Montclair State University

College of the Arts

Curriculum Vitae

**Heather Michelle Benton**

Department of Theatre and Dance

Assistant Professor – June 27, 2019

**Higher Education**

**Moscow Art Theatre/** 2001 – 2003 Master of Fine Arts: June 6, 2003

**Institute for Advanced Theatre** Acting

**Training at the American Repertory Theatre**

**at Harvard University**

**University of Minnesota** 1992 – 1996 Bachelor of Arts: July 16, 1996

 English Literature

**Experience**

**ACADEMIC POSTS**

**Montclair State University** Assistant Professor September 2014 – Present

Department of Theatre and Dance

Coordinator, BFA Acting

**Montclair State University**  InterimProfessor September 2013 - June 2014

Department of Theatre and Dance

Acting Coordinator, BFA Acting

**Montclair State University**  Adjunct Professor January 2011 - June 2013

Department of Theatre and Dance

Acting Coordinator, BFA Acting

**American Academy of Dramatic Arts Acting Company**

New York, NY Devising/ Movement July/ August 2014 - 2019

**American Academy of Dramatic Arts**

New York, NY Core Faculty/ Director January 2010 - August 2013

 Head of Movement April 2008 - August 2013

**ArtsBridge2**  Acting Instructor July – August, 2019

Summer College Prep Conservatory July – August, 2018

Minneapolis, MN

**New York University** Movement Instructor March 24, 2017

Graduate Filmmaking Program

**Kenyon College** Movement Instructor/ October 2007

Gambier, OH Choreographer

**University of Montana** Movement Instructor June - July 2007

Montana Repertory Theatre

The Missoula Colony

Missoula, MT

**Rutgers University** Guest Artist July - August 2007

Mason Gross School of the Arts

Summer Conservatory

for High School Students

New Brunswick, NJ

**East River Commedia** Resident Movement 2004 - 2010

International Theatre Instructor/ Company Member

Company

 **Academic Experience at Montclair State University**

 **Undergraduate Teaching**

**THTR 222:** Acting III – Scene Study I

**THTR 223:** Acting IV – Scene Study II

**THTR 323:** Acting VI - Classical Acting II

**THTR 324:** Acting VII - Advanced Scene Study

**THTR 211:** Theatre History II – Restoration - Modern

**THRT 120:** Movement for the Actor I

**THRT 220:** Movement for the Actor II

**THTR 320:** Movement for the Actor III

**THTR 321:** Movement for the Actor IV

**THTR 432:** Faculty Led Acting Exchange, Universidad Mayor, Santiago, Chile

**THTR 432:** Devised Theatre Project of the Americas I/ Universidad Mayor, Santiago, Chile

**THTR 432:** Devised Theatre Project of the Americas II/ Faculty Led Exchange, Universidad Mayor, Santiago, Chile

 **Academic Production Experience**

**Wedding Band,** by Alice Childress, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2018, Director

**El Encuentro,** Devised Theatre Project of the Americas, Devised Theatre piece, Produced by the Universidad Mayor and the Department of Theatre and Dance, Co-Creator/ Co-Director with Professor Debbie Saivetz, Leonor Lopehandia and Gabriel Diaz from the Universidad, Mayor (Santiago, Chile), September, 2018

**Mad Forest,** by Caryl Churchill, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2018, Acting/ Movement Coach

**Sentience, Sex, Love and Information**, a devised theatre piece with text by Caryl Churchill, students and other sources, Montclair State University, NJ 2017, Creator/ Director

**Twelfth Night,** by William Shakespeare, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2017, Acting Coach

**Punk Rock,** by Simon Stephens, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2017, Acting Coach

**Iphigenia at Aulis,** by Euripides, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2016, Director/ Deviser

**The Drunken City,** by Adam Bock, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2016 Movement Coach

**Pride and Prejudice,** adapted by Simon Reade from the novel by Jane Austen, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2015 Movement Coach, Historical Dance

**The Persians** by Aeschylus adapted by Robert Auletta, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2015 Movement Coach

**The Winter’s Tale** by William Shakespeare, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2015 Choreographer/ Movement Coach

**Wintertime** by Chuck Mee, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2014 Director/ Choreographer

**Clybourne Park** by Bruce Norris, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2014 Movement Coach

**Middletown** by Will Eno, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2014 Movement Coach

**The Big Meal** by Frank LeBlanc, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2014 Movement Coach

**The Idiot,** Staged Reading, Stage Adaptation by David Fishelson of Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s novel, Montclair State University, NJ 2013 Director

**Equus** by Peter Shaffer, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2013 Movement Coach

**Cloud Nine** by Caryl Churchill, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2012 Movement Coach

**Romeo and Juliet** by William Shakespeare, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2012 Movement Coach

**Penance: Ghost of Don Juan** by Molly Rice, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2012 Movement Director

**Stage Door** by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2011 Movement Coach

**Grapes of Wrath,** adapted from John Steinbeck’s novel by Frank Galati, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2011 Movement Coach

**1001** by Jason Grote, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2010 Movement Coach

**Arcadia** by Tom Stoppard, Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University, NJ 2008 Movement Coach

**Additional Academic Production Experience**

**Cinders** (Act I) by [Janusz Glowacki](http://www.samuelfrench.com/catalog/search?author=Janusz%20Glowacki), Exam Play Series, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, 2013 Director

**Maybe Tuesday** (Act II) by Mel Tolkin/ Lucille Kallen, Exam Play Series, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, 2012 Director

**Rivers and Ravines** (Act I) by Heather Mc Donald, Exam Play Series, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, 2012 Director

**The Rivals**by Gerard Brinsley Sheridan, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts Company, New York, NY, 2012 Period Movement Coach

**Cat Among the Pigeons** (Act I) by Georges Feydeaux, Exam Play Series, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, 2011 Director

**Teach Me How to Cry** (Act I) by Patricia Joudry, Exam Play Series, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, 2011 Director

**Magic Time** by James Sherman, Exam Play Series, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, 2011 Director

**Moonchildren** (Act I) by Michael Weller, Exam Play Series, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, 2011 Director

**The Learned Ladies**, by Moliere, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts Company, New York, NY, 2011 Period Movement Coach

**The Water Children** by Wendy Mac Cleod, Graduate Play Series, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, 2010 Director

**The Trojan Women** by Euripides, Styles Play Series, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, 2010 Director/ Choreography

**Quilters** by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts Company, New York, NY, 2010 Movement Coach/ Choreography

**The Great Magoo** by Ben Hecht and Gene Fowler, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts Company, New York, NY, 2010 Choreography

**Ring Round the Moon** by Jean Annouilh, Graduate Play Series, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, 2009 Director/ Choreography

**Emma** an adaptation of Jane Austen’s novel by Doon MacKichan and Martin Millar, Styles Play Series, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, 2009 Director/ Choreography

**Les Liasons Dangereux**, by Christopher Hampton, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts Company, New York, NY, 2009 Period Movement Coach

**Cloud Nine**, by Caryl Churchill, Produced by the American Academy of Dramatic Arts Company, New York, NY, 2008 Period Movement Coach

**Teaching Philosophy**

I firmly believe that an ideal experience in actor training is anchored in the layering, processing and development of a multitude of acting techniques. Exposing students to a complete immersion in a multi-method program provides them with the skill-set necessary to working with virtually any director when they begin to pursue a professional career. This immersion demands a constant emphasis on the integration of the mind, heart, body and voice. The student is trained from the first that the goal is to attain a lucid, whole being where all aspects of the craft affect one another in a magnificent ebb and flow.

I specialize in a psychophysical approach to acting training and the integration of multiple techniques including Stanislavski, Practical Aesthetics and Viewpoints. The progression begins with foundational acting technique drawing on a Russian approach to Stanislavski. In this work, I draw upon my experiences in Russia with Master Teachers Roman Kozak and Yuri Yeremin of the Moscow Art Theatre. Students are then introduced to the more tangible approach of Practical Aesthetics where the focus is on analytical precision, impulsive moment-to-moment work, and action-based pursuit of objectives, drawing upon my work with Atlantic Theatre Company’s Scott Zigler, co- author of *The Practical Handbook for the Actor*. The simultaneous immersion in Viewpoints Training provides an excellent counterpoint to Stanislavski and Practical Aesthetics as it pushes students to work beyond the boundaries of traditional drama and scene study, awakens a full integration of mind, heart, body, voice encourages dynamic and impulsive use of space and time, and empowers them to work as artists.

With classical material, including Shakespeare, Greek Tragedy and Restoration Comedy, I draw upon the techniques of Scott Kaiser, master voice teacher with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the chakra work of Fay Simpson’s Lucid Body technique and Suzuki training and incorporate them with psychophysical explorations of Cover and Substance, Opposites and Extremes and varying Human Themes and Questions such as The Steps of Grief, The Seven Deadly Sins, Heaven and Hell. These interactive techniques provide actors with an arsenal of tools that marry acting technique and psychophysical connection with the technical rigor necessary for work with heightened text and extreme given circumstances. The mind, heart, body and voice enter into the work simultaneously, as they all feed into the whole.

As a movement instructor, I teach what I have found to be the most powerful and effective techniques that have come to be indispensable for me as a professional actor. I began my acting training with a very tense and limited instrument and my physical training completely freed and transformed my body, voice and emotional life as an actor. I am passionate about sharing these remarkable tools with others. In doing so, my goal is to get to the heart of what the technique is going at and work from the inside out. As such, the training begins with a combination of Alexander/ Fitzmaurice techniques for release and relaxation and moves into Vinyasa /Yin Yoga to encourage flexibility and elasticity. Once the body begins to open and physical habits are diagnosed and begin to unravel, a more vigorous approach is applied with an emphasis on gaining full body flexibility with Andrei Droznin’s Body Work, Master Movement Teacher with the Vakhtangov and Moscow Art Theatres and founding member of the International Stage Movement Center. Core strength progression begins with modified Pilates to support free and open breath and eventually includes Suzuki training. Work with the Viewpoints runs concurrently throughout the training, providing the bass note of consistency that demands students be present, impulsive, physically alive and emotional lucid.

A hallmark of my approach to both acting and movement training is working with extremes and outside of one’s comfort zone. Risk, desire, empathy and emotional availability are necessary ingredients in connecting to what is human for an actor. There is a huge emphasis on leaping into the work with abandon and indulgence, before one is ready: a brave initiation of an idea, as a jump off of a cliff and then an openness to receiving the effects of that risk. Students are encouraged to embrace chaos and welcome risk (both physically as well as emotionally), and to do so with the trust and support of the ensemble and their fellow peers. I have discovered in my own work as an actor/ director and through the work of my students over many years that the only limitations that exist in any form of art are the limitations that are created by the artist within their own mind. So much of actor training lies in faith and courage. Guiding students to work from their impulses with spontaneity brings them closer to the connection with their most creative, most lucid subconscious selves.

Creating and preserving a culture of discipline and focus are paramount in securing an environment of support that allows students to work with the self-discovery, honesty and risk necessary for deep, soulful, impulsive, dynamic work. At a time when technology and distraction are constantly vying for the attention of our students and our audiences, the need for stillness, awareness, sensitivity, responsiveness and undeniable truth has never been more urgent.

My goals as an instructor and artist are manifold. The work is about creating the deepest, most undeniably human connection and an instrument that can work with the availability, sensitivity, focus, strength, stamina, expressivity and specificity to answer the needs of any theatrical piece in service of the story. But it is as equally about being more present, sensually alive and empathetic, connected to instinctual impulsive behavior as a person in life. I feel fortunate that my work can coexist on both planes, and it is my mission to inspire both the actor as well as the person.

**Honors and Awards**

*Think Fast*One-Act Play Competition - Best Play – Natasha in *Adulation* by Elan Garonzik, 2014

Innovative Theatre Awards - Best Play, Best Ensemble, Best Direction – Brunette in *Serenade and Philosopher Fox,* East River Commedia, 2005

Minneapolis Star Tribune – Best Acting Work – Vivie Warren in *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*, Theatre in the Round, 1996

Seattle Times - Smart New Solo Shows – All roles in *Living With Betty* by Heather Benton, Ursa Major Theatre, 1999

**University, College, Department and Community Service**

 **Montclair State University**

**Coordinator of B. F. A. Acting Program -** 2014 – Present

**Acting Coordinator of B. F. A. Acting Program** - 2013 – 2014

Student Conduct Hearing Panel – 2015 - 2018

Undergraduate Commencement Speaker Committee – 2014 – 2018

Commencement Speaker Coach – 2015 – 2019

Montclair State University, Undergraduate Commencement, Master of Ceremonies, 2019

Montclair State University School of Business Convocation, Name Announcer, 2014 – 2016

Montclair State University College of Science and Mathematics Convocation, Name Announcer, 2014 – 2015

Montclair State University Department of Undergraduate Admissions, Acting Workshop for Undergraduate Admissions, Instructor, 2014

 **College of the Arts**

College of the Arts Convocation Committee 2014 – 2016, 2018, 2019

*Carpe Diem*, Peak Performances 2017/18 Season of All Women Artists episode, with Jed Wheeler, executive producer of Peak Performances, Host, October 2017.

Reel Abilities Festival, *Enter the Faun,* Post-Screening Discussion with Director/ Choreographer, Tamar Rogoff, Host, April, 2018.

NACAC Visual and Performing Arts Fair 2013 - 2016

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

NACAC Visual and Performing Arts Fair 2013 - 2016

New York, New York

Nassau BOCES College Fair 2013

Islip, New York

 **Department of Theatre and Dance**

**B.F.A. Acting Program Curriculum Development –** 2014 – Present

**Student Mentoring and Advising** – 2013 – Present

**Faculty Mentoring** – 2013 - Present

**Co-Head of New Works Initiative Committee**, Expanded Program - 2014 - Present

**Curriculum Committee** - 2014 – 2018

**Season Selection Committee -** 2013 – Present

**Co-Curator of the New Plays Festival** – 2014 - 2015

**Recruitment Committee** - 2013 – Present

**Department of Theatre and Dance Theatre Days** - 2013 – 2019

**Department of Theatre and Dance Open Houses** – 2013 – 2019

**Department of Theatre and Dance Accepted Student Days** – 2013 - 2019

**B.F.A. Acting Program Auditions**, On Campus - 2013 - 2019

**National Unified Auditions,** New York 2014 – 2017

 Chicago 2014 - 2019

**Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region II** –

 Devising Chair, 2017 – 2019

Workshop Instructor - 2014, 2017, 2018

 Production Respondent – 2017 - 2019

 Irene Ryans Selectors Coordinator - 2017

Irene RyansActing Coach - 2014 - 2019

**Assessment Workshops Off Campus** October, 2013

Middlestates Assessment Workshop

“How to Become an Assessment Facilitator”

 Philadelphia, PA

 **Community**

**Viewpoints High School Master Classes** – 2014 – Present

St. Joseph’s High School, Montvale, NJ October 20, 2014

Middletown High School, Middletown, NJ October 13, 2014

Summit High School, Summit, NJ February 7, 2014

Butler High School, Butler, NJ February 7, 2014

Chatham High School, Chatham, NJ February 28, 2014

Memorial High School, West New York, NJ March 14, 2014

Bergen County Academies March 28, 2014

Westfield High School March 28, 2014

Union County Votech Academy October 3, 2014

 of Performing Arts, Scotch Plains, NJ February 28, 2014

 October 30, 2015

 November 9, 2015

 January 27, 2017

 February 10, 2017

 ` January 9, 11, 12, 2018

 January 7, 9, 11, 2019

**Theatre Day for Theatre Teachers,** WorkshopInstructor – 2009, 2013, 2015, 2017

**Audition Intensive for High School Students,** Acting/ Movement Instructor - 2015

**Service Abroad**

**Universidad de Mayor, Santiago, Chile**

Movement Instructor, Workshop – Universidad Mayor, Santiago, Chile: May 2015

Faculty Led Acting Exchange, Instructor - Universidad Mayor, Santiago, Chile: March 2016

Devised Theatre Project of the Americas, Program Director/ Co- Creator:

MSU – Fall 2017

 Universidad Mayor, Santiago, Chile – Spring 2018

MSU - Fall 2018

**Shanghai Theatre Academy, Shanghai, China**

Actor/ Mentor, Runaway, a short film – June 2015

Acting/ Movement Instructor, Workshop – June 2015, July 2017

**Professional Membership**

**Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Associate** 2019 – Present

**Actor's Equity Association** 1999 – Present

**American Federation of Television and Radio Artists** 1999 – Present

**Theatre Communications Group** 1994 – Present

**Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA)** 2006 – 2008

**Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at the Moscow Art Theatre/ American Repertory Theatre at Harvard University Alumni Association** 2006 - Present

**Professional Activities**

**Devised/ Physical & Site Specific Theatre**

**At Black Lake**

Full Production, by Dea Loher, Directed by Ashley Tata, Produced by Necessary Digression in association with The Tank NYC, New York, NY, July, 2019, Co-Producer, Actor (role of Else).

**Holy Day**

NYC Premiere, Full Production, by Andrew Bovell, Produced by The New Natives, The Ohio Theatre, New York, February – March, 2019, Co-Director

**Miracles: Lost and Found**

An Interactive Rock and Roll Rumination,Music, Lyrics and Text by Marla Mase, True Groove Productions, Directed by Lisa Milinazzo, Jersey City Theatre Center, NJ/ Nuyorican Café, NYC, January 2019, Movement/ Choreography

**Crave**

Workshop of Excerpts from *Crave* by Sarah Kane, Suzuki/ Viewpoints physical approach to the play, American Academy of Dramatic Arts 2018-19 Company, New York, NY, July 26, 2018 & December 17-19, 2018, Movement/ Director

**Refuge**

Workshop of new play in development with Blessed Unrest and Teatri Oda (Kosovo), By Matt Opatrny, Directed by Jessica Burr, New York, NY, December, 2018.

**At Black Lake**

Development Workshops of an upcoming Site-Specific Production, by Dea Loher, Directed by Barbara Rubin, New York Foundation for the Arts, Brooklyn, NY, July 21-22, 2018, Frantic Assembly, New York, NY, September 15-16, 2018 & TheatreLab, New York, NY December 20-21, 2018 Actor/ Movement

**Miracles: Lost and Found**

An Interactive Rock and Roll Rumination,Music, Lyrics and Text by Marla Mace, True Groove Records Productions, Directed by Lisa Milinazzo, New York, NY, December 2017, Movement/ Choreography

**Paradise Ridge. A Lopakhin Development**

Workshop of a Devised Theatre Piece, Text from Anton Chekhov’s*The Cherry Orchard,* Additional Text by Heather Benton and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts 2017-18 Company, New York, NY, July-August 2017, Adapter, Creator, Director

**The Snow Queen**

Excerpts from an adaptation of *The Snow Queen*, Text by Matt Burr, Directed by Jessica Burr, Performateria: Theatre Development Fund’s Immersive Theatre Festival, Blessed Unrest Theatre Company, Baruch Performing Arts Center, New York, NY, March 2017, Actor

**Dark Matter: Underking 1 and the Code of Light**

Staged Reading of a Devised Theatre Piece, Text by Molly Rice,

Additional Text by Heather Benton and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts 2015-16 Company, THE COLONY, Missoula, MT, July 2016, Co-Creator

**House on Fire: Six Stories by Tennessee Williams Remixed**

Adapted and Created by Heather Benton, Additional Text by Heather Benton and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts 2016-17 Company, New York, NY, July-August 2016, Adapter, Creator, Director

**Dark Matter: An Exploration of the Persephone/ Demeter Myth**

Workshop of a Devised Theatre Piece, Text from *Firehouse 17* by Molly Rice, *The Dark Net* by Jamie Bartlett and original text by Heather Benton, The 2015 - 2016 Acting Company, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY, July – August 2015, Creator/ Writer/ Director/ Choreographer

**Chasing Immortality: Performance-Lecture on the Intrinsic Value of Art and Science**

Devised Performance-Lecture, The Intrinsic Value Project, Curated by Paul Bargetto, Produced by undergroundzero festival, Abrazzo Theatre, Clemente Soto Velez, New York, NY, July 19 – 20, 2014, Actor/ Co - Creator with Molly Rice and RNA Biologist, Maryam Zaringhalam

**AutoMotive** (Sally Mansfield/ Jayne Mansfield), by Heather Denyer, Amy Jensen, Emily Conbere

Devised Theatre Piece, Produced by undergroundzero festival, Curated and Directed by Paul Bargetto, East River Commedia, New York, NY, 2010, Actor

**La Chunga** by Mario Vargas Llosa

Site Specific Production, at the Nuyorican Poets Café, Produced by Indigo Playground,

New York, NY, 2010, Director/ Choreographer

**A Dream Play**, an adaptation of August Strindberg’s play (Kristin, Newlywed, Bishop)

Site Specific Production in abandoned underground train station in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, NY

Produced by Naked City Arts, Adapted and Directed by Dan Harray, New York, NY, 2008, Actor

**Living With Betty** (Betty) by Heather Benton

Devised Theatre Piece, New York Premiere, Produced by Theatre Trouve and the New York Fringe Festival, Directed by Mercedes Murphy, New York, NY, 2003, Playwright/ Actor

**Eternal Vaudeville** (Penny Pram) by John Longenbaugh

Site Specific Production on the stage of the Moore Theatre, Produced by Seattle Theatre Group and Urse Major Theatre Company, Directed by John Longenbaugh, Seattle, WA, 1998, Actor

**Catlike Tread** *(Eve)* by Derek Horton

World Premiere Devised Theatre Piece, Produced by the Annex Theatre, Directed by Derek Horton, Seattle, WA, 1997, Actor

**Staged Readings of New Plays**

**Holy Day** (Nora) by Andrew Bovell, Produced by The New Natives, Directed by Barbara Rubin, New York, NY, November 22, 2017, Actor.

**Peggy Pickett Sees the Face of God** (Liz) by Roland Schimmelpfennig, Produced by The Palace Theatre, International Play Reading Series: Part 3, Directed by Debbie Saivetz, Hamilton, NY, February 4, 2017, Actor

**No Matter How Hard We Tried or We Exist On The Best Of Terms We Can** (Edyta/ Monica) by Dorota Maslowska, Produced by PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature, Presented in collaboration with the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, The Graduate Center CUNY Directed by Paul Bargetto, East River Commedia, New York, NY, April 29, 2014, Actor

**Midwives** (Isadora Duncan) by Suzanne Trauth,

Produced by Emerging Women Playwrights Program, Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey,

Directed by John Pietrowski, Summit, NJ, May 5, 2014/ October 30, 2014/ February 11, 2015, Actor

**Tar Beach** (Brigit) by Tammy Ryan, Produced by Luna Stage, New Moon Play Reading Series,

Directed by Cheryl Katz, West Orange, NJ, August 2013, Actor

**Francoise** (Isadora Duncan)by Suzanne Trauth, Produced by Luna Stage, New Moon Play Reading Series, Directed by Susan Kerner, West Orange, NJ, 2011, Actor

**Half Awake and Falling Through the Sky** (Caroline)by Mercedes Murphy and Heather Benton, Produced by the underground zero festival, Curated by Paul Bargetto, Directed by Mercedes Murphy, P.S. 122, New York, NY, 2010, Playwright/ Actor

**The Baby Game** (Lucy) by Michele Aldin, Produced by What Exit? Theatre Company,

Directed by Susan Kerner, Maplewood, NJ, 2010, Actor

**Advanced Women** (Alice) by Michele Aldin, Produced by Luna Stage, New Moon Play Reading Series, Directed by Susan Kerner, Montclair, NJ, 2008, Actor

**Spontaneous Spatula** (Paula) by Jim Peterson, Produced by the Missoula Colony, University of Montana, Directed by Jerry Manning, Missoula, MT, 2007, Actor

**Midnight in the Marigny** (Sara) by Barret O' Brien, Produced by the Missoula Colony, University of Montana, Directed by Kara-Lynn Vaeni, Missoula, MT, 2007, Actor

**Out of the Woods**(Kay) a Screenplayby Andrew and Alex Smith, Chris Offutt,

Produced by the Missoula Colony, University of Montana,

Directed by Andrew and Alex Smith, Missoula, MT, 2007, Actor

**Sam Spade in Butte** (Sal)by Alan Goddard, Produced by the Missoula Colony, University of Montana, Directed by Barret O' Brien, Missoula, MT, 2007, Actor

**Acting in Film**

**Hold Me,** written and directed by Teace Snyder, produced by Teace Snyder and Aksel Stasny (Original Cliché Entertainment in association with Photo, Film), Independent Feature Film, Filmed in New York City and Upstate New York in 2012, Actor

**New York/ Regional Theatre**

**Tar Beach** (Brigit) by Tammy Ryan, **World Premiere** Produced by Luna Stage, Directed by Cheryl Katz, West Orange, NJ, April 9– May 15, 2015, Actor

**Adulation** (Natasha) by Elan Garonzik, **Award Winner for Best Play, Best Direction,** Produced by Think Fast, Short Play Competition, The Theatre Project, What Exit Theatre Company, Directed by Susan Kerner, Maplewood, NJ, February 14– 16, 2014, Actor

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**(Maggie) by Tennessee Williams

**National Tour**, Produced by the Montana Repertory Theatre, Directed by Greg Johnson, 2008, Actor

**Iowa/'08: Ioway**, by Rogelio Martinez(Michelle), Ten Minute Play Festival

Produced by New York Theatre Collective at the Vineyard Theatre, Directed by Mercedes Murphy, Mark Schneider, New York, NY, 2007, Actor

**The Magnificent Cuckold** by Fernand Crommelynck, Translation by Ben Sonnenberg and Amiel Melnick, Produced by the Polish Cultural Institute and East River Commedia, Directed by Paul Bargetto, New York, NY, 2007, Movement Coach

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**(Maggie) by Tennessee Williams

Produced by Sierra Repertory Theatre, Directed by Dennis Jones

Sonora, CA, 2006, Actor

**Trip To Bountiful**(Jessie Mae) by Horton Foote

**National Tour**, Produced by the Montana Repertory Theatre, Directed by Greg Johnson, 2006, Actor

**Serenade and Philosopher Fox** (Brunette) by Vladomir Myrozek

**Innovative Theatre Awards for Best Ensemble, Best Director, Best Play**, Produced by the Polish Cultural Institute and East River Commedia, Directed by Paul Bargetto

New York, NY, 2005, Actor

**Othello** (Desdemona) by William Shakespeare

Produced by the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, Directed by Peter Bennett

High Point, NC 2004, Actor

**Twelfth Night** (Olivia) by William Shakespeare

Produced by the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, Directed by Malcolm Morrison

High Point, NC 2004, Actor

**Highway Ulysses** (Lover, Siren, Suitor, Veteran) **World Premiere Rock Operaby Rinde Eckert**

Produced by the American Repertory Theatre, Directed by **Robert Woodruff**

Cambridge, MA, 2003, Actor

**Children of Herakles** (Chorus/ Demophon U/S) by Euripides

Produced by the American Repertory Theatre, Directed by **Peter Sellars**

Cambridge, MA, 2003, Actor

**Play It By Heart** (Jamie Lynn)

Produced by The Village Theatre, Original Works Series, Directed by Randy Hugill,

Issaquah, WA, 1999, Actor

**Eleanor** *(*Lucy Mercer) Original Musical by Jonathan Bolt, Tom Tierney, John Forster

Produced by The Village Theatre, Directed by Jeff Steitzer, Issaquah, WA, 1999, Actor

**Living With Betty** (All Roles)by Heather Benton

One Woman Show, Produced by Ursa Major Theatre Company, Directed by John Longenbaugh & Brian Neel Seattle, WA, 1999, Playwright/ Actor

**Replay< Stoppard< Radio** (Kate) Radio Plays by Tom Stoppard

Produced by Boomer Classics, A Contemporary Theatre, Directed by Jeff Steitzer

Seattle, WA, 1999, Actor

**Jane Eyre** (Helen, Bertha, Mary) adapted by Julie Beckman from the novel by Charlotte Bronte

Produced by Book It Theatre Company, A Contemporary Theatre, Directed by Julie Beckham Seattle, WA, 1999, Actor

**As You Like It** (Rosalind) by William Shakespeare

Produced by Washington Shakespeare Festival, Directed by Mitch Mc Gowan

Olympia, WA, 1999, Actor

**Carnival** (Olga)

Produced by The Village Theatre, Directed by Steve Tompkins, Issaquah, WA, 1998, Actor

**Bells Are Ringing** (Gwynne Smith)

Produced by The Village Theatre, Directed by Steve Tompkins, Issaquah, WA, 1998, Actor

**Jane Eyre** (Helen, Blanche, Bertha, Mary) adapted by Julie Beckman from the novel by Charlotte Bronte, Educational Theatre Tour, Produced by Book It Theatre Company, Directed by Julie Beckham, Seattle, WA, 1998, Actor

**Wake** (Judy Dace) by Ted Dace

Original Biographically Absurd Play, Produced by Ursa Major Theatre Company, Directed by John Longenbaugh,

Seattle, WA, 1997, Actor

**Mrs. Warren's Profession**(Vivie Warren) by George Bernard Shaw

Produced by Theatre In The Round, Directed by Steven Anderson,

Minneapolis, MN, 1996, Actor

**The Wind In the Willows** (Petunia Rabbit) by Thomas W. Olson, Music by Roberta Carlson

Produced by the Children’s Theatre Company, Directed by Gary Gisselman,

Minneapolis, MN, 1995, Actor

**East of the Sun, West of the Moon** (Trud/ Troll Priness Attendant) **World Premiere Adapted by Tina Howe, Music by Mel Marvin,** Produced by Children’s Theatre Company, Directed by Jon Cranney,

Minneapolis, MN, 1995, Actor

**How The Grinch Stole Xmas** (Hippy Who/ Mama Who (Us) **World Premiere Musical, Adapted by Tim Mason, Music by Mel Marvin,** Produced by Children's Theatre Company, Directed by Gary Gisselman,

Minneapolis, MN, 1994 - 1995, Actor

**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** (Emma Thatcher) by Tim Mason

Produced by the Children’s Theatre Company, Directed by Gary Gisselman,

Minneapolis, MN, 1994, Actor

**Graduate Theatre**

**The Winter's Tale** (Paulina) by William Shakespeare, Produced by the Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at the American Repertory Theatre/ Moscow Art Theatre at Harvard University, Directed by Jennie Ward, Cambridge, MA, 2003, Actor

**Baal** (Savettka) by Bertol Brecht, Produced by the Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at the American Repertory Theatre/ Moscow Art Theatre at Harvard University, Directed by Mercedes Murphy, Cambridge, MA, 2002, Actor

**Phaedra 4.48**(Phaedra) by Sarah Kane, Euripides, Chuck Mee and other found text

Devised Theatre Piece, Produced by the Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at the American Repertory Theatre/ Moscow Art Theatre at Harvard University, **Directed by Robert Woodruff** and Mercedes Murphy, **INTERNATIONAL TOUR:Boston, Russia, Italy,2001-2002,** Actor

**Rhinoceros**(The Housewife) Eugene Ionesco

Devised Theatre Piece, Produced by the Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at the American Repertory Theatre/ Moscow Art Theatre at Harvard University, **Directed by Roman Kozak at the Moscow Art Theatre, Moscow, Russia 2001- 2002, Actor**

**Continued Professional Development**

Lucid Body Master Class: Mapping the Arc of the Character, Fay Simpson, The Lucid Body House, New York, NY, April, 2019

Lucid Body Master Class: Lucid Body Technique, Fay Simpson, New York, NY, February, 2019

Frantic Assembly Devising Workshop, Actors Movement Studio, New York, NY, September, 2018

Lucid Body Drop In Classes, The Lucid Body House, New York, NY, 2018 - 2019

Elevator Repair Service, Devising Workshop, Actors Movement Studio, New York, NY, April, 2018

Pig Iron, Devising Workshop, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 2, January, 2018

Frantic Assembly Devising Workshop, Actors Movement Studio, New York, NY, November, 2017 & September, 2018

Invited Master Class on Devising New Work, Anne Bogart, artistic director, SITI Company, New York, NY, September 26 – 28, 2014 and January, 2016

Margolis Method, Kari Margolis, New York, NY, Spring 2014, Spring 2015

Suzuki and Viewpoints Training, SITI Company, New York, NY, 2006, 2008, 2011

Studied with Ellen Lauren, Akiko Aizawa, Kelly Maurer, J. Ed Araiza, Barney O' Hanlon, Tom Nelis

The Lucid Body Basics, The Lucid Body Technique, Fay Simpson, artistic director/

co-founder of Impact Theatre, author of *The Lucid Body*, New York, NY, Fall 2010

Viewpoints/ Suzuki/ Archetypes, Blessed Unrest Theatre Company,

Artistic Directors: Matt and Jessica Burr, New York, NY, Winter 2010

Neutral Mask, Richard Crawford, The Flying Machine, New York, NY, Fall 2009

Quadrille in 19th Century Dance, Susan De Guardiola, New York Baroque Dance, 2008

Stage Combat, Fights 4: Summer Sling, Mike Chin, David Brimmer, Michael Johnson, Ricki Ravitts, New York, NY, 2008

Fitzmaurice Voice Intensive, Jeff Morrison, New York, NY, Fall 2006

Shakespeare Text Analysis, John Basil, American Globe Theatre, New York, NY, 2000

 \_\_\_Heather Benton\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_9/1/19\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Candidate Signature Date