
Teaching

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Jim Helsinger

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University Courses

Acting IV Verse - Graduate & Undergraduate Level University of Central Florida

A course in acting Shakespearean verse, emphasizing language, emotional connection, objectives, actions, imagery, subtext, and scansion.

Comedy Class - Undergraduate Level University of Central Florida

A course following the history of stage comedy from the Greeks to today, including Commedia Dell'Arte, lazzi, slapstick, satire, comedy of manners, jokes, monologues, partner scenes, and more.

Vocal Production III - Undergraduate Level University of Central Florida

A course focusing on freeing the voice through classical work with an emphasis on Shakespeare and a concentration on exercises from Arthur Lessac and Kristin Linklater.

Styles of Acting – Undergraduate Level University of Central Florida

A course focusing on acting styles, physical and vocal techniques ranging through the Greeks, Elizabethans, Restoration Comedies, Wilde and Coward, and Improvisation

Theater Careers - Undergraduate & Graduate Level University of Central Florida

A course focusing on job search skills, resumes, applications, interview techniques, auditions, agents, contract negotiation, unions, and other aspects of marketing; how to find and apply for positions in professional and academic theatre.

Actor Training Classes

Words of Will	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Basic Will	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Emotional Will	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Shakespeare in Performance	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Speak the Speech	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Rhetoric	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Taking the Leap – Parts 1 and 2	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Two-Week Acting Intern Intensive	Orlando Shakespeare Theater

Workshops and Master Classes

Creating a Professional Audition	University of Central Florida
Physical Comedy	Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Pennsylvania Shakes, DeSales University, Prague Shakespeare Company Summer Theatre Institute at DeSales University
Scene Study	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Monologues	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Scansion	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
First Folio	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Shakespeare's Character Clues	Orlando Shakespeare Theater

Adaptation
On Directing Shakespeare
Creating a Professional Audition
A Career in Theatre

Harriett Lake Festival of New Plays, Barnes and Noble Bookstores
Central Florida Performing Arts Alliance
Brandeis University
Lehigh University

Juries/Panels/Committees/Seminars

- Member, Artistic Advisory Board, Cape May Stage, 2009–Present
- Panelist, “Shakespeare and Climate Change” - Shakespeare Theatre Association International Conferences, 2025
- Moderator, “Question Salad” - Shakespeare Theatre Association International Conferences, 2011-2025
- Speaker, “To the Elephant!” — a Theatre State of the Union- Shakespeare Theatre Association International Conferences, 2025
- Moderator, “Original Practice – Working without Directors. Can theatres program it successfully?”- Shakespeare Theatre Association International Conferences, 2019
- Host, NNPN National Showcase of New Plays 2017
- Host, Shakespeare Theatre Association International Conference, 2012
- Thesis Committee Member “The Anatomy of a Fight Scene” University of Central Florida 2011
- Panel Chair, “What Makes a Destination Theater” Shakespeare Theatre Association International Conference 2010 (London)
- UCF Theater Season Selection Committee Member 2007-2009, University of Central Florida
- Jury Member “STAVIS New Play Award” National Theatre Conference 2008
- Panel Chair, “Selecting a Season” Shakespeare Theatre Association of America Conference 2008 (Cedar City, Utah)
- Jury Member “STAVIS New Play Award” National Theatre Conference 2007
- Judge “English Speaking Union Acting Competition,” English Speaking Union 2006
- Jury Member “STAVIS New Play Award” National Theatre Conference 2006
- Panelist “What is the role of the Playwright in New Play Development” - Harriett Lake Festival of New Plays 2004
- Panelist, “Producing Outdoor Shakespeare” - Shakespeare Theatre Association International Conference 2005 (Atlanta, Georgia)
- Judge “English Speaking Union Acting Competition,” English Speaking Union 1999
- Host, Shakespeare Theatre Association of America Conference Annual National Conference, 1998

Publications

Robinson Crusoe

Available from Playscripts

Dracula: The Journal of Jonathan Harker

Available from Playscripts

Interview: Why Shakespeare Festivals Work

Dramabiz, March 2009 Issue

Quarto: Interviews and Quotes

The Shakespeare Theater Association of America (*various issues*)

Education

Collegiate

Alabama Shakespeare Festival PAT Program/ University of Alabama
Miami University (Ohio)

Master of Fine Arts, 1987
Bachelor of Arts, 1985

Training / Classes

Vocal Training

Lessac – Sue Ann Park
Linklater, Shakespeare Linklater – Julie Proudfoot
Skinner – Robert Browning

Fight Training

Training with Rick Sordolet, David Boushey, Bruce Cromer, James Donadio, Stephen Hayes,
Tony Simotes, Ken Leung, Dan Carter, Geoffrey Kent

Other

On-Camera Technique
Auditions
The Business of Theatre
Theatre as a Business

Barbara Hipkiss
Pat McCorkle
Robert Mooney
Jim Volz

Seminars and Workshops

Shakespeare and Company Weekend Intensive (1997, 1998)
Clowning
Shakespeare's First Folio
Shakespeare's Rhetoric
Shakespeare's First Folio
Sound and Movement
Social Dance Styles
Butoh Dance

Dennis Krausnick
Ronlin Foreman
Neal Freeman
Jonathan Epstein
Patrick Tucker
Dan McCleary
Chapman Dance Co.
Chris Odo

Associations

Actors' Equity Association (AEA)
Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)
Theatre Communications Group (TCG)
National New Play Network (NNPN)
National Theatre Conference (NTC) - Past Board Member
Shakespeare Theatre Association of America (STA) - Past Board Secretary, Past Board President

Related Skills

Computer Skills

Very familiar with Windows and Apple systems. Programs: Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, Spektrix, Theatre Manager, Adobe Creative Cloud, QLab, Vectorworks, QuickBooks.

Fight Choreography

Training with Rick Sordolet, David Boushey, Bruce Cromer, James Donadio, Stephen Hayes, Tony Simotes, Geoffrey Kent

KING LEAR	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
THE COMEDY OF ERRORS	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
THE TAMING OF THE SHREW	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Orlando Shakespeare Theater

Voice, Diction and Accent Coaching

Training in Lessac, Skinner, Linklater, Blumenthal techniques

THE DEATH AND LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES	Theatre of The Open Eye, NYC
PRIVATE LIVES	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
A TUNA CHRISTMAS	Actors Theatre of Louisville
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
A CHRISTMAS CAROL	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
THE TRIAL OF EBENEZER SCROOGE	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
NOISES OFF	University of Central Florida

Sound Design

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
STONES IN HIS POCKETS	Cape May Stage
BLYTHE SPIRIT	University of Central Florida
DRACULA: THE JOURNAL OF JONATHAN HARKER	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
CHINA: THE WHOLE ENCHILADA	New York Fringe Festival

Graphic Design

All show posters and postcards - 58 shows (co-design)	Harriett Lake Festival of New Plays – 206-010
Original Poster – Antony and Cleopatra	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Website Design 1999-2006	Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Original Poster – Same Time Next Year	Cape May Stage
Original Poster – King Mackerel and the Blues are Running	Cape May Stage
18 Computer manuals, flyers, etc.	Documentation Manager, Spectrum Concepts, NYC 1988-93