



## ONGOING INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED SCENE STUDY CLASS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Verve's Scene Study will combine your energy and enthusiasm for acting with a comprehensive set of tools and techniques designed to create truthful, organic moment-to-moment life on stage on a weekly basis. A combination of coaching and self-critique will allow you to identify strengths and weaknesses and to grow. During each class everyone will put up work, whether that work is solo or a partnered scene.

Actors choose the pieces to work on and continue with it until the coach and actors agree the objectives have been satisfied. Modeled after classes in Los Angeles, Verve's ongoing scene study format allows actors to progress at their own rate and have a place to continue to study and workout.

### **What does On-going mean?**

The class does not have a set end-date. While you pay for an entire month at a time, you are encouraged to stay longer than one month. Most students stay for a minimum of 9 months to see results. Class has been going since August, 2005 and meets every Monday, with the exception of Holidays that fall on a Monday and for 2 weeks in July and December for vacation.

### **Why should I take an ongoing class instead of a set-length class?**

Because like athletes, musicians or any other professional discipline, one cannot be proficient without constant practice. The structure of this class allows you to continue working and practicing until you feel like your goals have been met. An ongoing class helps you keep your competitive edge so you are always at your best for the next audition. It allows you to have a place to come back to if you need to take time out of class for work, a show, personal life etc. It allows you to cast yourself in roles and plays that stretch your type and prepare you for auditioning.

### **What is the level of the students in class?**

All students in the class have one thing in common – they are there to work and grow. They are committed to attending class and rehearsing outside of class. But all of the students have different size resumes. Students are either Advanced or Intermediate, but both are working in the same class.

### **How do you get from Intermediate to Advanced?**

Once the Intermediate student has completed all ten of the Uta Hagen exercises, the Get Personal class, the Core class, has been in Scene Study for longer than 12 months, and has shown great professional etiquette and effort, Ms. Melby will invite the student to move into Advanced.

### **There is required reading – what does that mean?**

Ms. Melby uses "A Challenge for the Actor" by Uta Hagen. While she doesn't lecture from it, she does use the principles and techniques and the exercises in class. The principles in "Acting: The First Six Lessons" by Richard Boleslavsky are utilized in Scene Study, but the book itself is covered in the Core and Get Personal classes. There are ten individual exercises in the Hagen book. The first two are done as a part of the Core class. The remaining 8 are done in the Scene Study class, at the student's own pace.

**How large is the class?**

It is limited to 14 students in order to give every participant individual attention within the 3-hour class.

**How do I get a scene and scene partner?**

It is up to each student to choose a scene and partner. Verve will provide a suggested scene list and current student contact information (phone, e-mail and city) so students can make informed choices. Ms. Melby will make suggestions when asked but believes that scene and monologue should be chosen because the actor feels a connection to them. She also has assembled a comprehensive scene list and provides that to all enrolled students.

**What else does Verve/Scene Study do for me?**

Industry Connections. Verve Studios holds an Industry Showcase that students in the Scene Study class that have studied longer than 6-months and have completed the Commercials Class perform scenes in. Local agents, casting directors, film and theatre directors and producers attend. The Guest Artist Master Class was started in 2014 and is held 2-3 times per year. Advanced Scene Study students are invited to perform scenes with Intermediate students auditing for the Guest Master Artist. Verve also offers demo reel taping for scene study students in the summer. In January and July, Amanda Melby goes over the "Well-Rounded Actors Checklist" with each student in Scene Study to help set goals and strategies for reaching those goals.

**Is there a schedule for Scene Study?**

Yes, each calendar year has a published schedule indicating which days there will not be class due to holidays, 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays or vacation. The schedule is posted on the website as well as the registration form.

General breakdown of class by month

January-April: Scenes, Monologues, Exercises, preparing for Showcase, Goal Setting (Jan)

May: Showcase, plus Guest Artist Master Class

June: Comedy Scenes, Monologues, Exercises, Goal Checking

July: Shakespeare and Classical Scenes (2014: Improv, 2013: Demo Reel Shoots)

August-Nov: Scenes, Monologues, Exercises

December: Scenes, Monologues, Exercises, plus Guest Artist Master Class

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