

# HILLARY SCALES-LEWIS

MFA, Theatre Performance

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“As an educator, Hillary has the knowledge and communication skills in all areas of voice, speech, dialects and musical theatre needed to inspire and inform young theatre artists.”-Robin Aronson Associate Professor, Voice and Acting President of The Lessac Institute

## **Artistic Vision**

I believe that art education is one of the most valuable resources in providing a rich learning experience for young people today. I am dedicated to teaching young artists in order to enhance their confidence in their art and to cultivate their own artistic identity in today's society.

## **Teaching Philosophy**

The foundation of my teaching philosophy is that theatre is an art form that allows itself to be a pipeline for all forms of performance. As a theatre artist who is currently involved in the performance aspect of theatre, I bring a passion and a presence to the classroom that allows students to discover and express their own passions in various art forms. I am overjoyed with any opportunity to express my enthusiasm about theatre and hope to spark an appreciation of the arts among college students.

## **Professional Experience**

### **Torii Station Education Center Counselor (40 hrs, 09/2017-04/2018)**

As an education counselor, I've provided many services to the education center including: Social Media & Technology Coordinator, Marketing strategist, Education Center Media Representative, Education & Career counselor. I provided guidance to individual soldiers to help them choose an educational path that would benefit their careers and life after their service. I also researched information, created powerpoint presentations, and facilitated briefings (commissioning, educational, general services). I also analyzed and collected data in order to award soldiers based on GPA, degrees earned, and general technician score improvement.

## **Collegiate Courses Taught**

### **Online Academic Skills Course (20 hrs, 07/2017-09/2017)**

A general technician improvement course for collegiate students which focuses on the areas of word knowledge, reading comprehension, and math abilities (algebraic expressions and word problems). I created the curriculum for each class consisting of quizzes, lessons, worksheets, media clips, practice tests, and powerpoint slides.

“Teaching is a particular strength for Hillary. We trust her with our majors and that is rare. Hillary is specific in her pedagogy, fluid in her daily assessment (usually required over more years’ experience), and rigorous in her exceptions.” -  
Monica Hayes Associate Professor, Acting Director

**Theatre in Society (Adjunct Professor 20hrs 08/2016-12/2016, Kennesaw State University)**

A general education course in which students from all majors are given the basics of theatre in today’s society. The curriculum I developed for this course included activities, group projects, small group discussions, presentations and lectures focused on theatre as it relates to current events and social trends in society. Students were given the basic skills in public speaking and voice projection. Students were required to collaborate with their groups to produce their own theatrical production.

**Voice for the Actor- Lessac (TA - 20hrs 08/2015-12/2015, Instructor 01/2016-05/2016 40 hrs, University of Southern Mississippi)**

In this course, I created a curriculum based on the vocal and physical methods and techniques for use in the theatre rooted in the work of Arthur Lessac. I created specific lesson plans for each class which outlined activities, tests, quizzes, simulations and group assignments. Students work at an advanced level in kinesthetics, phonetics and kinesensic training. Students are required to apply both the vocal techniques and specialized Lessac & phonetic annotation to their texts. Students are given various speech topics to apply the techniques they’ve learned throughout the week.

**Voice For the Actor-Voice Over Acting (TA- 20hrs 01/2016-05/2016, University of Southern Mississippi)**

In this course, I developed a curriculum for theatre majors which explores the recording, sound production and art of voice over acting. Students are to apply phonetics, kinesthetics and vocal projection techniques to their voice over projects. With my assistance, students record and engineer their own voice over recordings. To conclude the class, students create their own voice over demos with the techniques and dialects they’ve learned in class.

**Theatre Appreciation ( 20hrs 08/2014-12/2014 , 20hrs 01/2015-05/2016, 20hrs 01/2016-05/2016, University of Southern Mississippi)**

For this course, I created a curriculum which included an introductory analysis of theatre, projects & activities, lectures, simulations, and media clips focused on theatre as an art form reflecting the aesthetic aspects and social conditions of a culture. Students learn about the basics of theatre production and the many roles involved in producing theatre. Students are exposed to different types of theatre and are given the opportunity to speak with current theatre artists. Students are required to create a final project in which they collaborate with their peers to produce their own theatrical production.

“You made the class really fun and interesting. I really enjoyed you as my teacher and I hope that we will work together on stage one day. Thank you so much for being an amazing teacher”-  
Martin Charles  
Second Year B.F.A

**Acting for Non-majors (Substitute- 4hrs 03/2015, University of Southern Mississippi)**

This is an introductory acting technique course using modern scene studies and improvisation specifically designed for interested non-theatre students. In this course, I stepped in a few times for a colleague and proctored exams in which students were performing contrasting scenes and monologues. I gave students feedback which each presentation and conducted a speech workshop.

Theatre Education

**Musical Theatre & Acting Teacher for Da Vinci International School (Okinawa, Japan Spring/Fall 18’ 19’)**

- Created a Musical theatre program for High school and Middle school age children in which they learned to analyze musical theatre songs, read music, and perform them. Students learned group numbers, vocal warm-ups, physical wellness for the voice and body, as well as acting through song.
- I created an Acting program for High school and Middle age children in which they learned acting skills specifically in the areas of voice, body, character analysis, and improvisation. Students worked in groups, pairs, and on solo pieces where they would analyze, rehearse, memorize, and perform their pieces. Students also learned how to put the acting skills the acquired in an improvisational setting.

**Teaching Artist for Kenny Leon’s True Colors Theatre (20hrs 08/2016-03/2017)**

- Taught theatre workshops and provided one on one acting and speech coaching to students
- Served as a judge for the August Wilson competition

**Midsummer Musical Theatre Experience-Director/Educator (40hrs 05/2015-06/2015)**

- Casted/ Directed *We Are Monsters* for the performance camp
- Taught Improvisational technique, storytelling and musical theatre through creative theatre games

**Harlem Theatre Group USM-Founder/Director/Advisor/Mentor/Actor (Volunteer 8hrs 08/2014-10/2014, 01/2015-03/2015, 08/2015-10/2015, 01/2016-03/2016)**

- Co-founder of The Harlem Theatre Group on campus. This group was created to provide performance opportunities for minorities and to present the works of playwrights, poets, and writers of color.
- Directed the first Harlem showcase for the group
- Advised the officers of the group on different show selections, pieces, and showcase ideas

“Your passion for teaching and mentorship is apparent in everything you do. You have an elegance and a professionalism about you that makes others want to step up and present their best.”- Kensey Coleman  
Theatre Design,  
Graduate B.F.A

- Provided coaching sessions and audition material to group members
- Taught vocal health techniques to members

#### **Sounds of Joy Theatre Camp - Director Of Drama (40hrs 05/2013-07/2013)**

- Cast & directed the drama showcase
- Taught Improvisational technique, storytelling and musical theatre through creative theatre games
- Individually coached students through their monologues

#### **Young Actors Mentoring Program-Co-founder/Mentor/Drama coach (20hrs 01/2012-03/2013)**

- Co-founder of the Young Actors Mentoring Program under Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor society at Albany State University. This group was created to provide coaching and training to students involved in their respective theatre clubs at various high schools in the Albany area.
- Individually coached students through monologues, dances, and songs
- Provided audition material to students and helped them prep for school auditions
- Overall mentor for students in low-income areas

#### **Workshops Taught**

##### **Vocal Projection (Department of Health, Spring 16')**

- Presented on healthy vocal projection to an undergraduate class in the Health & Science department
- Emphasized specific vocal techniques to keep the body healthy and happy

##### **Vocal for the Working Actor (FST showcase, Fall 15')**

- Led students through various vocal warm-ups and techniques and guided them through their applied text
- Gave the director some notes on specific actors and some ways to help guide their voices to his desired outcome

##### **Graduate School Workshop (Albany State University, Spring 15')**

- Presented on how to find and apply for theatre graduate school programs.
- Provided a talk-back session to students and shared my experiences in graduate school

##### **Lessac Workshop (Savannah Stage Company)**

- Led the cast & crew of *The Wizard of Oz* through a series of vocal techniques that are applicable to their everyday warm-ups
- Worked with individual cast members in helping solve problems with vocal fatigue/fry

#### **Vocal Coaching**

- Pacific Okinawa Players Production *Steel Magnolias*
- USM's production of *As You Like It*

- Harlem Theatre Group
- One Man Show Project

#### Certifications

- Lessac Practitioner (Spring 16')
- Hand to Hand Combat (Spring 14')
- Broad Sword (Spring 14')

#### **Education and Honors**

##### **Master of Fine Arts - Performance - Acting**

University of Southern Mississippi

##### **Bachelor of Arts - Speech & Theatre**

Albany State University

- Kennedy Center American Theatre Festival Finalist Irene Ryan Regional Semifinalist (16')
- USM Graduate School Hall of Fame (15')
- Three Minute Thesis Competition Semifinalist (15')
- Outstanding Graduate Student (15')
- Kennedy Center American Theatre Festival Irene Ryan Nominee
  - Clybourne Park 14'
  - By the Way, Meet Vera Stark 15'
- Dr. Walter Washington Award of Scholastic Excellence (15')
- University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagle Award for Outstanding Female Graduate Student (15')
- Langston Hughes Artistic Excellence Award (14')

#### **Notable Literary Accomplishments**

- Co-Author
  - Children's Play *The Kingdom of Goodness and Manners*
  - Available on Amazon (Fall 16')
- Writer
  - Creative Project on *The Matchmaker*, Dolly Levi

- Research on Thornton Wilder, the historical Context of the play: economics, women during the time period, social class, matchmaking, script analysis and character analysis.

### **References**

Dr. John Warrick-[john.warrick@usm.edu](mailto:john.warrick@usm.edu), Robin Aronson- [robin.Aronson@usm.edu](mailto:robin.Aronson@usm.edu),  
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