

# John Pallotta

Master On-Camera Acting Coach

646.619.7777 | [jp@johnpallotta.com](mailto:jp@johnpallotta.com) | Philadelphia, PA | [www.johnpallottastudio.com](http://www.johnpallottastudio.com) |  
LinkedIn: [/johnpallottastudio](https://www.linkedin.com/company/johnpallottastudio)

## Summary

---

40 years' experience as an acting coach and teacher, actor, playwright, director, and producer. Studied with Stella Adler, Uta Hagen, William Hickey, Sandy Dennis, and Austin Pendleton. Pedagogical approach is based on the conviction that the best teacher is experience. In intensives, classes, and workshops focused on doing and experiencing rather than lecturing and taking notes, students master techniques of on-camera acting, auditioning, breaking down a scene, and developing fully rounded characters, as well as fundamentals of acting as a business such as branding and marketing.

## Professional Training

---

### Acting

Lee Strasberg Institute	1977 – 1979
Stella Adler	1980
HB Studio	1980 – 2007
Teachers of note: Uta Hagen, Herbert Berghof, William Hickey, Michael Beckett, Carol Rosenfield, Sandy Dennis, Austin Pendleton	

### Theatre Arts

Queensborough Community College	1980
Queens College	1980 – 1983

## Honors and Awards

---

### BACKSTAGE Readers' Choice Awards Nominee (NYC)

Acting Teacher	2013
Audition Technique Teacher, On-Camera Teacher, Acting School/Coach, Voiceover Teacher, Improv Training Center, Monologue Coach, Best Intro to Acting Course	2014
On-Camera Acting Teacher	2015
Audition Technique Teacher, On-Camera Teacher, Kids' Acting Coach, Casting Director, Intro to Acting Course	2016

**ACTORRATED** Best Film Acting Teacher and School

2010 – 2015

**THUMBTRACK** Top-Ranked Acting Teacher

2018 – 2019

## Teaching Experience

---

### Classes at John Pallotta Studio

New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Fairfax, Roswell

**Weekly On-Set Film Lab** Students learn the skills to work on a film or TV set, gaining the practical knowledge of camera technique that is rarely covered in traditional acting classes, while building their reels with professionally shot and edited scenes

- *Set Essentials:* Camera terms; playing the lens; adjusting for shot size and angle; emotional and physical continuity; rehearsals; eye line; hitting marks; tempo; dynamics; off-camera acting; Steadicam vs dolly vs sticks; dialogue changes; lead vs supporting; approach; the edit; maintaining the arc in out-of-sequence shooting; multiple takes; making strong, imaginative acting choices; etc.
- *Set Etiquette:* Call times, working with the crew, set language, roles and relationships, emotional prep, taking notes, serving the story, etc.
- *Story Prep:* Discussing story, theme, conflict, character, arc, and approach in assigned scenes and preparing individual scene analyses
- *Shooting:* Blocking, working with multiple camera angles, lights, sound, marks, and props; on-camera business; exploring different camera scenarios and set surprises; students not in the scene serve as crew

**Audition Technique** Selecting and preparing monologues, cold reading drills, and “in the room” best practices

**Acting as a Business** Identifying and addressing strengths and opportunities in prior training and developing a strategic plan to get work, including how to approach agents, managers, and casting directors; analyzing breakdowns; acquiring headshots and creating a resume; knowing and working with one’s type; creating a reel; pros and cons of joining a union; branding; social media marketing; creating the actor’s website, etc.

### On-Site Workshops and Conservatories

#### Workshops

The Actors Studio PD Unit (New York NY)	2017, 2018
The Actors' Center (Washington DC)	2011 – 2014
Howard University (Washington DC)	2013
Alliance Theatre (Atlanta)	2014
Columbia College (Chicago)	2016
The Little Theatre (New Mexico)	2016, 2018
York Central (York PA)	2013

## Conservatories

SAG/AFTRA 2018 – 2019

## Online Master Classes

“Acting for the Camera with John Pallotta, Part 1” 2019  
[youtu.be/CYObA4Pl6R8](https://youtu.be/CYObA4Pl6R8)

“Acting for the Camera with John Pallotta, Part 2” 2019  
[youtu.be/qkVTDVW85Ik](https://youtu.be/qkVTDVW85Ik)

Character Works with John Pallotta (series) 2019  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWi37MYDGWnJI3XGDT\\_yIA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWi37MYDGWnJI3XGDT_yIA)

## Coaching Experience

---

### Special Projects Consultant

Trained and coached government and military personnel in developing and maintaining a character in preparation for assignment on classified, high-risk field operations

Past clients include the FBI, DARPA, and Department of Defense (DOD)

### On-Set and Audition Coach

- **Audition Coach:** Discuss every aspect of the film and TV audition, including clothing choices, physical appearance, and memorization or cold read; how to research the project, casting and production personnel, and genre; and guide the actor in making bold, specific choices by analyzing sides, understanding given circumstances and relationships, and working the scene in different ways
- **On-set Coach:** Act as liaison between director and actor; help the actor prepare lines, understand the scene, and focus on delivering emotional truth in spite of the multiple distractions present on a film set

Actors of note coached, directed, or endorsing include Academy Award winners or nominees Danny Aiello, Billy Badalato, Kevin Kline, Chazz Palminteri, and Reese Witherspoon; Emmy Award winners or nominees Ben Aaron, Johnny Alonso, James Brown, Josh Charles, Anna Chlumsky, Patrice Covington, Jon Favreau, Jen Jiles, Mia Michaels, E. Dawn Samuel, and Kelvin Terrell; and Tony Award winners or nominees Hettie Barnhill, Ruben Brache, Billy Porter, Stephanie Rosenberg, and Guy Shahar

## Publications

---

### Books

Pallotta, John. *CHARACTER WORKS*. Self-published, Atavist, 2016.

Pallotta, John. *Automated Branding and Marketing Tools for The Working Actor*. Self-published, Atavist, 2016.

Pallotta, John. *Acting is a State of Mind*. Self-published, coming 2020.

Pallotta, John. *The Stuff They Don't Tell You*. Self-published, coming 2020.

## Plays

Pallotta, John, "Jane Ho," developed at The Actors Studio; workshopped at Steppenwolf, LAByrinth, and The Actor's Lab (Louisville, KY); produced at Theatre Row.

Pallotta, John, "Vegas," workshopped at Steppenwolf; read at The Dramatists Guild; produced at Lamb's Theatre (Off-Broadway) and starring Anna Chlumsky.

Pallotta, John, "How I Killed My Roommate...and Got Away with It," produced on the college theater circuit and at the Producers Club.

Pallotta, John, "Love Is a Verb," developed at The Actors Studio NYC.

Pallotta, John, "Mulberry," produced Off-Broadway and at Players Theatre.

## Screenplays and Teleplays

Bruno, John, and Pallotta, John, *How I Killed My Roommate...and Got Away with It* (2012). Currently in development as the Netflix original series "Roommates."

Pallotta, John, *Vegas* (film; 2005).

Pallotta, John, *Hustle* (film; in production).

Pallotta, John, *Killing Spree* (short; 2019).

Pallotta, John, *The Messenger* (TV mini-series; 2018).

Pallotta, John, and Mincin, Carolyn, *The Accidental Redhead* (TV mini-series; 2018).

Pallotta, John, Dixon, Marque, and Johnson, Charles, *Wannabees* (TV series; 2018).

Pallotta, John, *Barely Legal* (TV mini-series; 2017).

Pallotta, John, *Dirty Laundry* (TV series; 2015, 2017, 2019).

Pallotta, John, Chapman, Paul H., Thompson, S. Aurora, Thorp, Dan, Malkhia, Shenetta, Muhammad, Adiyb, and Eremenko-Berg, Anastasia, *Capitol Sins* (Web series; 2013, 2014).

## Additional Professional Experience

---

**Panel Moderator**, The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, 2013  
Region 2

## Professional Affiliations

---

SAG/AFTRA

Actors' Equity Association

The Dramatists Guild of America

## Industry Journal and News Media Appearances

---

Malcolm, Wade, "Central York High School students going to New York City to perform 'Reach,'" *Daily Record/Sunday News*, October 2009, [ydr.inyork.com/ci\\_13523400](http://ydr.inyork.com/ci_13523400).

Piazza, Judyth, "John Pallotta Predicts the Emmys," *The SOP*, September 2011, [thesop.org/story/20110914/revered-acting-coach-john-pallottas-emmy-2011-picks.html](http://thesop.org/story/20110914/revered-acting-coach-john-pallottas-emmy-2011-picks.html).

Prato, Alison, "Handicapping the Emmy's With John 'The Actor Whisperer' Pallotta," *The Credits*, July 2013, [www.motionpictures.org/2013/07/handicapping-the-emmys-with-john-the-actor-whisperer-pallotta/](http://www.motionpictures.org/2013/07/handicapping-the-emmys-with-john-the-actor-whisperer-pallotta/).

Pallotta, John, Barry, Carolyn, and Wright, K.C., "7 On-Camera Teachers to Get You Audition-Ready," *BACKSTAGE*, March 2015, [www.backstage.com/magazine/article/camera-teachers-get-audition-ready-10802/](http://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/camera-teachers-get-audition-ready-10802/).

Wright, K.C., "8 Great Teachers to Kick-Start Your Voiceover Career," *BACKSTAGE*, March 2015, [www.backstage.com/magazine/article/great-teachers-kick-start-voiceover-career-9507/](http://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/great-teachers-kick-start-voiceover-career-9507/).

Wright, K.C., "8 Great Improv Schools in NYC and L.A.," *BACKSTAGE*, April 2015, [www.backstage.com/magazine/article/great-improv-schools-nyc-la-10660/](http://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/great-improv-schools-nyc-la-10660/).

"On the Phone with New York Acting Coach John Pallotta," *Chicago3Media*, June 2013, [www.chicago3media.com/phone-new-york-acting-coach-john-pallotta](http://www.chicago3media.com/phone-new-york-acting-coach-john-pallotta).

"Long Island Filmmakers Show" Interview, November 2014, [youtu.be/X8rIQlsarsl](http://youtu.be/X8rIQlsarsl).

WNBC "New York Live" Interview, [youtu.be/HJCXit3WO8Y](http://youtu.be/HJCXit3WO8Y)

"BMORE Lifestyle" Interview, January 2017, [youtu.be/bpxSbq8nXx8](http://youtu.be/bpxSbq8nXx8).

## References

---

**Ruben Brache**, Broadway Producer, 212.482.2318

**Johnny Alonso**, Emmy Award-Winning Actor, 310.460.8896

**Donna McKenna**, Casting Director, 630.790.7511

**Testimonial Reel**, [youtu.be/bTA4VqOH0D0](http://youtu.be/bTA4VqOH0D0)