

# ATC

Est. 2007  
NFP 501c3

2023 IMPACT REPORT



FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO SOARING HEIGHTS

*the Growth* of the Actors Training Center ►►



*Success isn't just about what you accomplish in your life; it's about what you **inspire others** to do.*



# *How we started*



The Actors Training Center began in the summer of 2006 above the Historic Wilmette Theatre with 7 young actors.

With a primary focus on professionally training an overlooked demographic, the young actor, ATC creatively crafted classes that bridged the gap between training and a very competitive industry expectation.

In the last 17 years, The Actors Training Center (ATC) has become a nationally recognized acting school that Agents, Casting Directors, and Producers have come to rely on and a place that parents trust. Young actors thrive at ATC because they know they are in a safe place to explore who they are and are encouraged to use their special uniqueness in their work.

We make a habit of revisiting our class offerings every session and brainstorming on new and exciting ways to support our student's learning journey in an ever-changing industry.

# *Scholarships*

## **No student is turned away**

The Actors Training Center is an Illinois not-for-profit 501c3 corporation that has never turned a student away, no matter their race, gender, ethnicity, sexual identity, demographic or socioeconomic position. Our scholarships provide access to artistic journeys with awards of \$10k-\$12k given annually to students in need.

# *Outreach*

## **We got serious about Outreach this year**

It has been a dream of founder Carole Dibo to offer the unique and carefully crafted programs that ATC offers to young artists who dream of a career in the arts but can least afford it.



## Summer in the City

This summer, we hosted 8 Chicago teens for our inaugural **Summer in the City** (SITC) program. SITC was completely funded by ATC's generous donors. The students spent two days at a rented studio space in Ravenswood learning on-camera skills, acting technique and improv and had professional actor headshots taken. On day three, they had lunch at the infamous Petterinos and then headed over to the Goodman Theatre to see a matinee of **Tommy the Musical**. After the show, our students were invited backstage for a talkback with Ali Louis Bourzgui, who played Tommy. The only criticism we heard was that the program wasn't long enough!

# Outreach

***Thank you** so much for visiting us for this one-of-a-kind workshop. The students learned so much and are already asking when you all can come back!*



## Embarc

Since 2021 ATC has been a proud partner of Embarc Chicago. By teaming up with Embarc Chicago, ATC is able to serve schools in economically disadvantaged communities by bringing over 165 students annually to our studios twice a month.

# Areas of study

The Actors Training Center has four areas of study.

## **Musical Theatre** – Storytelling through music and lyrics

Professional musical theatre classes are offered to all students from our youngest actors to graduating seniors. ATC fills the professional gap that school programs leave.

**Dance Styles** and **So You Think You Can't Dance** help actors who struggle with movement while **Acting The Song** teaches how to make lyrics tell the story.

Our winter and summer productions are thoughtfully chosen, with attention paid to theme, messaging, and skill building. Summer 2023 brings productions of **Pippin** and **Into the Woods Jr.**

Many ATC students find themselves on Chicago professional stages such as the Marriott Lincolnshire and Drury Lane. Our alum have graced Broadway stages as well.



## **Comedy and Improv** – We say “yes and...”

After taking a pandemic hiatus, we are thrilled to announce that our performing improv troupe, **No Explanation**, established in 2011, has returned! Improvisation teaches creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. Many of our past **No Explanation** cast members have gone on to study comedy and writing in college and are working in L.A. as scriptwriters and actors.

# Areas of study

## **On Camera Youth-Adult** – Our on-camera classes continue to be a cornerstone of ATC

From ages eight to 80, our students have a plethora of choices from one to two days workshops with Casting Directors, Agents, and Directors to 6-8 week classes for the novice or more advanced students with our team of working professional actors.

Our focus on reaching students 18+ has paid off. Each of our adult classes in the first and second quarter of 2023 reached our maximum of 12 students.

We had several guest artists teach on-camera classes in 2023. L.A. Casting Director Deborah Dion, Chicago Casting Director/PR Casting, AJ Links, NY Casting Director Julie Schubert, Laura Alexander of Chicago's Talent X Agency, and Jenny Wilson, youth agent at Stewart Talent.



## **Acting** – Doing the hard work

Teaching vulnerability and the confidence to be vulnerable is a challenging task for any acting instructor. It requires a patient mentor who can create a safe environment where students can believe in their own abilities.

We are delighted to share that several of our acting students have successfully booked professional jobs on popular shows like Chicago Med and Chicago PD, as well as in various commercials. Additionally, our students have been recognized for their talent on prestigious stages, such as The Goodman Theatre, Paramount, and Chicago Shakespeare. These opportunities often arise because the staff at ATC is frequently asked for actor recommendations, which is a testament to the quality of training our students receive.





# Our staff

All of our teachers and staff have extensive experience in the professional world, coming from various backgrounds such as acting, directing, agenting, casting, screenwriting, and producing. They have firsthand knowledge of what it's like to be on stage and screen. Their diverse experiences allow them to provide a comprehensive understanding of an actor's journey, which is often challenging but can also be fulfilling and rewarding when expectations align with the reality of the journey.



**Carole Dibo** (she/her)

Founder

Executive Director

Carole Dibo has been in “the business” for over 35 years and is the Founder & Executive Director of the Actors Training Center. After starting her career in the Washington D.C./Baltimore market as an actress, she moved to Chicago in 1985, where she worked extensively in the film, television, and industrial markets. Carole founded the Actors Training Center in 2007 in order to fill a need for young actors that wish to pursue acting as a career. Carole and ATC have a national reputation for bridging the gap between a young actor's needs and the industry's expectations. She is also the principal partner in Carole Dibo Talent Management, a boutique management company that develops and manages acting careers.



**Christina Ramirez** (she/her)  
Managing Director

Christina is a director and teaching artist as well as ATC's Managing Director. After earning her BFA in Musical Theatre from Webster Conservatory, Christina joined AEA and toured in the casts of *Henry and Mudge*, *Skippyjon Jones*, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (tour and off b'way.)

She holds a Masters in Theatre Directing from Roosevelt University CCPA. Christina has taught all over the country holding residencies with New York City Center, Artists Striving to End Poverty, and more. As a career and audition coach, Christina helps you create an actionable game plan to tackle your career goals and find creative solutions to advocate for yourself on and off stage.



**Michael McKeogh** (he/him)  
Outreach Coordinator

Michael (AEA) is a Chicago-based actor, teacher, and coach. In 2012, received his MFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University. Chicago acting credits include: Charles Wilcox in *Howard's End* (Remy Bumpo); Beau in *Southern Gothic* \*original cast (Windy City Playhouse); Moses in *Skin of our Teeth* (Remy Bumpo); Eddie in *Pocatello* (Griffin Theatre); Frankie Wild in *The White Road* (Irish Theatre of Chicago); Hamlet in *Hamlet* (Oak Park Festival Theatre); Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain in *The Killer Angels* (Lifeline Theatre); Dmitri in *Concerning Strange Devices* from the *Distant West* (TimeLine Theatre); Dr. Greenberg in *Freshly Fallen Snow* (Chicago Dramatists). In 2014, Michael co-hosted The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's holiday show *Welcome Yule!* Michael has been a teacher with ATC since 2015. He is honored and excited to be leading ATC's Outreach efforts.





**Lili Galluzzo** (she/her)  
Administrative Assistant

Lili is a rising senior at the Chicago College of Performing Arts and is excited to join the ATC team as Administrative Assistant. Lili is completing a BFA in Musical Theatre and will be starting a Master's in Arts Administration next year as well, and says she is learning every day from working with the staff and students of ATC!



**Adam Goldstein** (he/him)  
Musical Theatre Division Head

Adam Goldstein (Director) has a long history with ATC and is in his 12th year of service to the studio as an acting, musical theatre, and vocal technique instructor. He is an Assistant Professor of Theatre in the CMT department at Northeastern Illinois University, where he serves as Artistic Director of Stage Center Theatre. Additionally, Adam is one of Chicago's leading accents and dialects coaches with credits at Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakes, Court, Northlight, and many others. MFA- Directing, Northwestern, BFA-Acting from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.



### **Tim Soszko**

Improvisation Division Head

Tim Soszko has made a living in Chicago performing, teaching, writing, directing, and producing for over ten years. Tim has been with ATC for over ten years. He performs with the tim & micah project, Bri-Ko (an all-silent sketch comedy group), and The Deltones (a musical improv group). Tim has taught all sorts of classes with Second City, IO Chicago, Columbia College, Loyola University, and The Kemper Foundation, to name a few. He is also a voiceover artist, emcee, auctioneer, and producer of the Chicago Sketch Comedy Festival. Tim has been all over the United States, Canada, and Europe, speaking, teaching, and performing. He wrote and starred in a TV Pilot for his own sketch comedy show. Many people find Tim funny....his wife and children do not.



### **Carmella Riley**

TV/Film Division Head

Carmella Riley was born in Chicago, where she cut her teeth at the renowned Piven Theatre and the legendary Second City. Look for her in the upcoming Juneteenth comedy Block Party and on the new DreamWorks animated series Doug Unplugs. Recent TV credits include How to Get Away With Murder, Modern Family, Brooklyn 99, The Young and the Restless, and I Think You Should Leave by Tim Robinson. In Los Angeles, she has performed onstage at The Actor's Gang and has appeared in several dozen national commercials. She is a proud member of SAG/AFTRA and the Television Academy. Carmella has been privileged to work alongside Academy Award winners Viola Davis, Daniel Day Lewis, Robin Williams, Halle Berry and Winona Ryder.

## *Notable alumni*

Many of our students have achieved successful careers both on and off the stage and on screen. For instance, Broadway sensation **Phillipa Soo**, the talented **Rachel Brosnahan** from “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” and **Sophie Thatcher**, who portrays Natalie Scatorccio in “Yellowjackets,” all hail from ATC. Additionally, alum **Nathan Salstone** is currently captivating audiences on Broadway in “Sweeney Todd,” while **JJ Maley** has earned a Tony award for her exceptional producing skills. Furthermore, numerous graduates have found fulfilling roles as production assistants, casting directors, and producers. The possibilities are endless when someone with a passion is guided in the right direction.

## *Where we are going*

Since our humble beginnings in 2007, we have made remarkable progress. The students who initially joined us in that tiny studio have now graduated from college. Our current student base, consisting of 150 talented actors, is the result of 17 years of growth, learning, and celebrated achievements. The unexpected challenges posed by COVID-19 tested us in ways we couldn’t have anticipated, but we persevered and discovered hidden gems along the way.

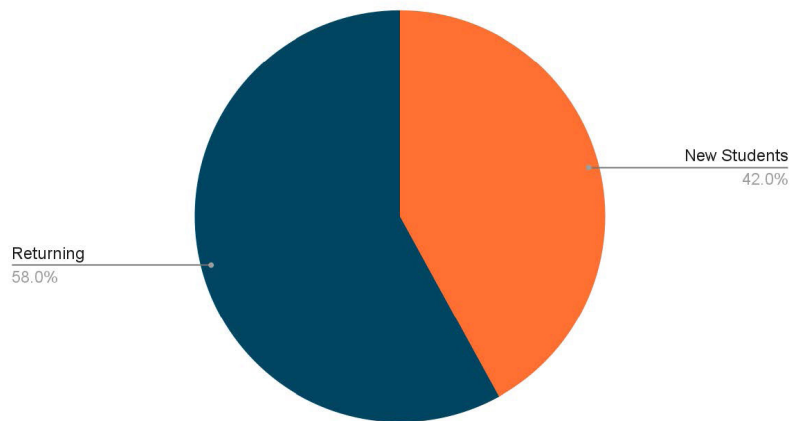
Looking ahead, our primary focus for the next 18 months will be to seed, establish and expand our Outreach Programming and staffing structure. We have developed a successful formula, and with the support of our families and generous donors, we aspire to extend our reach beyond the North Shore and surrounding suburbs, reaching out to our neighbors in the city.



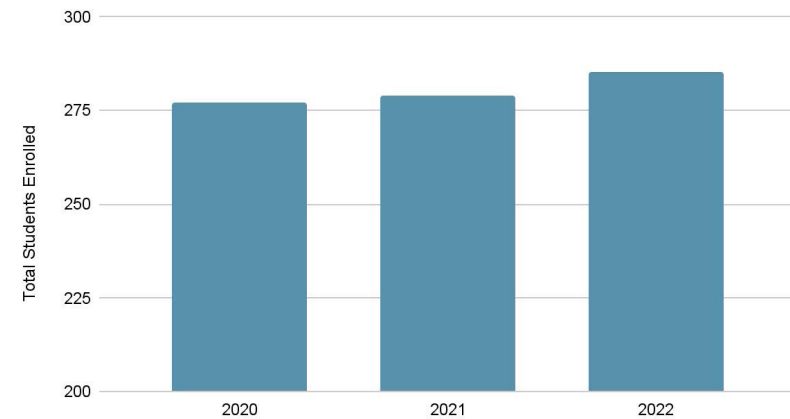
# Growth & still growing

We have included a series of charts to visually represent the significant achievements and impact of our organization. These charts are to highlight our accomplishments, demonstrate the effectiveness of our program, and help us understand how our families find us.

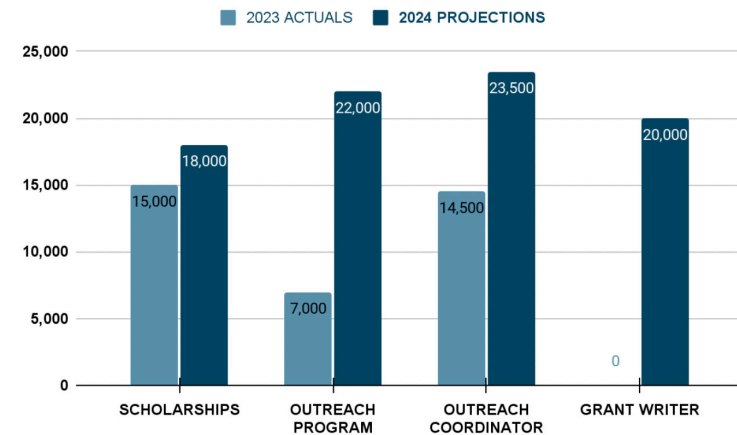
### New Vs. Returning Students



### ATC Annual Enrollment



### Current vs Projected Expenses



# *In conclusion*

**The Actors Training Center has successfully adapted to the changing times, embracing fast forward thinking,** modern communication methods such as social media and transitioning from traditional brochures to digital platforms. We have remained agile in the ever-evolving entertainment landscape, shifting from network TV to the era of binge-watching and streaming. Our training programs have evolved to encompass not only in-person audition skills but also the essential knowledge of creating competitive self-tape auditions.

Throughout these transformations, our unwavering focus has remained on our mission: to ignite a passion for the performing arts across all age groups and provide students with a platform to utilize their artistic talents for meaningful change in their communities and the world. We are committed to fostering inclusivity and diversity, welcoming individuals of all ethnicities, ages, genders, religions, sexual orientations, and economic backgrounds. By staying true to our mission, we continue to empower our students to make a positive impact through their artistry, regardless of the ever-changing landscape of the industry.