

# JONATHAN K. BECKER

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

### TEACHING

- Success in curriculum development and implementation in both Europe and the United States.
- Ability to team, teach and collaborate with colleagues.
- Extensive experience in the creation of original work.
- Experience in work with students of different cultures.
- Proven ability to nurture a creative and supportive classroom environment.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

- 18 years of co-directing an intensive summer institute.
- Owner of a small international arts related business.

### STAGE DIRECTION

- Professional experience in Europe and the United States.
- Proven ability to put together a production that is exciting and vibrant with creative intelligence.
- Excellent understanding of the actor's temperament and psychology.
- Ability to nurture strong creative relationships.
- Experience with playwrights on new script development.
- Knowledge of the twentieth century theatre techniques and history.
- Co-founder and director of Company Les Scenokrates, Luzern, Switzerland.
- Co-founder and director of The Brouduer Brothers Touring Ensemble, Paris, France.

### PERFORMANCE

- Touring experience throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia.
- Performance experience with the major symphony orchestras in the United States and Canada. Including The Little Orchestra Society at Lincoln Center.

# EDUCATION

**M.F.A., 2005, Theatre Pedagogy emphasis in movement and voice, Virginia Commonwealth University.**

Grade point Average 4.0. Thesis: *The Body is Text; Movement Training as Applies to the Dramatic Act.*

**M. A., 1997, Acting and Directing, University of Akron.**

Thesis: *The Actor, Architect of the Empty Space; The Pedagogy of École Jacques Lecoq*

**Conservatory Certificate, 1988, International School of Theatre Jacques Lecoq, Paris, France.**

**B.A., 1986, Theatre, College of Wooster.**

Departmental Honors

# PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

## **Physical Comedy**

Twenty-five years training and experience in development of personal clown, slapstick, farce, comedy acrobatics, scoring and sketch development.

## **Mask Work and Commedia dell'Arté**

Twenty years of training and experience in physical improvisation, movement styles, physical characterization, history, scene and story development and mask making.

## **Voice**

Ten years of training and experience in singing and speaking vocal techniques including belle conté, Roy Hart, Linklater and Rodenberg.

## **Improvisation**

Fifteen years of training and experience in physical improvisation and story based, character improvisational techniques.

## **Dance**

Five years training and experience in ballet and modern dance.

## **Circus Skills and Magic**

Eight years training experience in juggling balls, clubs, rings, fire, and hats. Five years fire eating and ten years of comedy and dramatic acrobatics.

## **Mime**

Five years Training and experience in illusionary and corporeal mime techniques

**(professional training cont.)**

**Puppetry**

Ten years training and experience in puppet design and manipulation including, rod, Turkish rod, shadow, hand, Bunraku and the application to contemporary theatre.

## **TEACHING AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

**Physical Acting**

Breath, thought, gesture and physical scoring of action-oriented scene work.  
Improvisation, movement analysis, understanding of style and period movement.

**Period Styles**

Physical support of classical text (the body for Shakespeare, the body for commedia...), gestural response in a given style, the voice body connection as relates to style, honest response in a world of highly stylized performance, manners of the time (Elizabethan, Restoration, Edwardian, Comedy of Manners, Commedia)

**Rapier Dagger**

The principles and techniques of stage combat as relates to rapier and dagger

**Unarmed Stage Combat**

Basic and advance techniques of unarmed stage combat and the techniques of stage fighting as relate to the style of contemporary stage violence.

**Basic and Advanced Acting Techniques**

Approach to text and personal process concerning character development.

**Movement for the Actor**

The approaches of Lecoq, Grotowski, Alexander and Laban for the understanding of a dynamic presence, a free body, organic impulses, and the active connection to the performance space and the audience. Movement analysis and alignment work.

**Physical training for the Actor**

Strength training, flexibility, alignment and anatomy for the actor.

**Movement Laboratory**

Advanced impulse, release and ensemble work based in the Grotowski approach.  
Plastiques, the corporals, dramatic acrobatics, stick work and plateau exercises.

**(teaching areas of specialization cont.)**

**Clown**

In depth personal analysis, development of personal clown, sketch development physical comedy. The clown as virtuoso, the clown as everyman, the clown as character.

**Neutral and Character Mask**

Development of an economy of movement, the understanding of a neutral physical and internal state. Understanding the body as gesture and the body as text. Physical and emotional gesture. Playing in the style of masked theatre.

**Commedia dell'Arté**

Physical presence of the commedia, use of voice in the mask, understanding of the comedic style and how it effects the organic impulses of the actor.

**Physical Comedy**

Technical skills, comedy acrobatics, stage combat techniques, prat falls, and sketch creation. Physical scoring of scenes and situation oriented improvisation.

**Voice for Actors**

Fundamentals of voice production: breath support, articulation and voice dynamics. Understanding of the vocal instrument and its connections physicality and emotional response. Text as action. Techniques of Rodenberg and Roy Hart.

**Mask Making**

Practical work in learning to work with a variety of materials. Understanding the process of creating a mask specifically for the theatre. Creating a living sculpture.

**Puppetry**

Hand, rod , shadow, back pack puppets, marionettes, and Bunraku puppets. Animating inanimate objects. Application of puppets to theatre.

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

**Recognized Advanced Actor Combatant The Society of American Fight Directors**

Unarmed Combat, Rapier/Dagger, Broadsword , Sword and Shield, Quarterstaff, Single Sword, Knife

# TEACHING EXPERIENCE

## **Full Time Teaching and Long Term Residencies:**

### **Ball State University 2006 – (current position) Assistant Professor of Movement and Acting**

BFA degree in Acting and Musical Theatre  
Teacher of Movement for freshman  
Teacher of Mask and Movement for Sophomore Sequence  
Teacher of Combat and Ethnic World Styles for Junior Advanced Acting Studios  
Movement Coach for University productions  
Fight Choreographer for University Productions

### **Webster University 2005 – 2006, Visiting Assistant Professor**

BFA Conservatory degree program for actors and designers.  
Teacher of movement one for incoming freshman  
Teacher of advanced movement period styles (rapier dagger included) for juniors  
Teacher of acting for designers  
Movement Coach and Fight Choreographer for Conservatory productions

### **Naropa University 2002 – 2003, Instructor**

MFA degree program in Actor Created Physical Theatre based on the Lecoq pedagogy.  
Teacher of the movement and architecture lab, movement analysis course, acrobatics, mask making and puppetry

### **The University of Colorado BFA program 2001, Guest Artist, Residency**

BFA degree program.  
Teacher of senior movement for the actor with an emphasis on acting with masks.

## **Workshops, Short Term Residencies, Invited Teaching Artist Positions:**

### **National:**

#### **The Houston School for the Performing and Visual Arts 2001 – 2010**

Performing Arts High School  
Teacher of physical comedy and mask work

#### **Tennessee Arts Academy 2010, Guest Artist**

High school teacher training workshop  
Teacher of Actor Training through mask

**(teaching experience cont.)**

**Denison University 2009, Guest Artist**

BA degree in Theatre  
Lecturer on masks as living sculpture  
Teacher of mask making

**Northwestern University 1990 – 2009, Core Faculty**

The National High School Institute  
Teacher of voice and movement, mask, physical comedy, clown and Commedia.  
Director of one of ten shows produced each summer.  
Associate Director of Theatre Arts Division.

**Virginia Commonwealth University 2003 – 2005, Adjunct, Graduate Assistant**

MFA and BFA degree program for actors and teachers.  
Teacher of the graduate movement lab, graduate level Lecoq style personal clown class and the undergraduate advanced movement for the actor.

**San Diego High School Magnet Program for The Performing Arts 2004 - 2005**

Performing Arts High School  
Teacher of physical comedy, physical acting and mask work

**University of Lincoln, Nebraska 2004, Guest Artist, Residency**

BA degree program in theatre.  
Teacher of mask making and acting with masks with an emphasis on Greek Tragedy.

**The University of Virginia 2004, Guest Artist, Workshop**

BA degree program in theater.  
Teacher of Masks and Commedia dell'Arte.

**Rhode Island School of Design 2003, Guest Artist, Workshop**

BFA in Visual arts.  
Teacher of movement analysis geared toward animating sculpture specifically related to the creature creation classes.

**Theatre Conservatory College of the performing Arts at Roosevelt University 2002**

BFA degree program in theatre.  
Teacher of physical comedy and Commedia dell'Arte

(teaching experience cont.)

**The Boston School for the Performing Arts 2002, Guest Artist, Workshop**

Performing Arts High School  
Teacher of physical comedy and mask work

**The Cleveland School for The Arts 2002, Guest Artist, Workshop**

Performing Arts High School  
Teacher of physical comedy and mask work

**The New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts 2001 – 2002, Guest Artist, Workshop**

Performing Arts High School  
Teacher of physical comedy and mask work

**BRAVO Cable Network 2000, Teaching Artist**

On With the Show National Teaching Tour to promote theater education.  
Teacher of physical comedy, storytelling and acting with masks.

**Disney Theatrical 1999, Teaching Artist**

The Lion King Pride Rock Project New York City  
Teacher of mask making, African dance, storytelling and teacher training.

**The Milton Hershey School 1997, Guest Artist, Workshop**

Private school for underprivileged children, foster children and orphans.  
Teacher of mask making and acting with masks.

**Beginnings 1991 – 1997, Guest Artist, Workshop**

A Professional resident arts workshop for young professional actors  
culminating in Off Broadway showcases. New York City.  
Teacher of physical comedy and scene study.

**The Chestnut Hill Academy 1997, Guest Artist, Workshop**

Private School for boys K-12  
Teacher of new works development and playwrighting.

**The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park 1992, Guest Artist, Workshop**

LORT Theatre Apprentice Program  
Teacher of movement analysis and mask work.

**The University of Akron 1993, Graduate Assistant**

BA and MA degree program  
Graduate Teaching assistant for the undergraduate acting one and acting  
four.

**(teaching experience cont.)**

**Miami University 1991, Guest Artist, Workshop**

BA degree program in theatre.  
Teacher of masks and physical character development through solo improvisation.

**The College of Wooster 1990, Guest Artist, Workshop**

BA degree program in theatre.  
Teacher of movement analysis and physical character development through solo improvisation.

**Hiram College 1990, Guest Artist, Workshop**

BA degree program in theatre.  
Teacher of combat mime.

**International:**

**Oslo University College 2008, 2010 Guest Artist/Lecturer**

International Acting with Masks Program  
Teacher of Mask Making  
Teacher of Mask Performance

**The Company Les Scenokrates, Luzern, Switzerland 1988 - 1990**

International Theatre Company  
Acting and Movement Instructor

**The Réy Schüle, Ebikon, Switzerland 1989 – 1990, Instructor**

Private School for boys K-12  
Teacher of physical comedy, circus skills and physical improvisation.

**Zwischenbüne Théâtre, Luzern Switzerland 1989, Instructor**

Teacher of improvisation, movement and mask work and circus skills.

**Le Céntré des Arts, Sevrans, France 1988, Guest Artist, Workshop**

Regional Center for the Arts  
Teacher of movement improvisation.

## **HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Graduate Assistantship, 2004 - 2005**

Virginia Commonwealth University. Teaching in the graduate and undergraduate BFA and MFA degree programs.

**Teacher Recognition Certificate, 2002**

The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts.

**(Honors, Awards cont.)**

**Graduate Assistantship, 1993-1994**  
The University of Akron.

**Cummings-Rumbaugh Speech and Dramatics Prize, 1986**  
Outstanding contributions to the Department of Theater at The College of Wooster.

**Joyce Foundation Grant, 1986**  
Awarded for research and performance of undergraduate thesis, And Now For Something Completely...; an exploration of mime as dramatic movement.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

**Associate Director for Theatre Arts Division of The National High School Institute at Northwestern University, 1991 – 2009**

- Responsible for the health, safety and supervision of 160 theatre arts students and 27 dance students.
- Facilitate communication between a faculty of 50 and the Theatre Arts Division Director.
- Supervise a dorm staff of 25 resident assistants
- Assist communication between the theatre arts division and the offices of residential life, summer conferences, dorms and commons, student health and risk management.
- Consult on the marketing of the institute and the design of the marketing materials.
- Act in the recruiting of students through a guest artist teaching program nationwide.
- Direct one of the ten shows produced by the institute.

**Owner/Operator of Theater-Masks.com, a full service production shop for Theatre Masks and Puppets serving the international community, 1998 – present.**

- Mask and puppet design and construction.
- Making estimates and the buying of supplies.
- Client correspondence
- Bookkeeping
- Shipping
- Marketing
- Maintaining a working knowledge of the latest materials and techniques

Masks have been created for hundreds of training institutions, professional producing organizations and individual artists in 34 countries including: The United States, Scotland, the Netherlands, Finland, England, Greece, Canada, South Africa, China, Chile, Israel, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, Italy, Iceland, Denmark, Portugal, Spain, Mexico, Belgium, Norway, Italy,

**(administrative cont.)**

Luxembourg, Philippines, Austria, France, Peru, The United Arab Emirates,  
India, Singapore and Korea

**Some Past Clients of Note Include:**

Theatres and Companies.

Lincoln Center, New York, NY  
International Vocal Arts Institute, Paris, France  
Disney Theatrical, New York, NY  
Bravo, The Arts and Entertainment Cable Network, New York, NY

Schools, Colleges and Universities

The Julliard School Drama Division, New York City  
The New School, New York City  
The Yale School of Drama  
Rhode Island School of Design  
York University, Toronto, Canada  
The Conservatory at Roosevelt University in Chicago

For a comprehensive client list visit [www.theater-masks.com/clients](http://www.theater-masks.com/clients)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Institutional Service**

#### **Ball State University**

University

Advisor to Men of Color Domestic Violence Project, 2010  
Narrator Muncie Symphony Orchestra, *Arts Fusion* concert, 2007

Department of Theatre and Dance

Member Production Committee. 2006- 2007, 2008-2009  
Member Recruitment Committee, 2007 – 2008, 2010 – 2011  
Member Technology Committee, 2006 – 2007, 2008 – 2009  
Member Production Stage Manager Search Committee 2007 - 2008  
Member Acting Search Committee 2007 – 2008  
Co-Advisor Alpha Psi Omega 2008 – 2011

## **University/Departmental Recruitment:**

BFA Acting and Musical Theatre Option Auditions: Unified Auditions in Chicago and Los Angeles with Bill Jenkins, Chair, 2010

Audition Workshop North Side High School, Indianapolis 2010

Movement Theatre Workshop Roncoli High School, Indianapolis 2008, 2010

Adjudicator Monologues and Scenes Festival Warren Central High School, Indianapolis 2008

Attended Illinois State Theatre Conference Auditions with Bill Jenkins, Chair, 2007

## **International**

*Oslo University College*

Liaison between Oslo university College and Ball State University in the developing of a relationship between the International Acting With Masks Program and the BFA Acting Program. Guest Artist exchanges organized in 2008 and 2010.

# **CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS**

## **Southeaster Theatre Conference 2009**

Lecture Performance: *Masks as Living Sculpture*

## **Southeastern Theatre Conference 2005**

Presentation of paper titled: *The Body as Text; The Essentials of Movement Training for the Actor*

## **The Masks of Transformation Conference at SIUC 2005**

Workshop given: *Masks in Actor Training*

Masks selected for an international exhibit of masks at the SIUC Museum

## **Illinois Theatre Conference 2000 – 2004**

Workshop given: *The Audition and Its Physical Score.*

## **Virginia Theatre Conference 2003**

Workshop Given: *Personal Presence and Audition Technique*

# **DIRECTORS WORKED WITH**

*David Leong*, Fight Master and Fight Choreographer, Broadway, film and television.

*Leslie Reidel*, Director at PTPP University of Delaware.

(directors worked with cont.)

*Peter Brossious*, Resident Director, Mark Taper Forum.

*Gary Gisselman*, Artistic Director, CTC Minneapolis.

*Jan Borna*, Artistic Director of The National Conservatory of The New Czech Republic.

*Cory Anderson*, 7 time Emmy award winner.

Worked with most of the major symphony orchestras in the U.S. and Canada as an actor.

## DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

The Three Cuckolds

Ball State University, 2007

The Little Prince

The Touchstone Theatre in Bethlehem, PA. 2000

A Bridge To All Seasons

The Cleveland Public Theatre. 1994

Moribonds

Zwischenbühne Theatre, Luzern, Switzerland. 1990

Zältag

Zwischenbühne Theatre, Luzern, Switzerland. 1989

Quel Que Chose de Different

Fête L'Été de Vaour, Vaour, France. 1988

Romeo and Juliet

Fête Le Puy en Valey, Le Puy, France. 1987

## FIGHT/MOVEMENT CHOREOGRAPHY

Metamorphoses

Virginia Commonwealth University. 2005

Our Countries Good

Webster University, 2005

Polaroid Stories

Ball State University, 2006

Twilight Los Angels

Ball State University, 2006

Colored Museum

Ball State University, 2006

Thoroughly Modern Millie

Ball State University, 2006

Urinetown

Ball State University, 2007

Human Faustus Project

Ball State University, 2007

Going to St. Ives

Ball State University, 2007

Loves Labors Lost

Ball State University, 2008

Quake

Ball State University, 2008

Into The Woods

Ball State University, 2008

West Side Story

Indianapolis Civic Theatre, 2008

Violet

Ball State University, 2008

Camino Real

Ball State University, 2008

Catastrophe: Evening of Beckett

Ball State University, 2009

Noises Off

Ball State University, 2009

My Fair Lady

Ball State University, 2009

Angels in America

Ball State University, 2010

Almost Maine

Ball State University, 2010

## PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Margolis Method Workshop with Kari Margolis, 2010

Personal Training and Fitness Training , Brad Warner, 2009, 2010

**(professional growth cont.)**

Alexander Technique, Jeff Tessler, 2009, 2010

Slow tempo Workshop led by NYC Modern Dancer Peter Kyle, 2009

Society of American Fight Directors Workshop for advanced actor combatant status  
broad sword, rapier, rapier dagger, hand to hand, sword and shield, quarterstaff, Adam  
McClean, CT, 2007

Injury Prevention for the Performing Artist Seminar St. Louis, MO, 2006

## **MEMBERSHIPS IN ORGANIZATIONS**

South Eastern Theater Conference (SETC)

Theatre Communications Group (TCG)

Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD)

Association of Theatre Movement Educators (ATME)

# PROFESSIONAL ACTING CREDITS

## THEATRE CREDITS

MAGIK VAUDEVILLE	Max (Lead)	Enchantment Theatre, National Tour
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST	Father/Puppeteer/Pan	Enchantment Theatre, National Tour
THE SORCERERS APPRENTICE	Apprentice (Lead)	Enchantment Theatre, Asian Tour
THE SYMPHONY AND THE SORCERER	Gorky	Enchantment Theatre, U.S., Canadian Tour
42ND AND BROADWAY (a musical revue)	Tenor	Pritchard Productions
MORIBONDS	Alfred	Les Senokrates, Switzerland
ZÄLTAG	Pantelone	Les Senokrates, Switzerland
ROMEO AND JULIET	Romeo	The Brodeur Brothers, France
AN EVENING OF INTELLECTUAL MUSIC	Robert	The Brodeur Brothers, France
WELCOME HOME (a Vietnam story)	Eric/Billy	ArtReach, National Tour
ONE FLEW OVER THE COO COO'S NEST	Billy	Stage Right Repertory
THE SEAGULL	Medvidenko	New World Performance Lab.
TANGO	Eugene	University of Akron
THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD	Durdles	Miami University Summer Theatre
THE DINING ROOM	Third Actor	Huron Playhouse
WAITING FOR GODOT	Lucky	Bates Theatre
THE BUFFOONS	Homeless man	Theatre Grottesco, Nat. Showcase
ACTING ENSEMBLE	Reader	Sundance Inst. Playwright's Lab

## TELEVISION AND FILM

HEAD OF THE CLASS, THE LION KING.	Directed by George Nierenberg	The Bravo Channel
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## INDUSTRIALS

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Promo Video	Directed by Cory Anderson	Enchantment Theatre
CINDERELLA Promo Video	7 time Emmy Award Winner Directed by Cory Anderson	Enchantment Theatre

## REFERENCES

David Leong, Chair  
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