



## THE ART & ALCHEMY OF STAGING

An online course in 9 Sessions

### HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS COURSE

You are about to go on a unique journey into the world of staging scenes for films and television. You will discover during this course that how a scene is staged (and then shot) will directly affect how we perceive and experience the scene. Some staging is bold even to the point of outrageous (watch *Moulin Rouge* by Baz Luhrmann or Alejandro Jodorowsky's *El Topo* or *The Dance of Reality*) and some is so subtle that you barely notice it. But all staging is affective, which means that how you stage the scene will affect how the scene is performed and how we perceive it.

We will be examining the work of six different directors (Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*), Woody Allen (*Midnight in Paris*), Jane Campion (*The Power of The Dog*), Danny Boyle, (Steve Jobs), Francis Ford Coppola (*The Godfather*) and Florian Zeller (*The Father*).

To get the most out of this journey I highly recommend you follow the steps below as you approach the work of each director.

1. Read the full script. (The scripts are provided for you as part of this course.)
2. You will be notified regarding which scenes we'll be exploring.
  - a. Read each scene carefully and thoroughly as if you were going to direct it.
  - b. As best as you can, figure out or design the location where the scene takes place.
  - c. Stage the scene using the techniques demonstrated for you in the two staging videos: "The Interview" and "The Elevator Scene."
  - d. Explore three (or more) ways of staging the scene that you feel bring out the best of the scene and enhance the work of the actors.

Now you are ready to watch the webinar replay where we examine the work of the director and how he or she approached the staging of the scenes.

NOTE: In the first three sessions (*American Beauty*, *Midnight in Paris* and *The Power of The Dog*) we will be looking at only one scene from the film. On the following films (*Steve Jobs*, *The Godfather* and *The Father*) we will be looking at 3-6 scenes in each film. I recommend that you do all the prep work (above) on all the scenes from the film before moving on to watch the webinar replay.

After you have completed your work on an individual film, I will present you with a series of questions and considerations about that film and the director's work.

Enjoy,