
VADA NEWSLETTER

Youth On Camera Acting Program: January 2019

Our program has undergone some big changes!

Since its initial launch just over 2 years ago, our Youth On Camera Acting program has become incredibly popular with parents and aspiring young actors. The program has experienced tremendous growth due largely to the fact that we focus on teaching actual On Camera Acting technique, as opposed to simply running games or activities found at other schools.



We recently made some changes to the program to offer flexibility to parents in selecting the most suitable program for their child's acting needs.

12 Week Certificate program

This program is offered bi-annually and designed to accommodate young actors **between the ages of 10-18** who are interested in breaking into the world of Film & TV acting and young professionals who are already auditioning and working. The program is now broken into two separate age groups (10-14) & (15-18) (whenever possible) and 3 key modules:

Module 1: Audition Etiquette

Module 2: Scene Study

Module 3: Demo Reel

8 Week Ongoing Study Program (based on demand). We now also offer an 8 week program for those who already have a demo reel and simply wish to continue developing and refining their acting ability. Learn more at <https://vadastudios.com/programs/youth-intro-acting/>

New Community Partner “The Joey Awards”

The Joey Awards Mission Statement:

"To recognize young performers in Canada through awards, and educate their parents on keeping their young performers safe in the crazy world of Showbiz."



The Joey Awards goal is to reward young actors and actresses in Canada for their hard work and dedication to their craft. We offer a high quality red carpet awards gala, where each nominee will be recognized during our parade of stars. We liaison with the Canadian performing arts industry, and those in it, that have a direct and valuable contribution to youth working in performing arts.

VADA is an official sponsor of “The Joey Awards.”

Learn more at <https://www.joeyawards.com>

High School Acting Workshops!

Want VADA to come out to your school to hold a free Acting workshop? All you have to do is ask...



We are taking requests from high school drama teachers in the lower mainland interested in VADA coming out to hold free 2 hour acting workshop starting January 2019! Contact: info@vadastudios.com

VADA

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Students graduating in 2018/19 school year are eligible to apply for **\$500** Award. Application Deadline: August 1, 2019.

Eligibility Conditions

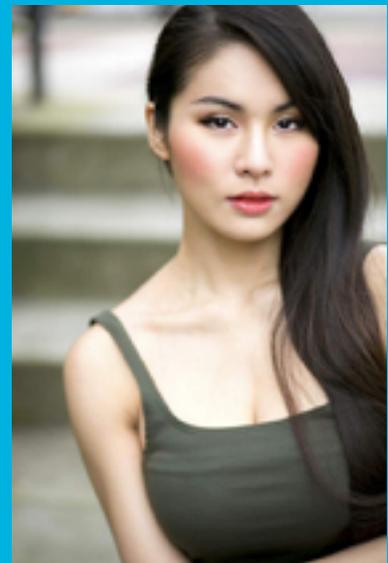
- Must be a Canadian, Permanent Resident or Landed Immigrant
- Graduating in the current high school year at the time of applying
- Applicant must have completed at least **(3)** years of English in a Canadian High School
- Applicant must have completed at least **(2)** years of Acting, Drama or Theatre class during High School

Learn more at:

<https://vadastudios.com/admissions/scholarships/>



Look who's booking!



Josephine Ting

"Wu Assassins"



Ava Janzen

"The Detour"

VADA Instructor Spotlight: Alessandro Miro

Alessandro Miro is a film and stage actor who has lived and worked in cities across North America and Europe, including New York, Milan, Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto. He studied at the prestigious **Circle in the Square Theatre School** on Broadway.

AI has performed in many award winning movies and TV shows as well as in critically acclaimed plays in both New York City and Canada.

In 2008 he co-founded the NYC based Animus Theatre Company, whose members include Broadway actors, Hollywood stars, established writers, award winning directors and acting gurus.

Working extensively in film and TV, AI has appeared on such hit shows as Fox's *Fringe*, USA Network's *Psych*, CW's *Supernatural*, *The Flash* and *Cult*, Hulu's *Shut Eye*, USA Network's *Psych*, CBC's *Intelligence*, CTV's *Alice*, *I Think* and *Hiccups*.

His starring role in the New York feature drama and festival gem "Daddy's Boy" earned him a "Best Supporting Actor" nomination at the LEO Awards. He also received a nomination for "Best Actor" at the NYC Winter Film Awards for his role in the audience award winning film "Computer Potato." Other roles include the romantic lead in *I Hate Toronto: A Love Story*, which premiered to a sold out audience at the Toronto Independent Film Festival, as well as parts in *Dark Harvest*, *Sitting on the Edge Of Marlene*, *Death Note*. and *Genesis Code*



AI is an extremely popular instructor who teaches a number of our part-time evening program such as Intro to Acting: Pace 1 Certificate, Ongoing Scene Study and Audition Classes. This allows him to really get to know his students' strengths and weaknesses in order to help them develop and refine their acting skills.

Check out AI's [IMDB page](#)



"After taking Pace 1 Intro to Acting with AI, I feel better equipped to delve into to the acting profession having gone over auditioning and scene work. AI was a wonderful teacher who put even the most apprehensive students immediately at ease and was happy to answer any questions we may have. Definitely continuing on to Pace 2!"
- Antonia K. Levy

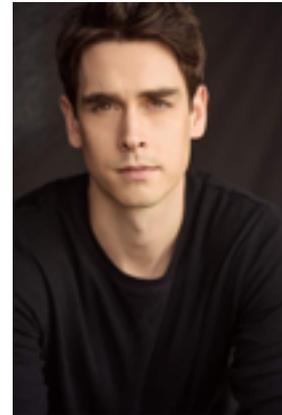
The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina

An adaptation of the "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" tale is a dark coming-of-age story that traffics in horror and the occult. In the reimagined origin story, Sabrina Spellman wrestles to reconcile her dual nature (half-witch/ half-mortal) while standing against the evil forces that threaten her, her family and the daylight world of humans.

Alumni Darren Mann "Luke Chalfant" and Madison Smith "Steve Loomis".



Darren Mann



Madison Smith

Siren

Legend has it that Bristol Cove was once home to mermaids. Now, this coastal town has a mysterious new visitor in a girl named Ryn, who may just prove that the stories are true. Ryn catches the eye of local marine biologist Ben, and when he begins to show interest, fellow marine biologist Maddie becomes suspicious. Others in town, like deep sea fisherman Xander, are on a quest to discover the truth, and Helen, the town eccentric, knows more about the mysterious creatures than she lets on.

Alumni Tammy Gillis "Deputy Marissa Staub" & Instructor Graeme Duffy "Deputy Clarence".



Tammy Gillis



Graeme Duffy

The Parent Trap: Entertainment Industry Scams, Scammers and Scumbags.



The entertainment industry can be a place of wonder and imagination for parents and children who are completely new to it. I mean, what could be more exciting than watching the magic of Hollywood take place with your child being a part of it?

Unfortunately, lurking like wolves on the outskirts of this wonderland are unethical scammers looking to take advantage of unsuspecting parents who believe their child could be the next “child star”, but have no knowledge about how the industry works.

In the past you would typically find these “scouts” (scammers) trolling playgrounds, shopping malls, department stores, etc. These days however, they can usually be found online in the form of online ads on popular social media sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc). They claim to have affiliation with a major production company that is looking for a “new face” for spots on popular children shows and will be having an “open audition”.

“It’s a hollywood-style hustle and YOU are the one being hustled.”

You’re asked to fill out an online form, after which you will be contacted by someone claiming to be a talent scout, agent or casting director telling you how your child would be just perfect as a “new face” for a show that pays \$\$\$\$ per day, and how they would like to submit him/her for the role. How exciting, right!

You’ll be invited to attend an “open audition”, but the problem is...it’s not really an audition at all, just a well crafted sales scam performed around the country in travelling auditions from city to city, targeting parents to pay big bucks to take over-priced, poor quality classes and workshops. It’s a hollywood-style hustle and YOU are the one being hustled.

Cont’d on next page.

Hook, Line and Sinker

Those who fall for the invitation and attend the “open audition” will get a well-choreographed sales pitch about how the children in attendance (and there will be many) were all specifically chosen for this audition, and how the next step will involve being selected to attend the second stage of the audition process. They say their talent experts will assess your child’s chances at success and that unfortunately, only a few kids will be accepted (truth is...they accept everyone).

They may even bring your child into a room to read a few lines on camera (just to make things appear more legit), but don’t be fooled, it’s all just a well-greased scam. They make promises to market your child, get headshots to create a portfolio to submit them for the popular kid’s shows.

Disney Channel is not affiliated with ATG - or any advance-fee agency, acting school or acting workshop - and has not authorized talent searches or casting through ATG in Charlotte or any other city. - Disney spokesperson Patti McTeague

After paying a large signing fee (often in the thousands), and doing everything they ask, a few months go by and you start wondering why you haven’t heard anything. You give them a call and the person on the other end of the line says, “*Sorry but, your child wasn’t selected.*” End of story.

Do Your Research!

Always check out the company by simply typing “COMPANY NAME” followed by “SCAM” in your internet browser to see what pops up. If it is a scam, you’ll likely find a litany of complaints (even videos) of past victims all venting their anger. You’ll also find very little actual information about the company, employees or images of established child actors

Official Nickelodeon events are promoted on its television channels, websites, verified social media pages, or via event partners. The company does not hold auditions that require any form of payment. - Nickelodeon spokesperson

discovered through their program. One parent called me after being invited to attend an “open audition” about how his daughter had been selected to go to Florida to attend a second audition and charged \$4,000. After taking my advice, he checked online and found a long list of complaints. He’s not the first, and won’t be the last.

“Just the facts, please ma’am”

When a real production company needs a child actor, they will initially promote any audition event through their own corporate communication channels, after which they contact talent agencies with a breakdown of the type of child they want (age range, height, hair colour, ethnicity, special skills etc). Agencies will check their rosters for possible matches and send headshots and resumes of their candidates. If they still can’t find the child they are looking for, they’ll utilize platforms such as Casting Workbook, Actors Access, Casting Network. They may also contact acting schools directly that run Youth On Camera Acting programs to let them know they are looking as well.

Bottom line is they **do not** hold huge open casting calls with paid auditions in small towns and cities with kids from all walks of life, ages and ethnicities with no acting experience or established talent, other than being cute.

The Parent Trap (*cont’d on next page*)

“Show me the money!”

In Canada, the only way a talent agent makes income is if they sign your child to their roster (at no charge), submit them for a role or part, your child attends the audition and “books” the role (i.e. gets the role). Your child completes their performance, the production company sends a cheque to their agent. The agent takes their cut (15% commission) and pays your child the rest.

If **any** agency or agent says you need to pay fees up front to sign with them or attend an audition, **it is a scam. Period.**

Choose the right path

There is a process involved for kids who want to get into the entertainment industry, unless of course you already know (or are related to) someone in the industry.

Firstly, your child needs to take acting classes to develop a foundation of acting skill. They may have all the natural talent in the world, but talent still needs to be trained, and the kids

“Stage and theatre acting technique is very different and will be immediately noticeable at any audition”

they’ll be going up against will definitely be trained. On camera acting classes develop knowledge of how to work with the camera; analyze a script; develop a character and audition. They also teach procedures involved in auditioning, industry jargon; cold read techniques; auditioning for commercials vs

actor roles; dealing with notes from casting directors etc. By taking classes, your child will come across well prepared vs. looking like a deer caught in the headlights.

Finding the right kid’s classes

If your child wants to work in TV & Film, you need to look for Youth On Camera Acting classes since stage and theatre acting technique is very different and will be immediately noticeable in any audition.

Find a local, reasonably-priced acting class (prices vary depending on length and frequency of classes). Classes should focus on developing actual technique, rather than simply playing games and doing group activities.

“They may have all the natural talent in the world, but talent still needs to be trained”

Be sure the class is **taught by a professional actor who is working in the industry now** (not 10 or 20 years ago) to ensure they are learning current acting techniques. And finally, look for programs that include well-polished **demo clips** of your child’s acting that can be used for their professional package (not just clips from in-class activities).

Stranger Danger really DOES exist

Lastly, **never** give someone you don’t know your child’s image and/or information in person or online. Take the necessary time to do your due diligence; research their agency or anyone claiming to be involved in the entertainment industry who wishes to interact with your child. If they are legit, you’ll be able to determine that fairly easily, well **before** you get scammed.