

# Ashlee Espinosa, MFA

[ashlee@AshleeEspinosa.com](mailto:ashlee@AshleeEspinosa.com)

[AshleeEspinosa.com](http://AshleeEspinosa.com)

## **EDUCATION**

### **Master of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre**

San Diego State University, May 2014

Thesis: "Transylvania Mania": An Actor's Research, Rehearsal, and Performance of Susan Stroman's Original Staging of Young Frankenstein

### **Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre**

University of Central Oklahoma, May 2005

Senior Project: Mounted, directed and performed in the Oklahoma premiere of the musical *The Last Five Years* by Jason Robert Brown

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 2018 – 2021 | University of California, Irvine/Claire Trevor School of the Arts<br>Lecturer, Musical Theatre    |
| 2019 – 2020 | Saddleback College<br>Associate Faculty, Musical Theatre  |
| 2017 – 2019 | Riverside City College<br>Assistant Professor of Theatre  |
| 2014 – 2017 | Riverside City College<br>Associate Faculty, Theatre  |
| 2015 – 2016 | Fullerton College<br>Associate Faculty, Theatre   |
| 2015 – 2017 | Cypress College<br>Associate Faculty, Theatre   |
| 2012 - 2014 | San Diego State University/School of Theatre, Television and Film<br>Graduate Instructor, Theatre |

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

University of California, Irvine/Claire Trevor School of the Arts

DRAMA 148A: History of American Musical Theatre (1700s-1940)  
DRAMA 248A: History of American Musical Theatre (graduate course)  
DRAMA 148B: History of American Musical Theatre (1940-1970)  
DRAMA 248B: History of American Musical Theatre (graduate course)  
DRAMA 148C: History of American Musical Theatre (1970-present day)  
DRAMA 248C: History of American Musical Theatre (graduate course)

Saddleback College

TA 10: Musical Theatre Performance Techniques  
TA 107: Musical Theatre Scene Study

Riverside City College

THE 2: Theatre Practicum I (Production and Performance)  
THE 3: Introduction to Theatre  
THE 4: Theatre Practicum II (Production and Performance)  
THE 5: Theatre Practicum III (Production and Performance)  
THE 6: Advanced Theatre Practicum (Production and Performance)  
THE 26: Directing for the Stage  
THE 29: Musical Theatre History  
THE 30: Voice and Movement for the Stage  
THE 32: Fundamentals of Acting  
THE 33: Scene Study: Creating a Role  
THE 37: Musical Theatre Performance Techniques

Cypress College

THEA 100: Introduction to Theatre  
THEA 120: Acting I  
THEA 121: Movement for the Stage  
THEA 133: Rehearsal Performance I (Production and Performance)  
THEA 136: Rehearsal Performance II (Production and Performance)  
THEA 234: Rehearsal Performance III (Production and Performance)  
THEA 235: Experimental Theatre  
THEA 238: Rehearsal Performance IV (Production and Performance)

Fullerton College

THEA 121: Movement for Actors

San Diego State University

THEA 115: Beginning Acting  
THEA 350: Musical Theatre Performance I  
THEA 351: Musical Theatre Performance II  
THEA 350/351: Musical Theatre Voice Lab  
THEA 355: Movement for Musical Theatre

## **ONLINE AND REMOTE COURSES TAUGHT**

(via Canvas LMS and Zoom)

University of California, Irvine/Claire Trevor School of the Arts (online synchronous)

DRAMA 148B: History of American Musical Theatre (1940-1970)

DRAMA 248B: History of American Musical Theatre (graduate course)

Saddleback College (online synchronous)

TA 10: Musical Theatre Performance Techniques

TA 107: Musical Theatre Scene Study

Riverside City College (online asynchronous)

THE 3: Introduction to Theatre

THE 29: Musical Theatre History

## **ONLINE REMOTE STUDIO**

1:1 Coaching

Musical Theatre Performance Techniques

Audition and Callback Techniques

Branding and Marketing for Artists

Online Teacher Training

Canvas LMS Training + Consulting

Career Coaching

Online Courses and Memberships

The Empowered Actor program

YouTube for Artists + Educators

Essential Guide to Creating Musical Theatre Self Tapes

Build Your Book: Musical Theatre Performance Techniques

Craft Your Callback

Online Presence for Actors

Social Media for Actors

Websites for Actors

## **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

- Designed, created and launched a new curriculum through Curricunet for Riverside City College in the area of Musical Theatre Performance Techniques. Approved and implemented starting in the 2018-2019 catalog the following courses:
  - o THE 55: Beginning Musical Theatre I
  - o THE 56: Beginning Musical Theatre II
  - o THE 57: Intermediate Musical Theatre I
  - o THE 58: Intermediate Musical Theatre II

- Began development of creating and writing a sequence of four courses in Acting Techniques similar to the Musical Theatre sequence including the following courses:
  - Beginning Acting Techniques
  - Intermediate Acting Techniques I
  - Intermediate Acting Techniques II
  - Advanced Acting Techniques
- Developed and updated student learning outcomes and course content for Riverside City College Theater Arts Associates degree for transfer
- Coordinated development and editing of catalogs, brochures, and other educational materials for the purpose of educational outreach and recruitment
- Maintain database records of student and program activities for purposes of student learning outcome assessment

## **MARKETING AND BRANDING**

Marketing Specialist for Theatre Department at Riverside City College, 2016-2019

- Create, design and maintain official theater department website
- Create content for print and digital campaigns for auditions and production shows, as well as composing professional communications, copy, and other creative material both as part of marketing efforts and to support other departments in their external communications
- Created successful photo and video marketing promotions for digital online platforms
- Analyze performance of marketing programs to identify the best opportunities for optimization
- Created an official department presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Youtube, and BroadwayWorld.com to facilitate interaction with customers
- Manage all social media programs, including Internet forums, blogs, social networking applications and message boards
- Coordinate pre-show and post-show activities at department productions including cast/department galas and parties, patron events, student art galleries, student club concessions
- Maintain archives of current and past departmental productions

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING EXPERIENCE**

|                          |                     |                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Fun Home                 | Alison Bechdel      | Chance Theater        |
| Thoroughly Modern Millie | Millie Dillmount    | Performance Riverside |
| The Drowsy Chaperone     | Janet Van de Graaff | Welk Resort Theatre   |
| Fun Home                 | Alison Bechdel      | Candlelight Pavilion  |
| Shrek the musical        | Princess Fiona      | Center Stage Theatre  |
| Cabaret                  | Sally Bowles        | Welk Resort Theatre   |

|   |                      |                           |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Evita                                     | Featured Ensemble    | Musical Theatre West      |
| Sister Act                                | Mary Martin-of-Tours | Moonlight Stage Prods     |
| Titanic the musical                       | Caroline Neville     | Moonlight Stage Prods     |
| Legally Blonde                            | Brooke Wyndham       | Performance Riverside     |
| Sweet Charity                             | Charity (standby)    | Welk Resorts Theatre      |
| Sondheim on Sondheim                      | Lead                 | Moonlight Stage Prods     |
| Cabaret                                   | Sally Bowles         | Broadway at the Gardens   |
| Young Frankenstein*                       | Basha/Ensemble       | Moonlight Stage Prods     |
| My Fair Lady                              | Lady Boxington       | Moonlight Stage Prods     |
| Les Misérables                            | Ensemble             | Performance Riverside     |
| We Foxes (by Ryan Scott Oliver)           | Willa (lead)         | San Diego Reading         |
| The Fairy Hoax                            | Vivian/Adult Dulcie  | OC Industry Reading       |
| A Little Night Music                      | Petra                | Don Powell Theatre        |
| Hello, Dolly! (starring Sally Struthers)* | Featured Ensemble    | Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma |
| Jesus Christ Superstar                    | Featured Ensemble    | Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma |
| Aida (starring Montego Glover)            | Featured Ensemble    | Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma |
| Paisley Sister's Christmas Special        | Abigail Paisley      | Downstairs Cabaret, NY    |
| You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown          | Lucy                 | OKC Repertory Theatre     |
| Hello, Dolly! (starring Carole Cook)      | Ensemble             | Broadway Tonight!, OK     |

\* Original Broadway choreography

## **SELECTED DIRECTING AND CHOREOGRAPHING EXPERIENCE**

|                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Green Day's American Idiot | Performance Riverside          |
| The Crucible               | Performance Riverside          |
| Little Women               | Cypress College                |
| The Last Five Years        | University of Central Oklahoma |
| The Vivian Maier Project   | Riverside City College         |

## **CREATIVE DRAMA**

- Director, Owner, Founder: Expressive Entertainment, children's entertainment company specializing in upscale costumed character performances, January 2009 - December 2012
- Director, Choreographer, Co-founder: Muskogee Oklahoma Youth Musical Theatre Summer Camp, June - August 2004

## **SELECTED LECTURES**

- “Navigating a Musical Theatre Career post 2020: How to Utilize the Online Business Side to Your Advantage,” guest virtual presentation, Chico State, BFA Musical Theatre program, Matthew Miller
- “What Senior Musical Theatre Majors Should Prioritize Before Graduation,” in person week long workshop, University of Central Oklahoma, musical theatre majors, Greg White
- “Casting profiles, agents and harnessing the power of your online presence as a performer,” guest virtual presentation, University of Central Oklahoma, musical theatre majors, Greg White
- “Creating Your Personal Broadcast Channel: Using YouTube as an Artist + Entrepreneur to Build Your Audience, Business and Impact,” guest virtual presentation, Tony Howell: Smartists
- “Let’s Start at the Very Beginning: Musical Theatre’s European Roots,” UC Irvine, DRAMA 148A/248A: History of American Musical Theatre
- “The Mega-Musical and British Invasion: Broadway in the 1980’s,” UC Irvine, DRAMA 148C/248C: History of American Musical Theatre
- “It’s Showtime Folks! The Life of Bob Fosse,” UC Irvine, DRAMA 148B/248 B: History of American Musical Theatre
- “Contemporary Musical Theatre: Today’s New Age and How to Brand Yourself,” Riverside City College, Musical Theatre Techniques, THE 37
- “Nailing a pop/rock audition: Getting the Contemporary Sound That Fits You!,” Riverside City College, Musical Theatre Techniques, THE 37
- “Dance Audition Callback: Musical Theatre Audition Masterclass,” Fullerton College, THEA 184 and THEA 284: Musical Theatre Performance and Techniques I & III
- “The Business of Being an Actor,” Fullerton College, THEA 284: Musical Theatre Performance IV
- “Contemporary Musical Theatre in 2018: Standing Out, Being Unique, and Showing Who You Are in One Minute,” Riverside City College Musical Theatre Majors Masterclass
- “How to Book the Job,” Cypress College, THEA 235: Experimental Theatre Summer Program
- “The 16 Bar Audition: Musical Theatre Audition Masterclass,” San Diego State University
- “The Dance Audition: Musical Theatre Audition Masterclass,” San Diego State University
- “Bob Fosse: Steam Heat”, Riverside Community College, THE 37: Advanced Musical Theatre Techniques and Dance Styles
- “Somewhere Over the Rainbow: The Life of Harold Arlen,” SDSU, THEA 620A: History of Musical Theatre

- “Marvin Hamlisch: One Singular Sensation” SDSU, THEA 620B: History of Musical Theatre
- “Charles Strouse: The Sun’ll Come Out Tomorrow,” SDSU, THEA 620B: History of Musical Theatre
- “The Roaring 1920’s: A Decade of Musical Theatre Beginnings,” Riverside City College, THE 29: Music Theatre Appreciation
- “Stephen Schwartz: Continuing to Defy Gravity,” SDSU, THEA 620B: History of Musical Theatre
- “The Eccentric, Vaudeville Dancing Scarecrow: Ray Bolger,” SDSU, THEA 650: Musical Theatre Dance History
- “Tom O’ Horgan: The Busby Berkeley of the Acid Set,” SDSU, THEA 659A: Directing for Music Theatre
- “Vera Zorina: From Ballerina to Balanchine,” SDSU, THEA 650: Musical Theatre Dance History
- “In Search of New Forms: The Beginning of Modern Dance,” SDSU, THEA 650: Musical Theatre Dance History
- “Carol Haney: From Hollywood Dancer to Broadway Choreographer,” SDSU, THEA 650: Musical Theatre Dance History
- “Unveiling the Black Hat: The Life and Career of Susan Stroman,” SDSU, THEA 650: Musical Theatre Dance History

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH, DONOR & DEVELOPMENT EVENTS**

- Adjudicator: San Francisco Bay Area NATS Chapter Auditions, November 2020
- Adjudicator: Fullerton College High School Theatre Festival, Fullerton, March 2019
- Adjudicator: Fullerton College High School Theatre Festival, Fullerton, March 2018
- Adjudicator: Fullerton College High School Theatre Festival, Fullerton, March 18 & 19, 2016
- Adjudicator: RoleAbout Theatre Festival, Orange County, November 8, 2015
- Performer: Mayor’s Ball, Celebration for Arts and Innovation, Riverside, October 11, 2014
- Performer: Lanford Wilson Memorial Performance, featuring Broadway performer Norm Lewis, Los Angeles, September 2011
- Performer: “Broadway Memories,” a development event benefiting the Alzheimer’s Association featuring Broadway performers, Capistrano Center for the Performing Arts, October 2, 2010

## **SYMPOSIA**

- Performer: “Musical Theatre During the Second Half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: From Lerner & Loewe to Stephen Schwartz,” SDSU, 2013
- Performer/Lecturer: “Contemporary Musical Theatre,” SDSU, 2013
- Performer: “Musical Theatre During the First Half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: From George M. Cohan to Frank Loesser,” SDSU, 2012

## **CONFERENCES**

- Presenter, “Breaking the Fourth Wall,” with Tim Espinosa, Musical Theatre Educators Alliance (MTEA) Conference, San Diego State University, CA, January 2020
- Attendee, “The Great Balancing Act,” Musical Theatre Educators Alliance International (MTEA) Conference, NYU Steinhardt School, NYC, January 2019
- Presenter, “Coaches Corner,” Musical Theatre Educators Alliance International (MTEA) Western Regional Conference, USC School of Drama, Los Angeles, CA, March 2018
- Panel Discussion, “Outreach and Online Development,” Musical Theatre Educators Alliance International (MTEA) Conference, NYU Steinhardt School, NYC, January 2017
- Performer, “Spotlight on New Musicals Initiative,” with Robert Meffe, Musical Theatre Educators Alliance (MTEA) Conference, San Diego State University, CA, January 2016
- Performer, “Rock the Audition,” with Sheri Sanders, Musical Theatre Educators Alliance (MTEA) Conference, NYU Steinhardt School, NYC, January 2014

## **COMMITTEES**

- Conference Committee: Musical Theatre Educators Alliance (2020)
- Faculty Development Committee: Riverside City College (2018)
- Distance Education Committee: Riverside City College (2018)

## **RECRUITMENT**

- Musical Theatre Touring Company, Riverside City College: toured 12 local high schools with a performance and talkback session featuring current RCC theater majors

## **FACULTY ADVISOR**

- Performing Arts Club: Riverside City College, student led campus club

## **TECHNOLOGY SKILLS**

- Canvas Learning Management System expert: fully developed online courses for every single class that has been taught both face to face and online for both lecture and performance-based courses
- Squarespace for online website design as well as Acuity for scheduling, email marketing, blogging, and creating content
- Canva design for graphics, video and clip art
- YouTube Channel with over 21,000 subscribers



- Kajabi online learning platform for hosting all of my online studio courses, memberships and coachings
- MAC programs: StageWrite, Keynote, Pages, Numbers, iMovie, iTunes, iPhoto, Garage Band
- Full keynote presentations with embedded photos and videos
- Interactive, technology-based exercises, games and quizzes for the classroom (ex. Kahoot, Quizlet, Jeopardy, and other interactive activities to assist students in learning in various forms)
- Google Workspace with knowledge and experience of all apps and extensions
- Zoom for online teaching, conferences, meetings and 1:1 coaching sessions
- Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint
- Adobe Suite: Premiere Pro and After Effects
- Wondershare Suite: for video editing, creating tutorials, and implementing sound and video effects
- DSLR Camera for videography and photography along with green screen and three-point lighting
- Understanding of all social media platforms with knowledge of how to harness the power of targeted branding and marketing for both personal and professional businesses

## **Digital Media Content Creation and Contributions**

| Title                            | Dates        | Role    | Audience                                 |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------|--|
| Breaking the Fourth Wall Podcast | 2019-202     | Co-host | 10k+ downloads                           |
| Ashlee Espinosa Blog             | 2019-present | Writer  |  |
| Ashlee Espinosa YouTube Channel  | 2018-present | Creator | 21k+ subscribers<br>over 1 million views |

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- Musical Theatre Educators Alliance (MTEA)
- Equity Membership Candidate (EMC)
- California Teachers Association (CTA)
- National Education Association (NEA)