Curriculum Vitae

**Tovah Close**

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Theater educator and artist specializing in voice, speech, and acting

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**University of Virginia** 2019-Pres.

Lecturer in Performance (full-time continuing appointment)

Department of Drama

**Mary Baldwin University** 2018-2019

Adjunct Guest Artist

Shakespeare and Performance MFA Program

**New York University** 2010-2017

Adjunct Instructor

Tisch School of the Arts, New Studio on Broadway

## EDUCATION

**American Conservatory Theater**

Master of Fine Arts, Acting 2008

**University of California, Santa Barbara**

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Acting 2005

*High honors, distinction in the major*

Honors Thesis: *Ein Jahr/One Year*, Advisor: Judith Olauson Tourney

### TEACHING

### Courses Taught: Graduate

**University of Virginia Department of Drama MFA Acting Program**

*Second Year Voice: Shakespeare and Verse* Fall 2021

Foundations of vocal production, speech actions for heightened language, Shakespeare techniques including rhetoric, rhythm, verse and line.

*Second Year Voice: Dialects* Spring 2022

Methodologies for accent acquisition and performance including phonetics, pronunciation, prosody and oral posture.

*Third Year Voice: Advanced Application* Fall 2022

Techniques for voice-over, character voice, and independent accent study.

*Third Year Thesis* Spring 2023

Supervised drafting, revision, and filming/submission of personal introductory statements and statements of philosophy.

**Mary Baldwin University Shakespeare and Performance MFA Program**

*MFA Voice* Fall 2018, Spring 2019

Fall topics included spontaneous breath, vocal release, resonance and placement, articulation, character voice, vocal health, and a Shakespearean monologue lab. Spring topics included anatomy of articulation, dialect acquisition technique, and an introduction to RP British.

### Courses Taught: Undergraduate

**University of Virginia Department of Drama**

*Acting I* Fall 2019, Spring 2020 (Shifted Online), Fall 2023

Introduction to the basics of stage acting based on the Stanislavski system. Students build ensemble, presence, vocal and physical technique, and script analysis while examining contemporary theatrical texts.

*Speaking in Public* Fall 2019, Spring 2020 (Shifted Online), Fall 2020 (Online), Spring 2021 (Online), Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023

A voice and speech class for non-majors. Topics include presence, managing nerves, vocal & physical technique, and crafting content that is narrative, persuasive, and personal in nature.

*Voice & Movement for Actors* Fall 2023

Co-taught course exploring the creative potential of body, breath, and voice to create realistic and abstract performance, culminating in the rehearsal and performance of an ensemble project.

**UVA Launchpad**

*Talking and Listening with Presence*  Summer 2023

A 5-week online class that explores communication skills through the lenses of mindfulness and presence as part of UVA Arts & Sciences’ summer career-readiness program.

**New York University Tisch School of the Arts New Studio on Broadway**

*Speech IA* Fall 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016

Introduction to speech and phonetics for the actor. Topics included creating context, scoring a script, warming up, consonant phonetics, and poem performance.

*Speech IB* Spring 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017

Topics included visceral exploration of vowels and their phonetics, and operative words. Group performance of Walt Whitman’s “Pioneers! O Pioneers!”

*Speech IIA* Fall 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016

Introduction to heightened stage speech and Shakespeare. Topics included scansion, rhetoric, and imagery. Performance of a Shakespearean sonnet or monologue.

*Speech IIB* Spring 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017

Introduction to UK accents, including R.P./Standard British, Estuary, and Cockney. Actors explored historical context, sounds, prosody, and oral posture, and performed a monologue to audition standard in each accent.

*Voice and Speech IIIA*  Fall 2012, 2013, 2014

Advanced exploration of voice for the actor including vocal presence and embodiment, room tone, breath-body connection, and vocal health, as well as Dublin and Nuyorican accents. Students performed a monologue to audition standard in each accent.

*Speech IIIB*  Spring 2013, 2014, 2015

Accent scene study. Topics included student-led exploration of accents of particular interest, including US Southern, French, Italian, Russian, Brazilian, and Scottish.

*Senior Tutorials* Fall 2013

Individual sessions with fourth-year actors on topics of concern or interest.

**New York University Tisch Summer High School Program**

*Spoken Voice*  Summer 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Introduced advanced high school actors to Middendorf- and Linklater-based voice work, Viewpoints, and a devised voice and movement project rooted in Shakespearean text.

*Speech for the Actor*  Summer 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Introduced advanced high school actors to speech tools including verbal action, phonetics, and Shakespeare tools. Devised group performance of a Shakespearean sonnet.

### Workshops and Guest Lectures

**University of Alabama Graduate School, Renaissance Studies** 2022

“Acting Shakespeare for English Scholars”

**UVA Darden School of Business**

“Improv for Public Speaking” 2022

**UVA Student Council** 2020

“Skills of Public Speaking”

**Live Arts** 2018-2019

“Dialects with Tovah Close” Workshop Series

**Virginia Players at UVA Drama**  2019

“Anatomy of a Dialect”

### K-12 Workshops

**Live Arts** **Spring Break Filmmaking Camp** April 2018

**Governor’s School of North Carolina Summer Program** 2010-2013

**Epic Theater Ensemble Summer Intensive** August 2013

**American Conservatory Theater Young Conservatory Summer Prog.** 2006-2008 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## PUBLICATIONS

Close, Tovah. “Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art” (Book Review). Voice and Speech Review, published online June 22, 2022.

## CREATIVE WORK

### Dialect/Vocal Coach, Professional

**Virginia Theatre Festival, VA**

*Cabaret* July 2023

*Dear Jack, Dear Louise* July 2023

*Little Women* July 2022

*Steel Magnolias (as Heritage Theatre Fest.)* August 2019*Pride and Prejudice**(as Heritage Theatre Fest.)*  June 2019

*A Chorus Line* *(as Heritage Theatre Fest.)*  June 2018

**MacMillan Audiobooks**

*Western Alliances* May 2023

**Random House Audiobooks**

*Meant to Be* March 2022

**Tour (inc. Off-Broadway and Edinburgh Fringe Festival)** November 2019

*The Elephant in the Room–* Priyanka Shetty solo show

**Mile Square Theatre, Hoboken, NJ** April 2017

*Betrayal*

**Epic Theater Ensemble, NYC** January 2017

*Ad Astra*

**Off-Broadway**  August 2014

*Bauer*

**Epic Theater Ensemble, NYC** August 2013

*32 to Base*

**Summer Theater of New Canaan, CT**

*Carousel* July 2011

*Camelot* June 2009

**Parenthesis Theater Company, NYC** April 2011

*The Lady’s Not for Burning*

**Occam Repertory Theater, NYC** November 2010

*Featuring Loretta*

### Dialect/Vocal Coach, Academic

**University of Virginia Department of Drama**

*Sense and Sensibility* October 2022

*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* December 2021

*When the Rain Stops Falling* November 2021

*The Wolves* October 2018

*Just Like Us (Staged Reading)* March 2018

*We are Pussy Riot or Everything is P.R.*  September 2017

**DMR Adventures** June 2018

*Guys and Dolls*

**NYU Tisch School of the Arts, New Studio on Broadway**

*The Apple Tree* March 2015

*The Baker’s Wife* April 2014

*Little Women the Musical* February 2013

*James Joyce’s The Dead* October 2012

**American Conservatory Theater MFA Program** February 2007

*The Reluctant Doctor*

### Acting, Theater

*In an East German Living Room* Various UVA Drama

*A Christmas Carol* Mary American Conservatory Theater

*Or,* Nell The Process Group, NYC

*Orestes 2.0* Helen of Troy BoCoCa Theatre Festival, NYC

*The Contrast* Letitia Metropolitan Playhouse, NYC

*Lobby Hero* Dawn Vortex Theater, Albuquerque, NM

*Orlando* Sasha A.C.T. MFA

*The Importance of Being Earnest* Gwendolen A.C.T. MFA

*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* Titania A.C.T. MFA

*David Copperfield* Mrs. Micawber A.C.T. MFA

*Intimate Apparel* Mrs. Van Buren A.C.T. MFA

*The Beard of Avon* Anne Hathaway The Garvin, Santa Barbara, CA

### Acting, TV/Film

*Corona Sisters (Ad)* Jess Lindsay Branham Prod.

*59 Seconds* Abigail Lighthouse Prod.

*Boardwalk Empire* Conventioneer HBO

### Voice-over

*Virginia Theatre Festival* PA Announcer Virginia Theatre Festival

*UVA Primary & Specialty Clinics* TV Commercial NBC 29

*Charlottesville Waldorf School* Radio Commercial WNRN

*Indivisible Charlottesville* Radio PSA Red Door Prod.

*The Perfectly Circular Rock* Podcast Doug Grissom/WTJU

### Directing

*Serenity Hill in the Pandemic Ep. 1-3* Webseries Hamner Theater

### Interdisciplinary Collaboration

UVA MFA Acting and MFA Creative Writing programs

Audiobook Project October 2022

### Private Coaching

Accent acquisition, public speaking, breath embodiment, vocal ease/health, English pronunciation for non-native speakers, acting, audition technique.

### Cultural Consultant

Consulted on issues of Jewish identity, culture, and anti-semitism in VTF 2023 production of *Cabaret,* including organizing and speaking on a panel presentation for cast.

## SERVICE

Equity Committee, UVA Department of Drama 2022-pres.

MFA Thesis Committee, UVA Department of Drama Spring 2023

Cultural Consultant, UVA Virginia Players

*Falsettoland* December 2022

Volunteer Dialect/Vocal Coach, Live Arts

*The River* January 2023

*The Children (canceled due to Covid-19)* March 2020

*The Wolves* March 2019

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* February 2019

*Ragtime* October 2018

*Big Love* March 2018

*Top Girls* February 2018

Faculty Mentor, UVA Miller Arts Scholars 2021-pres.

Judge, UVA Jefferson Society Moomaw Oratorical Contest 2019

Voiceover artist, Charlottesville Waldorf School (PSA) 2018-2019

Judge, Renaissance School, annual Shakespeare monologue competition 2018

Voiceover artist, Indivisible Charlottesville (PSA) 2018

Board Member, American Conservatory Theater Alumni Board 2010-2014

-Secretary, 2012-2013

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Actors Equity Association 2008-present

Voice and Speech Trainers Association 2011-present

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & RELEVANT TRAINING

### Voice & Speech

**Knight-Thompson Speechwork** 2019-2022

Andrea Caban, Julie Foh, Nathan Crocker, Tyler Seiple

*#1 Experiencing Speech, #2 Phonetics Intensive, #3 Experiencing Accents*

**Voice Over Technique**

Bianca Bryan, VO-VA 2022

**Voice and Gender**

Amanda Quaid, Talkshop NYC 2022

**Shakespeare’s Shapely Language** 2021

Jan Gist, Old Globe

**Breath Embodiment**

Jeffrey Crockett

Online Weekend Intensive 2023

New York Intensive 2013

Ongoing weekly practice March-Dec. 2021

**The Linklater Center, New York City**

Dianne Schoenborn

Freening the Natural Voice 2013

### Anti-Racism/DEI

Anti-Racist Theatre Training, Jacqueline E. Lawton 2022

Microagressions, Sly Mata 2022

Diversity and Inclusion, Sly Mata 2022

The Call of this Moment, Rev. Jacqui Lewis 2020

The Queer "Sound" in Hollywood and Media, The Halp Network Entertainment Acad. 2020

Teaching in Crisis: Disruption and Identity, National Alliance of Acting Teachers 2020

### Pedagogy

UVA Center for Teaching Excellence, Facilitated “c3 Course Design” 2021

UVA Center for Contemplative Study, “What is Contemplative Pedagody?” 2020

### Movement

Alexander Technique: Frank Ottiwell, Emily Whyte, Rahimah Wright, Jennifer Tweel Kelly

Yoga and Pilates: various, 15+ years

Clown: Leslie Felbain

Neutral Mask and Commedia Mask: Matthew Graham Smith

### Singing

Christina Fleming, Molly Murphy, Richard Rutt, Frank Johnson

### REFERENCES

Dawn-Elin Fraser, Arts Professor, New York University /Tisch SOTA

[def7@nyu.edu](mailto:def7@nyu.edu) 415.336.4667

Richard Will, Professor & Drama Chair, University of Virginia

[rw6w@virginia.edu](mailto:rw6w@virginia.edu) 434.924.3327

Colleen Kelly, Professor & Head of MFA Acting Program, University of Virginia

[jk2s@virginia.edu](mailto:jk2s@virginia.edu) 434.924.8964