

Actors LAB 2012

Actor Workshops **Peter Feeney** & guest tutors

term 1

12 February - 19 March

term 2

16 April - 21 May

term 3

18 June - 25 July

term 4

13 August - 17 September

term 5

28 September - 28 October



WELCOME TO ACTORS LAB!

Actors Lab exists to support actors make their way from initial steps to a professional career, and keep them acting fit once they get there. We offer a variety of complementary and progressional courses built around a five term structure.

Welcome to our line up for 2012. As always I'm trying out new ideas, courses and approaches: if I'm learning and taking risks then everyone is. I'm pulling in more guest tutors too, adding a variety of different experiences and approaches. There are a few new workshops here, and the tried and true ones are evolving steadily every year to offer better value. Enjoy!

OUR AIMS

We aim to keep fees low to make regular attendance easier. Group numbers are kept small so that each actor gets a good acting workout most sessions. Our technique is applicable to both theatrical and camera outcomes. Where needed we're happy to recommend other reputable voice, acting or accent coaches. We provide support and encouragement for participants to form their own scene groups independent of us.

Workshop information

- ➔ Most Classes are held at Ferndale House in Mt Albert
- ➔ Courses run on Sundays, Mondays & Wednesdays in the afternoon or evenings
- ➔ Max numbers per class: 12
- ➔ **Discounts** 10% off each for Actors Equity/ Actors Guild/ Returning actors
All fees include GST
- ➔ All our guest tutors are industry professionals.
- ➔ Actors Lab focusses on actor training. We are unable to advise you on agent representation.

Testimonials

"Peter is a very gifted young actor who will always be genuinely interested in exploring his work and finding new approaches to it, and opening this out to his fellow actors."
Cicely Berry, Voice Director, Royal Shakespeare Company.

"Peter brings a fresh vision to his work coupled with professional wisdom and his inimitable energy."
Miranda Harcourt, Actor, Coach, Ex-Head of Acting, NZ Drama School

"I can thoroughly recommend Peter as a marvellous proponent of the principles and techniques he has encountered and uses himself in his acting processes. He is a gifted man with much to contribute to his profession."
Dean Carey, Director, Actors Centre Australia

"I found this course really valuable. You had no ego about teaching us - which meant I never felt you were imposing your own views on us, rather you let us discover things ourselves but also shared your wisdom and experience freely. Awesome!"
Hannah Banks, Auckland Participant

"You are a wonderfully insightful and optimistic actor, and this allows you to draw the very best work out of everyone. But what is unique about this course is that you aim and succeed in giving everyone involved the skills to be this for themselves. And - above all, the classes were FUN and challenging and filled with great people! Thanks!"
Lotte St. Clair, Actor & Sydney Participant

www.feeneymcsweeney.com

WORKSHOPS

Our 2012 workshops are open to actors of sufficient experience. Where actors lack experience they will need to start with the Script Interpretation or Camera Clinic workshops. Classes are carefully streamed so all participants in any group are of similar ability. This helps create a strong ensemble in every group.

Script Interpretation

Peter Feeney

An introduction to, or refresher of, key concepts of scene and script analysis. There's no one system on offer but a variety of tools from which you can tailor your own technique: in the end only you know what works for you. This course will get you asking productive questions that together will allow you to make sense of any new script or scene. We cover objectives, emotion, character, given circumstances, pausation and the specific detail of line by line, beat by beat script interpretation. The work is centred around short scenes which are presented each week. Run over six weekly sessions or as a three day weekend intensive.

Fee: \$360 for six sessions

Scene Group

Facilitated by Amber Rhodes

We organise this course but it is ensemble lead. We will team you up with a group of your peers, introduce you to Dean Carey's simple but powerful scene alignment technique, cast you in a different scene each week, then let you fly! Scene group is a supportive but challenging work out for actors who want to keep fit for work and auditions and stretch themselves. 7 evenings, 6 scripts, 1 monologue, peer feedback. Peter leads the first & last sessions, Amber facilitates and participates in all. If you like the group you can regroup and meet again independent of us.

Fee: \$250 for seven sessions

Industry Nights (I.N.)

Various directors and casting directors

Industry Nights have become an Auckland institution, with some of our best actors and directors attending these practical, fun evenings. Get challenged by the combined experience of our top casting directors & directors. Each week a new director directs you in scenes of their choice, imparting their unique working style and practical insights. In 2012 I.N. courses will have either a Film/ TV emphasis or General Acting/ Theatrical emphasis.

Past guest directors include: Sima Urale, Jonathan Brough, Geoff Cawthorn, Murray Keane, Roseanne Liang and Stephen Lovatt; casting Directors: Tina Cleary, Andrea Kelland & Annabel Lomas. Peter Feeney conducts the first session.

With Camera

Fee: \$360 for six sessions

Camera Clinic

Peter Feeney

The camera makes unique and precise demands of the actor and has a high standard of truth: the audience (camera) is a few feet away and we must be truthful but compelling. Less is NOT more in film. We need the same degree of passion, but played internally. Hardest of all, we must be simple: we have to trust that the audience will do their share and meet us half way.

After an initial group session you'll work in pairs with Peter, 2 on 1, in intensive sessions of up to one hour long. The aim is to learn how to direct your talent in ways that suit the camera. After each session participants will be given links to download their takes. Along with Peter's session notes and emailed suggestions you can track your progress over the six weeks. Add understanding, control and deeper dimensions to your film acting.

With Camera

Fee: \$380 for six sessions

1st session 4 hours; other sessions 1 hour/ scene pair

Audition & Camera Technique Weekend

Peter Feeney and others

In this intensive workshop participants glean practical tools and insights into preparation, professionalism and performance for camera and audition. This will not only enhance your chances of being cast, but make the casting process and resultant on-set work more comprehensible and enjoyable. All takes uploaded for you on a private youtube link. Includes a Q & A with working actors and casting directors.

With Camera

Fee: \$290 for the weekend

Shakespeare Workshop

Peter Feeney and others

In this workshop participants will work on just one Shakespeare play over a series of intensive weekends. This is an opportunity to discover together, exploring a range of approaches (including Cecily Berry and Mike Alfreds) - and also making up some of our

own. We'll open up the text with voice and physical exercises as well as translation, improvisation, actions, research and discussion and finish with a public performance of part of our chosen play.

A superb test of stamina and technique, this workshop is part of an ongoing exploration by Peter Feeney and Peter Hambleton into establishing a Shakespeare company. It will only proceed with CNZ funding.

Fee: this workshop will have only a nominal fee

TO APPLY

Workshops are advertised each term to agents and actors on our database. If you are interested in applying for any of the courses in this brochure please drop us a line. We reserve the right to cancel courses with full refunds given. Guest tutors may replace the advertised tutor on occasion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ACTORS LAB COURSES OR FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES, EMAIL - ADMIN@PFEENEY.COM.

ABOUT PETER FEENEY

Peter has performed in TV, film & theatre since 1994, appearing at the Fortune, Court & Circa theatres in NZ & The Queensland Theatre Company in Australia. Recent TV & film credits include *30 Days of Night*, *Legend of the Seeker & Spartacus* (US); *Rude Awakenings & This is not your Life* (NZ). His NZ films include *Toy Love*, *Black Sheep*, the internationally acclaimed short *The Platform* and most recently the telemovie *Siege* (screening in March on TVNZ).

Peter has worked or trained with Cicely Berry (RSC), Robert Benedetti (Film producer/ Theatre Director), Rob Marchant (TV/ Film Director and proponent of the Mike Leigh 'method'), Dean Carey (Director, Actors Centre Australia), Tom McSweeney (Casting director) and Miranda Harcourt, and uses elements of all their approaches in his teaching. Peter is a published author, magazine writer, and has worked as a casting director for TV and as a presenter/trainer at TVNZ.

Since 2001 - in Australia and New Zealand - Peter has taught acting. In 2005 he directed and acted in the play *Milo's Wake*, touring in 2006 throughout NZ. Peter's screenplay from the play is now in development. His one man show *A Night with Beau Tyler* toured NZ in 2008 & 2009 to over 30 centres around NZ.

Peter has an Honours degree in Politics & History from the University of Melbourne and a Dip. Drama from the University of Auckland. He was Nominee for Best Actor, 2003 NZ Film Awards.