

BRIA WALKER

Assistant Professor

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HIGHER EDUCATION

MFA Acting, **National Theatre Conservatory**, Denver, CO

BFA Acting, **Wright State University**, Dayton, OH
Graduated Magna Cum Laude

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2019 | Ramapo Approach Workshop | Alika Hope |
| 2015 | SITI – Viewpoints Masterclass | Anne Bogart & Chuck Mee |
| 2013 | Cave Canem Poetry Workshop | Kelli Stevens-Kane |
| 2004-2006 | Low-Flying Trapeze | Robert Davidson |
| 2004-2006 | Skinner Releasing | Robert Davidson |
| 2001-2003 | Stage Combat | Bruce Cromer |
| 2002 | Viewpoints | Tina Landau |
| 1999-2003 | Singing | Sherri Sutter |

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ (SUNY NEW PALTZ) (2015-present)

Assistant Professor

INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMANCE (formerly ACTING I)

A practical exploration of the art and craft of acting, with emphasis on the body, voice, and actor's imagination. This course provides the beginning student with basic techniques and vocabulary through exercises, monologues, and scene work.

ACTING I (formerly ACTING II)

Understanding the basic craft of acting through fundamental technique based on the methods of Stanislavski and American derivations including Meisner, Hagen, Adler, and Strasberg. Attention to rehearsal process as applied to scene work in contemporary American Realism.

THEATRE IV

A capstone course for all senior theatre majors. Students will focus on preparation for entering the professional entertainment industry in their specific area of specialization and/or continuing education. Material explored in this course will be implemented in Acting III.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN DRAMA (online & seated)

This course is a lecture and discussion course that explores African-American drama. Students will read and discuss the works of prominent African-American playwrights. Lectures will provide cultural context for discussions about the types of drama written, performed, and produced by African-Americans from slavery to the present day. Students will examine these works through historical context and a contemporary lens. Student written and oral presentations will analyze play texts and express critical engagement with the literature.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH (PITT) (2012-2015)

Visiting Lecturer

ACTING II: Acting the 20th century: Ibsen to Pinter

Acting II builds on the work of Acting I with a deeper exploration of Realism and Naturalism on stage through textual analysis, scene study, physical exercises, research and performance. The material in the course focuses on works of European and American playwrights. Theoretical work would be complementary, based on the tradition of practitioners like Constantin Stanislavski, Richard Boleslavsky, Stella Adler and Lee Strasberg, deepening a student's understanding of psychological realism.

Teaching Artist-in-Residence

INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMANCE

This course is designed to develop the students' awareness of the actor's process and to foster a general sense of theatre as an area of human endeavor. Students will be introduced to basic communication skills, including physical and vocal presence in front of an audience. The course will also develop an introductory level of acting skill through the use of regular warm-ups, theater games, improvisation, and simple scene study. The class will culminate in the performance of a final scene.

ACTING I

This course continues the work begun in Introduction to Performance, focusing on Contemporary Drama and American Realism. Students will learn to perform scene work within emotionally invested circumstances, improve moment to moment skills as well as talking and listening skills, play objectives, and apply given circumstances and text analysis to character development.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Career Development for Performers

The aim of this course is to introduce theatrical performers to the resources and opportunities available in theatre professions, related fields, and continuing education. The objectives are to assist the student in identifying academic and career goals and developing strategies for achieving a successful process. Performers will develop audition material, resumes, headshots and related materials necessary for the successful attainment of their career objectives. In addition, students will be asked to think in a larger context anticipating long range planning to consider the career as a business model.

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PITTSBURGH IRISH & CLASSICAL THEATRE/FALK SCHOOL - SHAKESPEARE CAMP (2014)

Teaching Artist

- Worked in conjunction with lead teachers to create an abridged staged version of THE TEMPEST
- Lead students through physical character development work
- Basic script analysis with primary school aged students

CITY THEATRE - YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS PROGRAM (2011-2013)

Teaching Artist

- Introduced inner-city middle school students to the world of playwriting
- Lead classroom sessions on how to write a play
- Enhanced student's writing abilities & comprehension skills by providing them with various strategies for writing & revision
- Organized one on one feedback sessions with students
- Aided students in the writing of their own one-act plays

PITTSBURGH CENTER FOR THE ARTS - CENTER STAGE CAMP (2012-2014)

Primary Instructor

- Two week intensive summer camp
- Worked in collaboration with students 8-10 & 11-13 on their own 20 minute group conceived play
- Taught students about dramatic structure, successful elements of a good play, & given circumstances
- Constructed a play for each age group that utilized the ensemble work gathered during the previous week's brainstorming sessions
- Implemented the importance of working as an ensemble

THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY - ARTS CONNECTION (2011-2012)

Teaching Artist

- Introduced high school aged students to the world of Acting

- Taught basics of Acting, Improv, script analysis & vocal production
- Constructed & Directed end of session performance
- Coached student writers through self-written performances

AUGUST WILSON CENTER FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE & COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ASSOCIATION (2011)

Teaching Artist

- Facilitated hour long acting workshops with students from the surrounding community

DENVER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS - SUMMER ACADEMY (2005 & 2006)

Teaching Artist

- Enriched the lives of children (ages 5-13) by introducing them to the world of theatre
- Lead students through group activities in order to foster a sense of community
- Taught fundamental acting skills
- Helped write, choreograph, and direct student conceived productions - straight plays & musicals

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY in conjunction with Kuntu Repertory Theatre (2004)

Teaching Artist

- Conceived & organized curriculum & daily lessons plans with director of program
- Taught the fundamentals of acting & of working as a group
- Conceived, compiled and directed student production

LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS

- Guest Speaker – Introduction to British Literature, Dr. James Schiffer (2017)
- “Performing Feminism” – Women: Images & Realities Course, Dr. Jessica Pabon (2016) & Dr. Megan Sullivan (2016)
- University of Pittsburgh - ACC Meeting of the Minds Theatre Research Presentation (2014)
- “Viewpoints Workshop” - Presented at Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival (KC/ACTF), Region 2, Towson, MD (2013)
- Guest Speaker at Provost’s Advisory Committee on Women’s Concerns (PACWC) “Celebrate Pitt Women” meeting (2013)

SERVICE

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ (SUNY NEW PALTZ)

***The 28 Hour Play Project – staged reading* (2018)**

I auditioned, casted, organized and produced a staged reading of *The 28 Hour Play Project* for the 2017-2018 season. Scheduled guest artist directors, implemented student actors, design/tech concentration students, and facilitated a post-show panel.

Audition Fair (2017 & 2018)

Department wide audition fair incorporating guest casting directors, music directors, performance concentration students and stage management concentration students. I co-organized and produced this event with a fellow faculty member. Co-organized audition scheduling, breakdowns, guest schedules, food set-up, feedback sessions, and room organization.

Charm (2016)

I auditioned, casted, organized and produced a staged reading of *Charm* by Philip Dawkins. Scheduled guest artists: Tony Speciale (director) & Gerry McIntyre (lead actor) and facilitated a talk-back session post performance.

Audition Workshops – audition etiquette & monologue coaching (2015-present)

The performance faculty organizes a department wide workshop each semester that enables students to be better prepared for upcoming department and professional auditions. I offer sessions on audition etiquette and monologue prep & coaching.

Coordination of Guest Artists within the Classroom (2015-present)

Whenever possible, I organized visits between theatre professionals from the NY theatre & film community and students in the theatre department.

Praxis Committee (2015-present)

Yearly committee assembled to select the next season's student lab season. Committee members must read all submissions, carefully evaluate each student who made the submission & choose productions that best complement the student and the larger theatre department.

Season Evaluation Committee (2015-2016)

Yearly committee assembled to select the next seasons' mainstage season. Committee members consider department and student needs and genre rotations. Members suggest titles, read submissions, and carefully evaluate each submission.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH (PITT)

Campus Wide Black History Program planning committee (2015)

I was appointed by Vice Chancellor Dr. Kathy Humphrey to serve on the central planning committee for the campus wide celebration of Black History Month. I was charged with organizing four student performed flash mobs throughout campus. I also performed an excerpt from Marcus 's book at the main celebration.

Interim Head of Performance (Fall Semester) 2014

I scheduled, organized, and implemented bi-monthly Performance Area meetings. I was also charged with assigning & organizing course scheduling for the Spring semester. I monitored all current Mainstage & Lab productions throughout the term. Lastly, I mentored Teaching Artists during their first semester.

Introduction to Performance Workshop for New Instructors (2014)

Workshop for new instructors on strategies for teaching Introduction to Performance and constructing course syllabi. The workshop also lead instructors through the course required text: Robert Barton's *Acting: Onstage & Off* for best sections for implementation

ACC Meeting of the Minds Theatre Arts Presentation – organizer (2014)

I organized a theatrical research presentation for the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Meeting of the Minds Conference. This presentation utilized over twenty of our undergraduate and graduate students. It focused on how we as theatre professionals implement research within our field. Some schools in attendance: Notre Dame, University of Miami & Virginia Tech

Lab Selection Committee - (2012-2014), **Committee Head** (2013-2014)

Yearly committee assembled to select the next season's student lab season. Committee members must read all submissions, carefully evaluate each student who made the submission & choose productions that best complement the student and the larger theatre department.

Teaching Artist Search Committee - (2012-2013)

Committee assembled to search for the next Teaching Artist-in-Residence.

Faculty Advisor - KC/ACTF trip - (2012-2013)

Accompanied seven undergraduate students to the Region 2 KC/ACTF Festival in Townson, Maryland. I made sure their performances were prepared, that the students were settled into their hotel rooms & I ensured their safety while away from campus. My student, Chelsea Faber, advanced to the Semi-Finals.

Faculty Advisor - UP Stages Production of *Zanna Don't* (2012-2013)

Acted as a "safe space" for student actors to come to in times of crisis. Ensured the academic and mental well-being of the students.

Graduate Student Teaching Observations (2012-2014)

Faculty members aid graduate students in their pedagogical development by observing and evaluating teaching strategies and growth.

Organizer - Monday Night Monologue & Scene Coaching Sessions for Students (2012-2015)

Every Monday night, students are given the opportunity to receive individual coaching sessions from performance faculty members. These sessions are open to all students.

Organizer - Audition Workshops for Mainstage & Lab fall Season Auditions (2012-2014)

Workshops were given and open to all students interested in learning more about audition techniques. Students were also given feedback on their prepared audition material.

Musical Theatre Audition Workshop - (2012-2013)

Led by Professor Stacey Cabaj. I acted as her “living example” of what to do and what not to do in an audition setting. Examples included: how to dress, what to sing, how to talk to the accompanist, etc.

Coordinated Guest Artist Visits Within the Classroom (2012-2014)

Whenever possible, I organized visits between theatre professionals from the community and students in the theatre department.

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY**Play reading – pre-college program (2014)**

Students witnessed actors in a “working rehearsal”. We did a first read of “Lucy” by Damien Atkins. Students were then encouraged to ask us questions regarding our process and how to “break down” a script.

COMMUNITY**Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council – Artist Opportunities Grant Panelist (2015)****City Theatre - Young Playwrights Festival (2012)**

Final Script Reader. Committee of various theatre professionals assembled to read and score middle & high school students play submissions.

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

NEW YORK THEATRE

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 2009 | <i>The Doll Confessions</i> | Michelle | Lelund Durond Theatre Group | Trezana Beverly |
| 2008 | <i>Behold! The Fig Leaf Apron</i> | Suzy | Fight or Flight Theatre Co. | Steve |

REGIONAL THEATRE

| | | | | |
|------|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 2017 | <i>The Royale</i> | Nina | The Rep. Theatre of St. Louis | Stuart Carden |
| 2017 | <i>The Royale</i> | Nina | City Theatre | Stuart Carden |
| 2016 | <i>Radio Island</i> (staged reading) | Ellen | City Theatre/Momentum Fest. | Tracy Brigden |
| 2015 | <i>Saints Tour</i> | Tour Guide | Bricolage Production Co. | Jeff Carpenter |
| 2014 | <i>In The Raw - DisPlace</i> | Arlene/Chloe | Bricolage Production Co. | Cynthia Croot |
| 2014 | <i>74%</i> (staged reading) | various roles | Bricolage Production Co. | Tami Dixon |
| 2014 | <i>Mr. Joy</i> (staged reading) *coaching by Daniel Beaty | all roles | City Theatre/Momentum Fest. | Hana Sharif |
| 2014 | <i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> | Lottie/Carmen | The REP at Pittsburgh Playhouse | Tome' Cousin |
| 2013 | <i>In The Raw</i> New Play Festival <i>Ganglia</i> <i>For the Tree to Drop</i> <i>Raisin in the Sun</i> | Vanora Estella Ruth | Bricolage Production Co. | Matt Morrow Alan Stanford Edwin Gibson |
| 2013 | <i>The Sisters Grey</i> | Victoria | August Wilson Center | Sam Turich |
| 2013 | <i>Midnight Radio 4</i> | various roles | Bricolage Production Co. | Jeffrey Carpenter |
| 2012 | <i>Off With Her Maidenhead</i> | Fairy Godmother | Merry-Go-Round Playhouse | Bria Walker |
| 2012 | <i>Pop!</i> | Viva | City Theatre | Brad Rouse |
| 2012 | <i>Swell in the Ground</i> (reading) | Olivia | City Theatre/Momentum Fest. | Carolyn Cantor |
| 2011 | <i>Every Tongue Confess</i> | Missionary/ Tender Meeks | August Wilson Center | Tre Garrett |
| 2011 | <i>Last of the Line</i> | Sylvia Bradley | August Wilson Center | Mark Southers |
| 2011 | <i>August in August</i> | Dussie Mae, Risa, Rena | August Wilson Center | Mark Southers S. M. Henderson |
| 2011 | <i>Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet</i> | Shaunta Iyun | City Theatre | Robert O'Hara |
| 2011 | <i>Antony & Cleopatra</i> | Charmian | Pittsburgh Irish & Classical | James J. Christy |
| 2009 | <i>From the Mississippi Delta</i> | Woman 2 | Triad Stage | Donna Bradby |
| 2007 | <i>Shakespeare on Nature</i> | various roles | Aspen Ideas Festival | Ken Adelman |
| 2007 | <i>Ain't Nothin' But the Blues</i> | principal | Theatre Aspen | Anthony Powell |
| 2007 | <i>Working</i> | Maggie Holmes | Denver Center Theatre Co. | Larry Hecht |
| 2007 | <i>The Elephant Man</i> | Ross | Denver Center Theatre Co. | Jennifer Rincon |
| 2007 | <i>Crowns</i> | Yolonda & Jeanette u/s (performed Jeanette) | Denver Center Theatre Co. | Kent Gash |
| 2006 | <i>365 Days/365 Plays</i> | various roles | Denver Center Theatre Co. | Jennifer Rincon |
| 2006 | <i>A Christmas Carol</i> | Fezziwigs | Denver Center Theatre Co. | Bruce Sevy |
| 2006 | <i>King Lear</i> | Goneril u/s | Denver Center Theatre Co. | Kent Thompson |

SPECIAL APPEARANCES

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 2014 | August Wilson Birthday Celebration | Hill House Association/Pittsburgh Dramatists Guild |
| 2014 | The Skivvies | City Theatre |
| 2011 | After Hours at the Bon Soir | City Theatre |
| 2001 | <i>Bright Eyed Joy</i> : Concert of Songs | Wright State University - Ricky Ian Gordon |

FILM & WEBSERIES

| | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 2015 | <i>Inside Passage</i> | Gab/Sharon | Independent Feature - Trailer |
| 2014 | <i>The Beat Goes On</i> | Rose | Independent Feature |
| 2009 | <i>Here Right Now</i> | Katie | Independent Feature |
| 2007 | wallstrip.com | Nurse | CBS |
| 2002 | <i>1903: The Wings of Dreams</i> | Matilda Dunbar | PBS/Think TV |

COMMERCIALS, INDUSTRIALS, MODELING & PRINT

| | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 2015 | CMU First Responder |
| 2014 | CMU First Responder |
| 2014 | Big Brothers and Big Sisters |
| 2014 | Macy's |
| 2014 | EDMC |
| 2014 | Dolby Digital |
| 2013 | DDI |
| 2013 | Clearway PSA |
| 2013 | Hollywood Casino |
| 2012 | DDI |
| 2012 | Safety Works - Quest Fore |
| 2011 | Stop Diabetes PSA |
| 2011 | Brown Mackie College |

VOICE OVER

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|------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2012 | Passion Ad | Pittsburgh Passion Football |
| 2011 | Stop Diabetes | Public Service Announcement |
| 2006 | <i>Puzzling Tales from Around the World</i> | Sopris West |
| 2006 | E-Reader | Sopris West |
| 2007 | <i>Crowns</i> | Denver Center for the Performing Arts |

UNIVERSITY & GRADUATE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

| | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2017 | <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> | Titannia/Hip. | SUNY New Paltz | Lauren Noble |
| 2013 | <i>Venus</i> | Sarah/Venus | Univ. of Pittsburgh Stages | Cynthia Croot |
| 2007 | <i>Caucasian Chalk Circle</i> | Various roles | National Theatre Conservatory | Richard Caliban |
| 2006 | <i>What You Owe Me</i> | Gaynelle | National Theatre Conservatory | Bria Walker |
| 2006 | <i>Ten by Tenn</i> | Various roles | National Theatre Conservatory | Jennifer Rincon |
| 2005 | <i>Romeo & Juliet</i> | Nurse | National Theatre Conservatory | Jennifer Rincon |
| 2005 | <i>The Matchmaker</i> | Dolly Levi | National Theatre Conservatory | Larry Hecht & Sabin Epstein |
| 2004 | <i>Away</i> | Vic | National Theatre Conservatory | Larry Hecht |
| 2004 | <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> | Conrad | National Theatre Conservatory | Jennifer Rincon |
| 2003 | <i>The World Goes Round</i> | Woman #1 | Summer Stage Wright | Joe Deer |
| 2003 | One Woman Cabaret-Arts Gala | Bria | Wright State University | Bria Walker |
| 2002 | <i>Carousel</i> | Heavenly Friend | Wright State University | Greg Hellems |
| 2002 | <i>Griot</i> | Veronica | Wright State University | Bria Walker |
| 2002 | <i>The Winter's Tale</i> | Paulina | Wright State University | Mary Donahoe |
| 2001 | <i>Parade</i> | Angela | Wright State University | Joe Deer |

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|------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 2001 | <i>Inherit the Wind</i> | Ensemble | Wright State University | Sheila Ramsey |
| 2001 | <i>Kiss Me, Kate!</i> | Singing Ens. | Wright State University | Joe Deer |
| 2000 | <i>1903: Wings of Dreams</i> | Matilda Dunbar | Wright State University | Stuart McDowell |
| 2000 | <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> | Eunice | Wright State University | Mary Donahoe |

PROFESSIONAL & UNIVERSITY DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

| | | | |
|------|---|--|--|
| 2019 | <i>for colored girls who have considered suicide...</i> | | SUNY New Paltz |
| 2019 | <i>Fury</i> | | Parker Theatre |
| 2018 | <i>Avenue Q</i> | | SUNY New Paltz |
| 2017 | <i>Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill</i> | | Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre (Asst. Director) |
| 2017 | <i>Sweet</i> | | Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre (Asst. Director) |
| 2016 | <i>Surreality; an evening of sh** that may be deep</i> | | SUNY New Paltz |
| 2016 | <i>She Like Girls</i> (staged reading) | | SUNY New Paltz |
| 2016 | <i>BUS 11 – Dog Shit</i> | | Bricolage Production Company |
| 2015 | <i>Morning, Mourning</i> | | No Name Players SWAN Day Festival |
| 2014 | <i>Avenue Q</i> | | University of Pittsburgh Stages |
| 2012 | <i>Off With Her Maidenhead</i> (Staged Reading) | | Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, Finger Lakes - The Pitch |
| 2010 | <i>Ten by Ten by Ten</i> | | Virginia Governor's School of the Arts |
| 2012 | <i>Got Love?</i> | | The Neighborhood Academy |
| 2006 | <i>What You Owe Me</i> | | National Theatre Conservatory |
| 2003 | <i>One Woman Cabaret</i> | | Wright State University |
| 2002 | <i>Griot</i> | | Wright State University |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- United University Professors
- Theatre Communications Group Individual Member
- Actor's Equity Association
- August Wilson Center for African-American Culture Theatre Ensemble (founding member)

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2015 SUNY New Paltz – Targeted Opportunity Hire - Faculty Development Award
- “Best of 2014” Pittsburgh Post-Gazette “Supporting Actress” – *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark*
- “Best of 2013” Pittsburgh Post-Gazette “Supporting Actress” - *Venus*
- “Best of 2012” Pittsburgh Post-Gazette “Supporting Actress” – *Pop!*
- “Best of 2011” Pittsburgh Post-Gazette “Breakout Performer” – *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet*
- Graduated Magna Cum Laude - Wright State University

REFERENCES

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