

MATTHEW R. WILSON

Theatre Instructor, Scholar, Director, Combat & Movement Specialist, Actor

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park

Ph.D. Theatre & Performance Studies (anticipated 2017)

Dissertation: "Moving from the Archive: Historiography of Commedia dell'Arte's Past and 'Authenticity' in Its Present Performance" (in process)

Areas of Specialization: Theatre History and Historical Theatre Architecture with Franklin J. Hildy
Dramatic Theory & Criticism with Catherine A. Schuler
Performance Studies and Ethnography with Laurie Frederik Meer
American Theatre History with Heather S. Nathans
Italian Renaissance with Stefano Villani

Shakespeare Theatre's Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University

M.F.A. Classical Acting

Acting with Michael Kahn, Floyd King, Franchelle Stewart Dorn, Ed Gero, Rob Clare

Voice and Text with Gary Logan, Ellen O'Brien, Dakin Matthews

Movement with Dody DiSanto, Isabelle Anderson, Brad Waller, Roberta Stiehm, Chris Cherry

Elizabethan & Jacobean Literature with Leslie Jacobson and Deborah T. Curren-Aquino

Columbia University

B.A. Philosophy

Shakespeare with David Scott Kastan and Edward Taylor

Classical Greek Literature and Language with Helene Foley and Gareth Williams

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"Collaboration," Columbia Graduate School of the Arts (New York, NY)

Play Development with Anne Bogart and MFA theatre students (2002-2003)

Stage Internazionale di Commedia dell'Arte (Reggio-Emilia, Italy)

Commedia dell'Arte with Antonio Fava (2001-2002); Taught on Fava's faculty (2004-2009)

Society of American Fight Directors

Certified Teacher (2012), Theatrical Firearms Safety (2012), Advanced Actor-Combatant (2005)

National Rifle Association

Firearms Safety, Operations, and Marksmanship in Pistol, Shotgun, Rifle, and Muzzle-loading Firearms

On-Camera Acting Technique (New York, NY)

Professional workshops with Jennifer Rudolph and Jennifer Jones (2004)

Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies (New York, NY)

Laban Movement Analysis with CMA Michelle Gay (2008)

Additional Movement Training

Laban (LMA)

Miriam Phillips, Michelle Gay, Tim Klotz, Anita Loomis, Bruce Cromer

Elements

Gerry Trentham, Isabelle Anderson, Dody DiSanto, Antonio Fava, Tim Klotz

Grotowski

Isabelle Anderson

Clown & Mime

Ronlin Foreman, Dody DiSanto, Troy "Gus" Gillette

Mask

Ronlin Foreman, Antonio Fava, Isabelle Anderson, Dody DiSanto

Alexander Technique

Christopher Cherry

TEACHING EXPERIENCE [select credits]

- University of Mississippi** (Oxford, MS) *Michael Barnett, Chair of Theatre Arts*
Assistant Professor of Performance (Tenure-Track)
Courses: THEA 110: Freshman Performance Studies I (Fall 2015, Fall 2016)
THEA 111: Freshman Performance Studies II (Spring 2016, Spring 2017)
THEA 211: Sophomore Performance Studies II (Spring 2016)
THEA 324: Commedia dell'Arte (Fall 2016)
THEA 343: Single Sword Stage Combat (Fall 2016)
THEA 344: Broadsword Stage Combat (Spring 2017)
- Stage Internazionale di Commedia dell'Arte** (Reggio-Emilia, Italy) *Antonio Fava, Director*
Faculty Instructor of Commedia dell'Arte for international theatre professionals (2004 - 2009)
- University of Maryland, College Park** (College Park, MD) *Franklin J. Hildy, Director of Doctoral Research*
Doctoral Fellow: THET 399G: Commedia dell'Arte in History & Performance (Fall 2012)
THET 223: Text & Context in Western Theatre (Spring 2013)
THET 110: Intro to Theatre [TA] (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)
Adjunct Professor: THET 399C: Stage Combat: Single Sword (Winter 2013)
THET 399E: Stage Combat: Unarmed (Winter 2014)
THET 399O: Stage Combat: Broadsword (Summer 2014)
THET 399R: Stage Combat: Rapier & Dagger (Summer 2014)
- George Washington University** (Washington, DC) *Leslie Jacobson, Chair of Theatre and Dance*
Adjunct Professor: TRDA 3223: Physical Performance Skills (Spring 2014)
TRDA 1214: Intro to Acting (Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014)
TRDA 2216.3: Movement Lab (Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Fall 2011)
- George Mason University** (Fairfax, VA) *Ken Elston, Chair of Theatre*
Adjunct Professor: THR 210: Acting I (Summer 2009, Fall 2009, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014)
- Virginia Intermont College** (Bristol, VA) *Bonny Davidson, Coordinator of Performing Arts*
Adjunct Professor: THEA 302: Practical Stage Movement (Spring 2006)
- Academy for Classical Acting** (Washington, DC) *Michael Kahn, Director*
Instructor of Commedia dell'Arte for MFA acting candidates (Spring 2009, Spring 2010)
- Mary Baldwin College, MLitt/MFA** (Staunton, VA) *Doreen Bechtol, MFA Director of Training*
Guest Instructor of Movement and Character Development for MFA candidates (Spring 2013)
- New York University** (New York, NY) *Daniel S. Kramer, Instructor, Playwrights Horizons Studio*
Guest Instructor and Performer of Commedia dell'Arte for BFA directing students (Spring 2002)
- Georgetown University** (Washington, DC) *Dennis Williams, Director of the Center for Minority Educational Affairs*
Guest Lecturer on Shakespeare and Philosophy for the BA scholars program (Summer 2001)
- Northwestern University** (Evanston, IL) *Dan Zellner, Faculty Advisor*
Guest Instructor and Performer of Commedia dell'Arte for BA theatre students (Spring 2011)
- University of Wyoming** (Laramie, WY) *Kevin Inouye, Assistant Professor of Theatre*
Guest Instructor of Commedia dell'Arte, Stage Combat, and Acrobalance for BA majors (Fall 2015)
- University of Richmond** (Richmond, VA) *Dorothy Holland, Chair of Theatre & Dance*
Guest Instructor of Commedia dell'Arte & Character Development majors (Fall 2013)
- Cedarville University** (Cedarville, OH) *Matthew Moore, Chair of Theatre*
Guest Instructor of Stage Combat & Commedia dell'Arte for BA theatre majors (Spring 2013)
- Le Moyne College** (Syracuse, NY) *Matt Chiorini, Professor of Theatre Arts*
Guest Instructor of Commedia dell'Arte & the Business of Theatre for BA theatre majors (Fall 2013)
- King College** (Bristol, TN) *Elizabeth Dollar, Professor of Theatre*
Guest Instructor of Stage Combat & Commedia dell'Arte for BA theatre majors (Fall 2005, Spring 2007)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

- Folger Shakespeare Library** (Washington, DC) *Robert Young, Director of Education*
Shakespeare & Stage Combat instructor for primary and secondary programs (Fall 2008 – Spring 2009)
- Shakespeare Theatre Company** (Washington, DC) *Vanessa Buono, School Programs Manager*
Teaching Artist for Master Acting Classes & secondary school programs (Fall 2008 – Spring 2009)
- Southeastern Theatre Conference** (Greensboro, NC)
Presenter in Commedia dell'Arte (2005, 2016, 2017) and Stage Combat (2016, 2017)
- International Thespians Conference** (Lincoln, NE) *Julia C. Hedges, Education Programs Manager*
Instructor of Acting, Stage Combat, Commedia dell'Arte, and Comic Acrobatics (2007)
- Paddy Crean International Art of the Sword Workshop** (Banff, Canada) *Brad Waller, Coordinator*
Instructor of Combat and Physical Theatre for theatre professionals (Winter/Spring 2008-09)
- SAFD National Stage Combat Workshop** (North Carolina School for the Arts) *H. Russ Brown, Coordinator*
Instructor of Knife for ISC classes (2012)
- Summer Sling SAFD Combat Workshop** (New York, NY) *Robert "Tink" Tuftee, Coordinator*
Instructor of Broadsword (Fall 2012)
- Winter Wonderland SAFD Combat Workshop** (Chicago, IL) *John Tovar, Coordinator*
Instructor of Acrobalance and Slapstick Combat (2010)
- Bond v. Bourne SAFD Combat Workshop** (Washington, DC) *Casey Kaleba, Coordinator*
Firearms Instructor and Associate Coordinator (Fall 2012)
- Tooth & Claw Combat Arts** (Washington, DC) *Founding Member with Casey Kaleba*
Instructor of Armed and Unarmed Stage Combat for professional actors (Summer 2011 – 2015)

PUBLICATIONS & PAPERS

- A Commedia Christmas Carol** (2013)
Published by Playscripts, Inc., Nominee for the 2012 Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play.
- "Stage Combat: A Paradox of Fixed Technique and Free Expression"** (2017)
Book Chapter in *Movement for Actors*, 2nd revised and expanded edition by Allworth Press
- "Speechless Spectacles: Commedia Pantomime in the 18th & 19th Centuries"** (2014)
Book Chapter in the *The Routledge Companion to Commedia dell'Arte*
- "Stages and Staging Practices in Early Commedia dell'Arte"** (2014)
Chapter co-authored with Franklin J. Hildy in *The Routledge Companion to Commedia dell'Arte*
- "Adventures in Stage Combat Pedagogy"**
Journal Article published in The Society of American Fight Directors' *The Cutting Edge*, Jan-Feb 2012
- "A Well-Made Comedy: The Legacy of Commedia dell'Arte & Carlo Goldoni"**
Essay Published in the Shakespeare Theatre Company's 2011-2012 *Season Guide*
- "Practice & Patrimony: SAT, UNESCO, and Worldwide Commedia dell'Arte Day"**
Paper Presented at the 2012 Conference "Passing on the Commedia dell'Arte Tradition" (Toronto)
- "Harlequin in America: Keeping His Name, Losing His Place"**
Paper Presented at the 2011 Comparative Drama Conference (Los Angeles)
- "Gesture as Language: Multilingualism and Sign Language in Commedia dell'Arte"**
Paper Presented with Dr. Lindsey D. Snyder at the 2011 International Commedia dell'Arte Festival
- "Commedia for Modern Audiences: Purity vs. Innovation"**
Panel Participant at the 2011 International Commedia dell'Arte Festival

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR [SDC]

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Much Ado about Nothing | Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, MD |
| The Lieutenant of Inishmore* | Constellation Theatre Company, DC |
| One Man, Two Guvnors | 1 st Stage, VA |
| Act A Lady* | The Hub Theatre, VA |
| Our Town* | Faction of Fools Theatre Company, DC |
| Titus Andronicus* | Faction of Fools Theatre Company, DC |
| Molière's Don Juan* | Faction of Fools Theatre Company, DC |
| A Commedia Christmas Carol*+ | Faction of Fools Theatre Company, DC |
| A Commedia Romeo & Juliet* | Faction of Fools Theatre Company, DC |
| Hamleccchino: Clown Prince of Denmark* | Faction of Fools Theatre Company, DC |
| Machiavelli's The Mandrake* | Faction of Fools Theatre Company, DC |
| Edward Albee's The Sandbox* | Faction of Fools @ Arena Stage |
| The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* | Lemoyn College, NY |
| The Molière Impromptu* | University of Maryland, College Park |
| Troilus & Cressida* | University of Maryland, College Park |
| Chicago | University of Mississippi |
| A Midsummer Night's Dream | University of Mississippi |
| 96 Layers of Concrete, Furniture, and Air | American Theatre of Actors, NYC |
| Between You and Me | The Producers' Club, NYC |
| Library Play* | The Theatre-Studio, Inc., NYC |
| Change of Heart | The Theatre-Studio, Inc., NYC |
| Between You and Me | The Theatre-Studio, Inc., NYC |
| The Excellent Foppery of Mr. Green | The Red Room, NYC |

**Also Choreographer credit,*

+Also Writer/Deviser credit

FIGHT DIRECTOR [SAFD CERTIFIED TEACHER, SDC]

(select credits)

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| Women Beware Women | Rapier & Cloak, Falls, Grappling | Constellation Theatre Company, DC |
| Love of the Nightingale | Ax, Spear, Sword & Shield, Blood | Constellation Theatre Company, DC |
| The Green Bird | Comic Acrobatics | Constellation Theatre Company, DC |
| The Ramayana (2011) | Knife, Mass Battles | Constellation Theatre Company, DC |
| Taking Steps | Grappling, Falls, Acrobatics | Constellation Theatre Company, DC |
| Comedy of Errors | Unarmed, Falls, Slapstick | Folger Theatre, DC |
| Macbeth | Staff, Knife, Mass Battles | Push / Pull Theatre, DC |
| Macbeth | Broadsword, Mass Battles | Concord University, WV |
| 'Tis Pity She's a Whore | Dagger, Grappling, Blood | Georgetown Theatre Company, DC |
| The Fifth Musketeer | Rapier & Dagger/Cloak, Battles | ClassiqueNouveau, DC |
| Comedy of Errors | Whip, Ropes, Unarmed, Slapstick | Baltimore Shakespeare Festival |
| Scapin! | Unarmed, Slapstick | Baltimore Shakespeare Festival |
| The Bilbao Effect | Grappling, Syringe | Center for Architecture, NYC |
| A Touch of the Poet (w/Daniel J. Travanti) | Grappling, Cane | 14 th St Theatre, NYC |
| 2 Josh | Knife, Grappling | Cherry Lane Alternative, NYC |
| Library Play | Firearms | John Houseman Theatre, NYC |
| Life is a Dream | Rapier & Cloak, Polearms, Blood | Columbia Grad School of the Arts, NYC |
| ABK...For Life | Drowning, Grappling, Blood | Columbia Grad School of the Arts, NYC |
| Treasure Island, FL | Shovel, Strangling | Columbia Grad School of the Arts, NYC |
| The Adding Machine | Firearms | Columbia Grad School of the Arts, NYC |
| Cymbeline | Mass Sword Battles | UMd Baroque-Renaissance Center, MD |
| Macbeth | Mass Sword Battles | UMd Baroque-Renaissance Center, MD |
| Reals | Superhero Martial Arts Fights | Taffety Punk Theatre Company, DC |
| Oklahoma! (musical) | Bar Brawl, Knife, Bottles | Milligan College, TN |
| Godspell (musical) | Unarmed | King College, TN |

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (cont.)

MOVEMENT CONSULTANT/CHOREOGRAPHER [SDC]

(see also Director and Fight Director credits)

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| The Second Shepherds' Play | Mask & Puppet | Folger Theatre, DC |
| The Comedy of Errors | Lazzi, Mask & Movement | Folger Theatre, DC |
| Here and There | Movement, Objects | Teatro La Tea, NYC |
| Half of One | Movement, Objects | One Arm Red, NYC |
| Monsters and Marvels | Movement, Objects | Epiphany Theatre, NYC |
| Hamlet: Reframed | Dumb Show Choreography | Grain of Sand Theatre, DC |
| The Green Bird | Mask & Movement | Constellation Theatre, DC |
| Abduction from the Seraglio | Lazzi, Mask & Movement | Columbia Grad School of the Arts, NYC |
| The Gospel according to Jazz | Crowd Scenes, Fabrics, Objects | Milligan College, TN |
| The Servant of Two Masters | Lazzi | Henley Street Theatre, Richmond, VA |
| Fabula Sanguinaria | Lazzi, Comedic Violence | Reggio-Emilia, Italy |
| DC/Baltimore Clown Care | Character Development | Big Apple Circus |

ACTOR [EQUITY, SAG-AFTRA]

(select credits)

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| Regional | The Second Shepherds' Play | Gib (2 nd Shepherd) | Folger Theatre | Mary Hall Surface |
| | The Comedy of Errors | Duke/Angelo/Pinch | Folger Theatre | Aaron Posner |
| | Henry IV, Part 1 | Poins/Vernon | Folger Theatre | Paul Mason Barnes |
| | Shear Madness | Mike Thomas | Kennedy Center | Bob Lohrmann |
| | The Green Bird | Truffaldino | Constellation Theatre | Allison Stockman |
| | Taking Steps | Roland | Constellation Theatre | Allison Stockman |
| | Comedy of Errors | Duke/Angelo/Pinch | Baltimore Shakespeare | Joe Brady |
| | Scapin! | Argante | Baltimore Shakespeare | Michael Carleton |
| | Pirates of Penzance | Major-General | Shenandoah SMT | Jeremy Scott Blaustein |
| | Twelfth Night | Malvolio | New England Shakespeare | Demi Papadinis |
| | Inherit the Wind | Tom Davenport | Clarence Brown Theatre | Jay Dysart |
| NYC | Library Play | Milt | John Houseman Theater | Dyana Kimball |
| | Hecuba (w/Kristin Linklater) | Greek soldier | 45 Bleecker Theatre | Alex Lippard |
| | Love's Labour's Lost | Jaquenetta | Tribeca Playhouse | Kit Thacker |
| | 2 Josh | Josh | Cherry Lane Theatre | Jeff Janisheski |
| | The Survival of the Fetus | 14 characters | La Mama ETC | Vic DiMonda |
| | Sing a Song of Sixpence | Simple Simon | HERE Arts Center | Shela Xoregos |
| | Grown-Up's Playground | Improv Troupe | New York Comedy Club | |
| International | Great One-Man Commedia Epic | creator / 15 characters | European & U.S. tours | Matthew R. Wilson |
| | Zanni Skinhead Komedij | creator / 2 characters | Italian & U.S. tours | Antonio Fava |
| Film | The Last Valentine | comedic lead | City Lytes Entertainment | Aaron Blich |
| | Innocent When You Dream | dramatic lead | Captain Obvious Productions | Will Clegg |
| | Sad & Beautiful | dramatic lead | Captain Obvious Productions | Will Clegg |
| Industrial | US Postal Service | Customer | O'Keefe Communications | |
| | FAA | ATC Manager | Rock Creek Productions | |
| Television | House of Cards | Senator from Georgia | Netflix Original Series | |
| | (opp. Kevin Spacey) | | | |
| | As the World Turns | Orderly (recurring) | CBS-TV | |

MEMBERSHIPS & POSITIONS

Founder & Former Artistic Director, Faction of Fools Theatre Company, Inc., Washington, DC
Founding Partner, Tooth & Claw Combat Arts, Washington, DC
SDC: Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
AEA: Actors' Equity Association
SAG-AFTRA: Screen Actors' Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
SAFD: Society of American Fight Directors: Certified Teacher
LIMS: Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies
ATME: Association for Theatre Movement Educators
Associazione SAT (www.incommedia.it)
International Coordinator for Worldwide Commedia dell'Arte Day every February 25th

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company (Faction of Fools, 2012)
Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Choreography (Fight Direction, *Lt. of Inishmore*, 2016)
Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding New Play (*Don Juan*, 2014)
Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding New Play (*A Commedia Christmas Carol*, 2013)
Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding New Play (*Beertown* with dog & pony theatre, 2012)
Summer Research Grant (University of Mississippi, 2016 & 2017)
International Research Grant (University of Mississippi, 2016)
Dean's Fellowship (University of Maryland, 2015)
James F. Harris Arts and Humanities Visionary Scholarship (University of Maryland, 2014)
Graduate Research Fellowship (University of Maryland, 2009-2015)
Graduate Performance Fellowship (Academy for Classical Acting)
National Merit Scholarship (Columbia University)
"Examiner's Award for Excellence": Society of American Fight Directors ('04, '05, '08, '11, '12)
"Best Scene": Advanced Actor Combatant Workshop, 2005 National Stage Combat Workshop
Reviews in *The Washington Post* (Peter Marks) and *The New York Times* (D.J.R. Bruckner)
Profiled in the SAFD's *The Cutting Edge*, Vol. XVI, Issue 2 (Mar/Apr 2006)

REFERENCES

ANTONIO FAVA

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MICHAEL BARNETT

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