

DOBAMA EMERGING ACTORS PROGRAM



Introduction and History

A core tenet of Dobama's educational programming is the Dobama Emerging Actors Program (DEAP). The program is dedicated to the education and development of young actors who intend to pursue the art form professionally.

In July 2010, Dobama initiated DEAP, an auditioned, month-long intensive acting program for high school and college students featuring technique-based courses culminating in a workshop

production. The education model is that of a college conservatory curriculum. Guest artists and master teachers teach high-level courses, then students apply those skills in afternoon rehearsals for a heightened-text production.

DEAP began in order to give students in the Northeast Ohio area an opportunity to get serious, technique-based training to support a process-centered approach to acting. This instruction will help prepare young actors for collegiate acting programs or professional auditions, give students a broader perspective of what theatre is, and enrich their performance experiences by changing their approach to creating a character and building their own technique.

Past DEAP participants have gone on to perform on stages in the Cleveland area and beyond, including right here at Dobama, as well as attending some of the top theatre schools in the country. Several students have participated in the program more than once, focusing on a different set of skills each time.

Purpose and Curriculum

Acting is an art form. This fact is at the curricular center of DEAP. In all art forms, technique work is essential to give an artist the greatest ability to



communicate. The dancer builds strength and flexibility, the singer works on vocal support and resonance, and the painter perfects brush techniques and the creation of shape or color. But in today's culture, the vast majority of theatre experiences for the young actor place product over process; emphasize parts in plays over coursework in technique and training. DEAP is different. DEAP is a process-centered and technique-based program for serious young actors.

DEAP students work with faculty with both degrees from respected performing arts programs and extensive professional experience. These instructors specialize in the coursework they teach and have the singular focus of broadening each student's understanding of the art of acting. In recent years we've had faculty from Case Western Reserve University, Baldwin Wallace, and Cleveland Play House MFA program.

Examples of classwork for DEAP students include:

- Intro to Michael Chekhov technique
- Intro to Meisner technique
- Laban technique for the Actor
- Advanced Acting (Stanislavsky based)
- Movement for the Actor
- 4 part Vocal Technique
- Script Analysis
- International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
- Alexander Technique
- Audition Technique/College Audition Workshop
- Improvisation
- Business of the Business



Productions

Each DEAP class participates in an ensemble-based production of scenes from a heightened-text play directed by local professionals, giving them real-world application for their classwork. Past DEAP productions have included classics like *The Odyssey*, *Our Town* and *Spring Awakening*.

Productions are performed in blackbox style, so that by stripping away elaborate sets and

costumes, students and audience members are left to focus on the actors on the stage. Combined with the work done in class, and the discoveries made through exercises, these performances contain exciting moments of theatre and promote artistic growth for each actor.

Productions are centered on ensemble building, character development, storytelling and communication, as well as deeper understanding of text. Each piece is done in the beautiful and intimate Dobama Theatre and is free and open to the public.

Admission and Tuition

DEAP is an auditioned program. Instructions for how to submit a video audition, as well as the application form itself, are available on the DEAP page of Dobama's website.

Tuition for the program is \$1,200. This amount is all-inclusive and is usually divided into a \$500 down payment before the program begins, followed by a \$700 balance payment at the start of the program. Dobama is committed to removing barriers to entry, and **students' ability to pay full tuition will not impact admission decisions.**

Dobama is able to provide payment plans, reduced tuition and waived tuition for those who need it, meaning that all accepted students will be admitted to the program regardless of economic situation. Please contact us with any concerns about tuition, and we will work with you to devise a plan.



Notes for Accepted Students

DEAP is an intense program, so you will need to treat your bodies and voices with care throughout the duration of classes and rehearsals. This includes bringing water with you every day, packing a lunch that will keep you energized, stretching before movement and practicing healthy vocal technique (which you will learn as part of the program). Your safety is our top priority, and we ask that you be honest with teachers and directors about your health and your boundaries.



Contact

All contact and questions for DEAP, including application materials, should be directed to deap@dobama.org, where a member of Dobama staff will assist you. All applicants will receive notification of the status of their application, and we will contact you if we need any additional information.

We can also be reached at 216.932.6838, but please do not call the office with general inquiries about the program. Accepted students and parents of accepted students should utilize this number to communicate in case of emergency, health concerns or other extenuating circumstances like absences.