

UPSTART is starting up again in Calgary!

Upstart is an Alberta based film and television talent development program presented by AMPIA, and Jonathan Joffe Pictures, and coordinated by Calgary Actor Karen Ryan. The program brings together local actors, writers, and directors to perform simple scene studies for the camera which are shot and edited for the review of everyone involved.

Now in it's 8th term in Calgary and it's 5th term in Edmonton, over 120 Upstart participants have performed in over 75 scenes which have been shot and edited for the review of everyone involved.

Calgary's sessions will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30 – 10:00 pm at SAIT, room MD 212 beginning Monday September 28th. Cost of the program is \$190, reduced to \$140 for members of ACTRA, AMPIA, or WIFTA.

The program will run for 8 weeks. Auditions for new participants will be held on Monday September 21st from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at SAIT to ensure each group has a healthy mix of participants of all levels of experience. In the following 8 sessions, the group will shoot 16 scene studies, rotating the participants through a variety of actor/director/writer combinations. Actors are encouraged to audition with a prepared 2 person scene (reader provided at the audition), while writers and directors are encouraged to bring samples of their work.

Participation is open to any Alberta based writers, actors, and directors who have some basic experience in their field. So don't let your skills get rusty waiting for the phone to ring, get involved with *Upstart* and give your talent the regular workout you deserve.

To schedule an audition time, email *Upstart* Coordinator Karen Ryan at: calgaryupstart@gmail.com

Registration forms will be available upon acceptance into Upstart.

For a map of SAIT, please go to: <http://sait.ca/pages/about/campuses/maincampus/index.shtml>

Upstart F.A.Q.

What is Upstart?

Upstart is a program which provides Alberta film talent (actors, writers, and directors) an ongoing, affordable place to practice. The program consists of 8 weeks of scene studies, which are performed for the camera, and edited together for review of the participants.

Who is Upstart for?

Upstart is for Alberta film and television actors, directors, and writers of all levels, who want to practice their skills. Participants are expected to have some basic experience in their field. This could be training through an accredited program, or completed work in a particular field, like writing or directing a short / independent / student film, or theatre project.

How are participants chosen?

Participants are chosen through an audition. The purpose of the audition is to ensure a healthy mix of male & female, young & old, and both new & experienced talent. The purpose of the audition **is not** to exclude less experienced talent. Space in the program is limited to ensure everyone gets ample hands on practice, so not everyone who auditions will be chosen. However, participants not chosen for the next session will be given preference for participation in upcoming Upstart sessions.

What happens with the edited scene studies?

The edited scene studies are for the training purposes of the participants only. They are not for sale or distribution of any kind. Participants will receive a DVD of all the completed scenes at the end of the workshop for the personal use of the participants involved. These DVDs cannot be broadcast or distributed or posted on the internet. This program is approved by ACTRA, and ACTRA members are encouraged to join.

When and Where is Upstart Held?

Upstart will be running for 8 consecutive Monday evenings from 6:30 – 10:00 pm beginning Monday, September 28th. It will take place at SAIT in room MD 212.

For a map go to:

<http://sait.ca/pages/about/campuses/maincampus/index.shtml>

What kind of scene studies will we do?

The scenes performed in Upstart are simple, short dialogue based scenes from all genres of film and television. Past scripts include scenes from *Crash*, *Erin Brockovich*, *Four Rooms*, *Legally Blonde*, *Sex and the City*, *Something's Gotta Give*, *Stir of Echoes*, and many others. The scenes may also be from original screenplays, depending on what is submitted. **Participants will be asked to bring 1 scene to add to our current script base.** Whether or not the scenes are used will be subject to the approval of the Upstart coordinator. Because of the format of the program, scenes should be roughly 2 –5 pages long (standard format), and have significant roles for 4 to 6 actors. Scenes may contain profanity

and violent or offensive conversation, however scenes involving stunts, kissing, or sexual contact are not appropriate for the program.

I am a writer, can I workshop my material?

We encourage writers to submit scenes which are appropriate for the format of the program. These would be dialogue based scenes of roughly 2 –5 pages in length with significant roles for 3 or more actors. Use of submitted scenes is subject to the approval of the Upstart coordinator. Scenes involving stunts or sexual contact are not appropriate of Upstart. Those submitting scenes to Upstart should be prepared to get constructive feedback from the program participants. The program is not intended to produce a finished product for any kind of distribution. The purpose is only to demonstrate how the director and actors interpret the screenplay they are given.

Who runs Upstart?

Upstart Calgary is being run by AMPIA and Jonathan Joffe Pictures, with the support of SAIT. Sessions are coordinated by Alberta actor Karen Ryan.

How much does Upstart cost?

It costs \$190 plus GST to participate in Upstart, however AMPIA, ACTRA, and WIFTA Members can participate for a reduced fee of \$140 plus GST. The fee covers all eight sessions following the audition. The audition itself is free. Participants can join AMPIA at the first session as an individual craftsperson for \$99 and receive the \$50 reduction on their registration.

How can I pay?

Full payment is to be made at the beginning of the first session (Monday, September 28th). Payment can be made by cash, Visa, Mastercard, or cheque (payable to AMPIA). Receipts will be issued at time of payment.

Why should I join Upstart?

Upstart provides ongoing hands on practice for actors, writers and directors. Aside from the ability to practice your craft, it is an excellent opportunity to network with other local actors, writers, and directors of various levels of experience. High profile guests may also be brought in to work with Upstart participants.