

Master's Intensive: Creating the Monster, Alien, or Killer

4 Weeks — DreamTraxx Studios

Course Overview

In this 4-week intensive, you will create and perform a fully realized original character — a monster, alien, or killer. Over two weeks of discussion, one week of building, and one week of performance, you'll explore archetypes, psychology, ecology, and voice to bring your character to life. The course culminates in a **one-page dossier** and a **45-second monologue performance**.

Week 1 — Origins & Archetypes

- Discuss the role of monsters, aliens, and killers in story.
 - Explore archetypes (predator, trickster, outcast, manipulator).
 - Build your character's ecology: habitat, survival needs, limitations.
 - **Assignment:** Write a 200–300 word *Origin Card* describing your character's background and ecology.
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Week 2 — Motivation & Voice

- Define your character's **core drive** (fear, hunger, love, obsession).
 - Translate human motives into monstrous ones.
 - Develop your character's voice: cadence, pauses, rhythm, and sound.
 - **Assignment:** Create a 250-word *Voice Sample* and a short *Design Note* (how look/sound support psychology).
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Week 3 — Building the Character

- Assemble a one-page **Character Dossier** (origin, drive, psychology, ecology, design).
- Learn the structure of a strong monologue: Objective, Tactics, Beat Turn, Button.
- Draft a 45-second monologue in your character's voice.

- **Assignment:** Submit your complete dossier and draft monologue.
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Week 4 — Performance & Presentation

- Perform your final 45-second monologue.
 - Present your one-page dossier.
 - Receive instructor and peer feedback on clarity, originality, and performance.
 - Leave with a portfolio-ready dossier and monologue for reels or auditions.
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Final Deliverables

One-Page Dossier including: Name/Title, Logline, Core Drive, Ecology & Limits, Psychological Traits, Design Note, Signature Tell.

45-Second Monologue (~110–130 words) that reveals motive, uses tactics and turns, and ends with a strong button.

**Master’s Intensive: Creating the Monster, Alien, or Killer
Student Sample Sheet**

Step 1 — Origin Card (Week 1)

Who / What is your character?

Where do they come from? (origin, habitat, ecology)

What do they need to survive? (energy source, food, ritual, etc.)

What is their greatest limitation or weakness?

Step 2 — Motivation & Voice (Week 2)

Core Drive (circle or write one):

Hunger Fear Love Greed Pride Loneliness Other: _____

What do they want most?

What will they do to get it? (methods/tactics)

Voice Exercise — Write 3–4 lines in their “voice”:

(Include a pause, exhale, or sound effect)

Step 3 — Dossier & Monologue Draft (Week 3)

One-Page Character Dossier (condensed version)

- **Name/Title:** _____
- **Logline (1 sentence):** _____
- **Core Drive (1 phrase):** _____
- **Ecology & Limits (3–4 bullets):**
 - _____
 - _____
- **Psychological Traits (3–4 bullets):**
 - _____
 - _____
- **Design Note (look/sound connection):** _____
- **Signature Tell (1 behavior):** _____

Monologue Builder

- **Objective:** “I want them to _____.”
- **Stakes if denied:** “If they refuse, _____.”
- **Tactics (2–3):** _____
- **Beat Turn (the shift):** _____
- **Button (final punch — threat, promise, question, image):** _____

Step 4 — Performance (Week 4)

Final 45-Second Monologue (~110–130 words)

Write your final draft here:

Reminder: Keep your character clear, specific, and playable. Focus on motive, limitation, and subtext —