

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

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

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

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
Ryan Rilette, Artistic Director, Round House Theater, Bethesda MD RRilette@roundhousetheatre.org
Deborah Sussel, Former Head of Speech at A.C.T. 415.381.5131
Kaliswa Brewster, actor 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