



CONSERVATORY

# Where WE STARTED

Fiasco Theater's 9 Week Conservatory will run  
**January 9, 2023 through March 11, 2023.**

Applications are due by 11:59pm on Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

Please note that Fiasco Theater is requiring, to the extent permitted by law, proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 for all participants in the Conservatory.

Please email [classes@fiascotheater.com](mailto:classes@fiascotheater.com) with any questions.

Full tuition for the 9 Week Conservatory is \$6,500 per student.  
There are no fees to apply and [financial aid available](#).

Fiasco is committed to providing significant scholarship support, and strongly encourages all interested applicants to apply for the program and, if needed, for the financial aid fund.

[Click Here for the Conservatory Application Form](#)  
[Click Here for the Financial Aid Application Form](#)

Fiasco has had a dual-part mission since its founding in 2009, equally valuing both artistic productions for audiences alongside education programs that provide exemplary classical training and give actors agency and access in a what is, traditionally, a hierarchical and exclusionary system.

The three founding co-artistic directors of Fiasco met as actors in graduate school, and found a shared passion for examining how actor training and collaboration can work best, and what makes for effective and exciting rehearsal. As a company, we began this work with the Free Training Initiative – a 3-week, part-time program we offered annually (until the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic) and with workshops and masterclasses ranging from a day to a week or more. In 2019, we began offering full-time training via the 6 Week Conservatory, which offered a robust financial aid program to all with need and allowed any early-career actor to apply without an application fee. We are thrilled to be offering the 9 Week Conservatory now, and eventually plan to expand the conservatory into a 1-year program.

The Conservatory aims to serve a cohort of diverse and passionate artists from the next generation, empowering them with tools for how to create great theater for years to come. We are committed to our students' staying power – their ability to create a meaningful, sustainable, and long life in the arts.

Our Conservatory program gives emerging artists the ability to be self-reliant: to create a process that works for them, and which brings them pleasure, so they can be in charge of their art-making and at the center of their own work.

"It felt like artists collaborating with other artists and I've never been through a program quite like that. The personalized attention made this program above and beyond fantastic. I felt seen as a performer AND a person. Actually, a person first."



## Joy.

The current culture of training actors has long insinuated that making art means either suffering or starving. We reject this. Pleasure is a key component to us – it matters as much as skill and technique in order to create joy for an audience and to sustain a life as an artist.

## Empowerment.

Plays are made in the rehearsal room. But most acting classes assign students to rehearse on their own and then evaluate the performance they bring back. This is product-oriented and skips the process, which is the actor's entire job. We give students the tools to know when they are rehearsing in the most dynamic, powerful, personal way possible. This puts them in charge of their process and gives them agency as artists. Feedback from alumni demonstrates that this process works: it can be taken into any rehearsal room, and alums report feeling more empowered and prouder of their work.

## Rigorous Text Work.

Building on our own training and Fiasco's decade of work with the Royal Shakespeare Company's Cicely Berry and Andrew Wade, we give students tools to create unique performances based on the rhythm and sound in the writing. Classical plays demand the full engagement of an actor's body, voice, and mind, so we spend significant time with them in the program, but we also apply these same tools to modern texts, allowing students to experience how well they illuminate contemporary language, deepening their ability to embody each play's human events.



## Access.

The current training model in NYC exists either through universities or for-profit studios/private teachers—both of which put a tremendous financial burden on students. We offer excellent training to all talented, passionate students, not just those privileged to afford it. Fiasco's Conservatory has no application fees, and a [robust financial aid program](#) which has a separate section below – read on for more.

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# The CURRICULUM

In the first six weeks of the program, students will study Voice, Clown, Text Work, Scene Study, Ensemble Rehearsal, Dance, and Yoga on a weekly class schedule. Associate artists may also join as guests in wildcard slots designed to broaden the students' experience and share new voices. In weeks seven through nine, they will rehearse two plays co-directed by four members of the faculty – putting their learning into practice as a cohort.



Our Conservatory purposefully does not culminate in an industry showcase, but rather free public sharings - inviting audiences into the process without overly focusing on product.

The faculty for the 9 Week Conservatory (more information available on our website) have all studied at the highest levels in

their fields, and many have been actors in Fiasco productions and therefore understand and appreciate our approach. Faculty members frequently visit each other's classes to allow for co-teaching, and to amplify for students the interconnectedness of the material and tools they are absorbing.

Class size is up to 18 students. The program will meet Monday through Friday between 9am and 6pm (exact schedule TBD) with performances the final weekend, March 10-11. The program will be held in NYC.



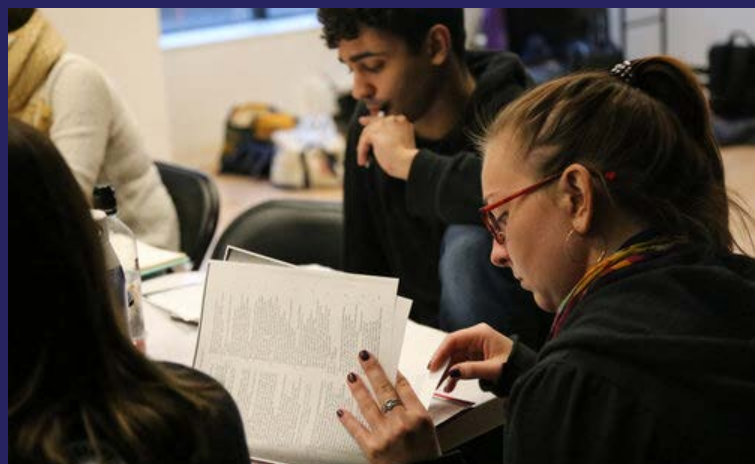
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Our goal is that each student will leave the program with concrete tools for how to rehearse most effectively, which give them maximum agency and maximum pleasure in their work. We structure the curriculum with ensemble-building as a priority and we seek to learn from their unique perspectives. We anticipate that, as in past years, this cohort will leave the program with a tangible connection as a community of artists who share a vocabulary and mutual respect.

# Outside OF THE CLASSROOM

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The Conservatory program is about classroom learning, but it is also about building a community, finding connections, and allowing students to pursue their passions. We are proud to offer students opportunities to see Fiasco productions, including seeing faculty members perform, for free. This is a chance to see teachers put beliefs into practice, and to engage in dialogue between teachers and students as fellow artists, mutually learning from one another. Fiasco has several projects planned for the spring of 2023 that we look forward to sharing with audiences, including the Conservatory cohort.



“I would 100% recommend this program. The joy and pleasure that you will find in the material combined with the rigorous attention to that pursuit is unmatched in any other class I’ve ever taken.”

Additionally, we regularly share information about available sources of support, have offered students and alumni the chance to work and collaborate with Fiasco, and have directly provided resources such as available space, artistic feedback, and additional training for our community. Through both the Conservatory's classroom experience and connections outside of the curriculum, our past cohorts have formed deep bonds and remain active collaborators. Fiasco Conservatory alumni have continued to meet and work together outside of and after their programs to further explore texts and ideas and to discuss their futures as an ensemble. They have also requested and received additional training and mentorship from Fiasco during these gatherings, as they continue to create together.

# Our COMMITMENT TO ACCESS

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## The Financial Aid Fund

To reiterate one of the four pillars setting Fiasco's training and ethos apart from the current models in NYC – it is our belief that all talented, passionate students should have access to excellent acting training – not just those privileged to afford it.

In 2022, 100% of accepted applicants who applied for financial aid received scholarships that ranged from 20 to 90 percent of the full tuition cost. In addition to financial aid, there are also two work-study positions available for the 2023 program.

We recognize that our 2023 program is longer and therefore more expensive than the original Conservatory, while also requiring students to make a greater commitment away from their regular jobs and sources of income. We also know students are likely to have greater need coming out of the pandemic. In response, Fiasco is increasing our commitment to financial aid for the 9 Week Conservatory – aiming to build the best cohort we can and to enable and empower all students to take part fully.



Our commitment to access and to a humane work environment extends to everyone in our community – students, artists, teachers alike – in the Conservatory and any Fiasco project. We reject the industry culture of low-wages, instead paying a living wage to all. We reject the lack of support for caregivers, instead helping to meet individual access needs – including for our students – for example, by offering stipends for childcare. We reject the unreasonable time-demands of this field, instead committing to a five-day work week for rehearsals and humane tech schedules.

**It's simple - when we care for and provide for each other, our industry, our communities, and our art all benefit. We promise to do our part.**



## A TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS & COMMUNITY

Fiasco is a company of actor-entrepreneurs; we model and teach that mindset and continue mentoring alums after the program's end. Although the program itself will be nine weeks long, we are confident the impact will far outlast the classes themselves. Our dedication to this work and to our students does not end after their final projects – Fiasco's faculty, staff, and community remain available as resources, sounding boards, cheerleaders, collaborators, and audience members.

The Conservatory is also a process of growth for Fiasco – learning and refining as we go how to build the most effective and equitable program. We provide numerous opportunities for both students and faculty to share their feedback with Fiasco's leadership, including robust surveys at the end of the nine weeks. Every person involved in this initiative becomes a part of the Fiasco community and helps us create something from the ground up.

Alumni of Fiasco training programs have become ensemble members in Fiasco productions. They have booked jobs and spearheaded their own projects – creating films, writing and producing plays, crafting solo shows, touring, and teaching others. They have worked with Fiasco in musical, administrative, event, and other roles. They have started their own companies, which we've been so excited to celebrate, and support.

We hope and know that Fiasco alumni will become future Fiasco faculty, and will change their communities by being extraordinary artists at institutions around the globe.

“A third of it is this: If you want to remember why you started pursuing this profession and a straightforward process to reconnect with classical text, sign up now. But the other two thirds is this: if you want to develop a community of people that actually support you and believe in you and are your biggest cheerleaders, work with Fiasco.”

“This is the real deal. The [Conservatory] demystified acting and the creative process. It was the first training experience I had where the faculty were actually interested in me. The training was about shedding layers, to give more of myself to my work.”

“This program was solely focused on process, and because of that there was joy in discovery and discomfort without the pressure of performance. It rejuvenated me, and helped me find my people. It is unmatched in any other class I've ever taken.”

# Have QUESTIONS?

Be sure to visit our website at [fiascotheater.com](https://fiascotheater.com)!

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Tag us on Social Media to submit your questions or to find out any new updates about Fiasco's Conservatory.



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