

CURRICULUM VITA FOR LEE E. ABRAHAM

*Department of Theatre and Dance
The University of Texas at Austin
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<i>Current Position</i>	Associate Professor, 1977–present Department of Theatre and Dance The University of Texas at Austin
<i>Education</i>	<i>Master of Fine Arts, Theatre (Directing), 1977</i> The California Institute of the Arts (Newhall CA) <i>Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, 1970</i> Antioch College (Yellow Springs OH)
<i>Teaching Experience</i>	Instructor (1977–80), Assistant Professor (1980–83), and Associate Professor (1983–present) Department of Theatre and Dance The University of Texas at Austin Teaching Assistant in the Complementary Education Program (1975–76) Assistant Instructor in acting for non–theatre majors (1975–77) California Institute of the Arts

Scholarship and Creative Activities

I have a long-standing interest in teaching comedy acting. I've written about it and presented papers at learned societies.

Lecture-Demonstrations and Workshops in comedy, 1980–present

(Article) "Comedy Acting: Jokes are Serious Business," *Theatre News*, Volume 15, number 5, May, 1983.

Lecture-demonstration: "Demystifying Comedy: Practical Techniques for Comedy Acting," Association for Theatre in Higher Education

Lecture-demonstration: "A Working Grammar for the Comic Actor," American Theatre Association and the Texas Educational Theatre Association.

I am also developing a DVD in "Technique in Comedy Acting"

Additional lecture-demonstrations and workshops in other areas, 1980–present at various venues — American Theatre Association, Texas Education Theatre Association, Southwest Texas Conference, University of Texas at Chattanooga, Ohio University

"Acting Training; What Young Actors Need to know," Dallas Arts Magnet School

"Acting Shakespeare: Some Beginning Considerations," Honors Colloquium, University of Texas at Austin

"Edward Bond, Shakespeare, and Bingo: A Discussion of Cultural Context and Production Scheme," with Dr. William Worthen, University of Texas at Austin

"Actor and Text: Techniques for Discovering and Deepening Action Through Language," American Theatre Association

"Do You Turn Somersaults?," Texas Educational Theatre Association

"Talking and Listening: Process Work for Actors," American Theatre Association annual convention, With Linda De Vries, Jack De Vries, and Kathleen Conlin

- “The Actor and the Text: Scoring the Scene,” Southwest Theatre Conference annual convention and the Texas Educational Theatre Association annual convention. With Kathleen Conlin.
- “Shakespeare and the Young American Actor,” Department of Theatre and Speech at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- “Separated by a Common Language,” American Theatre Association annual convention, Dallas. With Kathleen Conlin and Linda De Vries
- “Before You Throw in the Towel: Techniques to Rescue Beginning Actors,” American Theatre Association annual convention in San Diego, with Linda De Vries, Jack De Vries, and Kathleen Conlin
- “Acting and Directing” and “Characterization,” Texas Junior College One-Act Play Festival, Kilgore, 1981.
- “The Theatre and Trial Law,” University of Texas Law School, presented three times for Professor J. Patrick Hazel’s course in trial advocacy.

Directing (1972–2010) —Representative list of productions directed at these theatres, mostly at the University of Texas at Austin but also at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis, the California Institute of the Arts, Theatre Imago, Marlboro Theatre Company, Austin Repertory Theatre, and Experimental Theatre of the Loeb Theatre Center

A Lie of the Mind, Shepard

<i>Heartbreak House</i> , G.B. Shaw	<i>Once in a Lifetime</i> , Kaufman & Hart
<i>Wonderful Tennessee</i> , Friel	<i>The Winter’s Tale</i> , Shakespeare
<i>The Learned Ladies</i> , Molière	<i>Berlin to Broadway</i> with Kurt Weill, Weill, et al
<i>Benefactors</i> , Frayn	<i>Very Good Eddie</i> , Kern, et al
<i>Measure for Measure</i> , Shakespeare	<i>Patio/Porch</i> , Heifner
<i>The Plough and the Stars</i> , O’Casey	<i>Awake and Sing!</i> , Odets
<i>The Boys from Syracuse</i> , Abbott, Rodgers, Hart	<i>Ludlow Fair</i> , Wilson
<i>Design for Living</i> , Coward	<i>Heat</i> , Hauptmann
<i>Top Girls</i> , Churchill	<i>Suddenly, Last Summer</i> , Williams
<i>Twice Around the Park</i> , Schisgal	<i>The Dock Brief</i> , Mortimer
<i>Bingo</i> , Bond	“The Whipper” sequence from <i>The Trial</i> , Benedetti, adapter
<i>Old World</i> , Arbuzov	<i>Story Theatre</i> (three versions), Sills
<i>Snow in the Virgin Islands</i> , Chamberlain	<i>Old Times</i> , Pinter
<i>Theatre I</i> , Beckett	<i>Man for Man</i> , Bronski
<i>Woyzeck</i> , Buchner	<i>Comings and Goings</i> , Terry
<i>The Women</i> , Luce	<i>The Madness of Lady Bright</i> , Wilson

Grants

Four FAST Tex grants from the Center for Instructional Technologies for beginning and intermediate phases of compiling a DVD entitled “Techniques in Comedy Acting”

College of Fine Arts Summer Research Grant for \$3,198 for development of DVD entitled “Techniques in Comedy Acting”

Administrative and Committee Service

Administrative, 1980–present

A representative list of administrative assignments:
 Interim Head of the Acting Area; Acting Head of the Acting Area; author of “Plan Approval and Final Approval for Listing: Master of Fine Arts in Acting,” an accreditation report for the National Association of Schools of Theatre; Associate Chair of the

Department of Drama Acting Chair of the Department of Drama, second summer session.

Committees, 1977–present

Departmental (representative list)

Interim head of the Acting Area, Chairperson Search (2), Policy, Curriculum, Production, Executive Committee, Recruitment, Freshman Core, Scholarship, Goals and Plans, Search (10), Graduate Studies Executive, Temporary Executive Budget, Morton Brown, Area Heads

College (representative list)

Graduate School Criteria, College of Fine Arts Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee, College of Fine Arts Scholastic Dismissal Appeals Committee

University

Committee on the Responsibilities, Rights, and Welfare of Teaching Assistants and Assistant Instructors

Teaching Activity

Since 1977, I have taught these courses, most on a continuing basis:

Graduate acting (5 courses); undergraduate majors' acting (7 courses); graduate majors' acting (4 courses), comedy acting (1 course), graduate directing (1 course); undergraduate directing (2 courses); nonmajors' acting (1 course); continuing education in acting (1 course)

I have supervised several M.F.A. theses in acting and two in directing; I have been a member of several thesis and dissertation committees, in acting, directing, design, and history-criticism.