

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My creative scholarship focuses on advancing voice pedagogy through Estill Voice Training, producing inclusive performance work, and disseminating findings to national and international audiences.

1. Voice Pedagogy and Estill Voice Training

I hope to earn my designation as an Estill Master Trainer within the next two years. As an Estill Master Trainer, I will develop applied voice curricula for that bridges the gap between traditional voice for the stage methodologies and traditional singing methodology to help students integrate physiologically informed techniques, bridging scientific research with professional practice. I plan to implement workshops and seminars at my home institution and for broader professional audiences, examining how Estill principles enhance vocal versatility, sustainability, and expressive range in undergraduate performers.

2. Inclusive and Collaborative Performance Projects

I will continue producing and directing theatre and musical theatre works that elevate marginalized voices, creating platforms for underrepresented narratives. These projects will provide experiential learning for students, foster community engagement, and contribute to scholarship on social justice in performance. Collaborations will include interdisciplinary artists and community partners, ensuring both artistic rigor and societal impact.

3. Dissemination and Engagement

I will actively share research and pedagogical innovations through presentations at national and international conferences, publications, and digital media. Specific goals include presenting studies on applied Estill Voice Training in higher education, interdisciplinary collaborations, and strategies for using theatre as a platform for advocacy. These efforts will position my work at the intersection of vocal scholarship, professional musical theatre, and inclusive artistic practice.

By integrating teaching, creative practice, and research, this plan will advance both student learning and scholarly contribution, ideally aligning with my home institution's mission and practice.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

M.F.A. Theatre Performance Pedagogy- Concentration in Voice and Speech
Virginia Commonwealth University- May 2014

B.A. English- Emphasis in Speech and Communication
Regent University- May 2010

Academic Experience

July 2024 - Present: Visiting Lecturer and Theatre Program Director

Old Dominion University- Norfolk, VA - Department of Communication and Theatre Arts

Courses Taught

THEA 230	Drama for Production
THEA 243H	Theatre Histories
THEA 360	Voice for the Stage
THEA 449W	Script Performance & Analysis
THEA 490	Theatre Education Practicum
THEA 495	Dialects and Accents

Production Work

Director	<i>String</i>
Producer	<i>Constellations</i>
Producer	<i>Charlotte's Web</i>
Producer	<i>The Tempest</i>
Producer	<i>Corduroy</i>
Producer	<i>The Greek Mythology Olympiaganza</i>

Administrative Work

Theatre Program Director

- *Lead program strategy and culture; manage season planning, events, recruitment/retention, student care, industry and community partnerships, marketing/media, school outreach, and future student engagement.*

January 2019 - July 2024: Adjunct Faculty

Old Dominion University- Norfolk, VA - Department of Communication and Theatre Arts

Courses Taught

THEA 241A	Theatre Experience
THEA 230	Drama for Production
THEA 243H	Theatre Histories
THEA 360	Voice for the Stage
THEA 449W	Script Performance & Analysis

Production Work

Director	<i>The Revolutionists</i>
Text Coach	<i>MacBeth</i>
Text Coach	<i>Taking Measure</i>

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August 2015 – Present: Adjunct Faculty

Regent University- Virginia Beach, VA – School of Communication & the Arts

Courses Taught

THEU 314	Play Analysis
THEU 406	Theatre History 2
THE 580	Practicum
THE 599	Master's Thesis
THE 613	Text Analysis for Production
THE 641	History & Criticism of the American Musical
THE 645	Theatre & Culture
THE 651	Theatre Promotion & Management
SSW 696	Screenwriting Directed Project
THE 719	Dramaturgy
THE 760	Theatre Pedagogy
THE 775	Accents & Dialect Pedagogy
THE 775	Shakespeare's Ladies
THE 797	Culminating Experience: Dramatic Criticism
COM 799	Dissertation

Administrative Work

Online Course Designer

- Designed graduate online Theatre courses, creating unified templates, syllabi, assignments, rubrics, assessments, and 8-week course flow; led Canvas redesign from Blackboard and partnered with Curriculum Design team in Information Technology to standardize program-wide course structure.
- Courses Designed

THE 641	History & Criticism of the American Musical
THE 651	Theatre Promotion & Management
THE 760	Theatre Pedagogy

Centralized Academic Advisor

- Served as centralized graduate advisor for the Schools of Communication and the Arts & the School of Divinity during transition to university-wide advising; managed student communication, Registrar petitions, DegreeWorks onboarding, faculty coordination, and student support referrals.

August 2014 – May 2015: Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice and Speech

Point Park University – Pittsburgh, PA – School of Communication & the Arts

Courses Taught

THEA 104	Voice and Speech I
THEA 105	Voice and Speech II
THEA 213	Voice and Speech III
THEA 214	Voice and Speech IV
THEA 304	Advanced Voice and Speech V
THEA 305	Advanced Voice and Speech VI
THEA 237	Singing for the Actor

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August 2012 - May 2014: Adjunct Faculty

Virginia Commonwealth University - Richmond, VA - School of Communication & the Arts

Courses Taught

THEA 191	SpTp: Acting Styles & Auditioning
THEA 201	Voice and Speech for the Actor I
THEA 202	Voice and Speech for the Actor II
THEA 301	Advanced Voice and Speech for the Actor I
THEA 302	Advanced Voice and Speech for the Actor 2
SPCH 121	Effective Speech
SPCH 321	Speech for Business and the Professions

Production Work

Vocal Coach	Arabian Nights
Vocal Coach	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Vocal Coach	Hairspray
Dialect/Text/	
Vocal Coach	Sweeney Todd: A Melodrama
Dialect Coach	The Colored Museum

Administrative Work

Box Office Manager	- Department of Theatre 2013 - 2014
Student Records Assistant	- Department of Music 2012 - 2013

Directing and Coaching Summary

Event	Position	Date	Company
String	Director	Fall 2025	ODU Rep Theatre
The Revolutionists	Director	Spring 2024	ODURep Theatre
MacBeth	Vocal/Text Director	Fall 2022	ODURep Theatre
Taking Measure	Vocal/Text Director	Spring 2021	ODURep Theatre
The Crimson House Murder	Director	Spring 2019	Young Musicians of Virginia
Murder at the Banquet	Director	Spring 2019	Young Musicians of Virginia
Café Murder	Director	Spring 2019	Young Musicians of Virginia
The Secret Garden	Director	Spring 2018	Young Musicians of Virginia
The Velveteen Rabbit	Director	Spring 2018	Young Musicians of Virginia
Complaint Department and Lemonade	Director	Spring 2018	Young Musicians of Virginia
Shakespeare and Spaghetti	Director	Fall v2017	Young Musicians of Virginia
When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet	Director	Fall 2017	Young Musicians of Virginia
The Fairy Tale Network	Director	Spring 2017	Young Musicians of Virginia
The Confession	Vocal Coach	Summer 2014	Blue Gate Musicals
Arabian Nights	Vocal Coach	Spring 2014	Theatre VCU
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	Vocal Coach	Spring 2014	Theatre VCU
The Importance of Being Earnest	Dialect Coach	Spring 2014	The Triangle Players
The Taming of the Shrew	Dialect/Vocal Coach	Fall 2013	Richmond Shakespeare
Hairspray	Vocal Coach	Fall 2013	Theatre VCU
Sweeney Todd: A Melodrama	Dialect, Text and Vocal Coach	Spring 2013	Theatre VCU
The Colored Museum	Dialect Coach	Spring 2013	Theatre VCU
Virginia Theatre Association (VTA) Auditions	Audition Coach	Fall 2012	Theatre VCU
Speech and Debate Tournaments	Coach and Adjudicator	2004-2012	Ohio High Schools

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Recruitment Experience

Conference	Position	Year	Institution
Virginia Theatre Association	Presenter & Recruiter	2025	Old Dominion University
Southeastern Theatre Association	Presenter & Recruiter	2025-2026	Old Dominion University
Fine Arts	Adjudicator & Recruiter	2014	Southeastern University
Virginia Theatre Association	Presenter	2013	Virginia Commonwealth University

Professional Training

Voice and Speech for the Actor

- Linklater Progression with Susan Schuld as prescribed by Kristin Linklater
- Classical American Dialect with Susan Schuld as prescribed by Edith Skinner
- Neutral/General American Dialect with Susan Schuld as prescribed by Patricia Fletcher
- Dudley Knight/Phil Thompson Speech Work exploring signs and symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
- Accent Work as prescribed by Paul Meier
- Classical Text Work as prescribed by Patsy Rodenburg and Kristin Linklater
- Estill Voice Model and application to Spoken Text with Kimberly Steinhauer
- Holistic Vocology with Robert Sussama and Tom Burke

Musical Theatre Vocal Training

- Twelve years of private musical theatre and classical voice instruction.
 - Teachers include: Kimberly Steinhauer, Susan Eichhorn-Young and Larry Carey
- Estill Voice Training Model for singing. Seeking certification in the Eight Compulsory Figures and as a Certified Master Teacher with Kim Steinhauer, President of Estill International
- Holistic Vocology Course with Robert Sussama and Tom Burke

Acting Training

- Stanislavski, Meisner, and Hagen training with Edward Cohn
- Meisner and Adler training with Sybille Bruun-Moss and Tyler Moss
- Shakespeare with Robert Richmond and Sybille Bruun-Moss and Tyler Moss

Movement Training

- Feldenkrais work with Susan Schuld
- Viewpoints Training with Laine Satterfield
- Musicalized Movement with Patti D'Beck
- Intermittent Ballet, Jazz, and Musical Theatre Dance and movement instruction

Musical Instrument Training

- Ten years piano training. Skills sufficient for teaching/rehearsal support, not an accompanist.
- Eight years flute training. Advanced level.

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Research Presentation & Continuing Education

- **Presentation - Whip Up Your Vocal Recipe: Serving Versatile Voices**
 - Southeastern Theatre Conference, Chattanooga, TN - March 2026
- **Presentation - Whip Up Your Vocal Recipe: Serving Versatile Voices**
 - Virginia Theatre Association, Norfolk, VA - October 2025
- **Presentation - Sparks of Controversy: Porgy and Bess**
 - Comparative Drama Conference, Baltimore, MD- April 2014
- **Continuing Education - Estill World Voice Symposium-** Course Instructors with EVT International, Chicago, IL - July 2025
 - *Collection of workshops led by Estill certified professionals from multiple disciplines at the forefront of the scientific, medical, and voice training communities to explore the world of vocal possibilities through the Estill Voice Training model.*
- **Continuing Education - Southeastern Theatre Conference** - Baltimore, MD - March 2025
 - *Collection of workshops led by theatre and education professionals from the Southeastern region of the United States. Intimacy training, intersectional feminist directing, women, tenure and promotion, bridging generational gaps in higher education, diversity, equity and inclusion training.*
- **Continuing Education - multiple Estill Certification Courses Levels 1 and 2, small group instruction, practice groups and private coaching** - Dr. Kimberly Steinhauer- President EVT International and Dr. Stephen Chicurel, Pittsburgh, PA, Orlando, FL -2013 - 2017
- **Continuing Education - Alexander Technique Intensive**- Paul Dennhardt, Richmond, VA - 2012
- **Continuing Education - Viewpoints Training** - Laine Satterfield, Richmond, VA 2012

Grants, Funding Secured and Honors Awarded

- Secured Provost's Award for Student Retention (2025) to provide free ODURep tickets for Theatre majors.
- Obtained funding from the Dean's Office for student travel to SETC 2025 for eight students.
- Secured ongoing program major gifts from community donors to maintain reduced student ticket prices.
- Acquired support from the Mellon Humanities Internship Academy, ODU Alumni Association, and Dean's Office for the Find Your Mark Connection Fair, bringing in nationally recognized artists and industry partners: Jacob Young, Mark Rozzano, Adam Gwon and Sarah Hammond.
- Faculty Appreciation Honorable Mention (Fall 2025)

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Select Professional Performance Experience

Show	Role	Company
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Mrs. Cratchit / Charwoman	Virginia Stage Company
<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	Agatha	Virginia Stage Company
<i>The Marvelous Wonderettes</i>	Suzy	Tidewater Stage
<i>The Full Monty</i>	Vicki Nichols	Split Stage Productions
<i>Apples Fall</i>	Sally	The Shop
<i>The Full Monty</i> (Sally Struthers)	Georgie Bukatinsky	Riverside Dinner Theatre, Dir. Patrick A'Hearn
<i>Amazing Grace: The Musical</i>	Ensemble	Pre-Broadway Workshop, Dir. Gabriel Barre
<i>The Confession</i>	Rebecca Lapp	Blue Gate Musicals - multi-year contract Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania casts
<i>Plain and Fancy</i>	Emma Miller	Round Barn Theatre
<i>Hello, Dolly!</i>	Ernestina Money	Round Barn Theatre
<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i>	Ensemble	Round Barn Theatre
<i>Reaching for the Stars</i>	Ensemble	Waterside Theatre, Dir. Robert Richmond
<i>The Lost Colony</i>	Dame Colman	Waterside Theatre
<i>The Sound of Music</i>	Sister Berthe	Virginia Musical Theatre
<i>A Marriage Proposal</i>	Natalya Stepnovna	Beechwood Theatre Company
<i>An Evening with the Astors</i>	Caroline Astor	Beechwood Theatre Company
<i>Murder at the Mansion</i>	Rosemary Davies	Marley Bridges Theatre Company
Concert Tour	Featured soloist and flautist	Paraclete Productions
Improv Comedy Show Tour	Blue	The Rainbow Players

References

Jessica Gaffney

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