COMEDY. STORYTELLING. WRITING. FILMMAKING

Learn more today!
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secondcityfilmschool.com
The Second City Film School immerses students in a diverse, collaborative environment that encourages them to create their best work for television, film and the web. In our program, students are exposed to comedic literature and films, learn how to write, direct and produce films, and are introduced to and connected with industry experts, to learn how to best utilize the tools of improvisation to become better storytellers and collaborators.

Located in the heart of Old Town, Chicago - Film School students will have access to the studios, classrooms, screening rooms, and equipment located in the Second City Training Center. Students will graduate the program with a portfolio of work that includes, but is not limited to feature length and TV screenplays and short films, and the essential tools and on-going support required to get work in the industry.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**FALL 2022**
APPLICATION DUE DATE: Friday, June 24th, 2022  
FALL 2022 START DATE: Monday, August 29th, 2022

**WINTER 2023**
APPLICATION DUE DATE: Friday, November 4th, 2022  
WINTER 2023 START DATE: Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023
The class structure breakdown:

COMEDY THEORY (Improv + Analysis)
These courses lay the foundation for your creative process. Students are immersed in the methods of The Second City, learning how to use improvisation as a tool for collaboration and content generation. Students screen comedic works from various media and eras to better inform their work as comedic storytellers. Using that material and the art of improvisation, students cultivate their own comedic voices and points of view to make discoveries about their own work.

WRITING (Screenwriting + Storytelling)
The writing track teaches students how to mine their unique POV to create dynamic characters and stories. Inspired by The Second City tradition of agreement and building ideas together, students work in an ensemble to develop content that is reflective of the group mind, while also honing their individual comedic voices. And whether they’re creating in a writers’ room setting or on their own, SCFS students will be learning how to write stories that can be filmed. All students complete the program with a portfolio of written work including, but not limited to, a fully completed script.

FILMMAKING (Production + Directing)
Students make films both in the studio and in the field during their time at The Second City Film School. Here again, students will utilize improvisation as a crucial storytelling tool in everything from punching up dialogue on the fly to working off the page to get the performance they want. They will learn how a director prepares, how to work with actors, and how to collaborate with the various roles on a film set. These production classes will put into practice the lessons on collaboration and storytelling from the other areas. All students complete the program with a portfolio of filmed and edited work including, but not limited to, a festival-ready short film or web series pilot.

MASTER SEMINARS
Additionally, The Second City Film School hosts a series where working artists from the industry will lead discussions and hands-on workshops connecting students’ work in the program to the real world. The Second City has a wonderful extended family of successful comedy writers, directors, and producers who can speak to how The Second City method of improvisation has strengthened their work in many areas. They will also give students the inside scoop on working in the business.

There are two tracks available for The SCFS:
- **One Year Intensive** – six daytime classes per week, eighteen-hour a week course load.
- **Two Year Track** – three classes per week, nights and/or weekends, nine-hour a week course load. Hybrid and Virtual learning options are available for the two-year track.
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**HOW DO I APPLY**
- **Brief video Cover Letter under 5 mins.** - Show us who you are! What makes you you? Why do you want to go to film school?
- **Resume** - Give us some details about your work and creative experience. Are we looking for your entire work history? Probably not. But don’t hesitate to include that summer you spent working at Dairy Queen if it was the cornerstone of your comedic identity.
- **Photo** - A current photo of yourself. Doesn’t have to be a professional headshot but we would love to see your face.
- **Work Sample OR Essay** - Show us a little of your creative output. If you don’t have any, that’s okay! You can write us an essay that tells us about your creative process, your goals, and why you want to make people laugh through cinematic storytelling.
- **One Letter of Recommendation** - We don’t know you yet, so a single letter of recommendation from someone who does really helps us on the way.

**ARE BOTH THE 1-YEAR & 2-YEAR PROGRAMS GOING TO BE OFFERED VIRTUALLY?**
- The one year is fully in person*
- The 2 year part time program is in person but may include a hybrid component depending on both enrollment & desire.
- ***Everything is subject to change. For anything listed as in-person, that is our intent, but we must follow state/local guidelines for Covid regarding in-person vs. virtual for the safety of our staff and students.

**WILL THE SAME FACULTY BE TEACHING THE 2-YEAR PROGRAM AS THE 1-YEAR PROGRAM?**
We will have the same faculty pool for both programs. We can’t guarantee the exact same teacher teaching every single class all of the time. But, the level of teacher excellence and rigor is the same. The only thing different from the one year to two is format. We have created the two year program to accommodate folks who can’t make a one year full time commitment.

**WHY THE NAME CHANGE TO SECOND CITY FILM SCHOOL?**
The Harold Ramis Film School brand name was retired in Fall, 2021 and in its place The Second City Film School has been launched. Since The Second City is currently undertaking a transformation, this was the right time for this to happen. This decision is the culmination of years of conversations about how to best deliver film education at The Second City, and we fully believe that this is the best way forward to continue this unique and world-class program.

**WHAT ARE THE HOURS FOR NIGHTS AND WEEKENDS?**
Night classes typically run between the hours of 5:30 PM and 10:00 PM and weekend classes typically run in three hour blocks between 10 AM and 3 PM.

**HOW IS SCFS DIFFERENT?**
The biggest changes are in format, there are two tracks now that a potential student can take:
- **The yearlong filmmaker program** is essentially the same with some tweaks based on what we’ve learned over the last five years of running this program. (Fully in-person)
- **A new part-time program** that takes two years to complete and will be offered on nights and weekends. This is geared toward people with full-time jobs, families, or who have other considerations that would not allow them to participate in the full-time program. (Hybrid, only available for Winter Session.)
ARE PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE OR IS TUITION DUE UPFRONT?
Total Tuition: $17,500
- Upon acceptance, $2500 deposit is due
- Discounts: If a student pays up front in full, they will get a 10% discount on the tuition, so $1,750 off the total cost.
- The balance after the deposit is paid is divided into equal payments each session, payments to be completed by or before graduation.
- Paying in full: If a student does not pay up front in full, they pay per session. If you are not up to date at the end of each session you do not continue on in the program

DO YOU HAVE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?
The Stuart Cornfeld Scholarship is offered to second-session students and subject to availability. It is recommended that your application not be contingent on anticipation of receiving a scholarship. Students are required to accept the financial and time commitments to complete the program. While we are in negotiations with industry leaders, we currently have no additional scholarships. Work study is on hold at this time at the Second City.

IS THE PROGRAM A CALENDAR YEAR OR A SCHOOL YEAR?
Calendar year. The Students arriving for Fall Session Sept 2022 will be graduating early August 2023. The program is 11 months long and divided into 3 sessions.

WHAT IS YOUR ACCEPTANCE RATE?
It is hard to say because it is different every time depending on who / how many apply. Our cohorts are made of 12-18 people who we feel would be a great fit to collaborate together. The cohorts are built from applicants we feel have the maturity, passion, drive, and spirit of collaboration to bring to the group. We want the groups to be diverse and balance the group out which makes the group strong.

ARE STUDENTS MOSTLY LOCAL?
No! We have students who apply from all the states nationally and have had many international students accepted into the program over the years. Some of the countries represented have been Luxembourg, Toronto, India, Mexico, and Australia.

DO YOU PROVIDE ANY LEADS ON HOUSING FOR OUT OF STATE STUDENTS?
There is nothing formal in place, but once students are accepted into the program, we can connect them with other students in their cohort who will be seeking housing and roommates so they can coordinate if they wish.

DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR WORK STUDY PROGRAM WILL RETURN?
There are no work study programs being considered right now, but there are always part time jobs posted on The Second City website that students can apply to if they are seeking part time work while they study here.

EMAIL FILM@SECOND@SECONDCITY.COM
OR VISIT SECOND@CITY@FILM@SCHOOL.COM
TYPICAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

ONE YEAR TRACK

SESSION 1
- Film Lab 1
- Director at Work 1
- Comedic Literature
- Screenwriting 1
- Special Topics in Comedy
  - 6 weeks - Production Specialist
  - 2 weeks - Screenplay Formatting
  - 6 weeks - Episodic Narrative
- Improv for Filmmakers 1: Collaboration

SESSION 2
- Film Lab 2
- Director at Work 2
- Adaptation
- Screenwriting 2
- Special Topics in Comedy
  - 6 weeks - Producing
  - 2 weeks - Storyboarding and Visualizing
  - 6 weeks - Comedic Films
- Improv for Filmmakers 2: Creation

SESSION 3
- Making the Short Film
- Screenwriting 3
- Special Topics in Comedy
  - 5 weeks - The Working Screenwriter
  - 4 weeks - Stories with a POV
  - 5 weeks - Making a TV Show
- Improv for Filmmakers 3: Execution

TWO YEAR TRACK

SESSION 1.1
- Film Lab 1
- Special Topics in Comedy
  - 6 weeks - Production Supplemental
  - 2 weeks - Screenplay Formatting
  - 6 weeks - Episodic Narrative
- Improv for Filmmakers 1: Collaboration

SESSION 2.1
- Film Lab 2
- Special Topics in Comedy
  - 6 weeks - Producing
  - 2 weeks - Visualizing + Pitching
  - 6 weeks - Comedic Films
- Improv for Filmmakers 2: Creation

SESSION 2.2
- Director At Work 2
- Adaptation
- Screenwriting 2

SESSION 3.1
- Making the Short Film - Writing
- Special Topics in Comedy
  - 5 weeks - The Working Screenwriter
  - 4 weeks - Stories with POV
  - 5 weeks - Making a TV Show
- Improv for Filmmakers 3: Execution

SESSION 3.2
- Making the Short Film - Production
- Screenwriting 3