

JESSICA FRANCIS FICHTER

Tel: 803 309-2405 Email: jessfichter00@gmail.com

EDUCATION

M.F.A, Directing Actors Studio Drama School at Pace University, New York, NY
Directing: Dr. Brian Rhinehart, Dr. Bill Coco, Dr. Andreas Manilokakis, Ken Urso
Acting: Susan Aston, Jacqueline Knapp
Voice: Robert Serrell; **Movement:** Alexandra Damaini
Honors: Schubert Scholarship Recipient

M.Ed. Divergent Learning, Columbia College, Columbia, SC, August 2013, GPA 4.0

B.A. Theatre Education, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC, May 2009, GPA 3.6
Study Abroad Semester at Kingston University, Kingston, UK
Honors: SC Life Scholarship, Dean's Meritorious Scholarship, Producer's Circle Scholarship, and Blair Beasley Directing Scholarship
Licensure: SC State Teaching Certificate (Theatre) with Gifted and Talented endorsement, ETS Recognition of Excellence for Praxis Scores

DIRECTING/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Actors Studio Playwright/Directors Lab Member, New York City 2020-Present
Collaborate with members of The Actors Studio, playwrights, and actors to workshop new works with the sole purpose of providing feedback and developing plays.

Artistic Director, Evolving Door Theatre Company, New York City/ Columbia, SC 2020
Create and implement long terms professional theatre development plan. Collaborate with artists across the globe in the creation of digital theatre. File and complete non-profit status with the state and federal government. Communicate with creative unions regarding contracts. Director selected shows.

Artistic Director, Chapin Theatre Company, Chapin, SC 2016-2017
Facilitate the selection of the season, communicate with directors and producers regarding artistic needs and expectations, attend board meetings, hire contracted directors, attend rehearsals and oversee the production process, facilitate discussion regarding any artistic issues that arise, work with the managing director on budgeting, secure rights for performances, attend fundraising events, delegate production and front of house duties to board members, volunteers, and contract employees.

Secretary/Vice President of High School Division, South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association 2014-2017
Attend all board meetings and festivals, adjudicate festivals, revise rubrics and assessments for the festivals, assess the effectiveness and success of yearly festivals, create and revise event

offerings, communicate festival information to high school coaches, collaborate with the middle school and high school division board members regarding the goals and vision of the organization.

District Musical Director, Lexington Richland School District 5, Irmo SC **2013, 2016**
Supervisor: Tami Richardson

Choose and propose an appropriate district musical, adhere to budgets, compile an artistic team including: choreographer, music director, and designers, communicate director's concept to the artistic team, attend production meetings, create a rehearsal schedule, communicate with parents and students regarding show expectations, cast, block, and complete the artistic vision.

Director, Chapin Theatre Company **2012-Present**

Direction of full length productions/musicals. Communication with the producer and designers regarding artistic vision, casting, blocking, attend production meetings, create rehearsal schedule, collaborate with choreographer and music director, lead children's workshops (Peter Pan Jr, and Willy Wonka), and review and follow board budget.

Board Member, Chapin Theatre Company **2013-2016**

Supervisor: Jim DeFelice

Attend board meetings, review and approve annual and individual show budgeting, vote on season selections, produce shows, and volunteer in various production/performance capacities. registration information, return phone calls as needed, help prepare handouts as needed, help inform all staff about class schedules and physical needs, help instructors prepare for class sessions, help maintain class materials, hand-outs, files, scripts, music, etc, help develop new class resources and assist with all YouTheatre show rehearsals

Director, Rock Hill Community Theatre, Rock Hill, SC **Fall 2007**

Supervisor: Russell Luke

Direction of an original one act for the community theatre one act festival. Responsibilities included: communication with head of festival and playwright, casting, blocking, creating stage pictures, designing set and sound.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Devising, Co-teacher, Actors Studio Drama School at Pace University **2019**

Supervisor: Brian Rhinehart

Work with actors to create a fully devised theatre piece for public performance in an 8 week time frame. Facilitate collaboration, group discussion, creativity, and problem solving techniques.

Lead Theatre Teacher, Lexington Richland School District 5, Irmo, SC **2015-2017**

Supervisor: Tami Richardson

Lead professional development sessions for all district theatre teachers, attend district meetings covering arts funding, artistically gifted students, state standards, and other regulations. Create and maintain a district long range plan for common courses. Communicate district information to

other theatre teachers. Communicate with the district arts administrator regarding theatre programs within the district. Help facilitate district musical funds and decisions.

Theatre Teacher, Dutch Fork High School, Irmo, SC **2014-2017**

Supervisor: Greg Owings

Instruct 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students and artistically gifted students based on the SC State Theatre Standards. Manage classes of 25+ students. Write curriculum for theatre I, II, III and honors level theatre courses. Plan lessons that encourage artistic expression and provide rigor for the students. Produce and direct two productions a year. Utilize sound and lighting equipment, create scenery, and order and design costume and prop pieces for productions. Attend theatre local theatre festivals.

Drama Teacher, Dutch Fork Middle School, Irmo, SC **2009-2014**

Supervisor: Rebecca Thompson

Instruct 7th grade, 8th grade, and artistically gifted students based on the SC State Theatre Standards. Manage classes of 30+ students. Plan lessons that encourage artistic expression and provide rigor for the students. Advise home room students, in order to help them succeed both behaviorally and academically. Produce and direct two productions a year. Utilize sound and lighting equipment, create scenery, and order and design costume and prop pieces for productions. Attend SCSTA theatre competition.

STARTS Instructor, Starts Program, Rock Hill, SC **Summer 2010, 2011, 2016**

Advisor: Stephen Gundersheim

Instruct academically gifted students in the areas of improvisation, movement, classical acting and Shakespearean performance. Team direct Shakespearean scenes. Teach advanced material to middle school students to challenge the students and to encourage the continuation of theatre in high school.

Education Intern, Flat Rock Playhouse, Flat Rock, NC **Fall 2008**

Supervisor: Charles Holland

Assist teachers with classes, help plan and implement end-of-session performances, help prepare class materials/handouts, teach class segments as assigned and guided by instructors, team direct material for end-of-session performances, aid in development of technical elements for end-of-session performances, help in planning of new class offerings or teacher needs, data entry for class registrations, help prepare session brochures, help maintain accurate class

Technical Assistant in Scenic Studio, Winthrop University **2005-2006**

Supervisor: Rob Marenick

scenic construction of main stage productions at Winthrop University, help teach basic construction skills to first year theatre majors.

WORKSHOPS

Producing A Large Scale Musical, Professional Development Fall 2016

High School Curriculum Design, Professional Development Spring 2016

Middle School Curriculum Design, Professional Development	Fall 2014
Designing Assessment, Professional Development	Fall 2014
Auditioning, Chapin Theatre Company	Summer 2016
Auditioning for MFA programs, Winthrop University	Spring 2018
Devising, ASDS at Pace University	Fall 2019

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

SELECTED PLAYS

Pouf! (<i>New Work</i>)	SheFest NYC/Evolving Door
Twelfth Night: Welcome to Our Table <i>Winner of the New York Shakespeare Award Best Comedy for 2020</i>	Food of Love NYC/Evolving Door
The Benefit (<i>New Work</i>)	PicPlays
Jumping into Pools (<i>New Work</i>)	Winterfest, Hudson Guild
God/Machine (<i>New Work</i>)	Actors Studio Drama School
Road to Nirvana	Actors Studio Drama School
Vigilance (<i>New Work</i>)	Actors Studio Drama School
Toto Talks, Assistant to Joey McNeely	Frigid Fest, The Kraine Theatre
One Minute Play Festival	Mile Square Theatre
Lucky	Actors Studio Drama School
Stop Kiss	Winthrop University
Final Placement	Winthrop University
Home	Rock Hill Theater
The Hallelujah Girls	Chapin Theatre Company

SELECTED MUSICALS

Shadows, A Dance Musical- Assistant Joey McNeely	The Connelly Theatre
John and Jen	Actors Studio Drama School
The Eleventh Hour (New Work)	Townstages, Smugbug Inc
The Wiz	Lexington Richland District 5
Seussical the Musical	Lexington Richland District 5
Aida: School Edition	Lexington Richland District 5

CONCERTS

Dandelion, An Original Musical in concert	Feinstein's/54 Below
---	----------------------

DEVELOPMENT/STAGED READINGS

Stilt Girl	Evolving Door Theatre Company
Dandelion, An Original Musical (Equity Reading)	Thousand Faced Theatre Company
Universe Without Him	CO-LAB Arts
Smoking Bodies	Actors Studio Drama School

DEvised WORK

Did You Hear?
If Women Rose Rooted
A Conversation
1950s Dinner Party

Actors Studio Drama School
The Tank
Create Carolina Arts Festival
Create Carolina Arts Festival

ACTING EXPERIENCE

<i>Toto Talks</i>	Janet	Frigid Fest, The Kraine Theatre
<i>Sealed for Freshness</i>	Jeanne	Chapin Theatre Company
<i>Heck the Dolls With Chardonnay</i>	Becky	Chapin Theatre Company
<i>The Sensuous Senator</i>	Morrison	Chapin Theatre Company
<i>Christmas Belles</i>	Frankie	Chapin Theatre Company
<i>Motherhood Outloud</i>	Ensemble	Chapin Theatre Company
<i>Unnecessary Farce</i>	Billie	Chapin Theatre Company
<i>Mama Won't Fly</i>	Haley	Chapin Theatre Company
<i>The Geography Club</i>	Min	Edge Theatre Company
<i>Orphan Train</i>	Carnie Women	Flat Rock Playhouse
<i>Requiem for a Dream</i>	Ada	Kingston University
<i>Still Life</i>	Michelle	Winthrop University
<i>A Conversation*</i>	Girl	Create Carolina Arts Festival
<i>Waiting Lessons</i>	Laura	RHCT
<i>Cave Women</i>	Lou Ann	RHCT
<i>Messiah on the Frigidaire</i>	Betsy	Winthrop University
<i>The Effect...the Moon Marigolds</i>	Ruth	Winthrop University
<i>Summer and Smoke</i>	Mrs. Basset	Winthrop University
<i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>	Seacoal	Winthrop University
<i>Stop Kiss</i>	Sara	Winthrop University
<i>The Nature and...of the Universe</i>	Ensemble	Winthrop University
<i>The Laramie Project</i>	Ensemble	RHCT

**Actors Studio Finalist 2020-2021

SKILLS

Splice, iMovie, Google Drive, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

SDC Associate Member, Alpha Psi Omega, South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association, SCEA, South Carolina Theatre Association, International Thespian Honor Society