

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

- 14 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. Theatre Pedagogy emphasis in movement and voice, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2005

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

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

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

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

B.A. Theatre, College of Wooster, 1986

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

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 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.

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.

(areas of specialization continued)

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.

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

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.

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Actor Combatant by The Society of American Fight Directors

Unarmed Combat, Rapier/Dagger, Broadsword

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

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

- 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 Emerald Green Studios, 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

Past Clients include:

Theatres and Companies.

Lincoln Center, New York, NY

(past clients cont.)

Disney Theatrical, New York, NY
Bravo, The Arts and Entertainment Cable Network, New York, NY
Eden Court Theatre, United Kingdom
Thiasos Kyttaro, Athens, Greece
Opera Memphis, Memphis, TN
Stolen Chair Theatre Company, New York, NY
Enchantment Theatre, Philadelphia, PA
Touchstone Theatre, Bethlehem, PA
Cirque Productions, Pompano Beach, FL
Barrymore Theatre, New York, NY
Perth Repertory Theatre, Kinross, United Kingdom
Emerging Artists Theatre, New York, NY
Iron Rail Stage, Lynn, MA
Ka'ike Productions, Kailua-Kona Hawaii
Florida Repertory Company
Actors Bridge, Nashville TN
Weber Bro's Circus, New Zealand
Platypus Theatre, San Francisco, CA
Enchantment Theatre, Philadelphia, PA

Schools, Colleges and Universities

The Stella Adler Studio, New York, NY
International School, Manila, Philippines
York University, Toronto, Canada
Fanshawe College, London, Ontario
Stevenson College, Edinburg City, United Kingdom
The Yale School of Drama
The State University of New York at Buffalo
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
The Conservatory at Roosevelt University in Chicago
University of Lincoln Nebraska
Virginia Commonwealth University
University of Richmond
University of Virginia
Lehigh University
George Mason University
Utah State University
Atlanta International School
Savannah College of Arts and Design
Anderson College
Union University
Florida International University
University of Denver
Grinnell College Theatre Department
University of Hartford

(past clients cont.)

Westfield State College
Elizabethtown College
Tennessee Tech
TAFS University of Canterbury, New Zealand
Queens University Ontario, Canada
University of British Columbia
Academy of Notre Dame, Villanova, PA
University of Northern Colorado
Lynn Meadows Discovery Center Gulfport, MI
University of Western Florida
Ball State University
University of Colorado Springs
Bergen County Academy, Hackensack, NJ
Emporia University
University of South Dakota
Plymouth State University
The Shipley School, Bryn Mawr, PA
University of Okalahoma
Global Educational Systems, Linthicum, MA
Whittier College
Luther College
Mercer County Community College
Drexel University
Midland College
Bradley Henry Tigard Tualatin School, Tigard, OR
Virginia Commonwealth University
Clear Brook High School Friendswood, TX
Okaloosa-Walton College
Arizona Conservatory of Arts and Academics
Howell High School, Farmingdale, NJ
Rialto High School, Rialto, CA

Masks Sold to Individual Artists in the Following Countries

Scotland
The Netherlands
Finland
England
Norway
Greece
Canada

Masks from Emerald Green studios are currently on tour throughout the United States, Canada and Asia.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ball State University (current) Assistant Professor of Movement and Acting

BA liberal arts degree program in theatre
Teacher of freshman acting
Teacher of sophomore movement
Movement coach and fight choreographer for university productions

Webster University 2005 – 2006 Visiting Assistant Professor of Movement

BFA Conservatory degree program for actors and designers
Teacher of movement one for incoming freshman
Teacher of advanced movement period styles (rapier dagger included) third year
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.

Northwestern University 1990 – present, 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

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

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.

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.

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 continued)

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.

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.

Disney Theatrical 1999, Teaching Artist

The Lion King Pride Rock Project New York City

Teacher of mask making, African dance, storytelling and teacher training.

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.

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

LORT Theatre Apprentice Program

Teacher of movement analysis and mask work.

Zwischenbüne Théâtre, Luzern Switzerland 1989, Instructor

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

The Company Les Scenokrates, Luzern, Switzerland 1988 - 1990

International Theatre Company

Acting and Movement Instructor

Le Centre des Arts, Sevrans, France 1988, Guest Artist, Workshop

Regional Center for the Arts

Teacher of movement improvisation.

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

Private School for boys K-12

Teacher of physical comedy, circus skills and physical improvisation.

(teaching experience continued)

The Baltimore School for the Performing Arts 2006, Guest Artist, Workshop

Performing Arts High School

Teacher of movement analysis, physical comedy and mask work.

The Houston School for the Performing and Visual Arts 2001 – 2002

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

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

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

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.

The University of Akron 1993, Graduate Assistant

BA and MA degree program

Graduate Teaching assistant for the undergraduate acting one and acting four.

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.

CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

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 State Theatre Conference 2000 – 2004

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

Virginia Theatre Conference 2003

Workshop Given: *Personal Presence and Audition Technique*

PUBLICATIONS

The Training Process and the Essentials from a Movement Perspective

The Physical Actor April 2006

DIRECTORS WORKED WITH

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

Pattie Di beck, Broadway Choreographer

Leslie Reidel, Director at PTPP University of Delaware.

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 Little Prince

A Bridge To All Seasons

Moribonds

Zältag

Quel Que Chose de Different

Romeo and Juliet

The Touchstone Theatre in Bethlehem, PA. 2000

The Cleveland Public Theatre. 1994

Zwischenbühne Theatre, Luzern, Switzerland. 1990

Zwischenbühne Theatre, Luzern, Switzerland. 1989

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

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

FIGHT/MOVEMENT CHOREOGRAPHY

Metamorphoses

Our Countries Good

Twilight Los Angeles 1992

Erratica

Virginia Commonwealth University. 2005

Webster University, 2005

Ball State University

Ball State university

(Fight Movement Choreography cont.)

Thoroughly Modern Mille
Urine Town
Polaroid Stories

Ball State University
Ball State University
Ball State University

MEMBERSHIPS IN ORGANIZATIONS

South Eastern Theater Conference (SETC)
Theatre Communications Group (TCG)
Association for Theatre In Higher Education (ATHE)
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

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
Theatre Department
Virginia Commonwealth University
922 Park Avenue
Richmond, VA 23284
dsleong@vcu.edu
804-828-1514

Landis Smith, Artistic Director
Enchantment Theatre
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