

Christopher Murrah

United States ✉ chrismurrah@gmail.com ☎ 9174507216 🌐 www.christophermurrah.com

SUMMARY

Highly experienced opera and theater director with 10+ years of expertise in teaching acting and movement at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Proven track record of inspiring and leading students to reach their full potential and pursue careers worldwide.

EXPERIENCE

Owner & Director

Ghostlight Theater Camp

July 2019 – Present

Design and execute a 6-week summer program for young theater artists ages 9-17.

- Set education and production goals for each summer.
- Supervise a team of 6 leadership staff.
- Manage a \$700k budget, including production and staffing for 12-show season.
- Chief recruiter for customers and staff.
- Develop and grow JEDI initiatives within our organization.

Director of Creative Collaboration

Eighth Blackbird Lab at Yerkes Observatory

June 2023 and May 2024

- Developed curriculum for musicians, composers, and other artists focused on holistic integration of the body in performance.
- Led guided somatic work for groups of 10-25 participants, including breathwork and integrated voice work.
- Provided individual and group coaching sessions, focusing on breaking through barriers in participants' current artistic practice and professional trajectories. 98% of participants reported seeing measurable outcomes in their professional practice following our work in 2023.

Acting and Audition Coach

Booked By Michelle Studio

January 2021 - Present

- Provide expert coaching to top-tier professional clients in preparation for Broadway and Film/TV auditions, ensuring they excel in highly competitive environments.
- Conduct in-depth character study sessions to help clients embody roles authentically and compellingly, resulting in enhanced performances during auditions.
- Facilitate actionable objective discovery exercises to assist clients in understanding character motivations and objectives, fostering deeper connections with roles and maximizing audition impact.
- Implement comprehensive self-tape and in-person audition technique training, equipping clients with the skills and confidence needed to shine during auditions.
- Achieve a high success rate with clients, as evidenced by the majority reporting callbacks and receiving positive feedback from casting directors following coaching sessions.
- Stay abreast of industry trends and casting preferences to provide clients with relevant and up-to-date guidance, ensuring they remain competitive in the evolving entertainment landscape.

Lecturer in Acting and Movement

Yale University, School of Music

June 2016 - June 2021

- Developed and taught courses in acting and movement work for classes of 15-20 singers in the graduate opera program, including training in Stanislavski, Viewpoints, and Suzuki methods.
- Directed annual Opera Scenes and productions in collaboration with design teams, conductors, and students.
- Coached singers for auditions, recitals, and competitions.
- Collaborated with the School of Music and School of Drama faculty on interdisciplinary collaboration and performance projects.
- Enabled students to audition successfully for professional opera companies by facilitating vocal and physical confidence; 90% of students were hired at professional opera companies upon graduating.

- Introduced anti-racist framework coursework for opera singers to use in approaching acting and performance methodologies and practices.

Adjunct Faculty

New York University

January 2012 - July 2017

Directed concert style and full-production musicals.

- Taught audition techniques and viewpoints movement classes in the department.
- Coached students on recital repertoire.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, Theatre Directing

Columbia University • New York, NY • 2016

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Music Theatre

Florida State University • Tallahassee, FL • 2004

RECOGNITION

Theater Honorarium

Princess Grace Foundation • 2014

Fellowship for Study

The Shubert Foundation • 2012, 2013, 2014

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Stage Directors and Choreographers Association

Member • August 2014 - Present

Actors' Equity Association

Member • June 2003 - Present

SELECTED PRODUCTIONS

Composition as Explanation

The Court Theater & Eighth Blackbird, Chicago

A Blanket of Dust

The Flea Theater, NYC

West Side Story

The Sioux City Symphony, Iowa

Toe Pick

Dixon Place, NYC

Tristan und Isolde

National Theater of Croatia, Rijeka

Spring Awakening

New York University, NYC

Suor Angelica

Norske Opera

Over There

HERE Arts Center, NYC

La Traviata

The Mariinsky Opera House, St. Petersburg, Russia

Children of Eden

New York University, NYC

COURSEWORK AND TRAINING

Trauma Informed Care for Youth

Alliance for Camp Health • Impact of Trauma, Approaches to Engagement, Community Solutions • 2024

Restorative Justice Training

The Summer Camp Society • Empathy, Problem Solving, Positivity, Communication • 2022

Anti-Racist Theater Practices

Nicole Brewer • Self-reflection, Empathy, Listening, Communicating • 2022

Mental Health First Aid for Youth

National Council for Behavioral Health • Support, Resource Knowledge • 2021