

Michael Harris

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EDUCATION

December 2008

Two Year Actor Training Program

National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts in Washington D.C.

BA in English (Creative Writing)

May 1996

Haverford College

TEACHING & ADMINISTRATION

Teacher for Adult Classes

Mar 2007-Present

Baltimore Improv Group/Independent

- Taught adult Improv classes for BIG including: Intro through Advanced Improv, Acting for Improvisers, Creating Characters, The Harold, and Advanced Short Form.
- Helped develop BIG's initial Curricula for adult Intro, Intermediate & Advanced classes.
- Created Advanced Short Form, Sketch Writing & Acting for Improvisers Classes.
- Taught a variety of workshops for college and university students. Locations include: UMBC, Johns Hopkins Medical School & University, Stevenson University, University of Delaware, Harford County CC, St. Mary's, and Loyola, amongst others.
- Created BIG's Applied Improv Program for Corporate & Academic clients.
- Co-Created four Applied Improv Modules focusing on: An Introduction to Improv for Business, Business Presentations, Increasing Trust & Collaboration, and Encouraging & Rewarding Creativity.
- Taught over 100 workshops since 2012 for clients ranging from T. Rowe Price, McCormick & Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Annie E. Casey Foundation to the World Bank, Johns Hopkins University, the Walters Museum and PayPal.
- Led 16 improv based sessions for Hopkins Medical Students as part of their training in Integrative Medicine.
- Taught free Improv classes for Veterans through the Vets Connect Program.
- Have taught long form & short form improv and Acting for Business Professionals classes at the Creative Alliance.

Artistic Director
Executive Director

Baltimore Improv Group (BIG)

April 2010-Dec 2017

April 2010-August 2016

- Responsible for day to day operations & artistic vision and quality for Baltimore's premiere improvisational theater company.
- Expanded education program from offering irregular classes to consistently offering six sessions of multiple seven week long classes every year.
- Guided BIG to becoming accepted as Roster Artists with the Young Audiences of Maryland (YAMD).
- Hired Baltimore Improv Group's first two Education Directors, and oversaw their work administratively as well as continuing to teach for the company.
- Grew BIG from a group of 20 improvisers performing two to three times a month to a company of nearly 100 improvisers performing over 140 shows a year.
- Took BIG from a wandering company to having its first three dedicated performance spaces.

Teaching Artist

Young Audiences of Maryland/Baltimore Improv Group/Chesapeake Shakespeare Company/Independent

Sept 2013-Present

- Co-Developed four day residency curriculum in improv for elementary school students, and have taught it at several Baltimore city schools.
- Completed TAI 1 Training in Spring 2015, focused on creating curricula that brings "arts for art's sake" into Maryland classrooms.
- Completed TAI 2 training in arts integration with Core Curricula and STEM in the Spring of 2017. Developed a weeklong Sketch Writing class as part of the training.
- Taught in the six week Summer Arts & Learning Academy, combining a professional artist and Baltimore city schoolteacher to co-teach elementary students arts integrated math and literacy, as well as exposing them to training in at least two art forms.
- Performed in dozens of improv performances for student groups ranging in size from a few dozen to several hundred.
- Have Taught Multiple one and two week Residencies in schools across Maryland with focus on Improv and Shakespeare.
- Taught Online for Chesapeake Shakespeare's Summer Camp & for Crossroads Academy in Baltimore

Faculty Member**Jan 2010-Present***National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts*

- Taught the entire curriculum, except Text Analysis & Business of the Actor, at the only accredited Actor Training Program in Washington D.C.
- Instructor for 58 class mods each lasting five weeks. Primarily focused on teaching Improv, Voice & Movement, and Rehearsal Projects.
- Additional classes taught include: Scene Study 1&2 and Audition 1&2.
- Created new Improv curriculum. Developed & adapted curricula for other classes in collaboration with the Director of Education, Doug Wilder.
- Developed & Taught Two Part Lecture Series on The History & Current State of Improv in America.
- Guided Advanced Students in writing/producing an Online Radio Play and Writing a Standup/One Man Show.
- Received Online Teaching Certification through Career Education Colleges & Universities (CECU)

PERFORMING**Actor****June 1996-Present**

Began working as a professional actor in the summer after finishing undergraduate studies. First full time performing job was with CLIMB Educational Theater out of St. Paul, MN. In the over 20 years since, I have performed in over 50 stage plays, several dozen commercial, television, and film projects as well as five years of performing ten different plays with two different touring Educational theater companies. In total, I have been involved in well over 1000 scripted theater performances. Roles played include Hamlet, Falstaff, Bottom (Twice), Feste, the Dromios, Tevye, Oedipus, Rosencrantz in Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead as well as performing in the regional premieres of In the Red & Brown Water and the Olivier Award winning, Collaborators. Most notable companies performed with include the Kennedy Center, Studio Theater, and Signature Theater.

Have appeared in dozens of local/regional commercials, industrials and training videos. Appeared in several independent films and TV shows, much notably two episodes of Servant on AppleTV.

Member of Actors' Equity since 2011, and SAG-AFTRA since 2020.
Full Performance resume available upon request.

Improviser**May 2006-Present**

*Baltimore Improv Group/Maryland Improv Collective/Tony & Tina's Wedding
Shear Madness*

- Performed several hundred times for BIG in mainstage, school and private shows.
- Invited performer at the Chicago Improv Festival (2x), NYC Improv Festival, DC Improv Festival (4x), Duofest in Philadelphia(4x), Out of Bounds Comedy Festival in Austin, and numerous other comedy and improv festivals across the country.
- Spent four months in the Kennedy Center cast of Shear Madness as the hairdresser Tony Whitcomb.
- Spent six months in the Minneapolis cast of Tony and Tina's Wedding

Standardized Patient**Mar 2010-Present**

Johns Hopkins/University of Maryland

- Assisted in the training of medical students by presenting symptoms to allow them to practice their diagnostic and communication skills.
- Gave feedback to students to help them improve their ability to communicate with and empathize for their patients.
- Have presented over a dozen different cases with symptoms ranging from back pain to heart attacks as well as presenting a father losing a child and other "difficult discussion" cases.

DIRECTING**Director****Apr 2010-Dec 2017**

Baltimore Improv Group (BIG)

- Invented & directed numerous new improvisational formats and shows including: The Election Extravaganza (featuring Baltimore Sun & Economist Cartoonist, KAL), Scripted (BIG's Sketch Shows), Anyone Can Draw, Shakespeare Out of the Park, Law & Order: BIG, Wordy & Wordless, and the Improvised PBS Fundraiser.
- Wrote & Directed Bah Humbug, a semi-improvised version of A Christmas Carol, that was performed at the Drafthouse in DC & Arlington. On a per show basis, this was the most highly attended show in BIG's History.

Project Instructor**Jun 2010-Oct 2018***National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts*

- Guided 13 student projects in the seven theatrical styles that are used at the school: Discovery, Greek, Commedia, Shakespeare, Absurdism, Realism & Contemporary.
- Scripts used include: Midsummer Night's Dream, The World We Live In, Antigone, the Kentucky Cycle, Kimberly Akimbo, and Blithe Spirit.

Independent Director**Feb 1993-Present***Various*

- At Haverford College, helped direct over a dozen sketch shows, and directed Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead.
- Directed numerous short films & sketches as a member of The Siegfried Olsson Band.
- Directed & Wrote Fringe Festival show, Too Hip for the Room.
- Assistant Director of The Government Inspector at St. Paul's School for Girls.

REFERENCES

Zach Brewster-Geisz, Actor, Filmmaker, and Teacher
(202) 746-5497, zbgeisz@me.com

Zach was a student of mine at the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts who, like me, was an alumnus who became a faculty member. He and I are the co-founders of Sketch Comedy project, the Siegfried Olsson Band.

Nan Ficca, Vice President & CFO
National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts
(202) 333-2202, NCDADrama@aol.com

Nan oversaw me while I was a student and since I became a faculty member of the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts.

Kelly Klinefelter-Lee, Teacher
Benjamin Franklin High School
(410) 396-1373, kellyklinefelterlee@icloud.com

Have worked four times with Kelly and her class. First two classes focused on using Improvisational techniques to explore Hamlet. Second two classes was purely Improv based.