FSU | ASOLO CONSERVATORY FOR ACTOR TRAINING

26-27 PROGRAM BROCHURE



URI ZHANG IN *THE CHINESE LADY*, PHOTO BY ADRIAN VANSTEE

FSU/ASOLO CONSERVATORY FOR ACTOR TRAINING

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



ASHLEY BROOKE RAYMOND & CALEE GARDNER IN *JOHN PROCTOR IS THE VILLAIN*, PHOTO BY ADRIAN VANSTEE

THANK YOU for considering the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training, one of the top Acting MFAs in the World! Choosing the right graduate program can be a daunting task. I invite you to study this brochure and consider your needs as an actor, while learning who we are, and what we stand for.

Our program is dedicated to the ideal of truth in performance. Truth is the actors' strongest tool; it allows the spectator to trust and follow wherever you lead them. We believe that we must lead our audience toward the ideals of humanity; self-betterment and progress, to honor our responsibility as a major force in society.

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory is a laboratory for a new generation of actors, who command control over their process. Our MFA candidates feel safe to investigate and explore while relying on expert guidance. Our faculty of distinguished professionals synthesize research and practice to offer unparalleled techniques.

At the conclusion of the second year, our graduate actors spend a summer semester in London, training with England's best masterteachers. Due to the Conservatory's close relationship with Asolo Repertory Theatre, our students understudy for the Rep in their first year. In their third year, they have the opportunity to become company members in the Asolo Rep season, performing in the 500-seat Mertz Theatre.

Studying at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory takes dedication and stamina. Our curriculum is rigorous; performance duties, partnered with class work and assistantship duties leave little time for social life or play. Such thorough preparation, however, makes our alumni sought after by theaters nationwide and supports their careers in film and television. If you are resolved to dedicate the next three years to artistic and professional development, we look forward to meeting you at our auditions. Lots of luck!

Marcus Denard Johnson, *Director*
FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training

ABOUT THE CONSERVATORY

Named one of the top 25 actor training programs in the world, the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training is a three year graduate program culminating in a Master of Fine Arts degree.

Only twelve students are chosen each year from the thousands who audition nationwide to work in a program that combines rigorous classroom training with guest artist workshops and professional production experience. Upon graduation, all students are eligible to join Actors' Equity Association. Graduates of our program have appeared on and off Broadway, in regional theaters, in feature films and on television.

The program was initiated by the Florida State University School of Theatre in Tallahassee in 1968 and moved to Sarasota five years later to establish a permanent relationship with Asolo Repertory Theatre.

FINANCES

All students accepted to the Conservatory are awarded graduate assistantships that provide full tuition waivers and a Fall & Spring stipend. Costs for the London program, including tuition and housing, are fully funded and provided for each student.

FACULTY

Marcus Denard Johnson	Conservatory Director, Advanced Play Analysis
Andrei Malaev-Babel	Head of Acting, Acting I
Jonathan Epstein	Acting II
Patricia Delorey	Voice, Speech, & Dialect
Jason Paul Tate	Movement and Combat
Summer Dawn Wallace	Business of Acting

FEATURED GUEST ARTISTS

David Brunetti	Acting the Song
Welker White	Acting for the Camera
Ariel Bock	Linklater Voice

LONDON THEATRE STUDIES PROGRAM

Mark Wheatley	Coordinator
Paula Stephenson	Voice
Jonnie Broadbent	Shakespeare

WILL WESTRAY IN *THE CURIOUS SAVAGE*, PHOTO BY FRANK ATURA

THE PROGRAM

THE FIRST YEAR focuses on establishing a foundation in acting, voice, movement and text work. The training emphasizes an organic technique at the heart of the school of acting developed by Nikolai Demidov, the closest associate of Konstantin Stanislavsky, the first head of the Moscow Art Theatre School and the original editor of *An Actor's Work*, also known as *An Actor Prepares*. Because of the rigorous nature of the first-year training, students are not cast in productions. First-year students do begin their relationship with Asolo Repertory Theatre, however, by serving as understudies for the professional season.

CURRICULUM

ACTING: Principles of organic acting technique, in-depth work on actor's process and instrument, character embodiment, and scene study in contemporary American realism and Anton Chekhov.

VOICE: Fundamentals of voice production, phonetics, articulation, speech, singing.

MOVEMENT: Foundational training in Mary Overlie's Six Viewpoints, Laban, Bartenieff, and stage combat through the lens of Filipino martial arts.

TEXT WORK: Reading text from actors' standpoint; extracting character from a script and embodying it, while staying connected with the entirety of the script.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE: Understudy roles with Asolo Repertory Theatre.

THE SECOND YEAR is devoted to the application of the techniques learned in the first year to plays outside of contemporary realism and to the employment of these techniques in performance. The curriculum emphasizes classical dramatic literature, particularly Shakespeare and heightened poetic texts, as well as modern masterpieces. Students in their second year perform roles in the four play Conservatory season. Each production is chosen to suit the talents of the students and to provide them with the opportunity to explore the techniques being taught in the class in front of a live audience. This series is presented in the Jane B. Cook Theatre as part of the Conservatory's subscription season.

CURRICULUM

ACTING: The classical repertory, focusing on Shakespeare and heightened texts.

VOICE: Verse forms, scansion, language structure analysis, dialects, advanced work on vocal instrument, continued work in singing.

MOVEMENT: Advanced training in Mary Overlie's Six Viewpoints, RASA, Clown, and stage combat through the lens of historical European martial arts.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE: Roles in the Jane B. Cook Theatre Season.



LONDON STUDY PROGRAM

During May and June of the second year, FSU/Asolo Conservatory students take part in the London Study Program, an intensive training session and one of the highlights of the Conservatory curriculum. While living at the Florida State University London Study Center, located in the historic Bloomsbury area of central London, the students work with master teachers and internationally known artists, including Mark Wheatley, Paula Stephens, and Jonnie Broadbent.

The training in London continues the second year concentration on the classic repertoire with special focus on Shakespeare. In addition, students work on developing original material and exploring the dramaturgy of new work and further their training in movement and voice. The experience not only provides the students with concentrated acting and voice classes taught by master British teachers, but also allows the students to immerse themselves in the theatrical and cultural life of London.

THE THIRD YEAR

and final year of the program, students have the opportunity to become associate members of the professional acting company of Asolo Repertory Theatre. Because the Asolo Rep produces a robust season of plays and musicals, each student has the opportunity to perform in major productions alongside seasoned, professional artists.

In addition, as part of Asolo Rep on Tour, students travel statewide with an adaptation of a classic text, performing for children, families, and communities across Florida. Students also prepare for entering the profession by creating a virtual showcase shared with Studio and Network Casting Executives, Casting Directors and Talent Representatives across the country. Guest artists and industry professionals instruct the students in the business of acting as well as commercial techniques, film/television workshops and audition skills.

All students are eligible to join Actor's Equity Association upon completion of their three years at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory.



CAST OF *STICK FLY*, PHOTO BY FRANK ATURA

APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP ONE:
AUDITION FOR THE FSU/ASOLO CONSERVATORY

Private Audition & Interview:

Private auditions are 20 minutes each and guarantee an opportunity to present work (two contrasting monologues: one classical and one contemporary) and interview with our faculty.

Private audition sign-ups usually begin the first week in October.

To arrange a private audition, please visit: www.asolorep.org/conservatory for instructions.

The University/Resident Theatre Association (URTA) Unified Auditions:

URTA auditions allow students to audition for more than 40 different universities and resident theatre companies at one time for one fee. Because candidates are NOT guaranteed a private callback audition with FSU/AsoloConservatory faculty at URTAs, it is highly recommended that candidates interested specifically in the Conservatory arrange a private audition prior to URTA.

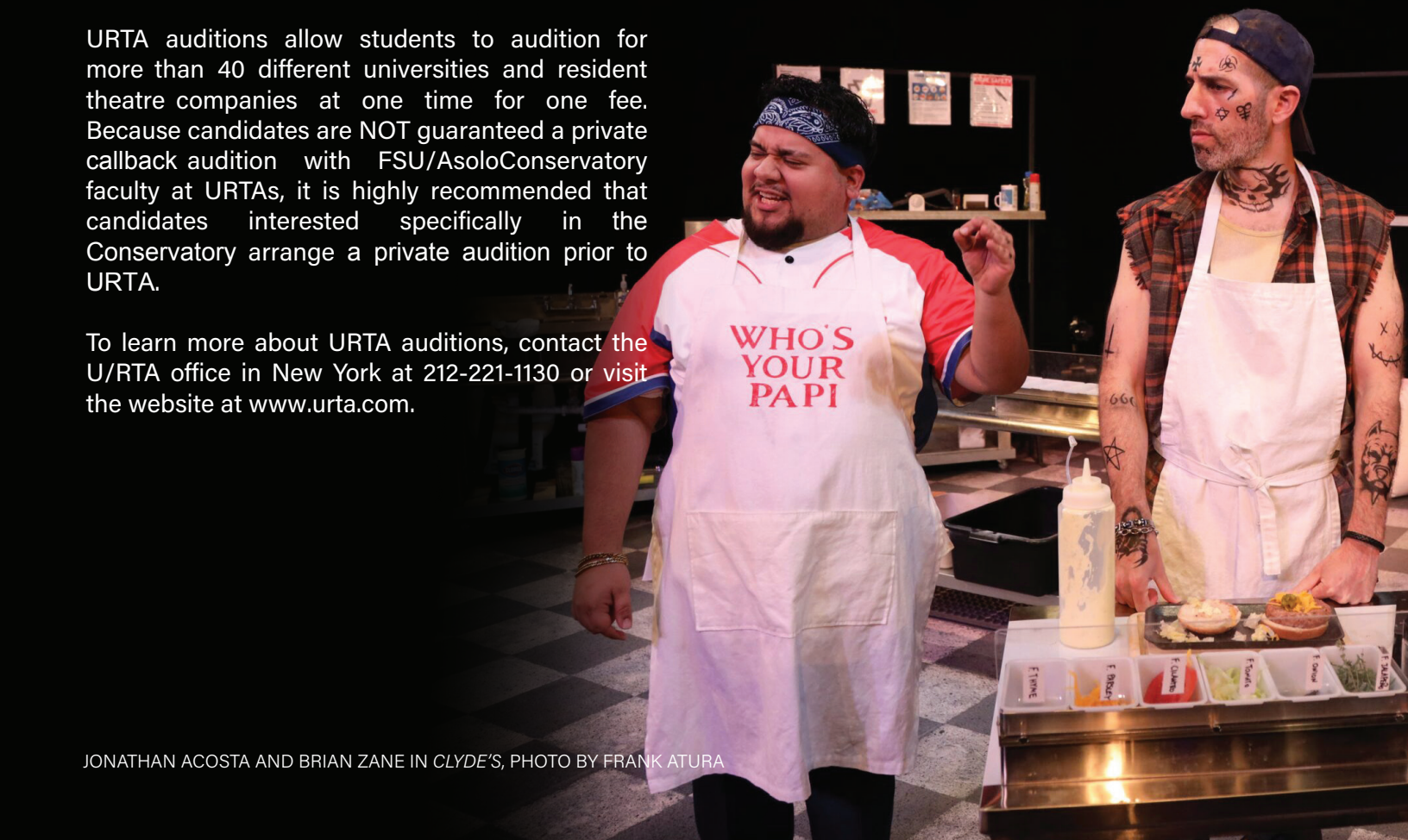
To learn more about URTA auditions, contact the U/RTA office in New York at 212-221-1130 or visit the website at www.urta.com.

STEP TWO:
APPLY TO FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

After a candidate receives an offer from the FSU/Asolo Conservatory, they must apply for admission to the FSU Graduate School.

Please DO NOT complete an application until you have received an offer from the FSU/Asolo Conservatory.

Prerequisites for graduate admission are:
- B.A. or its equivalent from an accredited college or university;
- G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher in upper-division courses in the candidate's undergraduate program.



JONATHAN ACOSTA AND BRIAN ZANE IN *CLYDE'S*, PHOTO BY FRANK ATURA

ABOUT ASOLO REP



Asolo Repertory Theatre is Florida's premier professional company and one of the leading artistic organizations in the Southeastern United States.

Asolo Repertory Theatre, located in Sarasota Florida, presents up to 10 productions each season, including contemporary works, beloved classics and provocative musical theatre experiences.

Asolo Repertory Theatre is more than one of the top professional theatres in Florida: it's a national leader in the performing arts. Excellence marks every season — spanning new commissions, bold reinterpretations and provocative musical experiences. The theatre's productions feature the talents of award winning guest directors and designers, a company of professional actors and the gifted young actors in the third year of training at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory.

BROOKE TURNER IN *DIAL M FOR MURDER,* PHOTO BY SORCHA AUGUSTINE







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QUESTIONS?

Any questions about the audition/admission process can be answered by

Administrative Office:
941-360-7338
info@conservatory.fsu.edu

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5555 North Tamiami Trail,
Sarasota, FL 34243-2141





