

Summer Savonna Session

(661) 974-3987

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Summersavonnasession@weebly.com



Education:

Associate of Arts: Theatre Arts	Fresno City College, December 2016
Bachelor of Arts: Theatre Arts (General)	California State University, Fresno, May 2018
Masters of Fine Arts: Directing	University of California, Irvine, June 2022

Work Experience:

Year:

- Adjunct Professor at Fresno City College Since Fall Semester 2023
 - Taught beginning acting, intermediate acting, KCACTF coaching class, Teasers new play festival, directing shows, creating syllabi, mentoring students, grading, Idea Lab supervisor, etc.
- Teacher at Stagedoor Manor 2023
 - Taught intensives for Acting II, Acting III, Acting for the camera, Acting Styles: Chekhov, and Audition Tech. I taught students from ages 10 - 18. Duties: Developing plans, and implementing curriculum, lesson plans, and educational programs for a student audience within the areas of Theatre arts. Presented and reinforced learning concepts within each specific subject.
- Professor at UC - Irvine 2020 - 2022
 - teaching beginning directing, creating a syllabus, mentoring students, grading, etc.
- Teaching Assistant for Beginning Directing at UC – Irvine 2019 - 2022
 - Covering classes as a substitute teacher, grading, mentoring students, running lectures, providing research material, etc
- Private Acting Coach 2019 - Present
 - Assessing the needs of each student, providing them with audition prep, basic theatre information/skills, script analysis, providing reading material and learning plan/schedule.
- Provisional Technical Director, Fresno City College 2019
 - Running all equipment for events in multiple locations across campus, overseeing scenic builds and productions, leading students through work activities and production prep, etc.
- Provisional Costume Shop Manager, Fresno City College 2019
 - Duties included Overseeing student aides, costume development and creation, handling garments, categorizing costumes, washing and drying costume pieces, etc.
- Acting Workshop Leader/Trainer at Fresno City College 2017
 - planned and organized workshop festival, Lead workshops on acting, directing and playwriting, organized talkbacks.
- Experimental Theatre Company Board Liaison, CSU, Fresno 2017 - 2018
 - Duties included mentorship of students, selection of the seasons Productions, conduct interviews, and time management.
- Instructor and Director at Norseman Elementary 2016 - 2017
 - Creating an after school drama program for students 7-11 years old, teaching the basics of theatre, teaching basics of acting, supervising students on field trips to community theatre productions, devising a play and directing play for students to present to family, friends and schoolwide.
- Theatre Coordinator for *Stages*, 'Youth Theater Project' Fresno County Office of Education. 2014 - 2016
 - Duties included Mentorship in theatrical arts, 24-hour supervision, assisting in demos and teaching lessons.
- Student Aid in Costume Shop at Fresno City College 2013 - 2016
 - Duties included construction of garments, hand sewing, machine sewing, clear understanding of patterns, etc.
- Costume Assistant at Saroyan Theatre during *Wicked the Musical Tour* 2014
 - Duties included Washing and drying costumes, categorizing garments, quick changes, ironing, etc.

Training:**Teacher:****Year:**

• Classical Works and Chekhov	Jane Page BA, MFA	2021
	Andrew Borba BA, MFA	
• Voice/Fitzmaurice Work	Cynthia Bassham BA, MFA	2021
• Playwriting/Script Development	Juliette Carrillo BA, MFA, PHD	2021
• Stage Combat/Intimacy Training/Aikido	Robert Najarian BA, MFA	2021
	Martin Katz AAA/AAI Sensei	2020
• Podcasting/Radio	Juliette Carrillo BA, MFA, PHD	2020
• Script Analysis	Jane Page BA, MFA	2020
• Shakespeare	Jane page BA, MFA	2020
• Design for Theatre (Designing for set, lights, props, costumes, sound)	Kristine Doiel BA, MFA	2018
• Hair and Make-up Design (Process of designing make-up and hair for the stage)	Kristine Doel, BA, MFA	2018
• Drama Arts Lab (Work on the process and design of a fully realized show)	Kathleen McKinley, BA, MFA	2018
• Playwriting	Charles Erven, BA, MFA	2018
• Drama Arts Lab (Work on the process and design of a fully realized show)	Kathleen McKinley, BA, MFA	2017
• Costume Design (Process of designing and the construction of Costumes)	Kristine Doel, BA, MFA	2017
• Costume History (Study/Analysis of fabric and garments through history)	Elizabeth Payne, BA, MFA	2017
• Fundamentals of Directing	Thomas Whit Ellis, BA, MFA	2017
• Script Analysis	Christopher Boltz, BA, MFA	2016
• Stagecraft (process of analysis and creation of a set design for theatre)	Christopher Boltz, BA, MFA	2015
• Theatre Practicum (Learning the basic elements of all technical theatre aspects)	Christopher Boltz, BA, MFA	2015
	Debra Erven BA, MFA	
• Costume Design (Process of the analysis and creation of designs for theatre)	Debra Erven, BA, MFA	2015
• Make-up Design (Design and application of Make-up)	Debra Erven, BA, MFA	2015
• Costume Crafts (Hand and machine sewing, garment construction, design, etc.)	Debra Erven, BA, MFA	2012

Directing/Acting/Voice: Core classes of intensive scene work of Shakespearean, Anton Chekhov (heightened language), and Jacobean plays. Core Classes of intensive directing language driven and character driven works, script analysis, playwriting and collaboration. Instruction in improvisation, Michael Chekhov, and Meisner technique. Aptitude with Grontoski, as well as the Rodenberg and Fitzmaurice voice techniques.

Skills:

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- **Excellent Teaching Skill:** Great character and effective teaching style, ability to set goals, strong classroom management, curriculum expertise, passionate and prepared, knows material and how to communicate it, able to convey both new and old materials and methods. Confident and not afraid to make mistakes and willing to admit to ignorance.
 - **Excellent Directing skills:** Leadership, script analysis, dramaturgy, great communicator, remains calm under pressure, adaptable, etc.
 - **Excellent Creative Skills:** Historical research, script creation, the ability to think about a task or project in a new way, easily access imagination to cultivate new ideas, great at making connections and observations, experimenting, asking questions, and also has an open mind ready to take in information and learn new skills.
 - **Excellent Playwriting Skills:** Literature skills, computer/IT skills, proof-reading skills, ability to listen and understand guidelines, creative thinking, imaginative ideas, time management, self-motivation. and researching skills.
 - **Excellent Design skills:** leadership ability, organizational skills, awareness of costs and budget planning, detail oriented, the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, good research skills.
 - **A knowledge of Lighting design:** Cabling, as well as the ability to hang lights and understand a lighting plot. Experience working/operating light boards, focusing lights, and working with gels for the stage. As well as Lighting deconstruction and strike with Christopher Boltz at Fresno city college.
 - **Knowledge of Set Design set construction:** Experience as a construction crew member, also worked with fly lines and hanging scrims, backdrops, and wings. Experienced with many carpentry tools such as a table saw. Experience with hand construction tools like a chop saw, hammer and power drill, etc. Experience with welding. Years of experience of Set deconstruction and strike at Fresno City College with Jeff Barrett, Chris Lang and Christopher Boltz.
 - **Knowledge of Sound Design:** Experience working and operating light boards, cutting music, preparing pre show music, working with and creating sound cues. Experience working in a sound booth, recording pre show announcements or other needed announcements and sounds.
 - **Costume Knowledge:** Hand Sewing, machine sewing, measurements, buttons, zippers, snaps, hook & eye, patterns, able to distinguish fabrics, garment dyeing, laundering garments, steaming garments, ironing garments, garment presentation. Money handling experience, and great communication skill



Summer S. Session

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Directing

Production:

Evil Dead The Musical
Hookman
Matilda The Musical
Pippin
Fences
The Seagull
The Thanksgiving Play
Midsummer Night's Dream
20's The Musical
Ma Binu
Fringe Lab 21
I Ought to be in Pictures
China
High Plain Sisters
The Last Days of Judas Iscariot
Much Ado About Nothing
Skeleton Crew (Staged Reading)
Us & Them
4.48 Psychosis
References to Salvador Dali
Makes me Hot
Bye Bye Baby
El Vato
Love for 200
On the Night In Question

Playwright:

George Reinblatt
Lauren Yee
Dennis Kelly
Stephen Schwartz
August Wilson
Anton Chekhov
Larissa Fasthorse
William Shakespeare
Various
Tolu Ekisola
Various
Neil Simon
Scott Organ
Matt Robinson
Stephen Adly Guirgis
William Shakespeare
Dominique Morisseau
Deshad Cato
Sarah Kane
Jose Rivera
Jose A. Estorga
Terry Miranda
Austin Dozier
Donald Pomnitz

Venue/Company:

Selma Arts Center *(In progress, 2024)*
Fresno City College Studio Theatre
StageDoor Manor Elsie Theatre
Selma Arts Center
Lyric Rep
Robert Cohen Theatre *(New Translation)*
Lyric Rep Morgan Theatre
Various Locations
Various Locations
Zoom Reading New Works
Zoom Productions Women's Theatre Festival
Little Theatre
Nixon Theatre
Selma Arts Center
CalArts Severance Theatre
Woodward Shakespeare Festival
Lab School 101 Theatre
Fresno Soap Co. New Works
Experimental Theatre Company
Fresno Soap Co.
FCC Studio Theatre New Works
FCC Studio Theatre New Works
FCC Studio Theatre New Works
FCC Studio Theatre New Works

Assistant Directing

Production:

Coleman '72
Appropriate
Paradise Blue
The Mountaintop
Dreaming American
The Wolves
A Streetcar Named Desire

Playwright:

Charlie Oh
Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
Dominique Morisseau
Katori Hall
Paul T. Mitri
Sarah DeLappe
Tennessee Williams

Venue/Company:

South Coast Repertory
South Coast Repertory
Geffen Playhouse
Morgan Theatre
Morgan Theatre
The Woods Theatre
John Wright Theatre

Director:

Chay Yew
Delicia T. Sonnenberg
Stori Ayres
Eric Ruffin
Paul T. Mitri
Kathleen Mckinley
Kathleen McKinley

Film/Podcast

<i>Do You Trust Me?</i>	Summer S. Session	Podcast
<i>What We Know Now</i>	Summer S. Session & Chloe King	Film
<i>The Biting Hour</i>	Summer S. Session & Andre DeLorde	Podcast

Special Projects:

- Worked with Fresno City College as a guest artist. Came in to cast and direct students from their advanced acting course on new play readings with URHere Theatre.
- Masterclass in Directing in Orange County through Jar of Sunshine/Chantrell Lewis. Developed a comprehensive 5 hour course that covered the basic tools for stage directors.

Career Objective:

Summer Session is a 2022 Directing MFA graduate with amazing communication skills, lots of leadership, mentoring and teaching experience who is seeking a position as a Tenure Track Professor and resident director. Her goal is to continue to work in the industry to provide her students with the most up to date knowledge of the industry and provide opportunities for the students to shadow or work with her in a professional setting.

References

Debra Erven
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Professor Fresno City College

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Director
Professor at UC, Irvine

Juliette Carrillo
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Head of Directing