

# Master Class

*Delivered by experienced educators  
from top US Boarding Schools*

**Jun - Aug 2022**  
**For Grades 8-10**

The subject-based master classes are delivered by experienced educators from varied backgrounds, including Chairs of English and Theatre Departments at some of the most prestigious boarding schools in America, to university professors and accomplished professionals worldwide in their area of expertise. The tutelage and pedagogy of experienced master teachers in their fields provide highly motivation ARCH students with the opportunities to explore areas of study not readily available in Hong Kong.



**Introduction to**  
**Critical Reading and Writing**



**Great American Playwrights:**  
**Literature and Drama Studies**



**Drama Studies:**  
**Screen Acting**



**Confidently Comedic:**  
**Interview Prep Skills and Beyond  
Through Improv**

*Sign up now!*

# Master Teachers

## Mr. Stephen Farrell

Stephen was an English and Humanities Teacher at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut for 42 years. In his time at Choate, he served in many positions such as the Chair of the English Department, Assistant Headmaster, Dean of Faculty, Dean of Students and Dean of Academic Affairs. Stephen graduated from Wesleyan University with both his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He is the recipient of the Johannes Van Straalen Award (2012) which recognizes the special character of the individual's devotion to students and the excellence of his/her contributions through the many roles played by a faculty member over the span of a long and eminent Choate career. The National Football League Nominee Teacher of the Year in 1997, Mr. Farrell has presented at to many independent school conferences and publications.



## Mr. Paul Tines

Paul J. Tines has an M.A. from Johns Hopkins University, a Certificate of Advanced Studies from Wesleyan University. In addition, he has studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and the Royal Academy. He has a wealth of experience in the arts and has served as Assistant Head of School for Advancement and Dean of the Arts at The Marvelwood School in Connecticut, as well as the head of the Choate Rosemary Hall Arts Department, and was the founder of their ARTS Concentration program among many other roles. In addition, Paul was the Executive Director of Broadway Asia Entertainment, establishing musical theater academies in China and South Korea, and has created arts curricula for the Edison Project in New York City.



## Mr. Ben Morgan



Ben is a dynamic English and Spanish teacher at Suffield Academy, a prestigious US Boarding School located in Suffield, Connecticut. He holds two master's degrees, one in English from Middlebury College and the other in Curriculum & Instruction from the University of St. Joseph. After college, he spent two years in Spain working as an ESL tutor and teacher's assistant at I.E.S. Joaquin Rodrigo, a public high school located just outside of Madrid. Ben worked in Suffield Academy's Office of Academic Support and later was the Associate Dean of Academics & Faculty for three years at Suffield. Ben was selected to be the coordinator of the Suffield Academy's NEASC self-study for school improvement and accreditation process from 2019 to 2021. Currently Ben serves on the school's discipline committee, is the faculty advisor for the multicultural association on campus, coaches squash and lacrosse, and teaches sections of English III and AP Language and Composition.





# Introduction to Critical Reading and Writing

Master teacher: Mr. Stephen Farrell

## Session 1

In this short course, meeting 3 times per week for 2 weeks, we will focus on learning to read literature critically and to write critical essays, skills that are essential for students considering studying in the United States. Using **American short stories**, we will develop our skills **interpreting literature** and learning to see the **multiple levels of well written works**.

A commitment to improving one's reading and writing skills is essential to fully benefit from this course. Students will be required to always have their cameras on and to participate in class every day.

Date:	June 20, 22, 23, 27, 29, 30 (6 sessions)
Time:	8:00pm - 10:00pm HKT
Fee:	HK\$11,400
Eligibility:	Students who completed Grades 8 -10 (7th Grade with permission)

## Session 2

In this short course, meeting 3 times per week for 2 weeks, we will focus on learning to read literature critically and to write critical essays. Using American short stories and a well-known **Arthur Miller play**, we will develop our skills **interpreting literature** and learning to see the **multiple levels of well written works**.

A commitment to improving one's reading and writing skills is essential to fully benefit from this course. Students will be required to always have their cameras on and to participate in class every day. **Enrollment is not contingent on completion of Session 1. Session 2 uses new reading materials.**

Date:	July 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21 (6 sessions)
Time:	8:00pm - 10:00pm HKT
Fee:	HK\$11,400
Eligibility:	Students who completed Grades 8 -10 (7th Grade with permission)



Students will also be introduced to the basics of critical writing:

- how to introduce a topic;
- how to develop a clear and comprehensive thesis that will shape the body paragraphs;
- how to prove one's thesis in the body paragraphs with strong topic sentences and appropriate textual evidence;
- and how to write a conclusion that does more than repeat the thesis.



# Great American Playwrights: Literature & Drama Studies

Master teacher: Mr. Paul Tines

Students are introduced to the American canon of playwrights. The playwrights studied have significantly contributed to the culture of the American theater through their depictions of the American Dream, shaping the American theater as we know it today. The class will find connections between the playwrights, discuss cultural issues, and identify recurring themes and metaphors in American drama. Starting with *Our Town* and concluding with *The Laramie Project*, students will read, discuss themes, analyze, and study the politics and arts of each period.

Students will explore and consider: What is the role of the playwright in society? What are the artistic goals of the playwright? How are the goals of the playwright similar to other writers? How do playwrights use dialogue, action, and situation? How does the playwright keep the audience engaged? The play is a unique writing form. How does the playwright work? How does the playwright use dialogue in revealing information about the characters?

This is not a lecture class, but rather an engagement with the mind of each individual student – active participation is expected. To be successful in navigating the course, students will have to read each play before class. Students will share their writing assignments and exercises, such as creating new scenes and monologues for the plays studied, reading scenes aloud, and researching the politics and art forms of each period. Discussion questions will be provided before each class.

For students considering American boarding schools, the plays studied in this course will figure prominently in English, art, and theater courses in these schools. This course will help strengthen and support further study in boarding schools.



## Examples of Plays:

- *Ah, Wilderness* by Eugene O'Neill
- *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder
- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams
- *The Children's Hour* by Lillian Hellman
- *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- *Three Tall Women* by Edward Albee
- *Fences* by August Wilson
- *The Laramie Project* by Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project

Date:	July 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16 (6 sessions)
Time:	8:00pm - 10:00pm HKT
Fee:	HK\$11,400
Eligibility:	Students who completed Grades 8 -10 (7th Grade with permission)



# Drama Studies: Screen Acting

Master teacher: Mr. Paul Tines

Students interested in acting who want to further mature and develop their skills will benefit from this course. The emphasis is on scene work, character analysis, voice and movement, as well as the introduction of classical and contemporary plays. Students will work on duo scenes with presentations, investigating the Stanislavsky, Adler, and Meisner acting techniques. Students will also explore an awareness and control of their emotions as they create characters in scenes from Brighton Beach Memoirs, Our Town, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Rabbit Hole. Evaluation is based on class participation, performance, and fulfillment of assignments. The final class culminates with showcasing scenes for parents, friends, and ARCH. Students will be expected to rehearse assigned scenes outside of class with their scene partners.

The actress Meryl Streep once said, "Acting is not about being someone different. It's finding the similarity in what is apparently different, then finding myself in there." Acting for both the stage and the screen can be rewarding. With practice and patience, actors can easily switch between the techniques required from each environment.



## What are the benefits of acting?

- Acting supports success in school by developing reading and listening skills along with improved memorization and focus.
- Acting supports success in the workplace with teamwork, presentation skills, work ethics, self-discipline, and the ability to work under pressure.
- Acting supports high-level communication with speech, public speaking, communication skills, and improved body language.
- Acting supports a happier social life with confidence, friendship, poise, improved social skills, and appreciation for art and culture.

Date:	July 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 29 (6 sessions)
Time:	8:00pm - 10:00pm HKT
Fee:	HK\$11,400
Eligibility:	Students who completed Grades 8 -10 (7th Grade with permission)





# *Confidently Comedic:* Interview Prep Skills and Beyond Through Improv

Master teacher: Mr. Ben Morgan

Did you know that improv comedy has been shown to reduce anxiety and can increase confidence and presence?

In this course, students will learn the basics of improv comedy to unleash their confidence on boarding school interviews and in social settings. In the first two sessions of the course, students will learn improv fundamentals while participating in a variety of improv exercises to help them tap into their performance abilities. We will reflect on takeaways after each exercise to draw out these important skills. In the final session, we will take those skills and apply them directly to how to interview with more poise and spirit for boarding schools.

Students will grow in their interpersonal presence in a way that will benefit them beyond the interview process as well, for when they arrive at school. In addition to students who are considering applying to boarding school, this is a great course for students that are still finding their footing socially after all disruptions of the pandemic over the last two years.



## Students will learn how to...

- The basics of improv comedy to unleash their confidence on boarding school interviews and in social settings
- Tell their story like an expert
- Support their partners ideas
- Use body language to impress an audience

Date:	July 30, August 6, August 13 (3 sessions)
Time:	8:00pm - 10:00pm HKT
Fee:	HK\$5,700
Eligibility:	Students who completed Grades 6 -10

