

# Tovah Close

## NYC Dialect Coach and Voice & Speech Instructor

### TEACHING

#### **New York University Tisch School of the Arts-- Undergraduate Drama New Studio on Broadway, September 2011- present**

Adjunct Instructor

Courses taught (full academic year; two-three sections of each):

Speech I: Verbal Action, IPA transcription, American Theater Standard (Skinner)

Speech II: Heightened Text, Shakespeare, Intro to Dialects (Including R.P. British, Popular London, Dublin Irish, and others)

Voice & Speech III: Vocal Embodiment, Presence, Breath-Body Connection, Dialect Scene Study, Dialect for Auditions

Contact Professor Dawn-Elin Fraser, Head of NSB Spoken Voice and Speech 212.998.1974/ def7@nyu.edu

#### **New York University Tisch School of the Arts-- Summer High School Program New Studio on Broadway, Summers 2011--2014**

Spoken Voice: Middendorf- and Linklater-based breath and voice work, Viewpoints, Created Projects, exploration of heightened text

Speech for the Actor: Verbal Action, Intro to IPA, Shakespeare tools, sonnets

Contact Kenneth Noel Mitchell, Head of Acting and Director of NSB High School Summer Program  
212.998.1974/knoelmitchell@msn.com

#### **Governor's School of North Carolina, Summers 2010-- 2013**

Designed and implemented a voice and speech curriculum for gifted high school students including:

Vocal Technique: Vocal warm-up for production, physical readiness and availability, and a connection to the actor's personal use of breath, speech and the space.

Dialects: Articulation and dexterity of speech organs, basic phonetics, and an overview of the sound and rhythm changes for R.P., Cockney, Irish and Scottish dialects.

Contact: Bryan Close, 917.204.8919

#### **Epic Theater Ensemble Summer HS Intensive, August 2013**

Voice and Speech master classes with Tier 1 and Tier 2 high school groups, addressing physical awareness, body-breath-voice connection, articulation, and verbal action.

Contact Melissa Friedman, melissa@epictheatreensemble.org

#### **Young Conservatory at American Conservatory Theater, Summers 2006-2008**

4-week, 2-week, and 1-week summer sessions taught in the following:

High School Acting Technique:

Devised projects, monologues, physical character embodiment, scenes from American Realism rehearsed and performed for an invited audience.

Middle School Acting Technique:

Similar curriculum to the high school classes, with emphasis on helping students feel comfortable in their bodies and being seen.

High School Voice and Speech:

Development of breath, resonance, articulation, work on Shakespeare sonnets, and dialect work including R.P. and Irish.

Middle School Voice and Speech:

Breath and resonance development, exploration of Lewis Carroll's *The Jabberwocky* and T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* to promote growth and familiarity with heightened text and to encourage imaginative work.

Junior Acting (Grades 3-5) Theater Games:

Focus on imagination, constructive play, and collaboration.

Contact Craig Slaight, 415.439.2444/cslaight@act-sf.org

## PRODUCTION DIALECT COACHING

### **Off-Broadway: 59E59**

August 2014

*Bauer*

### **Epic Theater Ensemble, NYC**

June 2016

*Ad Astra*

August 2013

*32 to Base*

Contact Jim Wallert, [jim@epictheatreensemble.org](mailto:jim@epictheatreensemble.org)

### **NYU Tisch, New Studio on Broadway**

March 2015

*The Apple Tree*

April 2014

*The Baker's Wife*

February 2013

*Little Women the Musical*

October 2012

*James Joyce's The Dead*

Contact Kyle Fabel, [kjfabel@gmail.com](mailto:kjfabel@gmail.com)

### **Summer Theater of New Canaan**

July 2011

*Carousel*

June 2009

*Camelot*

Contact Allegra Libonati, 203.966.4634

### **Parenthesis Theater Company, NYC**

April 2011

*The Lady's Not for Burning*

Contact Anna Moore, [annaolivamoore@gmail.com](mailto:annaolivamoore@gmail.com)

### **Occam Repertory Theater, NYC**

November 2010  
*Featuring Loretta*  
Contact Bryan Close, 917.204.8919

**American Conservatory Theater MFA**

February 2007  
*The Reluctant Doctor* by Moliere  
Contact Graham Smith, 415.816.4515

***Ein Jahr/One Year, Senior Honors Project, U.C. Santa Barbara* Sept. 2004- April 2005**

Undergraduate honors thesis in which I wrote, directed, designed, and performed a two-person play adapted from the letters my grandparents exchanged while engaged and separated during the earliest years of the Holocaust. The creative process relied heavily on language and the connection between my personal voice and the voices of my grandparents, while the piece explored the permeability of time and space and the power of the written word.

**Private Coaching & Accent Reduction, various**

Coaching actors for auditions and performances, and non-native speakers of English looking to reduce severity of foreign accent.

Selected list of dialects coached: Arabic, British Isles (R.P., Popular London, Cockney, Dublin, West Irish, Scottish) Czech, Dominican, French, German, Ghanian, Indian, Italian, New Zealand, Polish, Puerto Rican, Russian, Trinidadian, U.S. Regional (Texas, Tidewater Southern, General American (accent reduction), Maine, Boston, New York, Wisconsin, Southern California), Zulu South African

**REFERENCES**

Dawn-Elin Fraser, Assistant Arts Professor, NYU [def7@nyu.edu](mailto:def7@nyu.edu)  
Ryan Rilette, Artistic Director, Round House Theater, Bethesda MD [RRilette@roundhousetheatre.org](mailto:RRilette@roundhousetheatre.org)  
Deborah Sussel, Former Head of Speech at A.C.T. 415.381.5131  
Kaliswa Brewster, actor [kaliswa.brewster@gmail.com](mailto:kaliswa.brewster@gmail.com)

**EDUCATION**

**American Conservatory Theater** **MFA Acting**  
**University of California, Santa Barbara** **BFA Acting**  
**Voice/Speech:** Jeffrey Crockett (Middendorf); Deborah Sussel (IPA, Skinner); Michael Morgan, Lisa Porter, & Dianne Schoenborn (Linklater)  
**Acting:** Melissa Smith, Scott Freeman, Dennis Krausnick (Shakespeare), Rosalyn Coleman & Ellen Novack (On-Camera), Gregory Wallace (Chekhov), Irwin Appel, Tom Whitaker

**ACTING (selected credits)**

*A Christmas Carol*/Mary/American Conservatory Theater  
*Orestes 2.0*/Helen of Troy/Children's Theatre Company, NYC  
*The Contrast*/Letitia/Metropolitan Playhouse, NYC  
*The Beard of Avon*/Anne Hathaway/Garvin Theatre, Santa Barbara, CA  
*Lobby Hero*/Dawn/Vortex Theater, Albuquerque, NM  
*Orlando*/Sasha/A.C.T. MFA Program  
*The Importance of Being Earnest*/Gwendolen/A.C.T. MFA Program  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*/Titania/A.C.T. MFA Program  
*David Copperfield*/Mrs. Micawber/A.C.T. MFA Program  
*Intimate Apparel*/Mrs. VanBuren/A.C.T. MFA Program  
*Pentecost*/Amira/Theater UCSB  
*The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*/Pace/Theater UCSB

**SERVICE**

Board of Directors, American Conservatory Theater MFA Alumni Association 2010--2014  
Secretary, 2012-2013

Member, Actors Equity Association

Member, Voice and Speech Trainers Association

Member, ACT-UAW Academics Come Together Local 7902