

VIRTUAL MASTER CLASS FACULTY

Sunday, January 24th
VOICE | THEATER | BUSINESS SKILLS



NANCY ANDERSON

“Advice From a Pro”

***please come with a song prepared and a recorded track. Students may have the opportunity to coach their song.**

Nancy Anderson is a 20-year veteran singer, actor and dancer of Broadway, Off-Broadway and regional stages. Last year Anderson understudied Glenn Close in the Broadway revival of “Sunset Boulevard” followed by a Helen Hayes nominated performance as Gladys in “The Pajama Game” at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. She made her Broadway debut as Mona in “A Class Act,” played the roles of Helen and Eileen in the Broadway revival of “Wonderful Town” and starred as Lois/Bianca in the national tour and West End premiere of Michael Blakemore’s and Kathleen Marshall’s Broadway revival of “Kiss Me Kate,” for which she received Helen Hayes and Olivier Award nominations. Great Performances audiences are familiar with her London debut as Lois/Bianca, which was filmed for PBS in 2002 as well as her featured performance in the Carnegie Hall concert of “South Pacific” starring Reba McEntyre and Brian Stokes Mitchell. Other television appearances include Madame Secretary (The Middle Way, “Alice”) and PBS’s Broadway: The American Musical as the voice of Billie Burke. Anderson is a three-time Drama Desk Award Nominee; in 2000 for best supporting actress as eight female roles in Jolson & Co., in 2006 for best leading actress in Fanny Hill and in 2017 for Best Solo Performance in the one-woman musical “The Pen.” She has thrice been nominated for the Helen Hayes Award: in addition to last year’s “The Pajama Game,” she was also nominated for her role in “Side by Side by” Sondheim at Signature Theatre in 2011. Anderson’s debut album “Ten Cents A Dance” led to a concert career ranging from sharing the Carnegie Hall stage with Michael Feinstein in his Valentine’s Day concert “Hooray for Love Songs” to singing with the Atlanta Symphony as well as regular appearances at the legendary jazz club, Birdland. Nancy received the 2011 Noel Coward Cabaret Award as well as a Bistro Award for her debut cabaret appearance at “Don’t Tell Mama” in 2004.

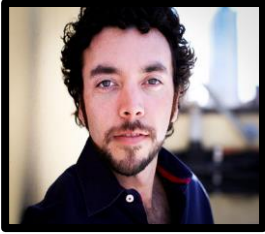


DR. SONYA G. BAKER

“Vocal Master Class with Dr. Sonya G. Baker”

***please come with a song prepared and a recorded track. Students may have the opportunity to coach their song.**

Dr. Sonya Gabrielle Baker, noted for her performances of American music, has been heard in concert both nationally and internationally, including a debut at Carnegie Hall with Michael Tilson Thomas and a tour to Spain with the American Spiritual Ensemble. Her debut recording, SHE SAYS, features art songs of American Women composers and her lecture recital on Marian Anderson has been presented nationwide. Baker has held leadership positions in various organizations such as the National Association of Teachers of Singing as well as having board appointments to organizations to the Kentucky Arts Council and the Yale Alumni Chorus. She holds degrees from Yale, Indiana and Florida State Universities and is currently Professor of Voice at James Madison University.



MICHAEL MORENO

“Career Management for the Actor”

***parents are welcome and encouraged to join with their child at no extra charge”**

Michael runs **The Actor CEO Podcast and ActorCEO.com**, connecting thousands of actors around the globe to industry pros, tools, and resources to help them treat their career like a business and fill the gap between training and building a sustainable creative life. Listed as a "top podcast for actors" by Backstage and Casting Networks, Michael is building a fan base of thousands and empowering modern artists by writing content to for Backstage, OnStageBlog and StageMilk, teaching industry business and marketing classes in drama schools around the country and coaching creative professionals. As one of the premier platforms for actors to get the practical information they didn't get in school, Actor CEO allows modern artists to side step the traditional path where only a select few make it to the top and become the chief creative decision maker building long term artistic lives. Having grown up in the entertainment industry of Los Angeles, Michael continues to evolve what it means to be a professional storyteller as our industry changes, our paradigms shift and we gain access to a variety of ways to connect. Now is the golden era for creatives, and Michael is helping to ensure actors lead the way.



CASEY HUSHION

“Behind the Table with a Broadway Director & Choreographer”

Casey is currently the Resident Director of *Mean Girls* (Broadway and National Tour) and Disney's *Aladdin*. Other Broadway credits include *The Prom*, *Elf* (2012, 2010), *In The Heights* (Broadway/National Tour), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Broadway/National Tour/West End), *To Be or Not To Be* and *Good Vibrations*. Most recently, Casey directed the new play *Clue* at the Cleveland Playhouse, which broke box office records and will go on to future productions at Papermill Playhouse and on tour. Casey served as the choreographer for two episodes of the final season of *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*. Off Broadway, she directed *Call Me Madam* at City Center Encores and *Fat Camp* at the ATA Theatre. A graduate of New York University, Casey was the Artistic Director of North Carolina Theatre for ten years. She is also currently developing the new musical, *Mystic Pizza*.



CASEY KALEBA

“Stage Combat”

Casey Kaleba is an award-winning fight director who has staged movement and violence for more than five hundred productions of opera and theatre. As a choreographer he has worked at the Washington National Opera, Ford's Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Folger Theatre, Signature Theatre, Round House Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, and The American Experience on PBS; he is a company member and resident fight director with Rorschach Theatre. He has been nominated for three Helen Hayes awards, smashes things on the YouTube show *Men At Arms: Reforged*, and spent two years as an audition choreographer for *Marvel Universe Live*.



JOHN SIMPKINS

“Audition Advice from Penn State Music Theater Program Director: Pre-screens, Song Selections, and More!”

John Simpkins directed the three-time Drama Desk nominated Off-Broadway production of *Bloodsong of Love: The Rock and Roll Spaghetti Western* (by Tony nominee Joe Iconis) at Ars Nova. He also directed Iconis' *The Black Suits* at Center Theatre Group (Kirk Douglas Theatre – starring Annie Golden, Will Roland, Veronica Dunne). Upcoming projects with Mr. Iconis include the world premiere of *Love in Hate Nation* at Two River Theater.

New York credits also include the Off-Broadway productions of *The Bus* (59E59 Theatre); *ReWrite* (Urban Stages); *The Plant That Ate Dirty Socks* (Theatreworks, USA- Lucille Lortel Theatre); *Things to Ruin* (which he co-conceived and directed productions of at Second Stage, Le Poisson Rouge, Zipper Factory, Joe's Pub, Ars Nova, NYMF) and *The Black Suits* (SPF at the Public Theatre – starring Annie Golden, Jason Tam, and Krysta Rodriguez).

International productions include the World Premiere of *Legendale* (music by Andrea Daly, words by Jeff Bienstock) at Fredericia Teater in Denmark. Upcoming International projects include the World Premiere of *A Hero's Tale* (music by Arthur Bacon, Book and Lyrics by Mads Nielsen) at Fredericia Teater in Denmark.

Regional productions include *Raging Skillet* (World Premiere – Theaterworks Hartford – starring Dana Smith-Croll, Marilyn Sokol, George Salazar); *Legendale* (American Premiere – Human Race Theatre Company – starring Max Crumm); *Hairspray* (North Carolina Theatre – starring Dale Hensley, Dirk Lumbard); *The Black Suits* (Barrington Stage – starring Ben Platt, Will Roland, Annie Golden); *Damn Yankees* (Engeman Theatre – starring André De Shields, Felicia Finley, Austin Miller); *A Wonderful Life* (Engeman Theatre – starring Will Reynolds); *Annie* (Sacramento Music Circus- starring Mark Zimmerman, Jim Walton, Adinah Alexander); *Cabaret* (Sacramento Music Circus- starring Teri Ralston, Jacquelyn Piro, Max von Essen); *Evita* (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma- starring Kate Chapman, Eric Michael Gillet, Dan Cooney).

John was Artistic Director at Sharon Playhouse from 2011-2016- where he directed *Quartet* (starring Tony Winner Elizabeth Franz), *Judge Jackie: Disorder in the Court* (Kooman/ Dimond – starring Klea Blackhurst), *Nine Wives*, *True Love*, *Georgie* (written by and starring Ed Dixon), *Merrily We Roll Along* (starring Jason Tam, A.J. Shively), *Big River*, *Falsettos*, *Les Miserables*, *They're Playing Our Song* (starring Lauren Marcus, Eric William Morris), *Damn Yankees*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Altar Boyz*, *Rent*, *A Funny Thing?Forum* and *The Wedding Singer*.

A strong supporter of the development of new work, he has commissioned and directed *Love in Hate Nation* (Joe Iconis), *The Last Day* (Mike Reid/ Sarah Schlesinger), and *The Lucky Boy* (Kirsten Childs) through an initiative he created at Penn State Musical Theatre.† He has also directed NYC and Regional workshops/ readings/ productions of *For Better, For Worse* (Reed Arnold); *Adam Lives* (Goodspeed Opera House); *ReWrite* (Goodspeed Opera House); *Hellraisers* (Barrington Stage); *Fantasy Football, the Musical*; *All the Kids Are Doing It*; *When the World Ends* (Bluemire- Ars Nova); *Ripper* (NAMT); *Party Come Here* (David Kirshenbaum/ Daniel Goldfarb); *Go-Go Beach* (NYMF – 37 Arts); *Pool Boy* (Tsakalagos/ Allard); *Next Thing You Know* (Berkshire Theatre Festival); *Queen Esther* (Merkin Hall); *Half Married* (Cunningham/ Antin); *Plastic!* (Maddock/ Iconis/ Jacobs – York Theatre), *You Don't Know Jack* (York Theatre), *Bad Kid School* (Barrington Stage), *29* (Alter/ Newman), *Lyrical Langston Hughes* (New Triad- Lincoln Center), *Blood Drive* (Rachel Sheinkin), *Beasts and Saints* (Mindi Dickstein) and *Like You Like It* (Buck/ Acquisto).

In addition to his directing life, John is Head of Musical Theatre at Penn State University. Prior to joining Penn State, he was a member of the faculty at NYU – where he directed *Sweet Smell of Success*, *Floyd Collins*, *A Man of No Importance*, *The Fix*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Violet*, *Urinetown*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Parade*, *Fiorello!* and *A New Brain*. His production of *Parade* was preserved and is on reserve at Lincoln Center's Theatre on Film and Tape Archive. He holds a Bachelor of Music from Miami University and a Master of Arts from NYU. He is active in NAMT (National Alliance of Musical Theatre), where he is frequently a member of the Festival Reading and Selection Committee.