

# CHRIS ENSWEILER

## **EDUCATION:**

MFA, Acting: Alabama Shakespeare Festival / University of Alabama, August 2001  
BFA, Acting: Wright State University (Dayton, Ohio), June 1993

Stage Combat (Society of American Fight Directors):

**2004** (Atlanta, GA): Rapier & Dagger, Unarmed, Quarterstaff

**2002** (Cincinnati, OH): Broadsword, Small Sword, Single Sword, Sword & Shield

**1993** (National Stage Combat Workshop, Las Vegas, NV):

Rapier & Dagger, Unarmed, Quarterstaff, Broadsword, Small Sword

## **TEACHING HISTORY:**

### **Everett Community College (Everett, WA): Guest Instructor**

May 7 – May 28, 2019

Period movement, basic fan language, and dance choreography for the spring production of *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

### **Everett Community College (Everett, WA): Guest Instructor**

May 7 – May 28, 2018

Commedia dell'Arte, mask work, and Laban movement for the spring production of *Don Juan*.

### **Everett Community College (Everett, WA): Guest Instructor**

February 7 – March 14, 2017

Physical Comedy: Students learn basic elements of Laban movement and Commedia dell'Arte to help them create fully realized physical characters. Elements of slapstick physical comedy (comedic takes, timing, lazzi, found object violence, running into doors, falling over furniture) are learned and incorporated into scene work.

### **Lakeside High School (Seattle, WA): Guest Instructor**

February 2016

Slapstick Stage Combat: Students learn basic elements of stage combat (falls, slaps, punches, kicks) as well as elements of slapstick physical comedy (found object violence, running into doors, falling over furniture). Slapstick combat moves are then incorporated into scene work.

### **Everett Community College (Everett, WA): Guest Instructor**

January 19 – March 2, 2016

Stage Combat: Students learn basic skills for the following weapons: Unarmed, Single Sword, Rapier & Dagger and Broadsword. Students will then apply these skills to a sequence of fight choreography for a stage fight scene from a classical or contemporary play.

### **Seattle Voice Institute (Seattle, WA): Guest Master Class**

January 23, 2016

Laban Movement for Performers:

Why do we move the way we do? What makes one movement more compelling than another? Rudolf Laban developed a system that distilled human movement into eight categories. This introductory level class is specifically geared towards performing artists who wish to create more dynamic physical and emotional movement on stage. Whether you are

a dancer, an opera singer or an actor, you will gain greater awareness of your own physical habits and have fun filling your artistic toolbox with more movement options.

**The Studios (Seattle, WA): Staff Faculty**

October 2014 to Present

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**Everett Community College (Everett, WA): Guest Master Classes**

Winter 2013

Laban Movement: An introduction to the elements of movement created by Rudolf Laban.

This workshop is specifically geared towards creating dynamic character and emotional movement for dancers to apply to a given piece of choreography.

Stage Combat: This workshop teaches the basic principles of unarmed stage combat. Students learn elemental, non-contact moves like slaps, punches and kicks as well as a sequence of fight choreography.

**Bellevue College (Bellevue, WA): Guest Instructor**

Fall 2011

Stage Combat: An intensive course that covers skills in single rapier, rapier and dagger, knife and non-contact moves like slaps, punches and kicks. Students also learn various sequences of fight choreography.

**University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, WA): Guest Master Class**

2010

Commedia dell'Arte: An overview of the history of this Italian performance genre. Students learn the various stock characters and work on brief mask and movement pieces for each character type.

**5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Summer Camp (Seattle, WA): Guest Instructor**

August 2010

Stage Combat: This workshop teaches the basic elements of unarmed stage combat to ages 11-18. Students learn elemental, non-contact moves like slaps, punches and kicks as well as a sequence of fight choreography.

**Seattle Central Community College (Seattle, WA): Guest Instructor**

November 2009

Stage Combat: This workshop teaches the basic principles of unarmed stage combat. Students learn elemental, non-contact moves like slaps, punches and kicks as well as a sequence of fight choreography.

**Kennesaw State University (Kennesaw, GA): Adjunct Professor**

January 2006 to December 2007

TPS 1107 - Arts in Society, Theatre and Performance:

Through an examination of the role of arts in society, and an in-depth study of selected theatre and performance events, this interactive course provides an understanding of the creative process and develops skills in creativity and critical analysis. Heightened perceptual

abilities will be developed through class experiences and field visits to a variety of arts events in dance, music, and visual arts, as well as in theatre and performance.

TPS 2203 - Acting 1, Principles of Acting:

The theory and practice of the actor's craft will be examined utilizing *The Practical Handbook for the Actor*. Students will perform scene work incorporating the basic principles. Attendance and written criticism of theatre and performance events required.

**Piedmont College Department of Theatre (Demorest, GA): Adjunct Professor**

August 2005 to October 2005

THE 210 - Fundamentals of Acting:

This course is an introduction to the skills necessary to build a character and play specific circumstances as well as an overview of the major acting teachers and their methods. It includes stage movement exercises and scene study. Written analysis required.

THE 405 - Acting Shakespeare: This is a participatory course that develops the skills required for performing Shakespeare. Course includes scene and monologue study as well as verse scansion.

THE 230 - Children's Theatre: This is a participatory course that emphasizes the importance of theatre for children. Students have the opportunity to create and interact with children through class projects both on and off campus.

**Woodland High School (Cartersville, GA)**

March 2005

Laban Movement: An introduction to the elements of movement created by Rudolf Laban. This workshop is specifically geared towards creating dynamic character and emotional movement for dancers to apply to a given piece of choreography.

**Georgia Shakespeare**

November 2004 to August 2009

High School Conservatory: Responsible for teaching a basic physical warm up, elemental principles of stage combat and directing scenes from Shakespeare for high school students (groups ranged from 12 to 24 students).

Laban Movement / Shakespeare Scene Study: An introduction to the elements of movement created by Rudolf Laban. Students learn to create dynamic physical characters. The course includes movement exercises and scene study.

Shakespeare from the Page to the Stage: An introduction to the basic principles of verse scansion. Students learn to investigate Shakespeare's texts for acting clues and then incorporate that knowledge into performance of monologues.

**Actor's Express**

September 2003 to December 2007

Comedic Scene Study: Students learn to incorporate both Laban movement techniques and the basics of *commedia dell'Arte* to create vibrant and physical comedic characters. The course includes movement exercises and scene study.

Shakespeare Monologues: Students learn the basic principles of verse scansion and apply them to a monologue they will develop as an audition piece.

## **Georgia Tech Drama Camp**

July 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

Stage Combat: This workshop teaches the basic elements of unarmed stage combat to children ages 5-13. Students learn elemental, non-contact moves like slaps, punches and kicks as well as a sequence of fight choreography.

## **RELATED EXPERIENCE:**

**Fight Director:** January 2005 to present

Create the illusion of physical violence on the stage that is both dynamic and effective while maintaining the safety of the actors.

**2018:**

*Don Juan* (Everett Community College, dir. Beth Peterson) Single Sword, Unarmed, slapstick

**2017:**

*Ubu Roi* (Everett Community College, dir. Michael Schwartz) Found object violence, slapstick

**2014:**

*The Pillowman* (Everett Community College, dir. Kristina Sutherland Rowell) Unarmed, Torture

**2013:**

*Blood relations* (Bellevue College, dir. Tammi Doyle) Grappling, UA

**2011:**

*The Three Musketeers*-Ken Ludwig: Co-Fight Director with Deb Fialkow (Bellevue College, dir. Tammi Doyle) Swashbuckling

**2010:**

*Dog Sees God* (Bellevue College, dir. Bradetta Vines) Grappling, UA

*Noises Off* (Bellevue College, dir. Daniel Wilson) Physical lazzi

**2009:**

*Othello:* Assistant Fight Director to Deb Fialkow (*Wooden O*, dir. Vanessa Miller) Knife, UA, Grappling

*Fuente Ovejuna* (Bellevue College, dir. Tammi Doyle) Roman Short Sword, UA, Melee

*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (GA Shakespeare, dir. Jasson Minadakis) UA, Crutch

**2008:**

*Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* (Theatre in the Square, dir. Jessica West) UA, Revolvers

*Dinosaur Musical* (Aurora Theatre, dir. Chris Ensweller) PVC Sword & Shield

*Dial M for Murder* (Aurora Theatre, dir. Joe Gfeller) Grappling, Knife

**2007:**

*Bach at Leipzig* (Aurora Theatre, dir. Danielle Mindess) Single Sword

*Romeo & Juliet* (Brookwood H.S., dir. Courtney Patterson) Grappling, Knife, PVC

*Loot* (Georgia Shakespeare, dir. Sabin Epstein) UA

*Robin Hood* (Georgia Shakespeare, dir. Tim Conley/Allen O'Reilly) Broadsword, UA, Melee

**2006:**

*Treasure Island* (Georgia Shakespeare, dir. Tim Conley/Allen O'Reilly) Cutlass, Melee, UA

*Twelfth Night* (Georgia Shakespeare, dir. Karen Robinson) Small Sword

**2005:**

*Macbeth* (non-Equity tour, Georgia Shakespeare, dir. Tim Conley/Allen O'Reilly) Broadsword

**Stage Combatant / Fight Captain:** February 2002 to present

Maintain the safety and integrity of choreographed stage combat sequences once the production has opened and the Fight Director is off contract.

**2015:**

*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Seattle Children's Theatre, dir. Linda Hartzell, FD Geof Alm) UA

**2013:**

*Pippi Longstocking* (Seattle Children's Theatre, dir. Rita Giomi, FD Geof Alm) UA, Grappling

**2010:**

*The Borrowers* (Seattle Children's Theatre, dir. Rita Giomi, FD Geof Alm) Broadsword

**2009:**

*Twelfth Night* (Seattle Shakespeare Company, dir. Stephanie Shine, FD Gordon Carpenter)

Small Sword, Grappling

*Titus Andronicus* – Quintus, Caius (GA Shakespeare, dir. Richard Garner, FD Scot Mann) Knife, Grappling

*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (GA Shakespeare, dir. Jasson Minadakis) UA, Crutch

**2006:**

*Twelfth Night* – Sir Andrew Aguecheek (GA Shakespeare, dir. Karen Robinson) Small Sword

*Hamlet* - Rosencrantz (GA Shakespeare, dir. Jasson Minadakis, FD Drew Fracher) Rapier & Dagger, Grappling

**2004:**

*Macbeth* – Malcolm (GA Shakespeare, dir. & FD Drew Fracher) Broadsword, Sword & Shield

*Coriolanus* - Volscian Soldier (GA Shakespeare, dir. John Dillon, FD Scot Mann) Knife, UA

*Cyrano de Bergerac* – Vicomte de Valvert (GA Shakespeare, dir. Davis Mccallum, FD Scot Mann) Single Sword

**2003:**

*Cymbeline* – Jailer (GA Shakespeare, dir. Nancy Keystone, FD Scot Mann) Sword & Shield, UA

*Wonder of the World* – Kip Harris (Horizon Theatre Co, dir. Jeff Adler) UA

**2002:**

*Macbeth* – Malcolm (Human Race Theatre, dir. & FD Drew Fracher) Broadsword, Sword & Shield

**THEATRE ADMINISTRATION:**

**Company Manager: Georgia Shakespeare**

November 2002 to November 2006

Responsible for: maintaining smooth daily office operations; contracting; corresponding with various unions for actors, directors and designers; scheduling and running auditions; administrating annual staff health insurance; tracking vacation and leave for annual staff; recording minutes for Board and Executive Committee meetings; maintaining payroll spreadsheets for all departments during productions.

**ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

Theatre Puget Sound, 2010 to present

Actors' Equity Association, 2002 to present

Society of American Fight Directors, 1991 to 2005

Southeastern Theatre Conference, 2003 to 2006

## **HONORS:**

Meritorious Achievement Award, Fight Director (*Three Musketeers*): KCACTF, 2011  
Dean's Honor Roll: University of Alabama, 1999-2001  
Pace Setter Award: Wright State University (Dayton, OH), 1993  
Outstanding Achievement in Acting: Wright State University (Dayton, OH), 1992 & 1993  
Dean's Honor Roll: Wright State University (Dayton, OH), 1989, 1991-1993

## **REFERENCES:**

Beth Peterson, Everett Community College:  
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Tammi Doyle, Bellevue College:  
425-564-2319 / tammi.doyle@bellevuecollege.edu

Margaret Baldwin, Kennesaw State University:  
770-499-3123 / mbaldw11@kennesaw.edu

Drew Fracher, Society of American Fight Directors:  
859-760-6230 / vern10th@fuse.net

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Scot Mann, Society of American Fight Directors:  
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