

The Dirt Teen Academy provides professional training for young actors. We recognize that acting can require engagement with sensitive content and other work that can feel particularly vulnerable for young performers. As a result, The Dirt Underneath is committed to creating a class environment that supports young actors in feeling safe to take risks in support of their continued growth. Everyone must do their part to contribute to creation and maintenance of this type of environment.

The Dirt Underneath and Instructors

- The Instructors of the Dirt Teen Academy are each committed to teaching the individuals in each class. We understand that every actor has specific strengths, areas of potential improvement, and personal boundaries. Our process-oriented classes have limited capacity to allow us to support each student where they are in their development.
- We are committed to leading an environment free from harassment, discrimination, and bullying, and will respond promptly to any observed inappropriate behaviour, or to complaints of behaviour that we were previously unaware of.
- We will never require a student to participate in a scene or exercise with subject matter that makes them uncomfortable.
- We will support actors in communicating and maintaining any personal boundaries that scene partners and classmates need to be aware of to support safe engagement in acting scenes and other exercises.
- If the behaviour of a student, parent, or guardian becomes disruptive, or negatively impacts the class environment, the instructors reserve the right to ask the student and/or parent/guardian to leave the class and/or the rest of the term.

Actors

Student actors are expected to behave as the professionals that they wish to be, and we encourage teen actors to take responsibility for their work and their behaviour by being the primary point of contact for all class content related communications with instructors.

Attendance & Preparation

- Actors are expected to be present and ready to work at the start of class time and are responsible for ensuring they arrive as early as they need to settle into the space before class time. The studio is generally open 15 minutes before class begins.
- Actors are expected to prepare any scene(s) or other work as instructed. Lack of preparation does not only impact the unprepared actor but can also inhibit the work

- and learning of scene partners and classmates. Consistent lack of preparation may impact a student's ability to continue working on partnered or group scenes.
- Actors are expected to attend class consistently, and to communicate anticipated absences in advance by emailing Shaun at shaun@dirtunderneath.com
 - Unexpected absences and/or lateness should be communicated as promptly as possible by email and/or text message. Instructors will provide the appropriate phone number on the first day of class.

Class Participation

- Actors should be aware that the class instructors will never require a student to participate in a scene or exercise with subject matter that makes them uncomfortable. If an actor receives a scene assignment that makes them uncomfortable, they should alert the instructors by email as soon as possible, to allow time for alternate arrangements to be made.
- Actors are expected to contribute to a positive learning environment for their classmates. Unproductive criticism, mocking of classmates and/or their work, inappropriate displays of frustration or disappointment at scene or partner assignments in class will not be tolerated. Additionally, any bullying, harassment, or discriminatory behaviour will not be tolerated and may result in a student's removal from the class and/or term.
- Actors may be asked to observe their classmates' work and/or support that work by operating cameras, reading lines, or staying on-book. Actors are expected to remain engaged in the class while their classmates work and not create undue distraction by talking, moving about, or using their phones or other electronic devices.
- Cell phones should be kept silent and put away for the duration of class, except during formal breaks.

Parents & Guardians

- Parents and guardians are not generally allowed in the studio to observe during class because the presence of non-participating observers can inhibit the work and growth of the participating actors.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend the Zoom orientation which will take place shortly before the term begins. Orientation date/time and other details can be found on the registration page.
- Parents and guardians are also welcomed to attend the final class in-person to observe the sharing of the actors' work that term. Any parents or guardians in

- attendance during this final class will be expected to abide by the same code of conduct as the actors, including reserving any negative commentary.
- Parents and guardians are expected to clearly read the course online registration form, waiver form, and to familiarize themselves with the absence/make-up class policy below.
 - Parents and guardians are encouraged to support their teens in taking responsibility for their engagement in the class.

Absences & Cancellations

- Payment of the class fee is required to reserve a space in the class. Fees are non-refundable, and pro-rated rates are not offered for missed classes.
- If an actor needs to miss an upcoming class, please email Shaun as soon as possible so that satisfactory adjustments may be made for your scene partner's class time. A make-up or refund cannot be offered.
- In the unexpected event that the instructors or the Dirt Underneath needs to cancel a class, a make-up class will be offered one week after the final class on the same day of the week and time as the regular class.

Formal Acknowledgements:

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Parent/Guardian - please print

Parent/Guardian - insert signature

Student/Actor - please print

Student/Actor - insert signature

Jonelle Gundersson - coach

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Shaun McComb - coach

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Carmen Kruk - coach

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