

BERRIDGE PROGRAMS

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS AT CREATIVE SEMESTER

Each Creative Semester participant chooses an Artistic Concentration from: Film, Acting, Studio Art (includes Painting, Drawing, Photography and Ceramics) or Design for Stage and Screen. A range of Creative Workshops are offered in the morning. Workshops are open to all participants regardless of their chosen Artistic Concentration so you can attend as many as you wish. Build on skills you already have or try something completely new. Below is our Daily Schedule, detailed description of each Artistic Concentration and samples of the Creative Workshops we offer:

DAILY SCHEDULE

Breakfast: 8.30 – 9:15

Creative Workshop Period 1: 9:30 – 11:00

Creative Workshop Period 2: 11:00 – 12:30

Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30

Artistic Concentration Classes: 1:30 – 4:30

Studio Time/Language lessons: 4:30 – 5:45

Dinner: 5:45 – 7:00

ARTISTIC CONCENTRATIONS

Each Creative Semester participant chooses an Artistic Concentration from: Film, Acting, Studio Art (includes Painting, Drawing, Photography and Ceramics) or Design for Stage and Screen.

ACTING

The Acting Program combines workshops, classes and performance opportunities to help you hone techniques and perfect the skill of being truthfully “in the moment” on stage and on camera. A range of scenes and monologues will be studied helping you build technique, develop confidence and deepen your understanding of the actor’s craft. The Acting Concentration is broadly broken down into three classes:

Acting Techniques: Improvisation exercises and drama games help you explore new techniques in freeing your voice, imagination and physicality. Script analysis techniques are taught as actors breakdown scripts into beats and objectives, making strong action choices. The work of acting theorists such as Stanislavski are explored as well as a selection of classical, modern and contemporary playwrights.

Physical Theatre/Devising: Using chorus work, tableau, characterization, physical narratives and abstract expression, you’ll begin to find ease in working physically with others through ensemble dynamics. Energy work such as yoga and Tai Chi increase body awareness, flexibility and range of expression. The physical practices of Jacques Lecoq,

Peter Brook, Phillipe Gaulier, Augusto Boal, are explored as you move towards being a wholly present and physically engaged performer and practitioner.

Performance Projects: Each Acting student chooses a repertoire of scenes and monologues to prepare for a final performance. This can be from pieces presented in workshops and classes, pieces you have written/devised or collaborations with other students. There are opportunities to direct, self-direct or be directed by a faculty member of your choice. You'll also have the opportunity to act in films being made by our Film Concentration students.

FILM

The Film Concentration combines workshops, classes and hands-on filmmaking to help you master the art of visual storytelling and build your film portfolio. The program offers the opportunity to make professional quality short films from concept to premiere while learning all the principal roles of filmmaking including Screenwriting, Directing, Cinematography, Producing and Editing. The Film Concentration is broken down into four sections:

Screenwriting: Learn the theory and practice of screenwriting including dramatic structure, storytelling design and conceptualisation, characterisation and scene construction and analysis. Explore how to generate and develop ideas by understanding genre, audience and markets, classical and alternative narrative storytelling, pitching and screenplay analysis. You'll write and develop your own screenplay to be shot on location during the program.

Elements of Filmmaking: Learn about the key aspects of the filmmaking process and the roles of filmmaking professionals including Producer, Director, Assistant Director, Gaffer, Cinematographer, PA and more. You'll explore the fundamentals of camera movement and lighting techniques, sound production and the various creative tools to aid visual storytelling. Learn how to produce films professionally including scheduling a shoot day and staying on time and on budget.

Film Production Lab: Work in crews to shoot each student's script and learn all of the principal crew roles along the way including Camera Operator, Gaffer, Sound Mixer, Boom Operator and Script Supervisor. You'll begin to develop discipline around the process of filmmaking and understand the importance of teamwork, set etiquette and how to effectively collaborate throughout the filmmaking process.

Post-Production Intensive: Learn the fundamentals of digital editing in either Final Cut Pro or Adobe Premiere as you edit your own short film. You'll gain an understanding of the post-production process and develop skills in visual effects, colour grading, audio post production and creating title sequences. All of the films made on the program are shared with an invited audience in our Film Premiere at the end of the program.

STUDIO ART

The Studio Art Concentration combines classes, one-to-one instruction and intensive studio time to master technique, develop skills and build your confidence around your personal artistic practice. Studio Artists can work in a variety of mediums including acrylic paint, oil paint, charcoal, pencil, clay, photography or any combination of these. There is a special focus on design and explorative play that generates ideas and opens up creative pathways. The concentration is broadly formed around three classes:

Painting/Drawing: Explore techniques in a selection of artistic mediums including acrylic and watercolour paints, charcoal and pencil. You will learn to create and organize forms, colors, textures and tones while experimenting with different methods of application. Develop your drawing skills through the power of observation and strengthen your ability to think and express yourself visually on paper. You'll learn techniques for working from the human figure, forms in nature, landscapes, interior spaces and still-life setups.

Design Explorations: Use the Elements and Principles of Design to open up new ideas and pathways for creativity and personal projects. Looking at the use of line, form, shape, texture, negative space and composition you'll begin to master combining these elements to produce compelling imagery and evoke emotion through your work. Through hands-on projects such as Zine Making, Creative Darkroom Photography, Artistic Journaling and other explorations, you will begin to develop a design language that will push your personal artistic practice forward in new and exciting directions.

Personal Practice: Enjoy time in the studio to perfect new techniques learned in class and move personal art projects from concept to completion. Each Art student will work towards a portfolio of finished work under the guidance of their faculty mentor who will provide one-to-one instruction throughout the program. If you are considering art college, this is valuable time to complete a portfolio displaying a range of mediums and creative projects. Completed artwork and works in progress are premiered at our gallery show at the end of the program.

MUSIC

The Music Concentration offers a unique opportunity to discover a new model for aspiring musicians: how to write, self-produce, and publish music using accessible technology, without a label or management company. You'll write and record original songs, learning song structure and rhyme scheme as you find your unique voice and expand your musical abilities using musicianship and theory as a vehicle for your own innovation and creativity. The Music Concentration is broken into four types of classes:

Singer/Songwriter Lab: Learn to write and record your own music from start to finish including basic song structure, rhyme scheme and how to match melodies to lyrics and lyrics to melodies. Explore where ideas and inspiration come from and analyse songs from a range of songwriters to understanding their process and the structure of good songs. Co-writing and how to work effectively with a writing partner will be explored and how to be open, receptive and vulnerable when writing in a team.

Music Production: Learn the ins and outs of how to set up an easy, relatively inexpensive home studio and how to record your own music using a DAW: Digital Audio Workspace. Learn the technical aspects of connecting peripherals to your computer such as microphones, instruments, headphones and monitors for optimum productivity and high-fidelity audio. You'll explore what an interface does and how it can connect with your computer for recording with a writing partner anywhere in the world.

Instrumental Technique: If you have some knowledge of guitar and/or piano, this class will help you advance your instrumental technique and teach you how it can support your songwriting. Learn the "tricks of the trade" including guitar and piano chord structure for

songwriting progressions, harmonic relationships between chords for song structure and explore playable linear ideas for constructing a melody.

Vocal Technique: Improve your vocal technique and control and expand your vocal range through daily classes. Learn how to add dynamics to your vocal performance, the physical placement of notes in your resonators to create a clear vocal tone and how to fit breathing into your song for well supported singing in performance or in the recording studio.

DESIGN FOR STAGE AND SCREEN

The Design Concentration offers classes and mentorship in Lighting, Costume and Set Design both on stage and on camera. Learn how to apply the elements and principles of design to enhance the audience's experience and execute the director's vision for both film/television and live performance. Design students attend the first two classes as a group and then branch off into a specialty for the Production Lab class. Choose Lighting, Set or Costume and get hands-on experience working as a designer for our Film and Theatre Concentrations which offer opportunities to learn on the job and build professional credits.

The Design Process: Learn where to start in the design process, how to research a design and how to synthesise a director's vision into your design ideas. Topics covered include how to read and analyse and play or screenplay, working with time, place and location, determining objectives, themes, mood and style and the research process that will ground and inform your design ideas.

Design Communication: Learn to utilize the visual elements of design including line, shape, mass, color, texture, balance, rhythm and visual composition as it applies to both stage and screen. Learn how to communicate your designs through mood boards, hand drawings, computer renderings and presentation skills. The class includes both design exercises based on real world projects and pitches for fellow students plays and films that are being produced on the program.

Design Production Lab: Learn through practical, hands-on doing as you work as a Lighting, Set or Costume designer on the wide variety of projects available through our Film and Theatre concentrations. In the Theatre concentration, there is a range of site-specific projects that will be performed throughout the chateau and grounds that present unique design opportunities. In the Film concentration, there is 8-10 short films shot each year that call for all design disciplines as well as opportunities to learn the roles related to professional design departments such as gaffer, sound engineer, set dresser and script supervisor.

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

A range of Creative Workshops are offered in the morning. Workshops are open to all participants regardless of their chosen Artistic Concentration so you can attend as many as you wish. Build on skills you already have or try something completely new. Below are some of the workshops we offer on Creative Semester:

Acting On Camera: Learn the subtlety and specificity required to perfect the skill of acting on-camera, performing a variety of scenes and watching back your footage to build an understanding of the actor's process as it applies to film and television. A series of improvisational exercises teach actors how to be genuine and spontaneous, creating truthful and bold performances on film.

Ceramics: Learn all the basics of working with clay including techniques such as thumb pots, coil pots, slab building and using the potter's wheel. Decoration techniques such as coloured slips, impressed and applied patterns and Oxide colours will be explored and pieces will be kiln fired and displayed at our gallery show at the end of the program.

Choosing a Monologue: Learn how to choose monologues that show off your acting style and can be prepared for college or professional auditions. A variety of contemporary and classical pieces will be explored and one-to-one coaching time offered to help you prepare block, rehearse and prepare your monologue to a professional standard.

Digital Photography: Take better pictures and move beyond auto and begin to master your digital camera's features. Shutter speed, aperture and ISO all demystified and made to work for you. Explore techniques such as finding flattering light, shoot in shade, harsh sunlight and challenging low light.

Directing: Discover the tenants of directing both on stage and on camera. Gain an understanding of the role of the director, approaching a text, methods of communication with actors, and understanding the elements of a scene. The class will explore both plays and screenplays and the different considerations that go into directing both.

Drawing: Develop your drawing skills through the power of observation and strengthen your ability to think and express yourself visually on paper. You'll learn techniques for working from the human figure, forms in nature, landscapes, interior spaces and still-life setups.

Elements of Filmmaking: Learn about the roles of filmmaking professionals including Producer, Cinematographer and Director. You'll explore the fundamentals of camera movement and lighting techniques, the role of the cinematographer in realising the director's vision, and the various creative tools to aid visual storytelling.

Essential Playwrights: Get excited about reading plays and discover the works of essential contemporary American and British playwrights, including: Arthur Miller, Paula Vogel, Nick Payne, Sarah Ruhl and more. The class includes discussion around good dramatic structure, what makes a play a classic, and different styles.

Guitar/Piano Lessons: If you have some knowledge of guitar and/or piano you are welcome to advance your skills through one-to-one classes which aim to improve technique and increase confidence with your instrument.

Improvisation: Hone your moment-to-moment reflexes onstage through a series of games and exercises. Emphasis is on building truthful, creative scenes through collaboration rather than trying to entertain the audience. Actors form an Improv Troup which performs several times during the program.

Meditation: Discover traditional Buddhist meditation techniques by cultivating the sensory experience and learning to live more fully in the moment. Explore and experience some of the tangible benefits of meditation including increased concentration, personal acceptance, a reduction in persistent negative thinking, and an increase in calm and happiness.

Painting: Learn the basics of handling acrylic paints and brushes and explore a range of traditional and contemporary techniques in the acrylic medium. Work from a variety of still-life setups and diverse landscapes and also create more personalized imagery.

Playwriting: Learn to write dramatic structure for the stage as you explore a selection of modern and contemporary playwrights. Explore elements of the playwrighting craft including high and low context dialogue, revealing action and subtext. The class includes staged readings of both published playwrights and student's original work.

Screenwriting: Learn the theory and practice of screenwriting including dramatic structure, storytelling design and conceptualisation, characterisation and scene construction and analysis. Explore how to generate and develop ideas by understanding genre, audience and markets.

Shakespeare: Historical evidence shows that Shakespeare's actors never rehearsed. They were given only their own parts: cue scripts that consist of their character's lines, and the two or three words that cue each line. This workshop recreates these conditions and equips you with the skills to identify clues in the text that allow you to perform scenes and plays with no group rehearsal.

Songwriting Basics: Begin to write your own music through study of basic song structure, rhyme scheme, how to match melodies to lyrics and lyrics to melodies. You'll explore where ideas and inspiration come from and analyse songs from a range of songwriters with a view to understanding their process and the structure of good songs.

Storytelling/The Narativ Technique: The Narativ Technique centers around 6 principles that touch on both the art and science of storytelling and guide you in crafting stories that are impactful, articulate and distinct. These skills have the capacity to surprise and enlighten you, providing a rich seam of material to draw on for your own creative practice.

Text in Performance: Explore both traditional and experimental forms of dramatic literature by considering how to approach blocking and staging with a view to creating professional performances from unusual and challenging material. Class discussions centre on ways of honouring the text of a playwright while, at the same time, creating truthful and visually exciting performances.

Visual Storytelling: Through a discussion of David Mamet's book "On Directing", you'll explore how to tell stories in the visual medium through composition, framing, blocking, camera positions and editing patterns. Discover how these elements enhance the story and engage the audience and how character, tension and conflict are translated through the lens.

Vocal Lessons: Improve your vocal technique and control and expand your vocal range with one-to-one lessons and practice. Learn how to add dynamics to your vocal performance, the physical placement of notes in your resonators to create a clear vocal tone and how to fit breathing into your song for well supported singing in performance.

Zine Making: A zine is an independently or self-published booklet, created by physically cutting and gluing text and images together into a master that can be photocopied or small-run printed. A fast way for writers and artists to produce self-published works, Zines offer an opportunity to learn the elements and principles of magazine design while giving artists a vehicle for their thoughts, feelings and views on the world