

EDUCATION

MFA, Acting 2019
University of California, San Diego San Diego, CA

Thesis: "A Lesson in Perseverance"

Supervisor: Richard Robichaux

Graduated with Teaching Assistant Achievement Award for Outstanding Contribution to Undergraduate Instruction

BFA, Theatre Performance 2011
Chapman University Orange, CA

Minor: Leadership and Organizational Studies

TRAINING/CERTIFICATIONS

BGB Studios 2021
Advanced Master Class Los Angeles, CA

Second City Hollywood 2018
Improv 1 Los Angeles, CA

School Yoga Institute 2014
200 HR Yoga Teacher Training Bali, Indonesia

Cornerstone Theater Company 2013
Institute Company Member Los Angeles, CA

Touchstone Theatre Company 2011-2012
Apprentice Bethlehem, PA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (selected)

Adjunct Faculty 2023-Present
Theater Arts Department
Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA

- Curate curriculum spanning from 8-weeks to a full semester that implements the college's set classes
- Direct a devisement-based studio workshop class in which students perform a final sharing
- Maintain relevant trainings/materials to teach acting, movement, scene study, and theatre history

Facilitator/Company Member 2012-Present
Curriculum Development
Red Ladder Theatre Company, San Jose, CA

- Develop streaming curriculum for students in the foster system that demonstrates the building blocks of storytelling
- Provide alternative modes of creative thinking skills for differing levels of students and corporations
- Allow varying groups of emotional and academic levels to realize their full potential through play

Guest Lecturer Fall 2024
Theater Arts Department
West Valley College, Saratoga, CA

- Generate curriculum for an online Theatre History course for majors and non-majors
- Encourage students to discuss and review theatre as a means of forming community
- Establish materials on Canvas for students of all learning backgrounds and abilities

Instructor Summer 2023-Present
Summer with Shakespeare
A Noise Within, Pasadena, CA

- Choreograph movement and dance pieces to support two productions during the duration of the camp
- Introduce students from ages 6-18 to various movement techniques (i.e. Laban and Viewpoints)
- Collaborate with the directors and other instructors to develop curriculum for a 5-week camp

Instructor 2019-2021
Voice & Movement/Scene Study
New York Film Academy, Los Angeles, CA

- Create a warm up for students to add and develop for their own artistic practice
- Assist students in identifying personal mannerisms, vocal tendencies, and other physical roadblocks to free the artists' voice and body
- Critique students' scenes and character work based on actor's choices and individual development

Teaching Artist Summer 2020
Scene Study/Voice Over/Camera Techniques (Online)
Maraya Performing Arts

- Establish an inclusive online acting class for teen to young adult students on Zoom
- Expand students' vocabulary on listening, engaging, and reacting with their scene partners to work through the challenges of online classes
- Promote bold vocal and physical choices for characters and scenes developed by each student

Instructor 2019
TDAC 1: Introduction to Acting
University of California, San Diego

- Develop a 5-week college-level course rooted in introductory movement, voice, and scene study techniques (i.e. Linklater and Stanislavski)
- Guide students through exercises to develop listening and storytelling skills
- Assign scenes that challenge students to work with partners and demonstrate cumulative techniques from the class

TA Supervisor 2018
TDGE 25: Public Speaking
University of California, San Diego

- Restructure course syllabi to bring curriculum up-to-date with current graduate training and students' needs
- Lead weekly meetings with the Supervising Professor to review upcoming class curriculum with TA's and troubleshoot any questions or concerns from previous classes
- Observe sections and provide constructive notes and encouragement, as well as being on-call to cover classes when necessary

Teaching Assistant 2017-2019
TDAC 1: Introduction to Acting
University of California, San Diego

- Instruct a 10-week college-level course rooted in beginning acting skills for a scene study class
- Lead students through exercises to develop spacial awareness, moment-to-moment reaction, and ensemble building
- Chose scenes that challenge students to work out of their comfort zones and tell a complete story

Teaching Assistant 2018
TDGE 1: Introduction to Theatre
University of California, San Diego

- Facilitate incoming freshman to work together to develop a theatre piece based on plays read throughout the course
- Demonstrate a scene rehearsal to deepened the students' understanding of the job of the actor in process
- Observe group rehearsals and provide feedback for their final presentation

Teaching Assistant

2017-2019

TDGE 25: Public Speaking
University of California, San Diego

- Instruct a 10-week college-level course in skills addressing public speaking, interviewing, and stage presence
- Facilitate personal exercises to students and provide constructive notes and encouragement
- Manage and maintain course documents, syllabus and grading system via Blackboard Learn

Guest Teaching Artist

2015

Warming Up for the Stage & Page-to-Stage Scene Study
Working Classroom, Albuquerque, NM

- Demonstrate physical and vocal warm ups to prepare young actors for character and scene work
- Coach each student through body awareness exercises based on Grotowski and Stanislavski work
- Assign and direct scenes from playwrights of color for students to explore dramatic structure

Theatre Arts Director & Yoga Instructor

2015

Theater-Makers Summer Camp
Unity Stage Company, Queens, NY

- Develop a two-week "play within a play" workshop for students from Kindergarten through 4th grade
- Use the structure of *Midsummer Night's Dream* to devise an original piece in which all students would perform
- Co- direct the final show to fully illustrate the students' work in art, dance, music, and theatre

Teaching Artist

2012-2014

Concepts at Play
TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Palo Alto, CA

- Use age-appropriate poetry to enhance creativity, body-awareness, and ensemble building techniques
- Lead a two-week residency for students K-6 in which a final sharing of games and a poem is presented
- Co-direct a week-long theatre camp which introduces movement, acting, playwrighting, and storytelling

Teaching Artist, Apprentice, Performer

2011-2012

Building Bridges Teen Ensemble
Touchstone Theatre Company, Bethlehem, PA

- Guide high school and junior high students in drama therapy activities to encourage personal growth and better understanding of self and others
- Introduce high school boys living in a middle-home to classical works which develop into an open sharing for family and friends
- Enable a local group of teens to work as an ensemble to produce original works

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (DIRECTING)

Eurydice

2017

Sarah Ruhl
University of California, San Diego

Sarah Ruhl's Eurydice had been a long-time passion project in which I challenged myself to direct and produce, as well as play the title role. My team and I envisioned a darker side of the story of Eurydice with organic-live music composed by a fellow musician/collaborator, the Stones as the Andrew Sisters stuck in the Underworld, and a bare-bones set. The cast was comprised of my fellow classmates in which we explored what it meant to lose, rediscover, and then lose again, a family member. We rehearsed and put up the production in about two weeks, and used the audience donations to help fund our MFA Showcase.

Purely Academic (Staged reading)

2018

David Abramson

University of California, San Diego

This project used staged readings of academic dramas to facilitate conversations about ethics and scholarly research. The underlying premise is that a culture of ethics is one in which members of the scientific community recognize and discuss the ethical dimensions of the practice and application of science. The readings included guided conversations between the actors and the audience that discussed the following: what resonated, whether it is consistent with their experience, how best to address similar problems when they occur, and how to protect against such problems in the first place.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (ACTING- selected)

The Heart Sellers - Luna**

directed by Jennifer Chang

written by Lloyd Suh

2024-2025

Northern California Tour

The Glass Menagerie- Laura

directed by Jeffrey Lo

written by Tennessee Williams

2024

SF Playhouse

Mrs. Christie* - Lucy

directed by Giovanna Sardelli

written by Heidi Armbruster

2023

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley
West Coast Premiere Production

The Book of Will - Alice/Susannah

directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott & Geoff Elliott

written by Lauren Gunderson

2023

A NoiseWithin

Nominated for Robby Award Best Supporting Actress

The Heart Sellers - Luna**

directed by Jennifer Chang

written by Lloyd Suh

2023

Milwaukee Repertory Theater
World Premiere Production

A Christmas Carol

directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott

adapted by Geoff Elliott

2022 & 2023

A NoiseWithin

Animal Farm* - Mollie & others**

directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott

adapted by Peter Hall

2022

A NoiseWithin

Recipient of LADCC Ensemble Performance Award

Metamorphoses - Iris/Hunger/Pomona/Psyche

directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott

written by Mary Zimmerman

2022

A NoiseWithin

All's Well That Ends Well - Diana (u/s Helena)

directed by Nike Doukas

2022

A NoiseWithin

Mother of Exiles - Midwife/Sofia/Mimi (online performances)

2019-2021

written by Jessica Huang directed by Jennifer Chang directed by Jesca Prudencio directed by Pirrone Yousefzadeh	Chance Theater Playwrights' Center, Two River Theater Alliance Theatre, NNPN
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon - <i>Goldfish/Xiao Mao/A Fu</i> directed by Jennifer Chang written and composed by Min Kahng	2020 South Coast Repertory
Diana the Musical - <i>Ensemble</i> directed by Christopher Ashley written by Joe DiPietro and David Bryan	2019 La Jolla Playhouse
Mothers - <i>Meg</i> directed by Bea Basso written by Anna Ouyang Moench	2018 Wagner New Play Festival
(w)holeness - <i>Ruth</i> directed by Dylan Key written by Lilliana Padilla	2017 Wagner New Play Festival
tokyo fish story - <i>Ama/Woman</i> directed by Kirsten Brandt written by Kimber Lee	2016 TheatreWorks Silicon Valley
Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them - <i>Edith</i> directed by Desdemona Chiang written by A. Rey Pamatmat	2015 Crowded Fire Theatre
Taming of the Shrew - <i>Bianca</i> directed by Brian Luce	2014 Silicon Valley Shakespeare
Rapture, Blister, Burn - <i>Avery</i> directed by Desdemona Chiang written by Gina Gionfriddo	2014 Aurora Theatre
Here We Are, Again OR This is Why Its Hard - <i>Her Thoughts</i> directed & written by Jeffrey Lo	2013 San Jose Repertory
Flor - <i>The Wind</i> directed by Mark Valdez	2012 Cornerstone Theatre Co.
Comedy of Errors - <i>Goldsmith</i> directed by Alyssa Bradac	2011 Shakespeare Orange County
If All the Sky Were Paper - <i>Ensemble</i> directed by John Benitz written & developed by Andrew Carroll	2011 Los Angeles Theatre Center

FEEDBACK & RECOMMENDATIONS

“Nicole went above and beyond as TA Supervisor. She led meetings in a clear, thorough & caring way that prepared everyone for the work. She covered for multiple TAs during the quarter and took over a class with ease and professionalism. Nicole is someone you can count on completely and a very talented teacher as well.

Nicole taught her class with enthusiasm and spot-on insight. She gave all of her feedback to students in an encouraging, positive way which engendered a great atmosphere of trust and engagement. It was a pleasure to watch the amount of growth she helped her students to achieve.

Nicole is a top notch teacher—both organized and inspired in the classroom. Her attention to detail is matched by a warmth that allows students to open up and explore the art form.”

*-Carla Harting
UCSD Acting Faculty*

“Nicole is a skilled and generous teacher whose students are active and engaged. She is well- organized and clearly communicates the curriculum with her students. When working on scene work, she gives notes to get her students to dig deeper into the work and help them to prepare for their next rehearsal with clarity and focus. Nicole's passion and enthusiasm is evident when you walk in the class room. Her students are engaged and actively share comments. She is a gifted teacher.”

*-Kim Walsh
UCSD Acting Faculty*

“Nicole is a delight to work with. She is enthusiastic, professional, and works extremely well with students. Her sections were noticeably the most prepared and thoughtful, which had a great deal to do with her guidance. She is also reliable in terms of getting her responsibilities accomplished, being on time and prepared for meetings, and staying in communication with the instructor with questions and feedback. I would happily work with her again in the future.”

*-Jon Reimer
UCSD & UCI PhD Candidate*

“A natural teacher with a focus on student empowerment. Creative and energetic content delivery.”

*-Natalie Griffith Robichaux
UCSD Acting Faculty*