



Green Shirt Conservatory

Program Details & Information



Table of Contents

Why We Built This Conservatory	1
Program Overview	2
Core Classes	3
Career Development	4
One-on-One Career Coaching	5
Conservatory Schedule	6
Core Instructors	7
Finances	8
Admissions	9

Why We Built This Conservatory



Jack Schultz

CO-OWNER OF GREEN SHIRT STUDIO

I took my first Green Shirt class in 2012, a few months after I was cut from the acting program at The Theatre School at DePaul.

What drew me to Green Shirt - and what's kept me here for 14 years - is its welcoming community of deeply curious people dedicated to studying the craft of acting.

Since taking ownership of the school in 2019, I've dreamed of creating an alternative to a traditional conservatory outside the academic setting - somewhere a student can receive the same quality of training they'd find at a university, without the enormous barriers that often come with that path.

In Summer 2025, three Green Shirt instructors and I began planning the Green Shirt Conservatory, and I couldn't be more excited to welcome our first cohort in September 2026. I hope it becomes a space where actors turn aspirations into action, learn how to sustainably integrate being an actor into their lives, and build careers that truly serve them.

Any questions about the conservatory? Please feel free to reach out to me directly at jack@greenshirtstudio.com

Jack Schultz
Co-Owner, Green Shirt Studio



Program Overview

We've crafted a holistic conservatory training program designed to develop the whole actor. The Green Shirt Conservatory includes 500+ hours of training, one-on-one coaching, multiple performance opportunities, and culminates in an industry showcase.

C o r e C l a s s e s

Core classes include voice, acting, and movement training, providing students access to their entire instrument and building strong skills for any medium. These classes form the backbone of the training. Here, you'll learn your process - how to warm up, tackle text, and develop an impulse-driven, alive body and a voice connected to your breath.

Core classes are the foundation that allows you to build your other skills. Think of core classes as going to the gym to build the muscles an actor needs before stepping into the game. These classes will primarily be taught by our core instructors.

R o t a t i n g W o r k s h o p s

Rotating Workshops give students the opportunity to apply skills from core classes in mediums relevant to the Chicago market, such as improv, on-camera work, commercials, Shakespeare, and more.

These workshops show how the voice, movement, and acting training integrate across different mediums, ensuring skills don't remain in isolation.

Rotating Workshops are primarily taught by adjunct instructors who specialize in the specific medium being explored.

P e r f o r m a n c e L a b

Performance Lab is a weekly challenge where students create their own work and collaborate with their ensemble. Our conservatory includes this consistent element because modern actors cannot wait for opportunities - they must be in the habit of creating them.

It's also a unique chance to develop your own work in a supported environment and then share that work with invited audiences throughout the program. These performance reps give students a valuable opportunity to check in and see how their training is shaping their craft.

Performance Lab includes classes facilitated by core and adjunct instructors, as well as self-led time for ensemble projects.



Core Classes

Acting

Voice

Movement

Industry Prep

The first semester of Core Training will draw from a range of foundational techniques to give students a well-rounded and dynamic performance toolkit, including: Atmosphere and Animal Work, Fitzmaurice Voicework, IPA/dialects, Meisner, Rodenburg, Williamson, and Viewpoints.

The second semester of Core Training will focus more heavily on industry preparation.

Core Training will take place on Saturdays 9am - 5pm:

Semester 1 (August 25 - December 19)

Voice: 9:00am-10:45am

Movement: 11:00-12:45pm

Acting: 1:30-5:00pm

Semester 2 (January 5 - May 22)

Voice / Audition technique: 9:00am-10:45am

Movement / Business of acting: 11:00-12:45pm

Acting / Showcase prep: 1:30-5:00pm





Career Development

One-On-One Career Coaching

Private coaching is a core component of the conservatory, helping students integrate acting and their career into the realities of life, which may include family obligations, parallel careers, multiple income streams, and a variety of goals.

Private coaching helps students maximize the value of the program and clarify their next steps after graduation. This coaching is facilitated by Core Instructor and ICF Certified Professional Coach Rachel Yoder.

Industry Preparation

All components of the Conservatory program (Core Classes, Rotating Workshops, Performance Lab, and Career Coaching) include support, skill-building, and industry insights to prepare students for professional acting in Chicago and beyond.

In the second half of the program, Core Classes will focus on audition technique and the business of acting. During the last three weeks, Performance Lab and Rotating Workshops will include sessions with rotating professional Chicago directors, offering students opportunities to build industry connections.

Our goal is for students to graduate with a network of industry professionals in addition to their cohort.

Showcase

The program culminates in a Showcase Day at a Chicago theater. There will be two performances for industry professionals, agents, casting directors, friends, and family. Students will present both scenes and original material created in the Performance Lab.





One-on-one Career Coaching



Each student will receive four 1-hour one-on-one coaching sessions during the conservatory with Core Instructor and ICF Certified Coach Rachael Yoder.

This integrated coaching component helps actors identify their goals, align their artistic training with their full lives, and build sustainable, self-directed creative practices. Coaching sessions support students in navigating challenges, unlocking growth, and staying grounded and intentional throughout their conservatory journey.

The International Coaching Federation (ICF) is the leading global organization for professional coaches and the most widely recognized credentialing body in the field. An ICF credential signals rigorous training, demonstrated coaching skill, and adherence to a strong code of ethics. It is considered the industry's "gold standard" and is trusted by clients and organizations around the world.





Conservatory Schedule

With two weeknights and one weekend day, the program is structured to remain manageable for students who work full-time or have additional commitments outside of class while still allowing for the rigor necessary to fit a conservatory curriculum into nine months.

If you're interested in applying but have known conflicts, please reach out - we're happy to discuss them.

August 24, 2026 - May 22, 2027

Tuesdays	6:30 - 9:30 PM	Rotating Workshops
Thursdays	6:30 - 9:30 PM	Performance Lab
Saturdays	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Core Classes

All students must commit to Tuesday and Thursday evenings (6:30–9:30pm) and Saturdays (9:00am–5:00pm) on the following dates, with breaks noted below:

August 24 – December 19, 2026

- No class the week of November 23 (Thanksgiving Break)
- Holiday Break: December 20 – January 4

January 5 – April 24, 2027

- Spring Break: April 26 – May 2

May 3 – May 17, 2027

Showcase date TBD the week of May 17, 2027



Meet Our Core Instructors

The Green Shirt Conservatory will be led by three core instructors, each holding MFA-level credentials and bringing extensive teaching and industry experience.

In addition, rotating guest directors and adjunct faculty will lead specialized workshops and scene study units.



Emily Vitrano - Program Director

Emily Vitrano (AEA) is an actor, educator and director with two decades of experience in the Midwest market. She holds a BFA in Acting from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and an MFA in Acting from Northern Illinois University (NIU). As an educator, Emily has worked most recently as an Instructor at Northern Illinois University and UW Parkside.



Michael McKeogh - Core Instructor

Michael McKeogh (AEA) is a professional actor and teacher with over a decade of experience working with students of all levels of experience, ages and backgrounds. His teaching philosophy is to provide foundational training techniques through exercises and creative strategies with classroom goals adhering to these main points of focus: transformation, vulnerability, creativity, and most importantly - joy!



Rachael Yoder - Core Instructor

Rachael Yoder (AEA) holds an MFA in Acting from Northern Illinois University, where she completed intensive three-year training in Meisner, Williamson, and Fitzmaurice techniques. She also earned a BA in Theater from SUNY Brockport, graduated from the Stella Adler Studio of Acting's 2-Year Conservatory, and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. She brings over 15 years of professional acting experience to the studio.



Finances

The total cost for tuition is \$10,875.

A 25% deposit is due by May 15, 2026. We offer the following payment options:

Payment Plan #1:

Balance is paid in full upon enrollment date (May 15, 2026)

Payment Plan #2:

75% balance is due on August 15, 2026

Payment Plan #3:

25% payment is due on July 15, September 15, and November 15, 2026



Limited need-based and equity-driven tuition support is available. “

Application link on the Conservatory page, separate from the Conservatory application.



Admissions

Online application will be live through March 31, 2026.

In-person callbacks will be hosted at Green Shirt Studio on April 25, 2026.

Offers to join the 2026-2027 cohort will be sent in May 2026.

Please reach out with any questions to:

- info@greenshirtstudio.com
- www.greenshirtstudio.com
- 4001 N Ravenswood Ave #303-B, Chicago IL 60613

