

# Jennifer Tober

542 Gettysburg Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
[jentober@yahoo.com](mailto:jentober@yahoo.com)

412.404.8531 (*home*)

917.628.5020 (*mobile*)

## Education

MFA Acting, West Virginia University, 1995 summa cum laude

BA Theater, Psychology minor, Temple University, 1992 magna cum laude

2017 - 2018

### **Visiting Lecturer**

#### **Univ. of Pittsburgh Theatre Arts Dept.**

Serve as Visiting Lecturer in Theatre Arts for a one-year appointment. Teach Introduction to Performance, Weekly Wellness and Meditation, Voice and Dialect work; serve as faculty advisor and dialect coach for student lab theatre productions; coordinate professional workshops with Pittsburgh casting directors and theatre professionals; coach students on monologues for graduate school and theatre auditions; serve on committee to choose student lab productions.

2005 – Present

### **Artistic Director and Founder**

#### **Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks**

Founded the non-profit PSIP which provides free theatre in Pittsburgh city parks. Direct and perform in Shakespeare productions; write grants, press releases, social media copy; hire and oversee volunteer Board of Directors and performers, designers, staff for each production; teach workshops at Pittsburgh Cultural Trust; coordinate staff and volunteers.

Sept 2013 – Sept 2017

### **ESL Instructor**

#### **Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA**

Teach Speaking and Listening and Reading classes (Beginning to Advanced levels); Faculty Assistant Position including organizing Field Study each semester; plan and organize Conversation Hours with international and American students; communicate with ESL students weekly via “ESL Highlights” email; teach “Pronunciation Power Workshops” focusing on muscularity, intonation, using length and intonation to create stress, thought groups, hands-on articulation exercises. Also teach: yoga at Duquesne’s Power Center (Certified Yoga Instructor).

Sept 2005-Spring 2010

### **Instructor/Tutor**

#### **Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA**

#### **Intercultural Communication Center**

Taught two courses: *Speaking and Listening* and *Focus on Pronunciation* for international graduate, PhD students and visiting scholars. Created curricula geared to professionals who need to become Teaching Assistants, present papers, and speak at conferences. Classes focused on fluency, stress, operative words, muscularity, using mimicry and body language to express oneself in the classroom. Videotaped students to give feedback on how to communicate more effectively. One-on-one tutor, focused on such skills as body language, gestures, and using one’s own experiences to successfully convey information to an audience. Worked

individually with students on accent reduction and how to make the sounds of American English. Created warm-up exercises tailored to each student's specific needs.

May 2006 – April 2007

**Part-time Instructor**

**University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA**

Taught a *Speaking* class for international students. Incorporated such aspects as production of phonemes, intonation and musicality of the voice, using stress to be understood, using acting techniques to conquer stage fright, using body language to make conversation feel "real," using breath to fund the voice. Developed and led exercises such as impromptu speeches, memorized dialogues, improvised dialogues and recorded speaking activities.

Jan-Aug 2005

**Acting Director of ESL & Modern Language Programs, Baruch College, New York**

Hired and managed instructors and supervised enrollment staff. Developed curricula including: Acting in English, English through Journalism. Significantly increased enrollments and student retention rates. Observed teachers and encouraged implementation of more active, student-centered classrooms, using such techniques as role-plays, impromptu oral presentations, improvisation, and acting games. Coordinated and hosted open houses, new student orientations. Developed, wrote, and won grants and contract training. Taught ESL classes.

July 2004-Aug 2005

**Advanced Business English, Baruch College, New York**

Collaborated with department heads and instructors from the Zicklin School of Business. Hired guest speakers for the Friday lecture series on business topics. Hired, trained, and supervised new ESL instructors. Counseled and advised international MBA students on a one-to-one basis. Developed and maintained curricula.

Dec 1999-Feb 2000

**Teaching Artist**

**Inside Broadway, New York, NY**

Visiting teaching artist in New York City public schools. Taught middle-school students MacBeth and Romeo and Juliet. Focused on text analysis, making language come alive, and physicalization of words and actions. Introduced and taught relaxation and focusing exercises, improvisation, and text comprehension. Guided students in writing and performing sonnets. Directed final projects of scenes and staged readings of Romeo and Juliet. Collaborated with teachers and principals to formulate and reach goals: increased appreciation and understanding of Shakespeare; ability to take a written passage and bring it to life.

Aug 1998-Jan 2002

**Founder, Actor, Fundraiser**

**A Crew of Patches Theatre Company, New York, NY**

Founded company with actors from Theatre for a New Audience's Shakespeare Workshop. Acted in Shakespeare productions: Midsummer Night's Dream, Julius Caesar, Richard II. Collaboratively organized readings, hired directors, ran auditions, oversaw publicity and advertising, hosted and performed in fundraisers (stand-up comedy; staged readings of Oscar Wilde, Dorothy Parker, Roald Dahl). Goal: to create Shakespeare productions with the emphasis on telling the story through clarity of speech and action.

Jan 1998 – Jan 2000

**Actor, Teacher, Founder**

**Shakespeare Inside, Bronx, NY**

Founded a group that brought Shakespeare performances, workshops and creative writing to incarcerated Bronx juveniles. Created curricula and taught weekly classes on understanding and acting Shakespeare, improvisation, performing monologues, and creative writing. Coordinated guest appearances and performances of professional actors.

Summers 1994-1997

#### **Actor and Teacher**

##### **Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Cold Spring, NY**

Acted in main stage productions (Midsummer Night's Dream, Two Gentlemen of Verona, MacBeth, Love's Labour's Lost, Two Gentleman of Verona). Taught children ages 4-16 in intensive summer acting program: improvisation, basic acting skills, games, physical warm-ups, story-telling, introductory text analysis. Directed youngest group's final project based on popular children's folktales.

#### Community Outreach/Volunteer Work

Dec 2005-March 2006

#### **Volunteer/Teacher**

##### **La Hesperia Biological Reserve Station, Ecuador**

Taught English to village schoolchildren, incorporating games, improvisation, dialogues and scenes. Directed final play showcasing newly acquired English conversational skills and songs. Participated in reforestation, organic farming, animal care, phenology project.

*Jan 02- July 04*

#### **Volunteer**

##### **Habitat for Humanity, New York; Bolivia; and Uganda**

-Coordinated email outreach to volunteers and built houses in New York City. Built brick houses in Uganda and Bolivia. Served as translator for some participants (Spanish/English) in Bolivia.

#### Awards

- Named one of "Pittsburgh's 2009 Best Actors" – Pittsburgh Citypaper
- PA Partners Grant – For Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks to produce Twelfth Night, 2008
- PA Partners Grant – for Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks to produce A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2006
- Best Original Play and Best Actress: for original one-woman show DADDY CRUSH, The Creative Acting Company Play Festival, 2003.

#### Professional Artistic Memberships

- Actors Equity Association
- American Federation of TV and Radio Artists (active member of Pittsburgh area chapter)

#### Skills and Interests

Guitar, singing, dialects, speak intermediate Spanish, basic Japanese, basic Munyoro (African dialect), bricklaying, yoga, salsa, NIA (modern dance), Zumba, biking, travel, community outreach and development, foreign cinema. Excellent communication skills and computer skills. Interest in foreign cinema and children's pre-emergent literacy. Write and perform own pieces, stand-up. Certified Yoga Instructor.