

Whitney James Emerson

Curriculum Vitae 11/05/2018

1603 East Third Street
Apartment 208
Bloomington, IN 47401

Phone: (407) 920-9267
wjemerson@gmail.com
www.WhitEmerson.com

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Higher Education

- 8/2019 (Expected) Ph.D. in Theatre History, Theory, and Literature, Indiana University.
Ph.D. Minor: East Asian Languages and Cultures.
Dissertation: *Performing Source Texts at the Intersection of Culture and Location: Zuni Icosahedron and Avant-Garde Theatre in Hong Kong*.
Completed comprehensive exams in Ancient, Pre-Modern, and Modern Global Theatre History, Theory, and Literature.
- 2013 M.A. Theatre Studies, University of Central Florida.
Thesis: *All of Chinese Literature Condensed*, a play.
- 2008-2009 Independent Study of Chinese language, Suzhou University, China.
- 2007 B.A. Theatre Arts, Appalachian State University.
Minor: Chinese language.

Educational Positions

- 2014-present Associate Instructor, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

Courses Taught

Introduction to Theatre -- Instructor of Record (5 sections over 5 semesters)

This course covers a broad range of topics related to theatre, such as its origins, social function, and the roles of the actor, director, designer, playwright, and producer. I focused on teaching plot structure and incorporated a sampling of global plays as reading texts. Co-taught with other Ph.D. students, I was responsible for creating assignments and activities, delivering lectures, and grading student work.

Script Analysis -- Instructor of Record (5 sections over 5 semesters)

Encouraged to develop techniques for analyzing play scripts, students study a selection of world drama with a focus on dramatic structure, historical performance conditions, and genre. I designed the syllabus and assignments to foster a discussion-and-writing-based pedagogy, so students could reach beyond the surface level of texts and make connections between plays and theories. Students are expected to apply the critical thinking skills acquired both in the roles of practitioners and audience members.

Acting I for Non-Majors -- Instructor of Record (1 section)

Taken by students from across the university, the course covers the basics of Stanislavski-based realistic acting. Students worked on open scenes, duet scenes from *Dinner With Friends* or *Stop Kiss*, and finally a realistic monologue of their own choosing.

Public Oral Communication -- Instructor of Record (4 sections over 2 semesters)

This course teaches rhetoric organization, source assessment, and speech delivery as a degree requirement for students of College of Arts and Sciences. Students practiced public speaking on a single issue of social import in three styles: invitational, sympathetic, and transformational.

Stage Combat -- Assistant Instructor (1 section)

Assisted in the instruction of SAFD stage combat techniques.

Martial Arts for Stage and Film -- Assistant Instructor (1 section)

Assisted in the instruction of SAFD techniques geared toward film combat.

Teaching Interests

Introduction to Theatre, Theatre History (Ancient to Modern), Script Analysis, Acting (Intro to Advanced), Movement for the Stage, Stage Combat (Intro to Advanced), Asian Theatre, World Theatre, Theories of the Theatre, Performance Studies, Directing (Intro to Advanced)

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Forthcoming Articles

Journal Article "Boosting Creativity Within the Limits: Choreographing Silence and Sound in *Heathers: The Musical*." forthcoming in the Spring 2019 edition of *The Fight Master*.

Articles under Consideration

Journal article "Enter, Fighting a Lion: Female-Enacted Violence in Flaminio Scala's *Alvida*." Under consideration at the *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*.

Articles in Progress

Journal article "Lao She's Past Future of the Present: *Cat Land* in Beijing"

Journal article "*East Wing, West Wing*: A Mediatized Voice for Hong Kong"

Curation

2014 Researched, selected, and co-curated "Still/Moving," an Indonesian *Wayang Kulit* and *Wayang Golek* puppet exhibit at the Mathers Museum of World Culture in Bloomington, IN.

Book Reviews

Three short book reviews for *TDR: More Books* on Noh theatre, Chinese playwright and intellectual Tian Han, and performances of Eva Peron in Argentina.

TDR/The Drama Review Vol. 60, No. 3, Fall 2016.

Book review of *City of the Dead and Song of the Night* by Gao Xingjian.

Asian Theatre Journal Vol. 33, No. 1, Spring 2016.

Book review of *Theatre: A Very Short Introduction* by Marvin Carlson.

Texas Theatre Journal Vol. 12, 2016.

Double book review of *Theatre & Museums* by Susan Bennett, and *Theatre & Architecture* by Juliet Rufford.

Theatre Topics Vol. 25, No. 2, June 2015.

Unpublished Plays

2013 *All of Chinese Literature Condensed*. Written for my MA thesis, this play combines ten of the most famous Chinese works of literature into a educational and humorous performance.

Conference Paper Presentations and Workshops

2018 Presentation: Lao She's Past Future of the Present: *Cat Land* in Beijing.
Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, Boston, MA.

2017 Presentation: Zuni Icosahedron and the Politics of Performance in Hong Kong.
Hong Kong Theatre in Transition Conference. London, UK.

2017 Presentation: Zuni Icosahedron and the Politics of Performance in Hong Kong.
Association for Asian Performance Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

2017 Presentation: Zuni Icosahedron and the Politics of Performance in Hong Kong.
Association for Research in Theatre at Indiana University Grad Student Conference,
Bloomington, IN.

2016 Presentation: "Help Us Stand Up Proudly Again" Lao She's Love and Revolution.
Association for Asian Performance Conference, Chicago, IL.

2016 Presentation: "Help Us Stand Up Proudly Again" Lao She's Love and Revolution.
Association for Research in Theatre at Indiana University Grad Student Conference,
Bloomington, IN.

2015 Presentation: *Scholar and Executioner: A Modern Take on the Late Qing*.
Association for Asian Performance Conference, Montreal, Canada.

- 2014 Presentation: Frank Chin and Re-Masculating the Chinese-American Male. Association for Research in Theatre at Indiana University Grad Student Conference, Bloomington, IN.
- 2014 Presentation: *Shuo Meng Hua* (Talking in my Dreams): Using Drama for English Teaching and Chinese Language Learning. Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
- 2014 Presentation: *South Park* and *King Ubu*: Filthy Modern Farces. The Philological Association of the Carolinas Annual Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC.
- 2013 Workshops: Tai Chi for Movement and Relaxation II and Brush Up Your Shakespeare: Dialogues. Florida Theatre Conference, Gainesville, FL.
- 2013 Presentation: Violence and Vengeance in Cultural Revolution Drama. Association for Asian Performance Conference, Orlando, FL.
- 2013 Presentation: Theory/Puppet/Theory: A Successful Failure. Theatre at University of British Columbia Graduate Symposium, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2013 Poster Presentation: Violence and Vengeance in Cultural Revolution Drama. University of Central Florida Graduate Student Research Forum, Orlando, FL.
- 2012 Workshops: Tai Chi for Movement and Relaxation and Beijing Opera and The West. Georgia Theatre Conference, Americus, GA.
- 2012 Workshops: Tai Chi for Movement and Relaxation and Beijing Opera and The West. Florida Theatre Conference, Gainesville, FL.

Other Conference Participation/Internship

- 2018 Association for Asian Performance ATHE Pre-Conference.
- 2018 The Allegheny Alley Fight SAFD Stage Combat Workshop Intern.
- 2017 The Tourist Trap SAFD Stage Combat Workshop Intern.
- 2015 Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference.
- 2015 Indiana University Preparing Future Faculty Conference .
- 2014 Association for Asian Performance ATHE Pre-Conference.
- 2014 The Tourist Trap SAFD Stage Combat Workshop.
- 2013 Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference.
- 2013 Montford Park Players Sumer Dramaturg Internship.
- 2013 Philadelphia Theatre Research Symposium.

A Select List of Graduate Coursework and Seminars

At Indiana University: American Theatre, Martial Arts for Stage and Screen, Stage Combat, Immersive Playwriting, Theories of Directing, Performance Seminar, Modern Drama and Asia, Chinese Cinema, Supernatural in Classical Chinese Literature, Fourth Year Mandarin Chinese.

At the University of Central Florida: Careers in the Theatre, Historical European Avant Garde Theatre, Directing Theatre for Young Audiences, Dramatic Theory and Criticism, Global Theatre, Puppetry, Design Seminar for Theatre, Research Methods, Theatre Management.

Honors, Awards, and Grants

- 2019 Graduate Assistantship, IU Theatre Department (2014-2019).
- 2018 Travel Grant, IU Theater Department.
- 2017 Symposium Grant, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.
- 2017 Travel Grant, IU Theater Department.
- 2017 IU Vice President for International Affairs Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant.
- 2016 IU Vice President for International Affairs International Enhancement Grant.
- 2016 Travel Grant, IU Theater Department.
- 2014 Essay Prize, Association for Research in Theatre at IU.
- 2015 Travel Grant, IU Theater Department.
- 2014 Patron's Pick for the Purple Venue, Orlando International Fringe Festival.
- 2014 Audience Choice Award, Orlando International Fringe Festival.
- 2011 Florida State Teaching Certificate (Chinese K-12 grade, Theatre 6-12 grade).
- 2008 1st Place Yang 24 style Tai Chi, Hefei City Amateur Martial Arts Competition, China.
- 2008 *HSK* Test of Chinese Fluency Level 5.
- 2005 Member of Theatre Honor Society Alpha Psi Omega.
- 2005 Cratis T. Williams Merit Scholarship, Appalachian State University.
- 2002 1st Place Teen Wushu Weapons, Tampa Chinese Martial Arts Competition.

Research Interests

Asian Theatre, Modern Chinese Theatre, Acting, Stage Violence, Stage Movement, Directing, Comedy, Historical European Avant-Garde, and Theatre History.

Professional Organizational Memberships

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Association for Asian Performance, Society of American Fight Directors.

LANGUAGE TRAINING

Language Skills

Mandarin Chinese: spoken (conversationally fluent) and written (intermediate proficiency).
Cantonese Chinese: spoken (basic) and written (basic).

Spanish: spoken (basic) and written (basic).

STAGE COMBAT

Society of American Fight Directors Stage Combat Certifications

- 2018 Certified Advanced Actor Combatant by the SAFD.
- 2018 Basic Pass in Sword & Shield by the SAFD.
- 2018 Recommended Pass in Single Sword, Unarmed, Broadsword, and Knife by the SAFD.
- 2017 Certified Actor Combatant by the SAFD.
- 2017 Basic Pass in Unarmed and Rapier and Dagger by the SAFD.
- 2016 Recommended Pass in Single Sword by the SAFD.
- 2016 Basic Pass in Knife by the SAFD.
- 2015 Recommended Pass in Rapier & Dagger by the SAFD.
- 2015 Basic Pass in Sword & Shield by the SAFD.

Martial Arts Experience

- 2008-2013 Chi Gong in Suzhou and Hefei, China.
 - 2005-2013 Yang and Chen style Tai Chi in Suzhou and Hefei, China.
 - 2003-2007 Shin Shin Toitsu Aikido at the ASU Aikido Club in Boone, NC.
 - 2000-2004 Wushu Kung Fu at O-Mei Wushu USA in Winter Springs, FL.
- Also various workshops in Muay Thai Kickboxing and Shōrin-ryū Karate.

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

Professional Directing

- 2014 *The Aqua Saga* by Ira Sargent. Orlando International Fringe Festival, Purple Venue. Professional cast of 5. Cartoonish stage combat in a small performance space.

Educational Directing

- 2017 Selections from *I Love XXX* by Meng Jinghui. Indiana University Studio Theatre. Student cast of 5. English translation staged with ensemble devising techniques.
- 2017 *Flower and Sword* by Ma Sen. Indiana University Studio Theatre. Student cast of 2. English translation performed with extensive use of mask and movement work.
- 2013 *All of Chinese Literature Condensed* by Whit Emerson. Theatre UCF Black Box Studio. Student cast of 4. Full-length play written and produced as part of my thesis project.
- 2013 *The Dark Lady of the Sonnets* by George Bernard Shaw. Theatre UCF Mainstage. Student cast of 4. Comedy performed in British RP dialect.
- 2012 *Hidden in This Picture* by Aaron Sorkin. Theatre UCF Black Box Studio.

Student cast of 4. Comedy with rapid-paced dialogue.

2008 *Romeo and Juliet* by Craig Mason. The University of Science & Technology of China. Student cast of 30 ESL actors. One act modern interpretation performed in modern English.

2005 *Just Wishes* by M. Jane Boggs. Appalachian State University I. G. Greer Theatre. Student cast of 2. New play written in North Carolina dialect.

Acting and Stage Combat resumes also available upon request.

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2018-2019 Dramaturg Search Committee Member, IU Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance.

2017-2018 Association for Research in Theatre at IU (ART@IU) President.

2015-2017 IU Graduate and Professional Student Government Representative for the Department of Theatre and Drama and served on the Programming Committee.

2016-2017 Association for Research in Theatre at IU (ART@IU) Vice-President.

2015-2018 Association for Asian Performance Graduate Student representative.

2014-2016 Association for Research in Theatre at IU (ART@IU) Historian.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Jennifer Goodlander, Associate Professor of Theatre and Comparative Literature. Director for the Southeast Asian and ASEAN Studies Program. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

jgoodlan@iu.edu (812) 679-7390

Dr. Ronald Wainscott, Professor of Theatre. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

wainscot@iu.edu (812) 855-9021

Dr. Eleanor Owicki, Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

eowicki@iu.edu (646) 263-7055

Dr. Julia Listengarten, Professor of Theatre. University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

julia.listengarten@ucf.edu (407) 761-9783