

Paul Russell

author • director • casting director

Master Classes

Author of the arts, director and casting director Paul Russell has assisted actors to better their audition room skills, and excel in modern actor marketing and branding with his master classes on campuses including:

ELON UNIVERSITY

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

YALE UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - OMAHA



"You were able in a single weekend to plant the seeds that will both challenge and inspire my students... and you did it while keeping us laughing. A perfect model of the joy and hard work that comes with this profession. A heartfelt thank you for all that you did!"

Kelly J. G. Bremner Ph.D.
Dept. of Theatre
Emory & Henry College

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Master Classes - Overview

A 3-day master class series covers:

- Modern digital marketing for the actor while upgrading traditional marketing
- Audition room technique utilizing current casting sides from screen projects
- Branding for the actor
- Dressing right for the actor's type for auditions & graduating showcase
- Interview strategies for when meeting directors, casting, and talent agents
- Mock auditions that mirror actual auditions-by-appointment in LA & NY



Above: Working with the actors at the University of Nebraska - Omaha

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Master Classes - Breakdown

SESSION 1: ACTING: Make It Your Business - *Importance of Professional Relationships & Marketing*

In a casual overview this welcome session to students focuses on the actor's image in the industry and professional relationship-skills needed to engage agents, directors and casting. Includes: a mock-interview demonstration with one or more of the attendees; poor and high-quality actor marketing materials from files; and an open Q & A on the industry.

Duration: 90 - 120 mins.

Attendees: Open to all performing arts students & faculty

Requirements: White projection area, table and electrical outlets.



Above: Screenshot of PowerPoint presentation

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SESSION 3: Audition Technique - *Getting the Job*

Utilizing actual audition scenes—from current screen and theatrical projects—the student actors ‘audition’ then receive direct feedback and suggestions for improvement on their audition process. Students access scene sides via PaulRussell.net on a private web page for your program.

Duration: 4 hours (*With a follow-up session to audit students’ improvement – 2 hours*)

Attendees: Senior acting majors. A maximum of 20. (*Observers welcomed*)



Above: Working 1-on-1 with an actor at Oakland University on audition skills, and text analysis

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SESSION 4: Audition Technique - Follow-up

A follow-up session to audit students' improvement on: using the audition room effectively, text analysis, and dressing right for type.

Duration: 3 hours

Attendees: Senior acting majors. A maximum of 20. (*Observers welcomed*)



Above: Working 1-on-1 with an actor at Oakland University on audition skills, and text analysis

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SESSION 5: (Optional) Work & Survival in Regional Theatre / Negotiating Contracts for Screen & Stage

An informative and fun game-show format in which students representing their class play for prizes while learning how to effectively seek work and build relationships in regional theater. Second-half of the session details contracts (what to ask, what to look for and what to beware of) for screen and stage.

A wrap up Q & A is encouraged.

Attendees: Open to all performing arts students

Duration: 2 hours

Requirements: White projection area, table and electrical outlets.



Above: Leading Emory & Henry actors in a round of "Theapardy"

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Master Classes - Feedback

"I just came from a class with my seniors and I expect your ears were burning for the last hour or so- they LOVED this weekend and all you gave them, so THANKS from me.

In just a few days, you had a big impact here so tell those NYU students to appreciate what they have in you. We certainly do!"

Fredrick J. Rubeck

Department Chair and
Professor of Performing Arts
Elon University

"Thank you for bringing your wisdom and advice to our students. I am so glad we were able to bring you back, and it is my wish to continue to do so."

Greg Hellems

Associate Professor - Acting/Musical Theatre
Wright State University

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Master Classes - Feedback

"Paul's lecture at Temple University was an incredibly informative session where he illustrated key points on how undergraduate theatre students such as myself can better prepare for successful careers in the entertainment industry.

Mr. Russell skillfully commanded an audience of almost 200 students and gave us invaluable tips and advice as to the realities of such a competitive profession."

RJ Magee
Student
Temple University

"I just wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for coming to see us at Elon. Your workshop gave me a lot of answers I didn't know I even had questions for. I am so thankful to have had you here and I wish you the absolute best as you've given me nothing less than that. A reminder to us all: Don't lose the child. Never lose the child."

Sarah Nutt
Student
Elon University

Additional Testimonials: <http://paulrussell.net/tstmnl.html>

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Paul Russell - Bio

Paul Russell; casting director, director, and author of ***ACTING: Make It Your Business*** has 30 years experience in entertainment that includes film, TV and Broadway. He began his career journey as a successful working actor.

As an independent casting director, he has cast for **Twentieth Century Fox, HBO**, independent features and all three major networks. He's cast for Broadway, national tours plus the original production of **COBB** for **Kevin Spacey**. Paul Russell Casting was recognized with a **Drama Desk Award** for Best Ensemble Cast.

Russell has directed regional and New York theater and recently worked with **John Guare** to helm the regional premiere of Mr. Guare's **A FREE MAN OF COLOR**.

In addition, Russell was a faculty member for the **NYU-Tisch** theater arts program at **The Atlantic Theatre Company**; teaching audition technique and business of acting. He is also frequently invited as a guest lecturer on the campuses of America's finest performing arts schools including: **Temple University, Yale, The University of The Arts, Rutgers, James Madison University, Elon, University of Central Oklahoma, Oakland University, Wright State University, Coastal Carolina University, Montclair State University**, and **Northeastern University**.

Russell is an editorial contributor for **Back Stage** plus has a weekly blog entitled *Answers for Actors*. His new book ***ACTING: Make It Your Business*** was recently released by Random House.

Additional Information: <http://paulrussell.net/>