

NMCA, Inc.

National Michael Chekhov Association



Certified Teacher Program
(CTP)

Certified Teacher Program (CTP)

Welcome to the longest-running Michael Chekhov Technique Certified Teacher Program. When you apply and are accepted into this program, you will immerse yourself in the acting and directing techniques taught by Michael Chekhov through his lifetime, the training techniques he developed with his students and the Master trainers he taught, and the vast training experience of Lisa Dalton and Wil Kilroy, who, together with Mala Powers, formed the National Michael Chekhov Association.

Mala Powers was a dear friend of Mr. Chekhov, as well as Executrix of the Chekhov estate and one of the last students of Michael Chekhov who went on to teach. Her contribution to the cannon of Chekhov knowledge includes “The Chart for Inspired Acting” found in *On the Technique of Acting*, which provides the distinct and final summary of his work and the basis for the NMCA's unique paradigm of dissemination.

Through the course of this program, from the trainings you take, the studies you make, and the trainings you give, you will become well versed in the techniques unique to Michael Chekhov and to the NMCA's brand of pedagogy. When your Bio lists yourself as a National Michael Chekhov Association Certified Teacher, it means we fully believe you are adept with radiating your knowledge and experience to the world. This knowledge includes many practical and contemporary teaching and directing tools specifically developed for this program over twenty years, not found in any other program. Your certification is truly earned by your demonstration of your understanding and ability to use the NMCA specific approach. It is much more than a certificate of completion. It also means we believe in your ability to continue to grow and transform the work in alignment with NMCA values. Read more about our Mission following the program details.

Certified Teacher Program (CTP) Overview

To begin the Certified Teacher Program, you must:

- Hold a bachelor's degree, or professional equivalency as determined by the faculty;
- Read and acknowledge your understanding of the NMCA CTP requirements;
- Submit a detailed Letter of Intent (LOI) for pursuing certification;
- Be accepted as a Certified Teacher Candidate by NMCA, Inc.;
- Enroll in a Chekhov Training Intensive as a confirmation of your willingness to meet NMCA CTP requirements.

To complete the Certified Teacher Program, you must:

- Attend a minimum of 2 Chekhov Training Intensives (CTI) (1-Week each);
- Complete and present an approved thesis project;
- Meet above requirements within three years of attending your first NMCA CTI;
- Complete any additions requested by NMCA faculty, based on your thesis evaluation, within an agreed-upon extended time frame.

Issuance of a certificate is not guaranteed by completion of technical requirements alone. The Candidate will be evaluated by the faculty to meet the NMCA goals of a Certified Teacher who is:

- Committed to Chekhov's attitude of prioritizing the cultivation of healthier and happier human beings;
- Able to effectively disseminate the specific tools and theories presented to colleagues, including the ability to place Mr. Chekhov's life, influences and work into the greater context of performance training techniques;
- Able to organize, produce, direct and manage classes and productions while applying Michael Chekhov based principles using clear, concise, commanding and compassionate communication;
- Meaningfully striving to embody the Four Brothers of Art as a living role model for colleagues (in-effect, walking our talk!)

CTP DETAILED DESCRIPTION

STEP 1: LETTER OF INTENT

A Letter of Intent should be submitted to National Michael Chekhov Association Faculty prior to or soon after registering, and prior to arriving, for your 1st Intensive. The Letter should describe what draws you to seek a certification in the program. How do you see yourself bringing this work into the world? Sharing your previous experience with Michael Chekhov training in detail, as well as an overview of other techniques you currently use, teach or have in your pocket, will help the Faculty know what you bring to the experience. Please state that you have read the NMCA CTC Program Requirements and intend to pursue fulfillment of them to the best of your ability. Include resumes for acting, teaching, directing, a headshot, and relevant curriculum vitae.

After review of your submitted materials, and any further information as requested, you will be welcomed into our program with the right and privilege of presenting yourself verbally and in writing as a National Michael Chekhov Association Certified Teacher Candidate.

STEP 2: NMCA CHEKHOV TRAINING INTENSIVE (CTI) 1 Week

A Certified Teacher Candidate (CTC) must participate in a minimum of **TWO** NMCA CTI'S, practicing, mentoring students, and performing in the public presentations at the end of the Intensive week. In addition, each candidate performs a set of CTC challenges, as described below.

- **Daily Log**

A CTC keeps a daily log during the CTI that outlines techniques introduced each day and any reactions. A copy of this will be submitted to the Faculty within 10-days of the end of the course. Hand-written copies of the logs kept during the Intensive are acceptable for this requirement. Photocopies must be legible and submitted in triplicate. Electronic copies are encouraged. The log will be reviewed by at least one faculty member with the aim to ensure the candidate is grasping the work as intended. You will have confirmation that your materials have been received. However, feedback may occur only if clarification of the material is indicated. In essence, for this submission, know that you were 100 % successful in this task unless otherwise notified.

- **CTC Monologue**

A CTC performs a classical monologue, from a published script, employing techniques learned during the Intensive. Why classical? For each Training Intensive, the NMCA selects a contemporary play for analysis and scene study. Therefore, the NMCA is interested in the opportunity for our CTC's to apply the tools to stylized material. Upon learning the techniques, you will self-direct your monologue creating two completely different interpretations, notating your choices and submitting three identical copies of your 2 scores to the faculty before your monologue presentation. Breathe easily-your course includes further instruction to complete this process during your CTI. To facilitate this exercise, please bring multiple copies of your monologue. Have a new 2-3 minute monologue fully memorized but undeveloped prior to arrival. Plan to explore it as a means to develop your facility with the tools rather than for the "one best/right way to do it."

- **Script Analysis**

Second year CTC's will submit a complete script analysis, using the structure of the NMCA Analysis to Synthesis (identifying the theme, idea, 9 events, and score the atmospheres, etc.) of the script used for that year's Intensive. This material is covered in Chapter 8 of *To The Actor* and Chapter 8 of *On The Technique of Acting* as well as in your *NMCA Workbook*. As a first year CTC's, you are invited to learn these techniques before hand, by reading these books, request, in advance, a handout and attempt your own analysis. The NMCA approach of Script Analysis to Synthesis is one of our most proprietary gifts the director can learn and we feel very strongly about you understanding it so that you can both use it and teach it well in your future.

- **Lesson Plan**

During the CTI, you will be given Michael Chekhov technique to teach. You will prepare a one-hour lesson plan that gives an overview of a Michael Chekhov technique or certain aspects of it and submit it to the NMCA Faculty prior to using that lesson plan to teach. A portion of that lesson plan will be delivered to the Intensive students on the last day of the CTI. You, the Faculty, and, time permitting, your peers will provide feedback.

- **Final Intensive Report**

At the conclusion of each CTI, within 10-days of completion, you submit a 5-7 page, typed, double-spaced, standard-font essay paper summarizing the techniques learned during that CTI, sharing your reactions to the techniques and the presentations, and proposing or updating your plans for utilizing the techniques in future acting, directing or teaching projects. This is the ideal opportunity to share any concerns, questions, confusion, what you need more of and how we can best support you toward fulfillment of your certification. Hard copies may be submitted in triplicate to the NMCA or electronically. Each faculty member will review this material, your lesson plan, Analysis to Synthesis, Monologue and any other relevant material, confer together, and one will respond to you directly. Please allow 60 days for response.

STEP 3: BETWEEN TRAINING INTENSIVES

During the interim between Intensives and the completion of the Thesis Project, the Faculty encourages as much teaching, acting, and directing as possible, of course using the techniques more often, more powerfully and more comfortably all the time. Maintain contact with the Faculty to update progress and ask questions that arise. There is an extensive amount of reading and research that can be done to complement training, available in a bibliography of suggested research from the Faculty.

At least once every Four months, post or email an update on your Chekhov activities to share with your colleagues and us. Please BLOG and ask questions on the NMCA Face Book site at any time.

We encourage you to immediately add to all of your promotional and biographical material that you are a **National Michael Chekhov Association Certified Teacher Candidate**.

If your Self-Evaluative Fly-Backs of your teaching, directing and acting with the techniques, indicate a gap in your training, let the faculty know as soon as possible, before the next workshop so those things can be clarified immediately and during the next Intensive. After all, if one CTC has missed important points, others may have missed them too.

STEP 4: THESIS PROJECT

The thesis project is designed to demonstrate that a candidate has a thorough knowledge of the technique and is effective in communicating the inspiring tools to actors, utilizing them as directors and personally, as actors. The NMCA places a high value on working with people to cultivate *better human beings* through positive reinforcement and accurate self-evaluation.

The project is most often done during a training class or theater production the CTC is part of, or a combination of the two. However, any relevant project that demonstrates the application of knowledge to practical teaching situations relevant to your Letter of Intent may be approved.

Projects must be pre-approved by the Faculty, by personally discussing it with one of the Faculty members and submitting in writing, prior to beginning project work. This should occur, after the 1st or 2nd Chekhov Training Intensive, and as soon as your ideas become clear. We highly encourage you to update us on your progress during your project to help ease any challenges as they arise.

Please attain all necessary recording permissions and privacy rights in relation to your participants and location/institutions. While not at all required, if you can secure releases from your location/institution and participants, we may have the opportunity with your permission to make your presentation available for online viewing.

Upon completion of the project, and within 3 years of attending your first CTI, you request a presentation time at an upcoming CTI.

You then submit a portfolio documenting the project, which must include, and is not limited to, daily journal entries for the duration of the project, process and progress outlines, a 5-page summary of the insights gained as a result of doing the project, and a short video documentary of the project. All documentation must be presented in triplicate since each of your three copies of your materials will go to a different location for evaluation. Electronic formats are encouraged. You are welcome to submit hard copies of materials prior to your live presentation.

The project video and explanation will be delivered in person in a 30-minute presentation to the Faculty, on the last day of a CTI after completing the project. Further details on the form and content of the video/presentation follow. If the project is completed after participating in two CTI's, you (although always encouraged) are not required to participate for the full week of a 3rd Intensive, and may attend only the last day to do the final presentation. You will have 15 minutes additional time to respond to questions and feedback from faculty and colleagues.

A thesis evaluation fee is due with submission of the Thesis Project. We will be reviewing your thesis project very carefully, discussing it in depth and specifically with your on-going intentions held in our hearts and minds. We know you will be investing many hours and resources into this process and will grow greatly through it. Please allow 90 days for us to review your project. Evaluations may result in requests for further activity to satisfactorily complete the NMCA Certification. Based on the extent of the request, your time frame maybe extended.

Above all, Teacher Candidates should choose and manage their projects so that maximum P-L-A-Y is experienced by all participants. Remember: *If it isn't fun, it isn't Chekhov.*

NMCA Faculty will mentor on an as available basis. However, fee-based in-depth personal mentoring is available live, video chat or online.

All material submissions to meet NMCA TCP requirements are considered property of the NMCA, Inc.

The NMCA grants Candidates/Certified Teachers, who attained participant and host institute permissions, the right to utilize submitted materials for promotional purposes with appropriate NMCA, Inc. credits.

NMCA wants Certified Teachers to radiate the work powerfully into the world and will support that effort in any way possible. So CTC's may include in their final presentation what support they will continue to need in order to reach their goals. This information will help the Faculty know how to empower all the Certified Teachers.

Suggested Final documentation describing project

For training program, workshop, or class:

- Paper outlining Goals of the project
- Statement of Permissions: Please state clearly whether materials maybe be shared only within the NMCA Teacher Training Program, within the larger NMCA body, or public, such as Youtube or Facebook. As applicable, include legible copies of releases from the location and participants.
- Interviews with participants prior to starting the project-what do they know/think about Michael Chekhov, concerns, etc.?
- Journal maintained throughout the project
- Self assessment- *Spy-back / Fly-back* of the whole project
- Syllabus
- Grading Rubric
- Samples of student's written assignments such as sketches of Imaginary Bodies, samples of script analysis, character studies, samples of performance programs, etc.
- Feedback from students, fellow faculty, audiences

For theater production:

- Similar items as for a class outlined above
- Copy of the script with notations
- Graph of the composition of the play and full NMCA Analysis (idea, theme, atm score, metaphors, images etc.- if time permits, your analysis can be reviewed by NMCA faculty prior to or while in rehearsal to give feedback)

- Rehearsal schedule
- Rehearsal journal revealing active use of the tools
- Reviews or audience responses
- Theater Program from show
- Costume, light, set, PR designs revealing use of the tools for artistic unity/psychology of the stage, etc. (if actual application of techniques to the technical aspects is unrealistic, please share your “imagined possibilities” to demonstrate your understanding of the potential in an ideal circumstance.
- Fly-back by the cast and CTC.

Video Compilation (for Class or Production):

- Class or rehearsal segments
- Interviews with students or cast - before, during, and afterwards
- Clips of performances demonstrating the work in-action compared with a rehearsal segment
- The suggested video length is approximately 18 minutes of compilation for your live presentation. This will allow you about 12 minutes of Introduction, Self-Assessment and Conclusion. If you have one long video and wish to skip to sections during your presentation, we suggest arriving prepared with accurate time codes.
- Please bring three copies of the video material burned on a **standard DVD** that will play on a standard DVD player. You may also upload it to a cloud, have it on flash drive, etc. The NMCA has an agreement with our host that a Standard DVD and Monitor will be available. The NMCA does not guarantee that the CTI host facility will have the more advanced means of viewing. You are encouraged to check the playability of your materials at the host facility prior to your presentation so that your presentation time is advantageously utilized.
- Additional video footage of whole performance, interviews, etc. is encouraged and will be viewed by faculty before or after the public presentation.

We would love for you to include information that reveals your personal growth and the students or cast, including stumbling blocks to completing the project and how they were addressed demonstrating the NMCA recommended tools. This is important to show how you overcome the natural obstacles that impede our goals.

Step 5. Post-Thesis Submission

Your NMCA faculty will diligently review all of your submitted materials as previously stated. In the interim, please continue to present yourself as a National Michael Chekhov Association Certified Teacher Candidate until otherwise notified.

Upon completion of your review, you will be notified with requests for further activity or that you have met all of our goals. Upon meeting all of our goals, you will immediately be granted the credential of a National Michael Chekhov Association Certified Teacher with all rights and privileges thereof. Your actual formal presentation of your framed certificate may be scheduled for a special event, such as at the opening or closing of a CTI, as is mutually arranged. This moment is very special to us. You will be among a very select group of artists in the world who have had the passion, creativity, opportunity and self-discipline to fully complete the NMCA Certified Teacher Program!

We encourage Certified Teachers to attend a CTI at any time and are developing an advanced intensive training. Your input on what you want to learn or practice more deeply or contribute will be our guide in crafting that curriculum.

Program Incompletion Policy

If you are unable to meet the timely requirements of the NMCA CTP, please notify us as soon as this becomes clear. On a case, by case basis, we may be able to review your circumstances and propose some suggestions.

If you do not wish to meet the requirements of the NMCA CTP, please submit a written request to withdraw. Upon written acceptance of your withdrawal, we encourage you to continue to list any NMCA training in your promotional material. However, please exclude your Certified Teacher Candidate status.

Mission of NMCA's Certified Teacher Training Program

The National Michael Chekhov Association seeks to cultivate teachers who integrate Michael Chekhov's powerful techniques into their own personality and style. Our goal is to carry the rich tradition and honored legacy of Michael Chekhov forward into the world of theater and beyond through one's unique creative individuality.

The NMCA faculty aims to be available throughout the process to support and cultivate completion of the Certification Program. Closer mentorship/coaching is available for additional fees.

The NMCA continues to offer support to Certified Teachers in their development after they receive the Certificate and we envision a worldwide network of NMCA Chekhov-centered resources and collegial exchange. We welcome the support of our Certified Teachers and Candidates, in promoting the NMCA programs, and cultivating a vast network of like-minded artists and educators.

As it is our mission to radiate all the benefits of the NMCA training philosophy to the world, we salute your intention to become part of this vision and thank you for stepping into this role of a lifetime.

Program Office Information

Printed and video materials can be mailed to NMCA offices at:

- NMCA, Inc. 6101 Iron Horse Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76148

Soft copy documents, preferably using Adobe PDF files and WMV, MP4, or AVI files for video, can be emailed to: Info@Chekhov.net. Materials may be FAX'd to (888) 790-7063.

Contact NMCA, Inc. Faculty and Administration at:

Faculty:

- Wil Kilroy 37 College Avenue, Gorham, ME 04038 **Email: kilroy@usm.maine.edu**
- Dept. of Theatre, University of Southern Maine **FAX At: to Wil Kilroy (207-780-5641)**
- Lisa Dalton 6101 Iron Horse Dr. Ft. Worth, TX 76148 **Email: chekhov@sbcglobal.net**

Administrator:

- Charlie Bowles 2607 Locksley Chase, Irving, TX 75061 **Email: cpbowles@verizon.net**

The Chekhov Check-Off

Keep up with your submissions by entering dates/checkmarks when you have submitted. Be sure to keep copies of your submissions in case they get lost. Use this checklist to both plan and keep up with your work effort and to notify the Faculty of your progress.

Before 1st Intensive Week

Start Date of 1st Intensive

1. Letter of Intention
2. Headshot
3. CV/BIO

1st Day of Intensive _____
When committed to CTP _____
When committed to CTP _____

During 1st Intensive Week

1. Monologue Scored Script
2. Scene Scored 2-Ways
3. Lesson Plan
4. Optional: Play Analysis

Before Monologue Night _____
Before Works-In-Progress _____
Teacher Day of Intensive _____
With Final Intensive Report _____

After 1st Intensive Week

1. Daily Log Journal #1
2. Final Intensive Report #1
3. Quarterly Update Messages

10-days after last day _____
10-days after last day _____
Email or Facebook _____

(Submit these quarterly between your 1st and 2nd Intensives. Note dates on back of this sheet.)

During 2nd Intensive Week

Start Date of 2nd Intensive

1. Monologue Scored Script
2. Scene Scored 2-Ways
3. Play Analysis
4. Lesson Plan

Before Monologue Night _____
Before Works-In-Progress _____
Prior to Analysis Discussion _____
Teacher Day of Intensive _____

After 2nd Intensive Week

1. Daily Log Journal #2
2. Final Intensive Report #2
3. Quarterly Update Messages

10-days after last day _____
10-days after last day _____
Email or Facebook _____

(Submit these quarterly as long as you are in the program. Note dates on back of this sheet.)

Final Project

1. Proposal for Final Project
2. Final Thesis
3. Project Audio/Video Materials
4. Preso to Final Teacher Day
5. Post-Thesis Submission

After 1st or 2nd Intensive _____
3 Years from 1st Start Date _____
3 Years from 1st Start Date _____
3 Years from 1st Start Date _____
If requested by Faculty _____

Based on this schedule, I believe that I have completed the requirements for the Chekhov Teacher Program and submit my request for your approval.

Signed _____

Date _____