

Student's Feedback
What I learned in class at UGA with Di Quon Wilms



Olu Adeleye:

This semester, I learned much about both the craft of acting and the entertainment industry. I learned about accessing triggers and how to do so effectively without taking on emotional burdens. I learned more about what method acting is, and that it is not the only method needed for a great experience. I learned a lot about myself, as well. I never knew I could do some of the exercises presented to me in class. I was able to leave my comfort zone which allowed me to grow as an actor and apply the feedback given to me. I started asking myself some hard questions and it's been helping me connect with the characters I've been portraying. A view I had against commercial auditions was also deconstructed. I previously assumed one would act in a commercial because they're not good enough to land a movie/TV role, but that's simply not the case. This class has taught me so much that I know will be valuable for my future.

Demi Lehman:

I have learned so much! I've gotten away with faking emotion in my performances for a long time, but this class taught me how to bring up authentic emotions in my performance by using a variety of different techniques. I also learned that it's okay to use different techniques and tools for different performances. For example, I've learned about myself that I tend to use full imagination for building characters who are very different than me or live in environments different from my own modern world. For characters that are closer to me, I tend to use 50/50 scenarios. I don't usually like going full-on substitution with my real life, but an "as if" tends to do the trick. Trigger work is something I had done in the past a few times on my own, but I had no idea it had an official term or way to go about it. I've also gained a lot of industry knowledge about working in the Southeast in comparison to other markets.





Julia Reilly

Di has so much knowledge and years of experience and is a teacher who truly wants to pass along everything she knows to help her students succeed. She does not sugar coat the industry at all either, really providing reality checks for all of us while still inspiring us to go for it. Di teaches how to truly be yourself in the character even when performing notable and iconic material. I learned to trust my subtlety, and I learned where I need to let myself go. She really found my weaker points in my acting fast, and pin-pointed specific material I need to work on.

Nivedha Umapathy

I learned so many different things as a result of this class. To name a few I learned more about myself and how I work as an individual. Then I was able to learn how to trigger and bring out the emotions that a character needs. And finally I learned how to show those emotions and represent the characters I played. Overall, this class has been one of the best that I have ever taken in my 3 years of college.



Sydney Guion:

I think the simplest way to summarize what I've learned is to say you demystified a lot of film acting and the process it takes to do it. You helped me better understand how I work as an actor and to trust myself as I go about the process of beginning to work myself. To say you changed the course of my career and my life would be understatement.



Emily Park:

In this class, I learned how to be a more authentic actor and stepped out of my comfort zone. Learning that acting was a craft allowed me to treat it like one, and objectives, tactics, and emotional triggers all helped me visualize ways to actually refine that craft.





Jackson Riddle:

I learned so much. To say that I am thankful for this course is an understatement. I learned the process for acting, something I had not necessarily had done prior to this class. I learned things I didn't know about the industry, like how SAG works and the importance of a reel! I learned that the best support system in the world are your classmates. I felt like I was in a space without judgement, so I could mess up and not be looked at any differently. I learned how to give correct feedback that helped my fellow actors grow while also making sure the feedback was genuine and not simply "great job!." I learned that having teachers who push you and believe in you will take you a long way. I didn't miss a single class this entire semester because I have never loved a class like I loved this one. I would have taken it for another semester if I could. I truly feel like this class has had a night and day difference on my acting: but I know I still have so much work to do and I am so excited to do that work. I learned to love the craft again. Thank you so much.

Hannah Grace Laughlin:

I'm going to be honest, before this class, I was adamant that I didn't want to be pursue film. I wasn't comfortable on camera, and the only on-camera training I had really had was when I was a kid. I knew I would learn things in the class, but I wasn't ready for how much I would grow not only as a performer but also as a person. Di has so much experience and I feel so grateful to be taught by and know her. She never tore anyone down, instead she was kind and direct. She knew just how far to push us out of our comfort zone without pushing us too far. I have fallen back in love with the art of film and tv and it is all because of this class.



Brett Green:

What I learned in this class this semester is that my past is my power. Meaning that I am fully capable of using past emotion, whether it be negative or positive, to propel a scene. As a result, this has helped me focus much less on the words of the script and more on how I can relate the character's experience to my own. I am very grateful for this class!

Jacob Householder:

Out of all the classes I've taken at UGA or even school overall, this has been the class I've gained the most knowledge from. I've learned so much about the acting career, the art of acting and me as a person overall. I learned so much about improving my performance and how to use my emotions. Tools like personalization and imagination have helped me so much with my acting I can't even explain. I have learned to become so connected with the characters I have played. Using personalization we learned in class to put myself in their shoes and feel what they feel in the given moment. Using this tool has made me so confident and calm with performing. It has kept me locked in and content with my performance. But in all honesty everything I learned in this class has had a huge impact on me and I will forever look back at this class as something that made me grow so much as a person.



Christen Powell:

This semester, I learned how to actually act. Until this semester, I thought of my acting as very surface level and inauthentic. I really wasn't ever acting, rather I was just using character voice and reciting lines. I learned different acting techniques to help me with my process. Before this class, I was unaware of all of the work that could be done to develop a scene. I learned how to bring my past emotions to the surface to connect with my scene. I learned what acting techniques work best for me and what classes I need to pursue in the future. Most importantly, I learned how to trust myself and trust the work that I have done for the scene and my character.

Priscilla Jackson

While I have learned many useful technical aspects of being an actor (creating reels, headshots, resumes) as well as creative aspects (tapping into a character, finding my object and the tactics I will use, and analyzing a screenplay). You get out of this class what you put into it, and no matter what level you are at right now, testing your boundaries (safely of course) is always possible and encouraged. I have learned to keep more of an open mind and to play more with my work.





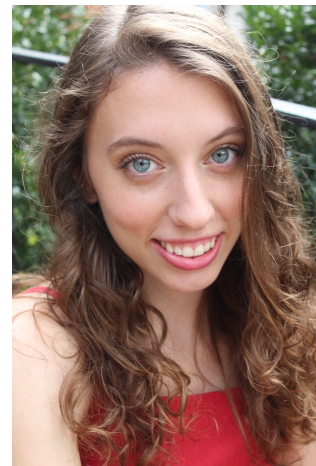
Tristen Sledge:

I learned that stage and film acting are SO incredibly different. I was really intrigued to see them compared because I realized that putting theatrically trained actors in film without training them on the difference is what makes us read them as bad actors. I also learned about triggers. I've used them in my acting before, but I didn't know what they were or how to properly apply or exit them. Learning how to "step out" has completely changed the way I approach acting. Character work was something I learned about that I really enjoyed. It was fun to approach each character as if they had never been filmed before, as if it was me creating them. You can make them whatever you

want them to be as long as it fits the script, and you can build them from the ground up.

Jocelyn Floryance

I learned a lot about how to dissect characters for film by using your imagination to fill in that character's backstory in a way that's meaningful to you and gives you memories and experiences to fall back on for the character you're playing. I also learned a more concrete approach to triggers and how to create them and apply them to specific lines or instances in your scenes so that they are authentic and compelling when hit. With triggers, I learned that you also have to step out after the scene is over. I wish more professors were teaching us about stepping out, because I feel like it's a really crucial element of doing any emotionally challenging scene. Finally, I learned the important distinctions between film acting and on-camera acting, so now I can really notice the difference in those performances when I watch self-tapes or showcases.



Sam York:

I learned a lot in this class. I've learned how to clarify my objective and what tactics to employ. I've learned how to successfully use triggers in scenes. I have also gained a lot of confidence by realizing that I'm what's valued, and that I have to bring *me* to the scene and use what makes me unique to add to the character.