

Sheila McKenna

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Education: MFA in Performance Pedagogy, University of Pittsburgh, September 10, 2002.
Toward MFA, Acting, George Washington University, 1986.
BFA, Acting, Point Park University, 1984.

Experience:

Primary Teacher

1990-present

Conservatory of Performing Arts of Point Park University
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Teach Voice and Speech I, II, III, and graduate level acting, dialects/accents, Acting I, II, III, Directing I, II, Rehearsal and Performance, Improvisation and Experimental Theatre (undergraduate and graduate levels), Acting for Non-Majors. Active participant in departmental meetings, committees, student auditions and recruitment. *Current member of BFA, Student Handbook, and the University's Formal Hearing committees.* Rank: Assistant Professor.

University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

2000-2002

Taught Intro to Performance (majors and non-majors), Acting I. Coached dialects and led workshops in voice, speech and versification.

Company Member

1990-present

Playhouse Repertory Company
Pittsburgh Playhouse of Point Park University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Recently directed regional premiere of *Lost Boy Found at Whole Foods* by Tammy Ryan. Perform and direct regularly in a company specializing in original plays. Have also served the company as an assistant director, stage manager, and voice, speech, and dialect coach.

Pennsylvania Dance Theatre
Andre Koslowski, Artistic Director
State College, PA 16804

2007-present

Regular guest artist with the company, currently in rehearsals for a new work (2011). Recently performed (July, 2011) in *por la blanda arena*.

Director

Playhouse Repertory Company
Pittsburgh Playhouse of Point Park University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

1998-present

Recently directed regional premiere of *Lost Boy Found at Whole Foods* by Tammy Ryan. Directed, with Andre Koslowski (Artistic Director, Pennsylvania Dance Theatre), *The Queens*. Directed the sold-out run of the world premiere of *FBI Girl*, by Tammy Ryan. Directed the world premiere of Ryan's *Baby's Blues* (2004). Worked with playwright on the development of play, organized and cast two readings of early drafts, and assisted in organizing and moderating weekly audience talk-backs in conjunction with Magee-Women's Hospital. Directed *Anton in Show*

Business by Jane Martin (2003), named by the Post-Gazette as one of the “2003 Best” plays ; cast included three COPA students, student crew. Directed *PIG*.

Conservatory Theatre Company
Point Park University
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

2002–present

Directed *Top Girls*, by Caryl Churchill, which offered students opportunities to utilize both acting and dialects skills, *Warrior*, critically acclaimed *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (2004) and Caryl Churchill’s *Cloud 9* (2002); led improvisation and text analysis workshops in rehearsal process.

City Theatre
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

2001–present

Directed three one-act plays for their annual Young Playwrights Festival, 2010 (also 2001, 2004, 2006).

Playhouse Jr.
Pittsburgh Playhouse of Point Park University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

1994-present

Directed the world premiere of Tammy Ryan’s *The Gift of the Pirate Queen*; directed seven productions for young audiences. Instructed stage managers, collaborated with student designers, and implemented charitable fundraising activities in association with many of the productions.

Film and Television

Achilles’ Love
An Unremarkable Life
Out of the Black

Unsolved Mysteries
Alone in the Neon Jungle
Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood

Stuck With Each Other

Assistant Manager, Health and Wellness

YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

1991-2000

Taught fitness (including special populations), swimming, children’s early gym, and supervised the volunteer staff. Helped to develop programs and coordinate fundraising. Maintained records and staff library, trained instructors, taught Outreach courses and purchased equipment for programs.

Company Member/Entertainment Assistant

Greater Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival
Greensburg, PA 15601-7670

1997-2000

Street performer. Taught workshops in improvisation, dialects and period customs and manners. Recruited and auditioned entertainers, helped write contracts, develop programming, write scripts and update and maintain website.

Special Skills

- Assistant-produced *Women’s Work 2000*, a multi-disciplinary arts festival.
- Wrote two short plays, *Wanted* and *Hum*.
- Utilized computers for classroom-related word processing, grading, and communication with

- students (IBM, Macintosh, Microsoft Word, Blackboard, and Internet).
- Served the University of Pittsburgh Medical School as a patient simulator.
- Red Cross-certified lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor.

Community Activities

Trained and certified as an Adult Basic Education tutor, Pittsburgh Literacy Council; tutor an adult learner, 2010-present.

Volunteer Co-Emcee, Annual AIDS Benefit, Point Park University, 1996-2006.

Co-Chair of YWCA's Annual Aerobic Marathon, a benefit for the Debora Brueckman Baranik Breast Cancer Fund, 1996-1998.

Promote and participate in The Race for the Cure™.

Interests and Hobbies

Reading, guitar, singing, travel, babysitting, DIY home projects, dance, cooking (gourmet and home), and yoga.

References

A list of references is available upon request.