SHIRLEE & HENRY FONDA THEATRE ACADEMY

OMAHA COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

FALL COURSE CATALOG

2026



Welcome to the Shirlee & Henry Fonda Theatre Academy

At the **Omaha Community Playhouse**, we believe theatre is not an "extra," but an essential part of a well-rounded education. We believe learning about self-expression and finding your voice is just as important as decided what "X" is in an algebraic equation or where "Promethium" falls on the Periodic Table of Elements.



Each of our courses range from 8 to 12 weeks with payment plans available, so they're the perfect way to explore and find your theatrical passion.

We hope you'll join us and take a class from our full range of offerings. Let us help you reach your full potential, on and off the stage.

> "Theatre is far more than performance - it's a dynamic form of learning that nurtures creativity, empathy, collaboration, and confidence."
>
> - BRANDON BOX-HIGDEM, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Ages 5 to 8 | Grades K - 2
8-Week Session



PETITE PERFORMERS

Cost: $150
Saturdays | 9 - 10 a.m.
Sept. 19 - Nov. 7

Get ready for some musical theatre! Students will study acting, singing, and dancing through some beloved musical theatre pieces. They will build their skills and present their work at the final showcase. Come sing and dance with us!



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Ages 8 to 10 | Grades 3 - 5
8-Week Session

CREATE A PLAY

Cost: $150
Saturdays | 9 - 10 a.m.
Sept. 19 - Nov. 7

Create a Play is perfect for any student who loves using their creativity! Under the direction of our teaching artists, students will write a play, focusing on storytelling, collaboration, & writing skills. Over the course of ten weeks, the playwrights will become actors and prepare to perform the world-premiere of their play for family and friends on the last day of class.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Cost: $150
Saturdays| 10 - 11 a.m.
Sept. 19 - Nov. 7

In this eight-week class, students will work to design costumes, sets, makeup, and a show poster for a classic story with a twist. Before jumping into their own creations, students will visit OCP's costume shop, scene shop, and both of our performance spaces to learn about how productions come to life. This class is perfect for the creative student in your life! Family & friends are invited for a special presentation of their creations during the last class of the session.





MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Ages 11 to 18 | Grades 6 - 12
8-Week Session

DEVISED THEATRE

Cost: $150
Saturdays | 9:00 - 10 a.m.
Sept. 19 - Nov. 7

Devised Theatre is a collective creation from scratch to create a performance. By learning what and how to create devised theatre, the artists of tomorrow will learn how to collaborate with fellow actors, technicians, and directors to create their own works. In this course, we will create a short devised work to share with family and friends. We will be using Physical Theatre, Script Writing and Formatting, and music to influence and create our devised piece. The best part? Devised theatre is for everyone of all abilities and backgrounds. Devised theatre is used typically to show inner emotions, problems with society, and call out wrongs. Everyone can participate in that kind of work.

IMPROV & ACTING

Cost: $150
Saturdays | 10 - 11 a.m.
Sept. 19 - Nov. 7

Improv is more than thinking on your feet! All experience levels in grades 6 - 12 are welcome in this intro to the art of improvisation. Through games and exercises, students will learn the rules of improv, how to set up and finish a scene, and how to tell a story in the middle.





ADULT PROFESSIONIAL TRAINING

ACTING 101

Cost: $160
Mondays | 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Sept. 14 - Nov. 2

Instructor: Jack Zerbe

In Acting 101, students will be introduced to the core principles of acting through fun, engaging, and practical exercises. Actors will explore character development, voice, movement, improvisation and scene work while learning how to connect emotionally and truthfully to imaginary circumstances.

DIRECTING 101

Cost: $175
Mondays | 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 14 - Nov. 16

DIRECTING 102

Cost: $175
Tuesdays | 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 15 - Nov. 17

Instructor (101 & 102):
Brandon Box-Higdem

Attendees will learn the basics of directing and will cover the following topics: stage types, stage directions, character development 101, the breaking down of a scene, how to create a prompt book, the basics of a rehearsal schedule, and the ins and outs of blocking. Participants must bring a 10-minute scene to work in class beginning Week Two. Participants are also encouraged to bring either a laptop or cell phone access to the internet for this course's research requirement.

ACTING FOR THE SCREEN

Cost: $160
Wednesdays | 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Sept. 16 - Nov. 4

Instructor: AnnaLeesa Sawyer

Acting for the Screen is a beginner course covering the business, technique, and marketing of an actor in the film scene. Actors will learn how to choose audition material and create a self-tape, followed by how to market themselves and what they will typically need for casting agents and directors. Finally, they will work on creating a scene and monologue to add to or begin their own reel. By the end of the course, actors should feel prepared to audition for and get cast in film/commercial work, with some materials already completed to support their careers.

ADULT PROFESSIONIAL TRAINING

MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP

Cost: $160
Saturdays | 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Sept. 19 - Nov. 7

Instructor: Curtis Reynolds

Musical Theatre Workshop is for performers looking to dig deeper into the craft of a singer-actor. In a supportive classroom environment, participants will workshop solo musical theatre material and scene-into-song work, exploring how acting choices, text, and music come together in performance. With individualized feedback and opportunities to explore, performers will take risks, refine storytelling, and develop greater confidence in their work. The class will culminate in a showcase for friends, family, and OCP artistic staff.

AUDITION SEASON PREP

Cost: $160
Saturdays | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sept. 19 - Nov. 7

Instructor: Curtis Reynolds

Audition Season is coming up fast! Participants will prepare for upcoming musical theatre auditions throughout Omaha by selecting material that highlights individual strengths. Participants will explore acting and storytelling choices, receive individualized coaching, and learn how to properly prepare music for an accompanist. The class will culminate in a mock audition for Omaha Community Playhouse artistic staff, providing an opportunity to practice audition skills and receive feedback in a supportive setting.

SHIRLEE & HENRY FONDA

THEATRE ACADEMY

OMAHA COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE



Associate Artistic Director

Brandon Box-Higdem

Interim Director of Education

Zach Barrientos

Education Coordinator

Adam Clayton

Contact

Omaha Community Playhouse
6915 Cass Street
Omaha, Neb. 68105

shfta@omahaplayhouse.com