

CYNTHIA HENDERSON

Professor, Actor Training

Ithaca College, School of H&S, Department of Theatre Arts

chenderson@ithaca.edu

(607) 274-1243

Academic Degrees

The Pennsylvania State University, Professional Actor Training Program – MFA 1997

Troy State University, Theatre Major – BS 1994

Professional Membership

2007 – Present **National Alliance of Acting Teachers**
Committee Chair for Re-Branding and Name Change of the Alliance (2016)

2004 – Present **Fulbright Alumni Association**
Board Member (2017 – present)

1997 – Present **Actor's Equity Association**

Awards and Honors

2019 **Faculty Excellence Nomination**
Ithaca College

2015 **Fulbright Specialist**
University of Yaounde 1 in Cameroon, Central Africa

2015 **Fulbright Specialist**
Universidade Estadual da Paraíba in Joao Pessoa, Brazil

2011 **Tompkins County Sign of Sustainability (PASC)**

2008 **CSPA-NYS Outstanding Contribution to Social Justice Award**

2008 **20 Outstanding Women You Should Know in Central NY**
Cayuga Radio Group

2004 – 2005 **Who's Who of American Women**

2003 – 2004 **Fulbright Scholar**
University of Yaounde 1 in Cameroon, Central Africa

1991 **Best Supporting Actress in a Musical**
European Tournament of Plays
Production – *Little Shop of Horrors*; Role - Ronnette

Books

2009 ***The Actors Landscape***
Publisher: Gateways Books and Tapes – Nevada City, CA

2004 ***Understanding Character Through Self***
Publisher: Editions SHERPA – Yaounde, Cameroon, Africa

2001 *Introduction to Theatre Study Guide* (with Dr. Jack Hrkach)
Publisher: McGraw-Hill Primus Custom Publishing

University Teaching

2000 - Present Associate Professor, Department of Theatre Arts

Ithaca College

Ithaca, NY

Description:

Freshman Scene Study, Sophomore Scene Study, Senior Scene Study and Intro to Musical Theatre: Performance (acting majors): Acting courses for the BFA Acting and Musical Theatre training program. Acting 1, Acting 3, Acting 4: BA Theatre Studies acting course series, Theatre for Social Change: an ICC designated theatre course.

1999 - 2000 Adjunct Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance

California State University, Sacramento

Sacramento, CA

Description:

Children's Theatre class designed to teach future educators various ways of working with children using drama as a basis for learning. In this class we created our own text as we worked. The other class was an acting class for non-theatre majors, designed to introduce the beginning actor to the concepts and practices of acting.

1998- 1999 Adjunct Professor, Department of Theatre Arts

Hunter College

New York, NY

Description:

Advanced acting techniques for the continuing theatre major. Course combined a variety of acting concepts. Class covered monologues, scenes and some improvisation.

1997- 1999 Adjunct Professor, Department of Theatre Arts

Marymount Manhattan College

New York, NY

Description:

Basic and some advanced acting techniques for the BA and BFA theatre majors with an emphasis on monologues in the first semester and scenes in the second semester. Course combined a variety of acting concepts with a heavy Meisner emphasis.

Youth Actor Training

1997- 1999 Instructor of Acting

The American Academy of Dramatic Arts

(Summer Program)

New York, NY

Description:

Basic acting techniques for actors at various stages of development, ranging from the professional to the beginner, in a conservatory setting.

Invitational Acting Workshops

November 2020

Guest Artist

Re:THEATRE

Open to a nationwide membership via Zoom

Re:Envisioning Personal Practices

A master class for actors and teachers touching on three important aspects of the actor's craft to create theatre that is respectful of the individual and centers the elevation of the art and the exploration of the human condition.

January – May 2020

Guest Artist

ICSD: Boynton Middle School

Ithaca, NY

Performing Arts for Social Change Workshop

Speaking Our Truth

A writing workshop, and devised theatre production based on students navigating middle school while discovering who they are as unique individuals. Short film of monologues from the script created due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

January 2019

Guest Artist

ICSD: Ithaca High School

Ithaca, NY

Acting Workshop: *Embracing Inclusivity*

Student orientation for *Rent* auditions

April and October 2018

Workshop Creator and Facilitator

ICSD: Ithaca High School

Ithaca, NY

Creating A Culturally Responsive Approach to Co-Curricular Activities in the Arts: workshops for ICSD faculty and staff, to encourage an honest look at and making changes as it relates to racial bias in the arts programs.

September 2017

Instructor, TFC/Acting workshop

The Juilliard School

Two-part workshop series. Theatre for Social Change (TFC) workshop for Juilliard's Morse Fellows and TFC & Acting workshop for all performance areas with a more craft focused workshop for MFA Actors.

December 2016

Instructor, Acting Workshop

La Compagnie NGOTI

Cameroon Central Africa

Meisner workshop for La Compagnie Theatre Company

September 2016

Instructor, Theatre for Social Change Workshop

April 2016

Cornell University

"Perception and Imagination" September 2016

"Societal Mirror: Privilege and Discrimination" April 2016

- November 2015
 Instructor, Acting Workshop
University of Dschang, School of Performing Arts
 Fouban, Cameroon Central Africa
 “The Actor as Societal Storyteller” for graduate acting program
- November 2015
 Instructor, Acting Masterclass
University of Yaounde 1, Department of Theatre and Cinema
 Yaounde, Cameroon Central Africa
 Masterclass for graduate and undergraduate performance majors
- June – July 2014
 Visiting Instructor, Acting Workshop
LaPorarosa Media Project
 Bahía de Caráquez, Ecuador
 Description: The workshop focused on improvisational scene work, character development and storytelling techniques. Culminated in a 30-minute play focused on issues in Bahía de Caráquez.
- June – August 2013
 Visiting Instructor, English Immersion Program
Beijing New Oriental School
 Beijing, China
 Description: Seven weeks teaching English through a series of acting workshops. Emphasis was on immersion in western culture and the intricacies of the English language. We focused our work on improvisational scene explorations and worked with the play “Proof” by David Auburn in order to explore the similar family dynamics shared by American and Chinese cultures.

Conferences and Presentations

- October 2020
 Program Lecturer
Finger Lakes Film Trails/Warton Studio Museum
 Rochester, NY/Ithaca, NY/Auburn, NY
Race Films/Race Matters: Conversations About Race in America
 Race Films/Race Matters is an attempt to do just that: to use race films as a starting point for necessary, informative, and provocative conversations about race, racial tension, and racial discrimination in America today.
<https://www.fingerlakesfilmtrail.org/about-the-blood-of-jesus#presenter>
- October 2020
 Presenter
National Alliance of Acting Teachers
 New York, NY (national Zoom presentation)
Anti-Racism in the classroom
 During the Covid-19 pandemic, NAAT curated several panels and workshops to assist the membership, as higher ed teachers across the nation worked to create anti-racists classroom spaces, as well as develop ways of teaching remote acting classes.

- July 2020
 Panelist
Penn State Centre Stage
 State College, PA (national virtual webinar)
The Livingroom Project Ep 2
 The Living Room Project connects invited alumni with one another by sharing their crafts and their missions for the benefit of the students of the PSU School of Theatre. This episode seeks to foster life and artistic ideas with all who view it. Episodes of *Livingroom Project* also include Ty Burrell, and Jonathan Frakes.
- April 2020
 Guest Speaker
Re:THEATRE *Flipping the Script*
 National Podcast
 Ep 30: *Life, Education and Theatre in the time of COVID-19*
<https://www.retheatreco.com/flipping-the-script/ep-14-integrity-in-the-arts-w-howard-sherman-5mp7c-78y2y-7lwae-6kb64-9b32k-rekkm-76tk6-b2ph8-r2lke-raw8a-6pjpd-cc83g-xlr6l-ydm6j-7at23-sgca3-89hjj>
- March 2020
 Guest Speaker
Dear Multi-Hyphenate
 Broadway Podcast (national)
The Why of It All
<https://broadwaypodcastnetwork.com/dear-multi-hyphenate/11-cynthia-henderson-the-why-of-it-all-or-a-masterclass-in-acting/>
- August 2019
 Presenter
American Alliance for Theatre and Education National Conference
 New York, NY
 City University of New York
 School of Professional Studies MA in Applied Theatre
The Actor as Change Maker: Creating opportunities for transformation and proactive change via the arts
- August 2018
 Guest Speaker
Billie Holiday Theatre/Stella Adler Studios
 New York, NY
 Black Arts Theatre Intensive
Theatre for Social Change within Actor Training
- June 2018
 Panelist
Cornell University
 Ithaca, NY
 Future Professors Institute
Exploring Your Institutional Fit
- May 2018
 Keynote Speaker
Federal University of Pernambuco
 Recife, Brazil
 Gilbreto Freyre Research Symposium
Intersection of Actor Training and Theatre of the Oppressed

- June 2017
 Presenter
National Alliance of Acting Teachers Conference
 New York, NY
Understanding Your Character via the Self
 How self-exploration exercises can help find aspects within the actor's life and psyche that gives the character a clear sense of purpose and an active inner life. Lecture with mini workshop for professors from universities across the nation including Yale, CSU in Long Beach, The New School and NYU.
- October 2017
 Guest Speaker and Panelist
SUNY Oswego
 Oswego, NY
A Raisin in the Sun & Clybourne Park: a societal commentary
- September 2016
 Keynote Speaker
Cornell University
 Ithaca, NY
 Women in Public Policy's Global Women Exhibit
- July 2014
 Presenter
ATHE Conference
 Scottsdale, AZ
"Shuo Meng Hua (Talking in my Dreams): Using Drama for English and Chinese Language Learning," Association of Theatre in Higher Education, Scottsdale, Arizona
- April 2013
 Visiting Lecturer
Cornell University
 Ithaca, NY
"Transformative Theatre: Using Theatre as an Agent for Social Change," Latin American Studies Program at Cornell University
- March 2009
 Keynote Speaker
Ithaca College School of Music
 Ithaca, NY
"Creating Culturally Affirming Education for Youth of Color: Making a Difference in Music and General Education Conference."
- October 2004
 Presenter
U.S. Fulbright Association 27th Annual Conference
 Athens, Greece
 Presented on work in Cameroon, Africa with Theatre for Social Development and on "Politics and Theatre."
- September 2003
 Presenter
Cameroon International Film Festival
 Cameroon, Africa

Panelist for conference and presented a workshop on professional development in the field of acting.

Performance - Theatre (partial listing)

2020

FELT SAD, POSTED A FROG (Virtual)	Chelle	The Cherry Arts
SKIN OF OUR TEETH (Virtual)	Mrs. Antrobus	Hangar Theatre
WARS OF THE ROSES: a radio play	Queen Margaret	Indie YouTube Production
THE FAN	Geltrude (voice over)	The Cherry Arts

2019

GUN HILL	Zoe	National Museum of Literature and Culture, Romania
A RASIN IN THE SUN	Lena Younger	Hangar Theatre
KATRINA: the musical	Violet	WoW and The Kitchen Theatre

2018

GUN HILL (new play workshop)	Zoe	Women's Projects (NYC)
MARCH ON!	Leah	Hangar Theatre

2017

RAGING OPERA	Ma	Ithaca Fringe Festival
WOMEN'S WISDOM	Actress 2	Purlgut Productions (tour)

2016

MERIT	Janice	IC On the Verge
UNLIMITED YEAR LONG PACK	Candace	OnStage Female Playwright Festival

2014

KING LEAR	Goneril	Nittany Valley Shakespeare – PA
-----------	---------	---------------------------------

2013

GOD OF CARNAGE	Veronica	Readers Theatre of Ithaca
----------------	----------	---------------------------

2012

NO CHILD	16 Characters	Readers Theatre of Ithaca
----------	---------------	---------------------------

2009

SOMETHING YOU DID	Lenora	Next Stage Theatre – PA
VAGINA MONOLGUES	Memory/Baptized	V-Day Event – NYC

2006

TWO ROOMS	Ellen	Kitchen Theatre – Ithaca
-----------	-------	--------------------------

2005 IT'S ONLY A PLAY	Julia	Midtown International Theatre Festival
2004 PRETTY FIRE	Charlayne	U.S. Cultural Center - Cameroon, Africa
2003 LIVE AND IN COLOR!	All Characters	Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts
2002 A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Titania	Hangar Theatre – Ithaca
2001 CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY		Kitchen Theatre – Ithaca
GOD'S TROMBONES	The Creation	Eisenhower – PA
2000 STOP KISS	Callie	Kitchen Theatre – Ithaca
LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING	Woman	Shomberg Center – NYC
Pre-Ithaca College (Partial) A WRINKLE IN TIME	Mrs. Whatsit	Lincoln Center – NYC
JOY IN THE MORNING	Ruth/Woman	Playwrights Horizon
BROTHER'S KEEPER	Latisha	Samuel Beckett – NYC
DOROTHY	Dorothy Dandridge	Samuel Beckett – NYC
A RAISIN IN THE SUN (w/ Frances Foster)	Ruth	U/RTC – PA
SWEENEY TODD	Ensemble	Pennsylvania Centre Stage
ALICE IN WONDERLAND	Cheshire Cat	Pennsylvania Centre Stage
MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM	Dussie Mae	Springer Theatre – GA
CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD	Sarah	Frankfurter Playhouse – Germany
LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS	Ronnette	Frankfurter Playhouse –Germany
INTO THE WOODS	The Witch	Frankfurter Playhouse – Germany
DREAMGIRLS	Lorrel	Frankfurter Playhouse – Germany

Performance – Film and Television (2017 – pre-IC partial listing)

2020 AN EAGLE'S FEATHER (animated)	Voice Talent	Conservation Media Group
Covid-19 PSA (part 1 and 2)	Voice Talent	Nimba Inc/WHO

2017	WOMEN'S WISDOM (film version)	Actress 2	Purlgut Productions
	(PRO) CHOICE	On Screen Narrator	Purlgut Productions
2016	GlassART (artist interviews)	Host	Corning Museum of Glass
	FINGER LAKES UNCORKED	Judy	Park Productions - Ithaca
2010	Industrial films	Principal	Cornell University
2008	SOUL CONNECTION (TV commercial)	Voice Over	REP Productions – Ithaca
	GREEK PEAK (TV spots into 2005)	Voice Over	REP Productions – Ithaca
2007	IPG SOFTWARE	Principal	Industrial – Owego
	<i>STEAL AWAY</i>	Narrator	Park Productions
Pre-Ithaca College	COMEDY CENTRAL	Principal	Commercial - National
	ROOMS TO GO	Principal	Commercial – FL
	<i>UPFRONT</i>	Principal	MTV Productions – NYC
	<i>GHOST STORIES</i>	Starring	Syndicated – National
	JENNIFER CONVERTIBLES	Principal	Commercial – NYC

Directing – Theatre Productions (partial listing)

2021	TRAP DOOR		The Cherry Arts
2020	SHE KILLS MONSTERS		Ithaca College
2020	THE INFERIOR SEX		Hangar Theatre
2019	EVERYBODY		Ithaca College
2018	THE KID THING		Ithaca College
2017	IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER		Ithaca College
2016	for colored girls who have considered suicide ...		Ithaca College
2015	6 One Act Plays		OnStage Female Playwright Festival
2014	INTIMATE APPAREL		Ithaca College
2014	IN A FOREST DARK AND DEEP		Readers Theatre of Ithaca

2014	6 One Act Plays	OnStage Female Playwright Festival
2013	FIRES IN THE MIRROR	Ithaca College
2012	MY CHILDREN! MY AFRICA!	Ithaca College
2010	PLUMFIELD: IRAQ	Ithaca College
2008	THE EXONERATED	Ithaca College
2007	DRIVING TO THE END OF THE WORLD	Puerto Penasco, MX
2005	<i>BURN THIS</i>	Ithaca College
2004	<i>for colored girls who have considered suicide ...</i>	U.S. Cultural Center- Cameroon, Africa
2004	TOP DOG/UNDER DOG	Univ. of Yaounde 1 Cameroon, Africa
2003	<i>THE COLORED MUSEUM</i>	Ithaca College
2003	<i>TRIAD</i>	Ithaca College

Creative Works

2020	<i>FRIDAY FILM FIVE</i>	Directing Mentor/Casting Dir Acting Coach	Coca-Cola AMC Cinema National Film Competition
2018	<i>THE LIBRARY</i>	Directing Mentor/Casting Dir	Coca-Cola Regal Cinema National Film Competition
2016	<i>WE NEED THE TRUTH</i>	Writer/Producer	Documentary Film
Airings and Screenings:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Embassy in Yaounde (diplomatic screening for foreign dignitaries) 2015 • CRTV in Cameroon, Central Africa 2015 • Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival in Ithaca, NY 2016 (peer reviewed) 			
2014	<i>FINGER LAKES UNCORKED</i>	Director	Park Productions
2012	<i>PLUMFIELD, IRAQ: The Documentary</i>	co-Producer/Narrator	Park Productions
2010	<i>IndiVisible</i>	Interviewee	Smithsonian Institute Native American Museum
2005	<i>ROAD TRIP: DEMYSTIFYING HIV/AIDS</i>	Writer/Producer/Narrator	Documentary Film
Airings and Screenings:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRTV in Cameroon, Africa 2004 • World AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand 2004 • PBS affiliates WCNY and WSKG 2005 			

Performing Arts for Social Change projects

For a comprehensive list of projects please visit my website at www.pa4sc.com

Professional Teacher Development in Actor Training

The Actors Center (NYC) – June 2005 and 2007

(Lloyd Richards, Earle Gister, Catherine Fitzmaurice, Per Brahe, Christopher Bayes, Slava Dolgatchev, Ron Van Lieu and J. Michael Miller)

Theatrical Skills (partial listing)

Stage Combat - Quarterstaff, Hand to Hand, Broadsword, Rapier and Dagger; Various Dialects;
Licensed Radio Announcer

Professional Associations

Fulbright Alumni Association 2004 – present

- Board Member 2017 - present

National Alliance of Acting Teachers 2008 – present

- Committee Chair of rebranding and name change 2016

National Association of Professional Women 2014

National Association of University Women 2005 – 2010

Service: Ithaca College, Local and International

Theatre Arts Artistic Associate: 2020 – present

Theatre Arts Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Facilitator: 2020 – present

Theatre Arts BFA Acting Advisor: 2013 – present

Theatre Arts BFA Area Coordinator: 2005-06 and 2018-19

Theatre Arts BA Advisor: 2000 – 2012

Theatre Arts Committees: (I have served on and continue to serve on many of these committees)

- Curriculum
- Guest Artist
- Scholarship
- Search Committees
- Tenured Faculty
- Library
- Leadership
- Chaired Search Committee for Tenure Eligible professor of Acting (2017)

Other Theatre Arts Service:

- Creation of an acting company for Intro to Theatre ('01 – 02)
- Department audition tours DC, SF, LA and NYC (2001-14)
- Ithaca College Campus auditions (2000 – present)
- BFA Acting Area Coordinator ('04 – 06 and '18 – 19)
- Independent Study advisor
- I write a number of letters of recommendation for students every year

Humanities and Science Committees:

- H & S Senate (Vice President '07 – 08)
- H & S Senate (Secretary '01 – 03 and '06 – 07)
- Dean Search Committee (2008)
- H & S Curriculum
- H & S General Education Working Group (2006)

Ithaca College Committees:

- Faculty Council Executive Committee (SP 2014 and 2015-16)
- Faculty Council (2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16)
- President's Advisory Committee on Innovation (2010 – 2011)
- Middle States Task Force (SP 2015)
- Diversity Awareness (2005-06 and 2015-16)
- Black History Month Planning Group (2008)
- AIDS Working Group (2005)

Ithaca College and Local Community Service

- Center for Transformative Action (Vice President 2009-2011)
- Board of Directors for Center for Transformative Action 2007 - 2014
- Red Cross Blood Drive – Ithaca College 2012
- Unity Relay – Ithaca College 2010
- Multicultural Admissions Video – Ithaca College 2010
- Boy Scouts Troop 2: one day acting workshop – Ithaca, NY 2005
- TST: playwriting workshop for high school students – Ithaca, NY 2005
- *AIDS Up Close in Cameroon and Namibia* – presented with Lisa Maurer, Center for LGBT – Ithaca College 2004
- *Mug to Mug: the affect that African American women writers have had on America's social landscape* – Discussion Facilitator – Ithaca College 2004
- Harriet Tubman Residential Center for Young Women: yearly one-day workshop for at risk teens geared toward using theatre to address societal and emotional issues. Dan Noble, Resident Supervisor – Auburn, NY 2005 – 2005
- MacCormick Secure Center: theatre workshop with male violent offenders between the ages of 16 to 18. Carol Whitlow, center psychologist – Brooktendale, NY 2005 – 2006

International Service (Cameroon – Central Africa) 2003 – 2004

- Delivery of school supplies to children in various villages
- Storytelling with orphans in Yaounde
- Work with Local AIDS Committee – assistance to AIDS orphans
- Created Performing Arts Scholarship – University of Yaounde 1
- Created Performing Arts Reading Room – University of Yaounde 1
- Co-Author/Co-Director of *Unsilenced Voices* – Theatre for the Disabled with Goodwill Theatre