

MEDIA ARTS AT THE ACADEMY



Filming Reade Wildman's (17) "3 Vignettes"

The Academy Media Arts Department introduced the first comprehensive digital motion picture program for high school students in the United States, and continues to be at the forefront of teaching storytelling through film, animation, and creative writing.

The Media Arts curriculum includes courses in animation, poetry, fiction, screenwriting, and cinematography, as well as fictional, documentary, and experimental video. Above all, the Media Arts Department focuses on storytelling. The process-based program values workshop, a weekly critique session, and is designed to hone a student's voice and ideas—and their ability to communicate both to an audience.

Media Arts students participate in a Fall Showcase and Spring Festival (juried by professionals in filmmaking, animation, and writing). Media Arts seniors showcase work in a final show.

“ *You guys are ahead of the curve. I was in college before I knew the difference between linear and non-linear films. This is an exciting high school. When you study the arts, you study life.*”

- Roger Ebert, Film Critic

**The Chicago
Academy for the Arts**

chicagoacademyforthearts.org

312.421.0202

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Media Arts Department Curriculum

Media Arts Department students are immersed in 15-plus hours of training per week. Courses include:

- Film Aesthetics
- Video Production
- Screenwriting
- Fiction
- Creative Non-Fiction
- Poetry
- Animation Techniques
- Cinematography
- Photography

What can students expect from the Media Arts Department?

While students in the Media Arts Department usually focus on a specific discipline (film, animation, or creative writing), they all work together on idea development and critique. Filmmakers and animators benefit from studying the written form, and writers develop their work by exploring visual mediums.

Each winter, students submit their best work to a juried festival taking place at the Music Box Theatre in Lakeview, chaired by professionals in filmmaking, animation, and writing. The jury awards exemplary student pieces in editing, screenwriting, poetry, creative writing, and cinematography, plus an overall show winner.

At the end of each year, students meet privately with Media Arts faculty to evaluate their work. In these narrative evaluation sessions, students receive specific notes from faculty, perform self-evaluations, and lay foundational plans and priorities for the next school year. Seniors instead present their thesis during their Senior Showcase, which highlights a Media Arts student's growth during their Academy tenure.

Recent College Acceptances

Barnard College
California Institute of the Arts
Chapman University
Columbia College Chicago
Concordia University
Emory University
The University of Iowa
Johns Hopkins University
Loyola Marymount University
Pratt Institute
University of Southern California

