



# SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL TRAINING PROGRAM

## DIRECTING CONCENTRATION GUIDE

### VIRTUAL SUMMER 2020

#### OVERVIEW

The Directing Concentration invites students to think, listen, see, and create like a Director. Immerse yourself in the creative process as you investigate the Director's role as artist and storyteller. Discover how script analysis, visual storytelling, and dynamic staging form the Directing Toolbox you can use to bring any script to life.

#### GOALS

By introducing students to key directing tools and techniques, we aim to inspire student confidence, creative thinking, and self-discipline, while cultivating their unique artistic voices. Students will gain:

- Fluency with the director's vocabulary and language of theatre making
- Facility and dexterity with various directing tools and techniques
- Expanded understanding of the art form and its function
- Confidence to hold and express their own ideas and vision, despite fear of judgement
- Creativity to question, explore, and experiment with their ideas, despite risk of failure
- Self-Discipline to bring their ideas to completion, despite ease of giving up

#### WHY

By training directors, we create artists. We champion the next generation of artists by giving students the space and grace to play and risk and fail and strive. Directing is as much a mindset as it is a skill set, and while we can't promise mastery of the craft in only three weeks, we can give you new ways of thinking, listening, seeing, and creating, so you can go out into the world and make the art you believe in.

#### CLASSES

Given the unique nature of virtual learning, instead of traditional classes, the Directing Concentration offers a series of sequential modules exploring seven key tenets of directing. Combining various elements of traditional directing coursework into subject-focused learning modules enables us to provide access and insight into a full spectrum of director training via fully virtual means.

Modules vary in length, pairing both live and video lecture with discussion, compositional work, and direct feedback. Students will work individually as well as in large and small group collaborations on both analytical and practical compositions within each module. More information on each module can be found below:

## **CLASSES (CONT'D)**

### **1. TELL A STORY.**

*Directing is Story + You*

Designed to introduce students to one another as artists and collaborators, this module provides a general overview of the Director's craft. Students will take their first steps into the director's process by engaging with its two most important facets: Story and "You"--the artist. (1 Day)

### **2. CHANGE IS EVERYTHING.**

*Story is change over time, a.k.a. What Happens.*

This module unpacks and investigates what Stories are made of, how they work, and what makes them memorable. By focusing on What Happens and what changes, students will break plays down, and learn to appreciate the components necessary for clear storytelling. (2 Days)

### **3. SEE THE BIG PICTURE.**

*Vision gives you direction.*

This module examines directorial point of view, asking "Why this play? Why now? Why you? By exploring the difference between analysis and interpretation, students will learn to understand a play on its own terms, as well as how strong directorial vision manifests in production. (2 Days)

### **4. ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS.**

*Learn to speak the language of Action.*

The anchor of our series, this module introduces directors to the language of Action that drives everything we do. Through acting exercises and compositions, students will realize the necessity of action in drama as they learn to recognize it and the elements that support it. (4 Days)

### **5. CLARITY IS KEY.**

*Rehearsal is time to refine.*

This module is a primer on best practices in rehearsals. Through a series of mock rehearsal activities, students will learn the purpose of rehearsals as well as the importance of clear, respectful, constructive communication and time management in bringing scripts to life. (1 Day)

### **6. CONFLICT! CONFLICT! CONFLICT!**

*Conflict is the engine of scene work.*

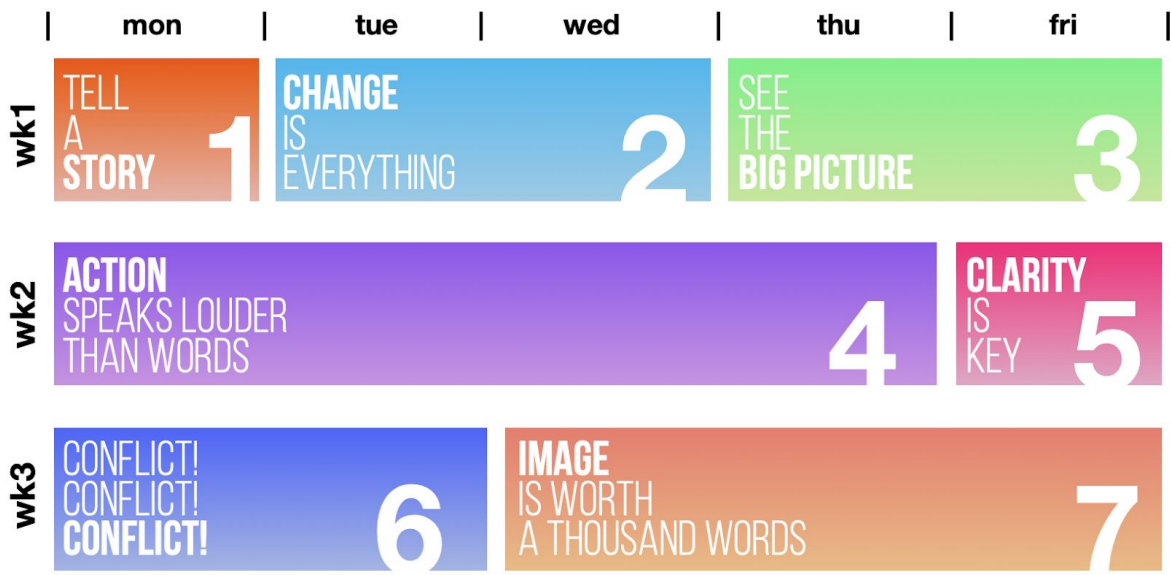
This module introduces directors to the means of creating dynamic, compelling scene work. Through compositions and scenes, students will work toward clarity of story as they learn to make character, conflict, and events legible for audiences in their scene work. (2 Days)

### **7. IMAGE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS.**

*Learn to speak the language of images.*

The final module introduces directors to the language of images in staging. By engaging with visual composition tools and exercises, students will discern the ways and manner in which images are powerful communicators, and learn to most effectively pair image with story. (3 Days)

# SCHEDULE



Class days are split into two sessions, Morning (11:00am - 1:30pm) and Afternoon (2:30PM - 5:00PM). Morning sessions always begin with a Wake-Up--an activity or prompt designed to awaken the students' artistic minds--while Afternoon sessions begin with a Push-Up--an exercise designed to quickly test the students' dexterity and progress with certain tools.

Beyond these specifics, our daily schedule fluctuates depending on the material. Each day contains a variety of activities designed to keep students engaged, prioritizing project work, group discussion and investigation, and feedback, while limiting one-way lecture to no more than 30 minutes per day. Students can expect some fun overnight composition work as well.

## Example Daily Schedule:

### MORNING

11:00am - 11:05am:	Group Check-in and Wake-Up Prompt	Sync
11:05am - 11:20am:	Wake-Up Composition Work	Async
11:20am - 11:25am:	Video Lecture	Async
11:25am - 11:40am:	Group Discussion	Sync
11:40am - 12:15pm:	Individual/Group Work Time	Async
12:15pm - 1:30pm:	Presentation/Group Discussion/Feedback	Sync

### AFTERNOON

2:30pm - 2:35pm:	Welcome Back and Push-Up Assignment	Sync
2:35pm - 2:50pm:	Push-Up Composition Work	Async
2:50pm - 3:00pm:	Group Discussion/Feedback	Sync
3:00pm - 3:05pm:	Video Lecture	Async
3:05pm - 4:00pm:	Individual/Group Work Time	Async
4:00pm - 4:50pm:	Presentation/Group Discussion/Feedback	Sync
4:50pm - 5:00pm:	Wrap-up/Next Day Prep	Sync

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Our primary mode of assignment will be Compositions, or short pieces dedicated to the exploration of an idea or concept. Our curriculum is designed for Compositions to take many forms, such as:

- *Manifestos* - written compositions
- *Selfies* - video compositions (starring the student)
- *Puppet Shows* - video compositions (starring “puppets”)
- *Planets* - craft/construction compositions
- *Boards & Lists* - curation compositions
- *Collabs* - group compositions

In Composition work, we prioritize fun, activity, and ‘doing,’ over final product or production quality, with emphasis on creation, investigation, questioning, and experimentation. Compositions allow us to witness student understanding and comprehension in action, while giving the students concrete takeaways they can always refer back to later in their artistic journeys.

## **SHOWCASE**

Rather than working toward a single final project, the Directing Concentration will culminate in a film festival of sorts, showcasing a collection of the students’ selected compositions via an online platform. This way, everyone gets a glimpse into not only what the students learned, but also how they got there.

## **SUPPLIES**

Prior to the start of the program, students will receive in the mail a “care package” containing summer reading assignments, as well as a collection of items and materials to be used for composition work over the duration of the program. We will also be sending a list of links to demonstrations of apps/technology students may find useful.