better place to embark on a career in the theatre. And we should know—over 59 years of training theatre artists has established The Theatre School as an essential part of the education of the city’s theatre arts community.
the MFA program at The Theatre School means a full-time commitment. It means many hours each day of classes and work. It means excitement, success, failure and fearless leaps into the unknown. It means a serious dedication to a life in the arts.

Our faculty expect the deepest commitment to the work and return that commitment to your individual growth. Your fellow students will demand your partnership every day. More importantly, you will come to realize your full artistic potential.

Tuition is billed as a guaranteed package rate, meaning you pay one flat fee each year for all of your coursework and production work. Your tuition rate is locked in at the rate you pay in your first year of the program.

Additionally, every applicant admitted to The Theatre School’s MFA program is awarded a scholarship.

For current tuition rates and additional program-specific scholarship information, visit theatre.depaul.edu.

When you’re ready to apply, visit go.depaul.edu/apply to start your application.