

RICHARD BRESTOFF

Curriculum Vitae
Professor of Drama
Associate Head of Acting
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
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DEGREES/TRAINING

Master of Fine Arts, Acting, New York University, 1975.

Bachelor of Arts, Dramatic Art, University of California, Berkeley, 1972.

Graduated with Great Distinction in General Scholarship.
Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Chapter of California.

Improvisational Theater Games with Viola Spolin, Gary Schwartz, Avery Schreiber.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods, Volume 2

Smith and Kraus Publishers, Lyme, New Hampshire, 2010

The Actor's Wheel of Connection

Smith and Kraus Publishers. Lyme, New Hampshire, 2005

Reviews:

Backstage magazine	January 19-26, 2006
Stage Directions	November, 2005
Publishers Weekly	August 22, 2005

Citations:

<i>The Evolution of Theory</i>	Backstage Magazine, June 21-27, 2007
<i>Your First 20 Minutes On A Set</i>	Backstage Magazine, May 1, 2007
<i>Personalizing A Role</i>	Backstage Magazine, January 29, 2007
<i>Harnessing Your Inner Hurricane</i>	Backstage Magazine, July 27-August 3, 2006
<i>Finishing the Unfinished</i>	Backstage Magazine, June 1-7, 2006
<i>Saying What Comes Naturally</i>	Backstage Magazine, February 16-22, 2006
<i>Beyond the Fourth Wall</i>	Backstage Magazine, February 2-8, 2006
<i>Physicalizing A Character</i>	Backstage Magazine, January 19-26, 2006

Acting Under the Circumstances

Smith and Kraus Publishers. Lyme, New Hampshire, 1999

Citations:

Tom Stoppard's Arcadia, Dr. John Fleming, Modern Theatre Guides, Continuum, 2009, p. 95-96.

The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods. Volume 1

Smith and Kraus Publishers. Lyme, New Hampshire, 1995

Used as text in University theater programs in the U.S. and United Kingdom

Suggested reading, **Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)** Pedagogy Task Force

Citation:

“As Richard Brestoff astutely observes: ‘Meisner felt that the connection between actors was vital to the life of the scene, and that when that bond was broken, the acting lost its special quality and power.’ *Strasberg, Adler and Meisner: Method Acting* by David Krasner in *Twentieth Century Actor Training* edited by Alison Hodge. Routledge Press, London, 2000, p. 146.

The Camera Smart Actor

Smith and Kraus Publishers. Lyme New Hampshire, 1994. Used in theater training programs throughout the U.S.

Scenens Laeremestre Og Deres Metoder

Danish translation of *The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods*, 1999.

Editor:

A Shakespearean Actor Prepares

Smith and Kraus Publishers. Lyme New Hampshire, 2000. A text on Shakespearean acting by Adrian Brine and Michael York.

Authored Articles:

Best Men’s Stage Monologues of 1994 - Introduction

Smith and Kraus Publishers. Lyme, New Hampshire, 1995

Acting to Interacting: The Migration From Strasberg To Meisner

Robert Cohen Symposium - 2011

An Actor Unprepared

Dramatics Magazine

OTHER CITATIONS:

Contact Improvisation To Scene

Study :Authenticity in word and Deed

How to Avoid Overacting

Gotta Be Me

Fear of Indicating

Ah, But Underneath

The Unbearable Confusion of

Defining Terms

Understanding the Differences

in Acting Techniques

Theatre, Dance and Performance Training - 2012

Backstage Magazine, May 10, 2011

Backstage Magazine, July 6, 2009

Backstage Magazine, May 21, 2008

Backstage Magazine, February 14, 2008

Backstage Magazine, December 4, 2007

Backstage Magazine, June 21-27, 2007

UC IRVINE TEACHING

Fall Quarter 2012 Drama 200

Fall Quarter 2012 Drama 200

Winter Quarter 2013 Drama 200

Winter Quarter 2013 Drama 135

Graduate Acting – Personalization

Graduate Acting - Professional Preparation

Graduate Acting – Scene Study

Undergraduate – Acting for the Camera

Spring Quarter	N/A	N/A	On Sabbatical
Fall Quarter	2011	Drama 200	Graduate Acting – Personalization
Fall Quarter	2011	Drama 200	Graduate acting – Professional Preparation
Winter Quarter	2012	Drama 135	Undergraduate – Acting for Camera
Winter Quarter	2012	Drama 200	Graduate Acting – Scene Study
Spring Quarter	2012	Drama	
Spring Quarter	2012	Drama	
Fall Quarter	2010	Drama 200	Graduate Acting – Personalization
Fall Quarter	2010	Drama 200	Graduate Acting – Professional Preparation
Winter Quarter	2011	Drama 135	Undergraduate – Acting for Camera
Winter Quarter	2011	Drama 200	Graduate Acting – Scene Study
Spring Quarter	2011	Drama 135	Undergraduate – Improvisation for the Theater
Spring Quarter	2011	Drama 200	Graduate – Acting for Camera
Fall Quarter	2009	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Personalization
Fall Quarter	2009	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Professional Preparation
Winter Quarter	2010	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Scene Study
Winter Quarter	2010	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Showcase
Spring Quarter,	2010	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Acting For Camera
Spring Quarter	2010	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Showcase
Fall Quarter	2007	Drama 200	Professional Preparation - Graduate level
Fall Quarter	2007	Drama 219	TV and Film Acting - Graduate level
Winter Quarter	2008	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Personalization
Winter Quarter	2008	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Showcase
Winter Quarter	2008	Drama 200 Lab	Graduate Acting - Showcase
Spring Quarter	2008	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Scene study
Spring Quarter	2008	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Showcase
Spring Quarter	2008	Drama 240	Graduate Project - Showcase
Fall Quarter	2006	Drama 135	TV and Film Acting - Undergraduate Level
Fall Quarter	2006	Drama 200	Professional Preparation - Graduate Level
Winter Quarter	2007	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Personalization
Winter Quarter	2007	Drama 219	TV/FILM Acting - Graduate Level
Spring Quarter	2007	Drama 135	TV/FILM Acting - Undergraduate Level
Spring Quarter	2007	Drama 200	Scene Study - Graduate Level
Fall Quarter	2005	Drama 135	TV and Film Acting - Undergraduate level
Fall Quarter	2005	Drama 200	Professional Preparation - Graduate level
Winter Quarter	2006	Drama 200	Graduate Acting - Personalization
Winter Quarter	2006	Drama 219	TV and Film Acting - Graduate Level
Spring Quarter	2006	Drama 135	TV and Film Acting - Undergraduate Level
Spring Quarter	2006	Drama 200	Scene Study - Graduate Level
Fall Quarter	2004	Drama 135	TV and Film acting - Undergraduate level
Fall Quarter	2004	Drama 200	Professional Preparation - Graduate Level
Winter Quarter	2005	Drama 200	Graduate Acting – Personalization
Winter Quarter	2005	Drama 219	TV and Film Acting - Graduate level
Spring Quarter	2005	Drama 30c	Acting - Undergraduate level

Spring Quarter	2005	Drama 135	Theater Games - Undergraduate level
Spring Quarter	2005	Drama 225	Seminar in Theater Pedagogy - Graduate level
Spring Quarter	2005	Drama 399	University Teaching - Graduate level
Fall Quarter	2003	Drama 135	TV and Film acting - Undergraduate level.
Fall Quarter	2003	Drama 219	Professional Preparation - Graduate Level
Winter Quarter	2004	Drama 135	TV and Film Acting - Undergraduate level
Winter Quarter	2004	Drama 219	TV and Film Acting - Graduate Level
Spring Quarter,	2004	Drama 200	Graduate Studio Acting – Graduate Level
Spring Quarter	2004	Drama 200	Graduate Studio Acting – Graduate Level

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Acting – Theater

International

The Green Knight – 2010 – **World Premiere**

Sibiu International Theater Festival, Romania (Voice acting for animation of title character)

Woof Daddy – 2005 – **European Premiere**

Teatr Kana, Szczecin, Poland

Teatr Polski-Malarnia, Poznan, Poland

Rampa-Teatr Na Targowku, Warsaw, Poland

Directed by Eli Simon

Broadway

Hamlet

Lincoln center, New York

Directed by Michael Rudman, produced by Joseph Papp.

Off-Broadway

Rich and Famous

Directed by Mel Shapiro, produced by Joseph Papp. Understudying both William Atherton and Ron Liebman

Never A Snug Harbor

Directed by Tom Ligon, Playwrights Horizons, New York.

Off-Off Broadway

The Prince (later retitled, *Machiavelli*) - 2005

Manhattan Theatre Source (staged reading), New York

Directed by Robert Cohen

Major Barbara

Directed by Omar Shapli, Fifth Floor Theater, New York.

Regional

King Lear – Duke of Gloucester – 2013

New Swan Shakespeare Festival

Directed by Eli Simon

The Fantasticks – Bellomy - 2013
New Swan Shakespeare Festival
Directed by Myrona Delaney

The Merchant of Venice – Shylock - 2012
New Swan Shakespeare Festival
***Nominated for Falstaff Award for Best Performance: Male**
Directed by Eli Simon

A Happy End – Mark Erdmann - 2012 - A staged Reading at the Museum of Tolerance,
Beverly Hills, CA
Written by Iddo Netanyahu
Directed by Ami Dayan

Proof – 2007
Long Beach Playhouse, Long Beach California
Directed by Luke Yankee

Machiavelli – 2006 – **Los Angeles Premiere**
Hayworth Theater, Los Angeles
Directed by Robert Cohen

All Powers Necessary and Convenient
Directed by Steven Pearson, Playhouse Theater (staged reading), Seattle.

The Mousetrap
Directed by Reginald Denham, Seattle Repertory Theater.

The Taming of the Shrew
Directed by John Lyon, Magic Theater of Berkeley.

The Three Sisters
Directed by Robin Smith, Rhino Theater, Seattle.

Dracula: A Musical Nightmare
Directed by Richard Marion, Zephyr Theater, Los Angeles.

The Prisoner of Venice
Directed by Douglas Johnson, Zephyr Theater, Los Angeles.

University

The Merchant of Venice – Shylock - 2012
UC Irvine – The New Swan Theatre (inaugural production of this theatre)
Directed by Eli Simon

Acting – Film

Devil's Creek
Directed by Mohit Ramchandani-2010
Accepted into the Short Corner at the *Cannes Film Festival*

The Taking of Beverly Hills

Directed by Sidney Furie, New Line Cinema.

My Favorite Year

Directed by Richard Benjamin, MGM Studios.

The Man With Two Brains

Directed by Carl Reiner, 20th Century Fox.

Real Men

Directed by Dennis Feldman, MGM Studios.

The Entity

Directed by Sidney Furie, 20th Century Fox.

Fast break

Directed by Jack Smythe, Columbia Pictures.

Car Wash

Directed by Michael Schultz, Universal Studios.

Acting – Television

The Fugitive

Recurring role, 2000-01, CBS

Thirtysomething

Emmy ballot for Guest Star, 1990, CBS

Northern Exposure

CBS

Medicine Ball

FOX Television

Murder She Wrote

CBS

WIOU

CBS

Equal Justice

ABC

Tour of Duty

Recurring role, CBS

Frank's Place

CBS

Night Court

NBC

A Year in the Life
NBC

Hill Street Blues
Two episodes, NBC
Twilight Zone
NBC

Steambath
Showtime Television

Operation Petticoat
Series regular, ABC

Acting – Voice Over

KIRO Radio Mystery Playhouse, Seattle, 1993 – 2003
Member of Custom Looping from 1989 - 1993.

Directing

University of California, Irvine Showcase, 2008-2010
Theatre Row Theatres, NYC, Matrix Theater, Los Angeles

The Dumbwaiter
5th Floor Theater, New York.

Saved
5th Floor Theater, New York.

Romanoff and Juliet
Waverly Playhouse, New York.

The Cherry Orchard
Crow Theater, Seattle.

The Doctor in Spite of Himself
Crow Theater, Seattle.

The Physicists,
Dwinelle Theater, Berkeley.

Actors worked with:

Peter O'Toole
Meryl Streep
Jane Alexander
Ruby Dee
Sam Waterston
John Lithgow
Mandy Patinkin
Rip Torn
Ron Liebman

William Atherton
Ed Asner
Sid Caesar
Steve Martin
John Astin
Kathleen Turner
Richard Pryor
Eileen Brennan
Timothy Busfield
Jeffrey Jones
Barbara Hershey
Joe Spano
Howard Rollins
Robert Davi
Harley Jane Kozak
John Shea
Harry Anderson
Martin Short

OTHER TEACHING

Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle. Instructor

Fall, 2002 – Acting instructor for 4th year graduating Seniors. Using Samuel Beckett's *Waiting For Godot* to discover circumstances in a play wherein "Nothing happens. Twice."

Acting for the Camera. Character work based on Moni Yakim's six selves and physical work involving forces of nature, animals and man-made objects.

Freehold Studio Theatre, Seattle

Fall, 2002 – Spring, 2003 – Co-Lead Acting Instructor for nine month Instrument Training Intensive (ITI) focusing on text analysis in action, character work and heightened prose.

Summer, 2002 – Shakespeare Intensive – Co-Lead Acting Instructor.

Fall 2001 – Spring 2002 – Co-Lead Acting Instructor for nine month vocational actor training intensive.

1995-2003 – Acting Instructor for Film and Television Acting and Auditioning for Film and Television.

University of Washington, Seattle

Fall, 2000 – Acting for the Camera, School of Drama – 400 level class for junior and senior drama majors. Shoot scenes in Classical continuity style.

Spring, 1999 – Preparations for Professional auditions. Work with 3rd Year Graduate Acting students on showcase auditions for the profession.

Seattle Central Community College

Fall, 1994 – Fall, 2001 – Introduction to Acting and to Acting for the Camera.

North Seattle Community College

1998 – 2000 – Acting for the Camera. Scene work with camera.

Bellevue Community College

1994 – 1996 – Acting for the Camera. Scene work with camera.

Highline Community College

1995-1996 – Acting for the Camera. Scene work with camera.

Audition Preparation for URTA auditions.

Skagit Valley Community College

1995 – Acting for the Camera. Scene work with camera.

ASSOCIATIONS AND HONORS

- 2013 – Blue Ribbon Panel Judge, Primetime EMMY Awards, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- 2012 – Blue Ribbon Panel Judge. Primetime EMMY Awards, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- 2011 – Blue Ribbon Panel Judge, Primetime EMMY Awards, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- 2010 - Blue Ribbon Panel Judge, Primetime EMMY Awards, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- 2009 - Blue Ribbon Panel Judge, Primetime EMMY Awards, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- 2009 - Selected for inclusion in *Who's Who in the World*
- 2008 - Selected for inclusion in *Who's Who in America*
- 2008 - Blue Ribbon Panel Judge, Primetime EMMY Awards, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- 2007 – Blue Ribbon Panel Judge, Primetime EMMY Awards, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- 2006 - Blue Ribbon Panel Judge, Primetime EMMY Awards, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- 2005 - Blue Ribbon Panel Judge, Primetime EMMY Awards, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- 2005 - Recipient of UC Irvine's Dean's Award (School of the Arts) for Excellence in Teaching
- 1990 - 93 - Blue Ribbon Panel Judge, Primetime EMMY Awards, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- 1990 - Primetime EMMY ballot for Guest Star performance on *thirtysomething*, CBS Television Network
- Member, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences – Performer Branch
- Member, Actor's Equity Association
- Member, Screen Actor's Guild
- Member, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
- Member, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Chapter of California (Berkeley)
- Magna Cum Laude Graduate, University of California, Berkeley
- Master Acting Teacher designation from Freehold Studio Theatre, Seattle Washington

SYMPOSIA AND DOCUMENTARY INVITED APPEARANCES

- 2011 – Guest Presenter at Robert Cohen Symposium of paper, *Acting To Interacting: The Migration From Strasberg to Meisner*.
- 2011 – Guest Performer – Symposium on *The Merchant of Venice: An Open Invitation?*
- 2009 – Guest Lecturer and Presenter , Texas Educational Theater Association convention. Speaking on, *The Monologue As Dialogue* and *A Performance Never Given; Acting for the Camera*.
- 2008 – Expert on-camera commentator and analyst for the documentary: *Great American Masters of Acting Training: Lee Strasberg and Stella Adler* – Insight Media.
- 2007 – Invited lecturer on dramatic improvisation and camera acting techniques, Texas State University.
- 2002 – Guest Lecturer and Guest of Honor, Texas Educational Theater Association convention.
- 1999 - Guest Presenter, University of Washington School of Drama Colloquium.

