



Michael C. Morrison

Curriculum Vitae

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Objective:

To produce art that is relevant to current sociological issues and movements. To educate young professionals with a holistic approach to performance technique and the collaborative process. To continue to research new innovations in style and technique within the theatrical process.

Education:

- **The University Southern Mississippi** (USM) – MFA in Theatre Performance (2015)
- **Middle Tennessee State University** (MTSU) – BS in Liberal Studies emphasis in Music and Theatre Performance (2010)

Certifications:

- **Lessac Vocal Practitioner** – Lessac Institute (active since May 2017)
- **Unarmed Combat** – Dueling Arts International (inactive – pursuing renewal)
- **Small Sword** – Dueling Arts International (inactive – pursuing renewal)

Training:

- **Vocal Pedagogy:** Boston Conservatory, Vocal Pedagogy Professional Workshop, H. Stephen Smith (MTSU)
- **Directing:** Kim Tobin-Lehl
- **Arts Management:** Kim Tobin-Lehl
- **Lessac Vocal Technique:** Robin Aronson (President Emeritus – Lessac Institute, Lessac Certified Trainer, USM).
- **Classical Voice Training:** Stephen Smith (MTSU, Stockholm Opera) Tommy Gaines (Memphis Opera)
- **Dialects:** Robin Aronson(USM)
- **Suzuki Technique:** Robin Aronson (USM)
- **Voice Over Technique:** Robin Aronson(USM)
- **Musical Theatre:** Robin Aronson(USM), Dale McGuilliard (MTSU)
- **Spoken Word Technique:** Robin Aronson (USM)
- **Shakespeare:** Monica Hayes (USM)
- **Greek Theatre:** Monica Hayes (USM)
- **Uta Hagen Process:** Monica Hayes (USM)
- **Lugering Expressive Actor:** Sean Boyd (Lugering certified Master Teacher, (USM)
- **20th Century Theatre:** Louis Rackoff (USM)
- **Music Industry:** Cedric Dent (10 time Grammy award winning member of Take 6)
- **Stage Movement:** Kim Nofsinger (MTSU)
- **Ballet:** Shellie Neilson (USM)
- **Modern Dance:** Marsha Barskey (MTSU)
- **Jazz Dance:** Kim Nofsinger (MTSU) Erin Rehberg (MTSU)
- **Auditioning:** Monica Hayes (USM)

Teaching Experience

Michael C. Morrison

The University of St. Thomas - Houston (August 2019 - Present)

Assistant Professor of Drama

Responsibilities - Create and implement curriculum based on the objectives of the drama program, institution requirements, and the university mission. Instruct students both in class and via private coaching. Advise students on academic and professional choices. Direct at least one full scale production every academic year. Vocal and dialect coach for productions. Create and manage internships and professional opportunities for Drama majors with professional theatres. Manage the social media and digital content for the drama program. Create, research, and produce theatrical works for the university and drama program. Serve on Faculty Senate representing Fine Arts and Library.

Classes Taught

Intro to Theatre:

Survey Course focusing on the process of theatre, history of theatre, and the cultural impact of theatre.

Acting 1:

Beginning acting course focussing on the fundamentals of acting in character creation, movement, voice, and script analysis. Course is a requirement for majors.

Theatre Speech:

Vocal technique course focused on Lessac Kinesensics along with other techniques for healthy vocal production, character creation, and theatrical styles.

Musical Theatre Performance:

Course focused on vocal and performance techniques specific to musical theatre and the various styles and genres found within musical theatre.

Movement for the Actor:

Course focused on various stage movement techniques including the Lugerling Expressive Actor technique, Viewpoints, and Suzuki

Auditioning and Professional Practice:

Course focused on audition technique, interview skills, resume and content building, and common perspectives, standards, and practices in the professional theatre.

Comedic Styles:

Course focused on the various comedic styles found in theatre including Commedia dell'Arte, Farce, High Comedy, and Satire/Parody among others.

Teaching Experience

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Theatre Under The Stars (2017 – 2022)

Teaching Artist/Showcase Director

Responsibilities – *Humphrey School for Musical Theatre* teaching artist specializing in teaching Lessac Voice, Acting, Movement, Auditioning and Stage Combat. Showcase director for the scene and song study class which taught students to approach character creation in musical theatre using the techniques of Uta Hagen, Lessac, Luger, and Viewpoints.

A.D. Players Theatre Arts Academy (2017 – 2019)

Teaching Artist/Dialect Coach

Responsibilities – Dialect coach for the Young Adult Professionals production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Teaching Artist for the Theatre Arts Academy. Classes taught included an eight-week unarmed stage combat class, a semester long character development class using *Peter and the Starcatcher* as source material, and an improv class. All classes culminated with a showcase performance.

Lone Star College Montgomery (2016–2019)

Adjunct Professor/Theatre

Responsibilities – Created and implemented curriculum based on the objectives of the theatre department and institution requirements. Class requirements for Theatre Appreciation and Film Appreciation included: ability to analyze and critique the theatrical and film making process, the ability to understand and identify the various artistic styles, genres, and periods associated with each artistic medium, and being an active participant in the creative process through collaboration with fellow students. Each student was required to demonstrate these abilities through writing, intelligent discussion, and various creative projects. One section of Theatre Appreciation and six sections of Film Appreciation totaling 21 hours of instruction.

Main Street Theatre, Houston (2016–2019)

Teaching Artist

Responsibilities – Acting and Dance Instructor Taught fundamentals of acting and dance for multiple age groups as well as a class for international students at the KIPP Charter School. Each class culminated in a showcase where the students created and performed their own one act play.

Teaching Experience

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The University of Southern Mississippi (2012–2015)

Theatre Appreciation Instructor *Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, and Spring 2015*

Responsibilities – Creating and implementing curriculum for a non-major theatre appreciation class. Class requirements included being able to recognize, analyze, and critique the theatrical process as well as theatrical styles and periods. Each student was required to demonstrate these abilities through writing, intelligent discussion, and various creative projects. Five sections totaling 15 hours of instruction.

Graduate Teaching Assistant – Musical Theatre Performance *Spring 2015*

Responsibilities – Weekly voice lessons with each student on their graded pieces and showcase material, created a process of script analysis combining music theory and acting technique for students to use on each project, graded all written work, created and graded all quizzes based on reading curriculum, directed various scenes for the end of the semester showcase.

Graduate Teaching Assistant – Dialects *Fall 2014*

Responsibilities – Weekly dialect coaching session with each student on that week's project, grading of all written work, developed and led the class in a Lessac based warm up specific for each dialect, directed scenes for the end of the semester showcase.

Graduate Teaching Assistant – Fundamentals of Acting *Spring 2014*

Responsibilities – Graded all written work and quizzes, led daily warm ups based on the Lessac vocal technique and Lugerling Movement technique, instructed on script analysis and vocal technique, coached students on graded work, and directed scenes for end of the semester showcase.

Vocal Coach – Acting, Period Styles 1 *Spring 2015*

Responsibilities – coached students on the correct vocal process for Greek and Shakespearean theatre.

Playhouse On The Square, Memphis (2012)

Instructor, Teen Musical Theatre

Responsibilities – Co-led an 8-week class teaching teens ages 13–18 the basics of musical theatre performance culminating in a showcase. Showcase required every student to perform a standard from Broadway's golden age and a modern musical.

Teaching Experience

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Playhouse On The Square - Memphis (2012)

Instructor - Teen Acting

Responsibilities - Led an 8-week class teaching the fundamentals of acting and auditioning techniques to teens ages 13-18 culminating in a showcase. Students were required to perform both a monologue and a scene. This class was focused on modern theatrical trends and students were tasked with finding scenes in their age range and character type with guidance from the instructor.

Teaching Assistant, Children's Musical Theatre

Responsibilities - Assisted in an 8-week class that taught children ages 6-12 the basics of musical theatre performance culminating in a showcase focused on golden age Broadway standards.

Teaching Assistant, Children's Shakespeare

Responsibilities - Assisted with the After School Acting Program teaching grade school students, up to 6th grade, the basics and history of Shakespeare. Students competed in a short one act competition winning best characterization.

Lifeway Christian Resources, Fuge Camps (2008-2012)

Drama Instructor

Responsibilities - Taught weekly beginning acting to a new class of 40 students culminating in an end of the week performance in front of a camp audience

Creative Movement Instructor

Responsibilities - Taught a weekly class of 30 students a three-minute dance to be performed in front of a camp audience. *Creative Movement Video Instructor* - Cast and trained 6 actors/dancers to perform in a 30-minute training video for that year's creative movement instructors - I was the featured instructor for the video.

Choir Instructor

Responsibilities - Trained beginning singers to perform one song at the end of each weekly camp.

Worship Leadership Instructor

Responsibilities - Taught a small class of 15 the process of organizing a worship service from the perspective of a music minister.

Directorial Experience

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Director – University of St. Thomas

- **Peter and the Starcatcher** - 2020
- **Healing Hilarity** - 2020 (digital production created with students)
- **The Liar** - 2021 (digital production)
- **The Addams Family** - 2022
- **Shakespeare in Love** - 2023 (future production and regional premier)

Responsibilities – Staged each production. Managed actors, designers, crew, and creative team. Researched and developed each production and production concept.

Director/Playwright – A Non Equity Love Medley (Valentines Cabaret) – 2018

Responsibilities – Directed, wrote, and compiled a Valentines- themed cabaret for A.D. Players theatre in Houston Texas. This production included the staging of hit songs in popular music and musical theatre as well as original works. Full scale production elements were used while still keeping an intimate cabaret aesthetic.

Assistant Music Director - Violet – University of Southern Mississippi – 2015

Responsibilities – Coached the cast on the different musical styles within the musical and how to properly sing them, responsible for rehearsals when the music director was unable to attend, privately coached the lead actors on their individual songs as well as worked on big ensemble numbers.

Production Director – Student Life Camps – 2013

Responsibilities – Directed all actors, technicians, worship leaders, and camp pastors for a 13-week national tour to various locations for Student Life Camps, serving an average of 800-1500 campers a week. Responsibilities included: planning and managing load in and load out of all set and technical equipment; planning each night's worship service with the pastor and worship leader, implementing planned sketches and videos; rehearsing actors and technicians, calling every show; leading in pre-worship meeting/prayer. Worked with nationally known worship leaders/pastors such as Charlie Hall, Rush of Fools, Unhindered, Bellarive, Brett Younker, Jeff Johnson, Wade Morris, Landon Dowden, Ed Norton, Wes Hamilton, and Tony Merida.

Production Director – Fuge Camps – 2008

Responsibilities – Directed all actors, technicians, worship leaders, and camp pastors for a 6-week camp in Jenness Park, California, serving an average of 400 campers a week. Responsibilities included: planning and managing load in and load out of all set and technical equipment; planning each night's worship service with the pastor and worship leader, implementing planned sketches and videos; rehearsing actors and technicians, calling every show; leading in pre-worship meeting/prayer.

Performance Experience

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Regional/Professional Theatre

<u>Show</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Theatre/Prod. Company</u>
Sound of Music	Baron Elberfeld/Understudy	A.D. Players Theatre
Hark the Harold	Harold	A.D. Players Theatre
Miracle on 34th Street	Multi Role	A.D. Players Theatre
A Lie of the Mind	Frankie	Dirt Dogs Theatre
Littleboro Valley Story	Goshen	A.D. Players Theatre
Parade	Leo Frank	Kirkwood Music Services
God's Favorite	Ben	A.D. Players Theatre
David-BSLW	Goliath Puppeteer	A.D. Players Theatre
Rock Nativity	Melchior	A.D. Players Theatre
Hark the Harold	Harold	A.D. Players Theatre
Best Christmas Pageant Ever	Fireman	A.D. Players Theatre
Harvey	Understudy	A.D. Players Theatre
Titanic	Isidor Straus	Kirkwood Music Services
Peter and the Starcatcher	Smee	Stageworks Theatre
The Producers	Max Bialystock	Stageworks Theatre
The Energized Guys	Multi Role	National Theatre for Children
Born Yesterday	Barber/Bellhop	Alley Theatre
Sweeney Todd	Adolfo Pirelli	Springer Opera House
Urinetown	Mr. McQueen	The Kaleidoscope Theatre
Rent	Benny	The Kaleidoscope Theatre
The Fantasticks	El Gallo	The Kaleidoscope Theatre
YAMG Charlie Brown	Charlie Brown	The Kaleidoscope Theatre
The Little Mermaid	Chef Louis	Peach State Summer Thtr.
Les Miserables	Enjolras	Peach State Summer Thtr.
Taking Steps	Roland Crabbe	Southern Arena Theatre
Les Miserables	Enjolras	Hattiesburg Civic Opera
King Lear	Multi Role	New Moon Theatre
L'Histoire du Soldat	Joseph	Coda at Rhodes
A Christmas Carol	Fed/Y. Scrooge	Theatre Memphis
A Christmas Carol	Christmas Present	Theatre Memphis

Academic Theatre

<u>Show</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>University</u>
Spring Awakening	Adult Men	Univ. of Southern Mississippi
The Liar	Cliton	Univ. of Southern Mississippi
Clybourne Park	Steve/Karl	Univ. of Southern Mississippi
Rent	Benny	Univ. of Southern Mississippi
Assassins	The Proprietor	Univ. of Southern Mississippi
The Firebugs	Fire Captain	Univ. of Southern Mississippi
Ragtime	Henry Ford	Middle Tennessee State Univ.
Oklahoma	Ensemble	Middle Tennessee State Univ.
Anything Goes	Ensemble	Middle Tennessee State Univ.

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Special Event Performance

<u>Show</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Producing Company</u>
Does Not Disappoint	Actor	Univ. of St. Thomas, Houston
A Million Dreams Gala	Singer/Soloist	Univ. of St. Thomas, Houston
Mardi Gras Gala	M.C./King Rex	Univ. of St. Thomas, Houston
A Non-Equity Love Medley	Actor	A.D. Player Theatre
People	Soloist	The Kaleidoscope Theatre
The Pursuit	Actor	Lifeway Christian Resources
Connect	Actor	Lifeway Christian Resources
Kairos	Actor	Lifeway Christian Resources
Move	Actor	Lifeway Christian Resources
Star Wars in Concert*	Choir Member	Lucas Film/Another Planet

* *Star Wars in Concert* in partnership with the London Philharmonic

Choral Performance

- Mozart's Requiem (2005, 2009)
- Handel's Messiah (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009)
- Faure Requiem (2006)
- Haydn's Hymn of Praise (2007)
- Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass (2008)
- Haydn's The Creation (2008)
- Bernstein's Chichester Psalms (2009)

All concerts performed with the Middle Tennessee State University Concert Chorale/Schola Cantorum

Backstage Crew

<u>Show</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Producing Company</u>
Sound of Music	Deck Crew	A.D. Players Theatre
The Hiding Place	Deck Crew	A.D. Players Theatre
West Side Story	Spotlight Op.	A.D. Players Theatre
AIW in 80 Days	Sound Board Op.	A.D. Players Theatre
Harvey	Deck Crew	A.D. Players Theatre

Vocal and Acting Coaching

- Dialect Coach - The Importance of Being Earnest - Univ. of St. Thomas (Fall 2022)
- Vocal Coach - Eurydice - Univ. of St. Thomas (Fall 2021)
- Dialect Coach - Arsenic and Old Lace - A.D. Players Theatre Arts Academy (Fall 2017)
- Acting Coach - The Crucible - Frank Black Middle School (Fall 2015)
- Vocal Coach - Spring Awakening - University of Southern Mississippi (Spring 2015)
- Vocal Coach - Taking Steps - Southern Arena Theatre (Summer 2014)
- Vocal Coach - Clybourne Park - University of Southern Mississippi (Spring 2014)
- Vocal Coach - Rent - University of Southern Mississippi (Fall 2013).

Organizations / Certifications / Accolades

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Organizations

- **Actors Equity Association** – Equity Membership Candidate (Equity eligible 8/10/18)
- **Lessac Institute** – Certified Practitioner and Member
- **Alpha Psi Omega Lambda Nu** – University of Southern Mississippi – Hattiesburg MS
- **International Thespian Society** – Cordova High School – Memphis, TN

Certifications

- **Lessac Vocal Practitioner** – Lessac Institute (active since May 2017)
- **Unarmed Combat** – Dueling Arts International (inactive – pursuing renewal)
- **Small Sword** – Dueling Arts International (inactive – pursuing renewal)

Professional Workshops

- **Boston Conservatory, Vocal Pedagogy Professional Workshop**
– Certificate of distinction/completion

Awards/Nominations

- **St. Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award** – Nominated 2022
- **St. Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award** – Nominated 2021
- **Best Male Actor in a Musical Nominee** (2107) – Broadwayworld.com Houston
Role: Max Bialystock, Production: The Producers, Stageworks Theatre
- **Irene Ryan Award Nominee and Semi-Finalist**, 2015
Role: Karl/Steve, Play: Clybourne Park, University of Southern Mississippi

Quotes

I have seen Michael succeed both onstage and off in situations that require great leadership skills and coolness under pressure. Michael isn't just interested in the spotlight. He is interested in every aspect of theatre and a true team player. His immense talent and insatiable desire to create compliment his intense work ethic.

Jake Speck, Former Executive Director - A.D. Players Theatre, Broadway Veteran

I have seen Michael play many roles in musicals from a wide variety of genres He knows music and is able to adapt to genre and style brilliantly. Michael played Enjolras in Les Miserables in a 1200 seat theatre His Voice filled the space with clarity and a lovely resonance and tone, and his acting in the role stole our hearts. Michael's work was original and bold.

Professor Monica Hayes, Head of MFA Program, Univ. of Southern Mississippi

Ehrhardt and Morrison were delightfully funny as realistic representations of siblings: constantly bickering just enough to bother their parents and getting one another all riled up when chaos inevitably ensued. I found myself paying the most attention to their interactions with each other during the family group scenes, as something humorous was always being delivered from one or both of them in the background if you listened.

Audrey Morabito, Broadway World, Review of God's Favorite