

DON RUSSELL

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818-390-4935

Education

M.F.A., Acting, University of South Carolina (2013)

M.A., Theatre Arts, California State University, Northridge (2009) (Graduated with Distinction)

Concentrations: Performance Studies, Eastern Theatre Aesthetics.

Thesis: *Performing Americana: Charles Phoenix as a Cultural Archive*, exploring the concepts of archiving mid-century American culture through live performance.

Membership

Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)

P3 Studio

Teaching Experience

Oklahoma City Community College – Oklahoma City, OK

August 2019 – Present Theatre Arts Program Coordinator

Acting I (TA 1513) Professor. Responsibilities include: Guiding an exploration of western acting theory and developing and implementing curriculum in the instruction of Stanislavski based acting techniques. Administering and evaluating written and performance work. Course description: This course offers an examination of the basic concepts, vocabulary, and techniques of acting. The class includes improvisation, scene study, character development, and textual analysis of contemporary western plays.

Acting II (TA 2203) Professor. Responsibilities include: Guiding an exploration of western acting theory and developing and implementing curriculum in the instruction of Stanislavski based acting techniques. Administering and evaluating written and performance work. Course description: This course offers an examination of the basic concepts, vocabulary, and techniques of acting. The class includes scene study, character development, and textual analysis of classical western plays.

Voice and Speech Improvement (TA 1133) Professor. Developing and implementing curriculum for the development and refinement of the performer's voice as a theatrical instrument, as well as, administering and evaluating written work, assignments and exams. Course description: This course offers an introduction to texts, practices, and explorations in vocal work for the performer.

Stagecraft (TA 2113) Professor. Developing and implementing curriculum for the introduction to the principles of constructing, rigging, and assembling modern stage scenery and equipment. In addition, the course will introduce students to general technical theatre concepts, technologies, and techniques. Students will gain a basic working knowledge of technical theatre through practical hands-on experience

Movement for the Actor (TA 2003 Special Topics) Professor. Developing and implementing curriculum designed to introduce the students to Suzuki Method, as well as, sequences developed in the P3 Studio Methodology of Physical Actor Training. This course offers opportunities for students to explore physical approaches to actor training, while continuing to engage the imaginative/psychological elements of performance

Don Russell

Introduction to Theatre (TA 1103) Professor. Developing and implementing curriculum consisting of an introduction to texts, practice, and production in the theatre in order to understand it as a social and aesthetic experience and as a reflection of culture. Various aspects of theatre, a broad view of theatre history, and a study of representative plays of the past and present constitute the content of the course.

Carthage College – Kenosha, WI (2016 College of Distinction)
February 2014 – May 2019

Suzuki Method (GNR 675-E Ensemble & Experimental Acting) Instructor. Responsibilities include: Developing and implementing curriculum designed to introduce the students to Suzuki Method, as well as, sequences developed in the P3 Studio Methodology of Physical Actor Training. This course offers opportunities for students to explore physical approaches to actor training, while continuing to engage the imaginative/psychological elements of performance. Class size: 16 students.

Asian Theatre (THR 400A) Instructor. Responsibilities include: Developing and implementing curriculum consisting of Theatre History throughout the Asian continent, as well as, administering and evaluating written work, assignments and exams. Course description: A seminar course exploring the rich heritage of theatrical traditions from their ritual and traditional origins to contemporary movements in India, China, Korea and Japan. Class size: 18 students.

Introduction to Acting (THR 1110) Instructor. Responsibilities include: Guiding an exploration of western acting theory and developing and implementing curriculum in the instruction of Stanislavski based acting techniques. Administering and evaluating written and performance work. Course description: This course offers an examination of the basic concepts, vocabulary, and techniques of acting. The class includes improvisation, monologue preparation, scene study, character development, and textual analysis. Class size: 16 students.

Introduction to Theatre (THR 1150) Instructor. Developing and implementing curriculum consisting of Theatre History, as well as, administering and evaluating written work, assignments and exams. Course description: This course offers an introduction to texts, practice, and production in the theatre in order to understand it as a social and aesthetic experience and as a reflection of culture. Various aspects of theatre, a broad view of theatre history and a study of representative plays of the past and present constitute the content of the course. Class size: 22 students.

Western Heritage I (COR 1100) Instructor. Responsibilities include: Developing and implementing curriculum covering religious, political and philosophical writings of Western writers and theoreticians. Course description: A seminar course developing a semester-long conversation centered on the ideas of the ancient world and their influence on western history and culture. As the range and treatment of ideas from different time periods proceed, the course draws together the divergent strands that compose the complex history of Western thought in the ancient world. Class size: 22 students.

Western Heritage II (COR 1110) Instructor. Responsibilities include: Developing and implementing curriculum covering religious, political and philosophical writings of Western writers and theoreticians. Course description: A seminar course developing a semester-long conversation where the ideas of the ancient world come to be read against the emerging intellectual worlds of the Renaissance, Enlightenment, and our modern era. As the range and treatment of ideas from different time periods proceed, the course draws together the divergent strands that compose the complex history of Western thought. Class size: 22 students.

The University of South Carolina – Columbia, SC
August 2010 – December 2012

Beginning Acting (THEA 270) Instructor. Responsibilities include: guiding an exploration of Western acting theory and developing and implementing curriculum in the instruction of Stanislavski based acting techniques. Administering and evaluating written and performance work. Class size: 20 students.

Fundamentals of Acting (THEA 170) Instructor/Teaching Assistant. Responsibilities include: conducting lectures exploring western acting theory to classes ranging in size from 30 – 60 students and developing and implementing curriculum in the instruction of Stanislavski based acting techniques for classes ranging in size from 12 – 15 students, administering and evaluating written and performance work.

Don Russell

Cooperative Performance – Milwaukee, WI

September 2015 – July 2016, September 2017 – December 2018

Physical Theatre Techniques. Responsibilities include: Developing and implementing curriculum designed to introduce artists to Suzuki Method, as well as, sequences developed in the P3 Studio methodology. The P3/East methodology encourages performers to enliven the whole organism in order to experience the mind and the body as one instrument. The training fosters greater power, expansiveness, ease and a grounded sensibility, and offers practices that increase freedom on stage while avoiding “pushing” or “artifice.”

Milwaukee Repertory Theater Teen Program: Goldin Center COA – Milwaukee, WI

March 2013 – May 2013

Responsibilities include: Introducing students to the theatre arts and guiding them in an exploration of their community through performance. The program concludes with a performance presented by the students centered on their community. Class sizes ranging from 10 – 25 students.

Papers and Presentations

Hamlet's Troy: The Fall of Denmark. Paper presented at the Comparative Drama Conference hosted by Rollins College in Orlando, FL in April 2017. This paper explores the idea that Shakespeare used Ovidian allusions in the 1st Player's speech in *Hamlet* to give insight into the character's emotional and mental state, as well as, the state of Denmark's impending collapse.

Ovidian Shakespeare. Lecture presented at Carthage College as part of the Hannibal Lecture Series in February of 2017. This lecture examines the evolution of Shakespeare's use of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* over the course of his career by analyzing his use of the poems in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet*, and *The Tempest*.

Alienation or Cultural Misconception: Brecht versus the Chinese Theatre. Paper presented at the Comparative Drama Conference hosted by Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA in March 2010. This paper explores the idea that Brecht mistakenly applied his theories of Alienation Effect to Chinese Theatre.

Hijikata's Butoh: Mourning Mud and Wind. Paper presented at the Comparative Drama Conference hosted by Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA in March 2009. This paper explores the idea of Hijikata Tatsumi embodying a living archive of his youth in rural Japan through his early work in *Butoh*.

Committees

Grade Appeal Committee, Oklahoma City Community College, 2021-Present

Hiring Committee for Professor of Modern Languages, Oklahoma City Community College, 2022

Hiring Committee for Chair of Languages and Performing Arts, Oklahoma City Community College, 2021

Hiring Committee for Professor of Mass Media Communications, Oklahoma City Community College, 2021

Entry-Level Assessment Committee, Oklahoma City Community College, 2020-2021

Season Selection Committee, University of South Carolina, 2011

President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Slippery Rock University, 2000

Don Russell

Theatre Experience

Educational Directing:

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Two Gentlemen of Verona | Oklahoma City Community College | Oklahoma City, OK |
| Hedda Gabler | Oklahoma City Community College | Oklahoma City, OK |
| The Bald Soprano | Oklahoma City Community College | Oklahoma City, OK |
| Antigone | Oklahoma City Community College | Oklahoma City, OK |
| Murder on the Orient Express | Oklahoma City Community College | Oklahoma City, OK |
| Twelfth Night | Oklahoma City Community College | Oklahoma City, OK |
| Seagull | Oklahoma City Community College | Oklahoma City, OK |

Professional/Semi-Professional Directing: *writer **co-writer ***adaptation

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| Allusion/Illusion ** | Cooperative Performance | Historic 3 rd Ward, Milwaukee, WI |
| Celsius 232 *** | Cooperative Performance/ Quasimondo Physical Theatre | Arthaus, Milwaukee, WI |
| Ellis | Cooperative Performance | Pitman Theatre, Milwaukee, WI |
| Fruition of a Delusion ** | Cooperative Performance | MARVL 3D Lab, Milwaukee, WI Milwaukee Fringe Festival, Milwaukee, WI Danceworks, Milwaukee, WI |
| a woman's Place | Cooperative Performance | Theatre Gigante Studio, Milwaukee, WI |
| iTopia * | Cooperative Performance | Chicago Fringe Festival, Chicago, IL Milwaukee Fringe Festival, Milwaukee, WI Tenth Street Theatre, Milwaukee, WI Theatre Gigante Studio, Milwaukee, WI |
| Bent | The World's Stage | |
| Nightmares & Lullabies: the darker side of peter pan | Cooperative Performance | |
| Poe's Ghosts *** | Cooperative Performance | Shakers, Milwaukee, WI |
| The Seagull *** | Cooperative Performance | The Grand Ave, Milwaukee, WI |
| Hamlet | Cooperative Performance | Villa Terrace, Milwaukee, WI |
| Woyzeck *** | Steelworks Productions | Benson Theatre, Columbia, SC |

Performance: (partial list) *writer **co-writer ^ movement-based performance

| <i>Show</i> | <i>Role</i> | <i>Director</i> | <i>Theatre</i> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--|
| Dreams of Drowning * ^ | Performer | Collaboration | Milwaukee Fringe Festival, Milwaukee, WI |
| Something in the Loss of Leaves* | Performer | Self | Theatre Crude Fringe Fest., OKC, OK Milwaukee Fringe Festival (virtual) KC Fringe Festival (virtual) |
| The Chair ** ^ | Performer | Collaboration | The Jazz Gallery, Milwaukee, WI 2018 One Act Fest., Milwaukee, WI |
| Tarzan | Mike | Wes Savick | Theatre Gigante, Milwaukee, WI Ptuj & Kranj, Slovenia Dramatists Guild Foundation, NY (reading) |
| Real Time #24 ^ | Performer | Collaboration | Danceworks, Milwaukee, WI |
| Animolecules ^ | Performer | Jenni Reinki/Brian Rott | Quasimondo, Milwaukee, WI |
| Cambrian ^ | Performer | Brennen Steins | Cooperativa Gallery, Milwaukee, WI |
| Cloud of Gnats ** ^ | Performer | Collaboration | Underground Collaborative, WI |
| Real Time #12 ^ | Performer | Collaboration | Danceworks, Milwaukee, WI |
| How I learned to Drive | Uncle Peck | Eric Bultman | Lab Theatre, SC |
| Ziggy the Clown * | Ziggy | Self | Center for Performance Experiment, SC Milwaukee Fringe Festival, Milwaukee, WI |
| Macbeth | Macbeth | Robert Richmond | Theatre South Carolina, SC |
| Present Laughter | Fred | Rob Clare | Theatre South Carolina, SC |
| Polaroid Stories | G | Steve Pearson | Theatre South Carolina, SC |
| The Pretty Trap | Jim | Amy Holtcamp | Theatre South Carolina, SC |

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| 27 Wagons Full of Cotton | Jake Welch | Amy Holtcamp | Theatre South Carolina, SC |
| The God of Hell | Egeon | Neal Tucker | Benson Theatre, SC |
| The Comedy of Errors | Semyon Podsekalinikov | Robert Richmond | Theatre South Carolina, SC |
| The Suicide | Kersnowski/Eisenstadt | Steve Pearson | Theatre South Carolina, SC |
| Earth and Sky | Ensemble | Steve Pearson | Lab Theatre, SC |
| 1942 ^ | Giuliano | Robyn Hunt | Center for Performance Experiment, SC |
| Big Love | Lennox/Doctor | Chris Clavelli | Theatre South Carolina, SC |
| Macbeth | Dracula | Chris Berube | The Next Stage, CA |
| Dracula | Varrius/First Guard | Hassan Medina | Raven Playhouse, CA |
| Antony and Cleopatra | Rufus Piggott | Bill Brown | American Players Theatre, WI |
| A Penny for a Song | Taro Kaja | David Frank | American Players Theatre, WI |
| Shibiri | | Akira Shigeyama | Portland International Performance Festival, OR |
| Waiting for Godot | Lucky | Chuck Beikert | Butler Little Theatre, PA |
| Ma Frere A Vec Moi | Dad | Vanessa Gross | Sheehy Studio Theatre, PA |
| Immodest Proposal | Justin | Stephanie Peters | Sheehy Studio Theatre, PA |
| Noises Off | Gary Lejeune | Gay Johnson | Saxonburg Summer Theatre, PA |
| You Can't Take it With You | Wilbur Henderson | Gay Johnson | Saxonburg Summer Theatre, PA |
| The Foreigner | Ellard Simms | Gay Johnson | Saxonburg Summer Theatre, PA |
| Arsenic and Old Lace | Dr. Einstein | Gay Johnson | Saxonburg Summer Theatre, PA |
| Othello | Iago | David Skeele | Slippery Rock University Theatre, PA |
| Waiting for Godot | Vladimir | Rick Kemp | Slippery Rock University Theatre, PA |
| Hay Fever | Richard Greatham | Laura Smiley | Slippery Rock University Theatre, PA |
| What the Butler Saw | Dr. Prentice | Kenneth Harris | Slippery Rock University Theatre, PA |
| Mankind | Mischief | David Skeele | Slippery Rock University Theatre, PA |
| Our Country's Good | Gov. Arthur Phillip | David Skeele | Slippery Rock University Theatre, PA |
| Arcadia | Bernard Nightingale | Kenneth Harris | Slippery Rock University Theatre, PA |
| Goodnight Desdemona/ Good Morning Juliet | Tybalt/Iago | Laura Smiley | Slippery Rock University Theatre, PA |

Film & Television

Film:

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| Caviar Dreams | Principal | Cobaltmoon Productions, Los Angeles, CA |
| Woyzeck | Principal | Steelworks Pictures, Chicago, IL |
| The Coat | Supporting | A.T.M. Productions, Chicago, IL |
| Interrupted | Supporting | BSB Films, Chicago, IL |

Television:

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| Days of Our Lives | Under 5/Atmosphere | NBC |
| CSI: New York | Atmosphere | CBS |
| General Hospital | Atmosphere | ABC |
| The Bold and the Beautiful | Atmosphere | CBS |
| Passions | Atmosphere | NBC |

Commercials & Industrials:

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| Colonial Life Insurance | Principal | Industrial/Commercial | Columbia, SC |
| Allgood Pest Solutions | Principal | Commercial | Columbia, SC |
| ERI Safety (<i>Cell Phones in the Work Place</i>) | Supporting | Industrial | Columbia, SC |
| ERI Safety (<i>Take Time for Safety</i>) | Supporting | Industrial | Columbia, SC |
| McDonald's Corporation | Supporting | Industrial | Chicago, IL |
| Aronson Furniture | Principal | Commercial | Chicago, IL |
| Ask Dr. Tech | Principal | Commercial | Chicago, IL |
| Gary Lang Auto | Principal | Commercial | Chicago, IL |

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Special Training

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| Introductory Linklater Voice Technique | Anne Brady | Kristin Linklater Voice Centre Online Workshop (2022) |
| Physical Approaches to Performance | Steve Pearson/Robyn Hunt | P3 East New York Intensive, NY (2015) P3 East Chicago Intensive, IL (2014, 2015, 2016) P3 East Seattle Intensive, WA (2012, 2019) Columbia, SC (2010-2013) Columbia, SC (2010-2013) |
| Suzuki Method | Robyn Hunt | Academy of Theatrical Combat, Los Angeles, CA (2009-2010) |
| Slow Tempo (Shogo Ota) | Robyn Hunt | American Players Theatre, WI (2002) |
| Stage Combat | Dan Speaker/Jan Bryant | Portland, OR (2000) |
| Acting Internship | David Frank | Bloomsburg, PA (1999) |
| Kyogen Comedy Workshop | Akira Shigeyama | TVI Actors Studio, Los Angeles, CA (2005) |
| Noh Training Project | Akira Matsui/Richard Emmert | Chicago, IL (2003) |
| Soap Intensive | Mark Teschner | |
| Acting for the Camera | Ray Vanagas | |

Technical Experience (*partial list*)

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| The Hiding Place | Movement Coach | Acacia Theatre, Milwaukee, WI |
| A Piece of My Heart | Movement Coach | Cooperative Performance, Milwaukee, WI |
| Dali's Liquid Ladies | Lighting Designer | Truepenny Theater, The Fortress, Milwaukee, WI |
| iTopia | Sound Designer | Cooperative Performance, Gigante Studio, Milwaukee, WI 2016 Milwaukee Fringe Festival & 2016 Chicago Fringe Festival |
| Nightmares & Lullabies: the darker side of peter pan | Fight Choreographer | Cooperative Performance, Gigante Studio, WI |
| Hamlet | Sound Designer/ Fight Choreographer | Cooperative Performance, Villa Terrace, Milwaukee, WI |
| Anthropomorphic Oscillations in C Minor | Fight Captain | Cooperative Performance, WI |
| The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other | Fight Captain | Center for Performance Experiment, SC |
| Polaroid Stories | Fight Captain | Theatre South Carolina, SC |
| Everything But... | Stage Manager | Secret Rose, Los Angeles, CA |
| As You Like It | Assist. Master Electrician | American Players Theatre, WI (tour) |
| Hay Fever | Lighting Designer | Slippery Rock University, PA |
| Burn This | Lighting Designer | Sheehy Studio Theatre, PA |
| Waiting for Godot | Scene Designer | Slippery Rock University, PA |
| Woyzeck | Sound Designer | Benson Theatre, SC |
| Lysistrata | Sound Designer | Slippery Rock University, PA |

Related Activities

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| Milwaukee Fringe Festival Board of Directors (2022 – present) | |
| Milwaukee Fringe Festival Planning Committee (2017 – present) | |
| Cooperative Performance, Founding Member - Board of Directors 2013-2020 (Chair 2015-2019, Secretary 2013-2015) | |
| Los Angeles United Film Festival (2008) | Programmer |
| New York United Film Festival (2007) | Program Coordinator/Programmer |
| Tulsa United Film Festival (2007) | Program Coordinator/Programmer |
| Los Angeles Uncensored Film Festival (2007) | Programmer |

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Additional Awards, Honors and Affiliations

President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Oklahoma City Community College, 2023

Dean's Outstanding Graduate Student Award, California State University, Northridge, 2009

Golden Key International Honors Society

One of five students selected from California State University, Northridge to travel to Korea to conduct research during a traditional shaman festival, 2007

Irene Ryan Nominee KC/ACTF Region II for multiple performances, 1998 - 2001

Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, 2001

Nominee for Student Trustee, Slippery Rock University, 2000