

PAMELA CHRISTIAN

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Department of Theatre and Dance
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Current Position: Graduate Advisor/Associate Professor, Voice and Speech for Performance, Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin. Comprehensive graduate and undergraduate courses in voice that emphasize breath support, resonance, range, articulation and stamina. Additional work includes public speaking, heightened language and devised vocal performance with emphasis on the integration of studio work into production. Dialect work is comprehensive with a focus on cultural research.

EDUCATION

- PhD** Southern Illinois University at Carbondale,
Speech Communication/Performance Studies, 2000
- MFA** The University of Texas at Austin, Theatre, Performance/Acting, 1995
- BA** Princeton University, English, 1982

Teaching Statement

As an instructor, I place strong emphasis on the application of voice work outside the classroom. Students are evaluated (largely) on how well they demonstrate new vocal skills and integrate them into performance contexts and everyday life. Identifying specific goals and making plans for reaching them is integral to the process of integration. Second is a focus on global awareness and an understanding of how speech occurs within a given community. Most voice classes I teach involve some type of ethnographic research from which students perform the vocal and physical characteristics of other people. This activity is important because students learn to observe and develop viable performance material from real life. Students are also encouraged to work together in groups, to offer critical feedback during classroom rehearsals and presentations. And finally, through teaching performance, I have been able to bring new distinctions and nuances to my own work. It is important for me, on principle, to model excellence and continued growth to students, to personally demonstrate those performance concepts and techniques put forth in the classroom.

TEACHING

Associate/Assistant Professor, Voice and Speech, Dialects, Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin, 2000-present.

Adjunct Professor, Voice and Speech/Dialect Training, Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin, 1998-2000.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Speech Communication, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1995-1998.

Adjunct Instructor, School of Humanities, St. Edward's University, Austin, TX, Spring 1992, Summers 1995-1997.

Assistant Instructor, Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin, 1993-1995.

Repertory Company Acting Coach and Director/Coordinator of Intern Performance Project, Hope Repertory Theatre, Hope, Michigan, Summer 1994.

Courses Taught

Languages of the Stage: A Freshman course designed to explore what is possible through performance and how performance is, or can be, constructed. Students study and experience five different modes of performance, learn to critically reflect on performance, and examine the collaborative roles that make up production. This is a substantial writing component course. The University of Texas, Department of Theatre and Dance, Fall 2005.

Your Life in Language: A Senior Seminar that examines how speech in everyday life can unite or divide individuals and communities. Students make on-site observations and recordings, read relevant texts and devise group performances based on data collected by the class. This is a substantial writing component course. The University of Texas, Department of Theatre and Dance, Fall 2004.

Voice and Speech: Graduate and undergraduate voice courses build a foundation of breath work and articulation skills for the actor. Specialized voice units are taught in classical theatre and dialects. Emphasis is placed on the integration of studio work into production. The University of Texas, Department of Theatre and Dance, 1999-present.

Dialects for Performance: A graduate voice course that introduces physical approaches to developing dialects for performance. Students are assigned performance tasks for each dialect taught. Individual projects include ethnographic studies and narrative performance. The University of Texas, Department of Theatre and Dance, 1999-present.

Movement for Actors: In this course, the actor is introduced to methods for physical conditioning and release through scenes, monologues and group work. The Alexander technique and Laban system of movement are the primary methods used for this work. The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Theatre and Dance, 1998-2000.

Public Speaking: In this practical course, students are guided through speeches of personal, informative and persuasive rhetoric. Department of Speech Communication, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1995-1996.

Introduction to Oral Communication: Speech, Self, and Society: This hybrid course combines the fundamentals of public speaking with the principles of interpersonal communication. Department of Speech Communication, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1996-1997.

Performance of Culture: This course combines cultural studies, performance practice and literary analysis. Students explore their understanding of cultural difference through the embodiment of ideas, concepts, and literature relating to cultural diversity. Department of Speech Communication, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1997-1998.

Understanding and Appreciating the Arts/Theatre: This comprehensive course introduces students to theatre from a number of different perspectives; lectures in theatre history and practice are combined with a final class performance project. School of Humanities, St. Edward's University, Austin, TX, Spring, 1992, Summers 1995-1997.

Repertory Acting Coach: Worked extensively with company interns on voice, movement, and acting through staged improvisation, monologues, and scene work. Hope Repertory Theatre, Hope, Michigan, Summer 1994.

Guest Teaching - International

Guest Instructor, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul South Korea.

Voice, Speech and Communication (with translator). Workshops in coordination with the International Teaching Assistant Program (ITA), English as a Second Language (ESL) Services, UT Austin, Spring 2006.

Seoul Institute of the Arts, *Professional Actor Training Program*, South Korea

Voice and Speech Methods for the Actor. Introduction to various Western approaches of Voice and Speech for the Actor, Seoul Institute of the Arts *Professional Actor Training Program*. Spring 2006.

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Udmurt State University, Russian Federation.

Voice, Speech and Public Communication for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students in the Institute of Foreign Languages (Department of Translation) and the Institute of Social Communication (Department of Foreign Relations), Spring 2004.

Guest Instructor, St. Petersburg Theater Arts Academy 225th Anniversary, Russia
The Actor's Voice and the Body: Linklater Voice Principles and Laban Movement Training (with translator), Workshops for 1st year actors, March 2004.

Guest Instructor, TRAFFIK Film Studios, Cape Town, South Africa.
American Accent Workshop Series for professional film actors, Summer 2003.

Guest Instructor, Central School of Speech and Drama, UK.
American Dialects, Standard American, Brooklyn and Southeast U.S. dialects, March 2001.

Professional Voice and Dialect Coaching 2000-present (short list/selected)

Jan '05-present Corporate Voice and Speech Workshops "Clear and Confident Speech"	J.J. Pickle Professional Development (UT Research Campus) Austin, Texas
April '09 Film: <i>Red White and Blue</i> Dialects: Australian to Texas	dir. Simon Rumley
Feb '08 Film: <i>Revolver</i> Dialects: Australian to American	Focus Films dir. Asif Kapadia
June '03 <i>Wolf by the Ears</i> Dialects: British, Xhosa, Pidgin South	Grahamstown Theatre Festival, S. Africa dir. Charles Dumas
March '03 <i>Mrs. Warren's Profession</i> Dialects: British, Cockney	State Theatre, Austin, TX dir. Scott Kanoff
Jan. '02 <i>The Dinosaur Within</i> Dialects: Australian, Koori-English	State Theatre, Austin, TX dir. Michael Breault
May '01 Film: <i>Master of the Game</i> Dialects: German, Yiddish	PEI Productions dir. Jeff Stolhand
May '01 <i>Oliver!</i> Dialects: British, Cockney, Scottish	Austin Musical Theatre, Austin, TX dir. Scott Thompson

- Mar '01
Film: *Lone Star State of Mind*
Dialects: West Texas
Screen Gems with Bedford Falls
dir. Dave Semel
- Feb. '01
Sounding the River
Dialects: Louisiana, Mississippi, Boston
Milwaukee Repertory Theatre
dir. Edward Morgan
- Oct. '00
Spring Storm
Dialects: Southeast US
Actors Repertory Theatre, Austin, TX
dir. Michael Bloom
- Dec. '00
A View from the Bridge
Dialects: Brooklyn, Italian
Alley Theatre, Houston, TX
dir. Stephen Rayne
- Other productions at the Alley: *Gross Indecency, Equus, Christmas Carol*
- Sept. '00
Film: *First Dates Can Be Dangerous*
Dialects: Arabic, Romanian, Russian, German
Mutiny Productions in Austin, TX
dir. Shawn R. Higgins

Research-Performance Projects

Research/Coaching Project: On-site documentation and analysis of South African dialects at community centers and research facilities in Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town. Dialect coaching for *Wolf by the Ears* (Stellenbosch University, South Africa) and *The Syringa Tree* (City Players, St. Louis), Summer 2003.

Voice program research and consulting.

Liz Mills, Voice and Speech, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Sukki Hofmeyr, Voice and Speech, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, Summer 2003.

Research/Coaching Project: On-site documentation and analysis of Inuit dialects in community regions and research facilities in Tok, Alaska and NW Territories, Canada. Dialect coaching for film documentary, *White North* (Refraction Arts), Summer 2002.

Voice program research and consulting.

Tom Skore, Voice and Speech, University of Alaska, Anchorage
Betty Moulton, Voice and Speech, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Summer 2002.

Research/Coaching Project: On-site analysis of regional dialects and research of Aboriginal voice and culture in Sydney, Australia and Cobar (New South Wales Outback). Dialect coaching for *The Dinosaur Within*, State Theatre, Austin, TX, Fall 2001.

Voice program observation and consulting.

Bill Pepper, Director of Acting/Voice Studies and Betty Williams, Head of Voice and Speech, National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), Sydney, Australia, Fall 2001.

Voice and Speech-Resource Development

Clarity of Speech Workshops, Instructor, Voice and Speech Intensive for Foreign Speakers Professional Development Center, J.J. Pickle Research Campus, The University of Texas at Austin. Fall 2005-present.

Associate Editor, *International Dialects of English Archive* (IDEA).

Research and submission of mp3 dialect recordings and analysis for on-line research, 2000-present. <<http://www.ku.edu/~idea/>>

Question-Answer resource web page for dialect pronunciation and usage, 2000-2005.

Provides responses to approximately 6-10 voice/dialect inquiries per month from actors, coaches, directors and voice specialists, 2000-present.

<<https://webspace.utexas.edu/pchristn/www/index.html>>

Voice Instructional CD Library developed in conjunction with School of Music.

Center for Advanced Studies in the Arts, The University of Texas at Austin, Spring 2002.

Professional Conference Paper Presentations

“Teaching in Translation 2: How to Prepare Foreign Language Texts for Voice/Actor Training”
Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA) Annual Conference, *Encountering Sound and Speech*, Chicago, IL, August 2006.

“Exploring Cultural Difference in Dialect Performance: From Fieldwork to Production”
Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA) Conference, *Breaking Boundaries: Crossing the Cultural Divide*, Glasgow, Scotland, August 2005.

“Your Life in Language: Classroom Explorations of Social Power and Discrimination”
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference, *Bridging Communities, Engaging Creativity*, San Francisco, July 2005.

“Divisions and Connections: Teaching ‘Spoken’ American in Foreign Contexts”
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference, *Inspiring Theatre: Networking Our Global-Local Resources*, Toronto, Canada, August 2004.

“Methods for Teaching Independent Projects in Theatrical Performance”
Udmurtia Republic Teacher’s Conference, *Student Independent Work: Theory and Practice*, Izhevsk, Russia, May 2004.

- “Life-Studies: Interactive Classroom Performances of Voice and Culture”
International University Theatre Association (IUTA) 5th World Congress, *To Teach / To Study Theatre at Universities*, Olympia, Greece, August 2003.
- “Women in Opera (1825-1900): Marking Dimensions of the American Diva”
Central States Communication Association (CSCA) Conference, Chicago, IL, 1998.
- “Missing Keys: In Search of Women in Music Composition”
Central States Communication Association (CSCA) Conference, St. Louis, MO, 1997.
- “Voice(s) of the Body: Constructing the Female Body in Performance”
National Communication Association (NCA) Conference, San Diego, CA, 1996.

Articles In Process

- “*Re-thinking Questions of Authenticity in Performance: Documenting Page-to-Stage in ‘Wolf by the Ears’ by Charles Dumas.*” Submitted to *VASTAVoice*, Spring ’08.
- “*Exploring the Politics of Cultural Representation in Performance: Voice Coaching Strategies for ‘Going to St. Ives’ by Lee Blessing.*”

Publications

- Christian, Pamela. *Keys to Clarity: Ten Advanced Speech Concepts for Professionals Who Speak English with an Accent* (125 pg. Manual/4 CD set). Austin, Tx: Clarity of Speech International, 2008.
- Christian, Pamela. *Clear Speech: Indian Accent Start-Up Kit* (DVD/CD/Manual set). Austin, Tx: Clarity of Speech International, 2007.
- Horne, Maria and Claude Schumacher, eds. *Life-Studies: Interactive Classroom Performances of Voice and Culture. To Teach/To Study Theatre in Universities*. Quebec: IUTA Press, 2006.
- Zelenina, Tatiana, ed. *Speech Diversity and Discrimination in American Contexts. English in a Multi-Cultural Community*. Udmurt State University, Russia. Izhevsk: Udmurtskii UP, 2005.
- Teaching Voice Using a Language Translator. VASTAVoice Voice and Speech Trainers Association 18.2 (Fall 2004): 1-3.*
- Golubkova, Olga, ed. *Methods for Teaching Independent Projects in Cross-Cultural Performance. Student Independent Work: Theory and Practice*. Udmurt State University, Russia. Izhevsk: Udmurtskii UP, 2004.

Texas 1-18: Sound samples, transcription and analysis. International Dialects of English Archive. Ed. Paul Meier. Department of Theatre and Film, University of Kansas, Lawrence KS. 2000-present.
<<http://www.ku.edu/~idea/northamerica/usa/texas/texas.htm>>.

Public Lectures

- “Actors Playing Chekhov and Two English Translations of Chekhov’s *The Bear*,”
Lecture for Teachers Seminar, Institute of Foreign Languages, Udmurt State University, Izhevsk, Russia, Spring 2004.
- “American Nights,” Ten-lecture series,
Topics included: Social Issues in the Media, Film/Cultural Representation, Ethnic Diversity, Comedy: What’s Funny?, Styles of American Music, Elections/Electoral College, 9-11: Impact and Response, The Wild West vs. the Delta River Valley, etc.
Center for American Studies, Udmurt State University, Izhevsk, Russia, Spring 2004.
- “Perspectives on Teaching Voice and Speech at Udmurt State University and St. Petersburg Theatrical Arts Academy,”
Presented at International Conference *Russia and the US: Professional Integration and Collaboration*, Center for American Studies, Udmurt State University, Izhevsk, Russia, Spring 2004.

Performance Projects

- The Golden Cockerel, The Fisherman and the Golden Fish, The Dead Princess and the Seven Knights*, adapted for stage, director.
Fairy tales staged for *Pushkin Anniversary Festival*, Institute of Foreign Languages, Udmurt State University, Izhevsk, Russia, Spring 2004.
- Figuring Form*, writer, director, choreographer, performer.
Multi-disciplinary performance of dissertation: “Reading the Political in Female Embodiment: Marking Dimensions of Inter-contextual Interpretation across Art and the Everyday,” presented at Marion Kleinau Theatre, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, March 1998.
- Poetry in Motion* (monologue), writer, performer.
A dancer's dilemma with eating disorders, presented for Women's Studies series *In Our Own Backyard*, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, January 1998.
- new york story* (monologue), writer, performer.
Pedestrian account of physical assault presented at Marion Kleinau Theatre, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, October 1997.

We're All In It, writer, director.

Ensemble piece based on ethnographic findings from laundry mats throughout Austin, TX, presented at Marion Kleinau Theatre, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, April 1997.

Overexposed and *Censor*, collaborator, performer.

Two full-length performance pieces examining ways in which artists are overexposed in public gaze, and the issues of censorship in artistic expression, presented at Marion Kleinau Theatre, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1996, 1997.

Other works include adaptations of *Isis in Darkness* (Margaret Atwood), *Bailey's Café*, (Gloria Naylor), and various ethnographic pieces that examine/celebrate community activity, 1996.

Anne Sexton: The Excitable Gift, writer, performer.

Solo biography performance exploring the life and works of poet Anne Sexton. Produced in Austin, TX, April 1995.

ACTING CREDITS

Training and Master Classes

Shakespeare and the Voice	Patsy Rodenburg, NYC
Fitzmaurice/Speechworks	Dudley Knight, UC Irvine
Actor's Movement Studio	Loyd Williamson, Philip Burton, NYC
Period Movement and Dance	Sue Lefton, UK
Gately-Poole Acting Studios	Meisner Technique, NYC
Commercial Classes	Reed Sweeney Reed Studios, NYC

Selected Roles

The Chairs (female lead)	City Players, St. Louis, MO
The Madwoman of Chaillot (title role)	B. Iden Payne, Austin, TX
Dancing At Lughnasa (Kate)	Hope Repertory Theatre, MI
Mirandolina (title role)	Zachary Scott Theater, TX
Anne Sexton: The Excitable Gift (writer, solo performer)	Chicago House Poetry Space, TX
* other venues nationwide	
Les Liaison Dangereuses (La Marquise)	Zachary Scott Theater, TX
Fran and Jane (Fran)	Edinburgh Festival, Scotland
* <i>First on the Fringe</i> Festival Award	
The Bad Seed (Christine)	Hyde Park Theater, TX
* Austin Circle of Theatres Award - lead actress in a drama	
Something's Afoot (Miss Tweed)	Capitol City Playhouse, TX
* Austin Circle of Theatres Award - lead actress in a musical	
Company actor - New Play Festival of Southern Theatres	MS University, MS

Long Christmas Dinner (Lucia)
The Children's Hour (Karen)
The Constant Journey (Panza)
* national tour

McCarter Theatre, NJ
Nat Horne Theatre, NYC
Perry St. Theater, NYC

Film Credits

Ballad of the Sad Cafe	Suzanne (featured)	Merchant/Ivory Prods. in TX
Scary Movie	Reporter (featured)	Erikson/Brunson Prods., TX
RES	Katey (lead)	Cipollo Prods., NYC
Prodigal Children	Drunk (principal)	Diktima Prods., NYC
Moonlight Lady	Dancer (featured)	Steve Horn Prods., NYC
The Cafe	Vivian (featured)	Wolcott Prods., NYC

*Television/video credits available upon request.

Special Skills: choreography, accordion - *Kurt Weill Tribunal Burlesque Band*

AWARDS and HONORS

Grace Hill Milam Centennial Fellowship in Fine Arts, 2007-2008
for teaching and research in schools throughout Hong Kong,
“Dramatic English” Certification Program.

Fine Arts Faculty Creative Research Grant, 2005-2007
for Voice and Speech Workshops at Sungkyunkwan University,
Seoul, S. Korea.

Department of Theatre and Dance Teaching Excellence Award 2005
Awarded by Department Faculty.

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Grant 2003-2004
Awarded by J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board
for teaching and research in the Russian Federation, Spring, 2004.

Dean’s Fine Arts Fellowship, Spring 2004
for support during Fulbright tenure in the Russian Federation.

College of Fine Arts Teaching Excellence Award 2003
Awarded by Student Fine Arts Council.

Summer Research Assignment 2003
Awarded by Office of the Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies
for writing and research, South African dialects.

Faculty Research Grant 2002-2003

Awarded by Office of Vice President for Research for on-site study of South African dialects at community sites and research facilities.

Grace Hill Milam Centennial Fellowship in Fine Arts 2001-2002

Awarded by College of Fine Arts and Department of Theatre and Dance for on-site research of Aboriginal-English dialects in Australia.

FAST Tex Grant 2001-2002 Center for Instructional Technologies

for *Voice Instructional CD* developed with School of Music.

SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Graduate Advisor, Department of Theatre and Dance, 2008-2010

Chair, Curriculum Committee, 2007-2008

Casting Director, 2002-present (various)

Executive Committee, Fall 2001-2008 (various)

New Works Festival Committee, 2006

MFA Thesis Committee Advisor, 2000-present

Season Selection Committee, 2004-2005

Dance Search Committee, Spring 2002

Chair Review Committee, Spring 2002

Fresh Terrain Performance Festival Committee, 2001-2002

UNIVERSITY

College of Fine Arts Creative/Summer Research Grant Committee, 2006

Dissertation Committee, Elizabeth Lee-Brown,

Department of Speech Communication, December 2003.

Reader/reviewer, Faculty Research Grant proposals,

Office of the Vice President for Research, 2003-2004.

Guest Teacher-Lectures (selected)

International Teaching Assistant's Program, Spring 2005

Speech classes provided for Chinese, Korean and Taiwanese students, UT

Speaking from the Stage and Gallery: Articulating the Self as Artist, FA 350/38, Spring 2005

Practical, hands-on workshop for expressive use of voice and body.

Language in Social Context, Freshman Seminar, FS 301, Fall 2004

Students developed performances from observations of speech in everyday life.

Your Life in Language, Freshman Seminar, FS 301
Linguistic Autobiography, Dr. Michael Erard, Fall 2004.
Dialect Coaching for the Profession: Getting the Job, Making a Plan, Coaching with Excellence, DRM 381-F, Graduate Voice Studies, Fall 2003.
Rant and Rave, Scream and Cry, University Interscholastic League (UIL) Super Conference, TX, Fall 2003.
Radio, Television and Film, RTF undergraduate broadcasting courses, The University of Texas at Austin, Fall 2001.
Fundamentals of Voice, La Joya High School Theatre Intensive, Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin, Spring 2001.
Writing about Performance for Languages of the Stage, Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin, Fall 2001.

NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL

Conference Planner, *ATHE Association for Theatre in Higher Education* (VASTA Division) 2005-2007.

Fulbright Graduate Student Program Grant Committee, Round Table Reader, Summer 2006.
Conference Planner, *ATHE Association for Theatre in Higher Education* (VASTA Division) 2004-2006.

Associate Editor, *International Dialects of English Archive* (IDEA), 2000-present.
Research and submission of mp3 dialect recordings and analysis for on-line research.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA)
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
Actors' Equity Association (AEA)
International University Theatre Association (IUTA)