

DANA HARDY BINGHAM

Curriculum Vitae

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OBJECTIVE

Teacher of English/Communications, Drama, Public Speaking, Speech/debate, Gifted Education, and/or related courses

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Shady Side Academy** - Pittsburgh, PA - *English & Acting Teacher/ Theatre Director* 2011-current
- Enriched the lives of students and community by directing & producing fall drama, winter musical and creating spring original works theater festival; engaged students through introduction to acting and advanced acting/scene study, voice/speech for the stage; and challenged students in upper level English courses through Public Speaking/Interview Technique, Theatre History, Greek Playwrights, 19th Century Playwrights, Playwriting, and Shakespeare.
 - Brought recognition to the drama program/English department by successfully creating and teaching playwriting that culminated in leading two international trips to perform student writing at Festival Fringe in Edinburgh; nurtured and mentored 6-10 students per year through an advisory program developing character and integrity while prioritizing SEL skills; and effectively served as interim department chair for 10 weeks while chair was on medical leave.
 - Inspired and directed 25-30 elementary-age budding actors in SSA Ovation Drama summer camp, (which I originated), culminating in successful 45-minute musical over the course of ten years; skillfully supervised high-school age assistants for Ovation camp; improved the success of our Speech and Debate team by providing additional coaching before tournaments and served as a resource to help find content for various speech events.
- Perry Traditional Academy - Pittsburgh Public School District**, Pittsburgh, PA – *English Teacher* 2010-2011
- 12th ENG: Improved student learning and outcomes by emphasizing Disciplinary Literacy Design Principles - a pattern of teaching and learning built on the core principles drawn from research on learning and cognitive science. This curriculum provides scaffolding through inquiry, direct instruction, models, and coaching and is in line with the PA academic standards. Successful for ensuring completion of state instituted reading/writing portfolio required for graduation, which includes nine challenging and varied writing assignments with multiple drafts/revisions. All 125 students in my six sections successfully completed their required portfolio with my help and their hard work.
 - 11th creative writing / PSSA Preparation / Graduation project: Boosted skills in test taking with an emphasis on standardized tests in reading and writing; successful completion of required graduation project which includes power point presentation, oral presentation and written portion; effectively implemented comprehensive reading/writing interactive educational program called *JOURNEYS* which improved reading/writing skills for students.
- Faison Arts Academy - Pittsburgh Public School District**, Pittsburgh, PA - *MS Communications Teacher* 2009-2010
- Successfully taught diverse students from various urban backgrounds using curriculum emphasizing Disciplinary Literacy Design Principles (as stated above). Supported successful completion of state instituted reading/writing portfolio required for graduation, which includes nine challenging and varied writing assignments with multiple drafts/revisions. Of all my 90 students, only one failed to complete their portfolio.
- Valley High School**, New Kensington, PA – *English/Gifted Education/Mock Trial/Model UN/Quiz Bowl* 2006-2009
- Effectively built the foundational skills for 9th grade English by focusing on creating more confident readers and writers through attention to literary terms, reading techniques, vocabulary, and basic research skills.
 - Improved and nurtured student learning in 10th grade English by introducing different cultures through the exploration of the various types of world literature with the primary objective of tying individual experience to the global community.
 - Skillfully taught (and coached) Mock Trial which prepares students to compete in Westmoreland County PA Bar Association's competition as well as teaches public speaking, legal research and debating skills. Effectively lead the Model UN team (a simulation of UN organizations as part of an extra-curricular activity) that allows students to compete against other schools while learning more about the world. Successfully lead Quiz Bowl team in various tournaments against other gifted programs and provided consistent rehearsals for gifted students to engage outside the classroom.

- Effectively and meticulously created and implemented GIEP's (gifted individualized education program), by collaborating with classroom teachers and reviewing student data. Enriched mainstream curriculum for gifted students, provided rigor through critical thinking projects, designed/implemented successful career exploration/job shadowing, held timely annual meetings with parents for completion of GIEP's, facilitated and implemented effective distance learning programs, and coordinated exceptional academic/creative competitions for Gifted students aligned with Pennsylvania state academic standards and Gifted guidelines.
- Improved standardized test scores by teaching College Note-Taking/SAT Preparation with an emphasis on reading and writing, as well as note taking, time management, problem solving, decision making, active listening, goal setting, and organizational skills.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts/Henry Mancini Arts Academy, Midland, PA - *Teacher* 2005-2007

- Provided artistic enrichment by teaching acting for elementary age students including age specific improvisations, acting techniques, monologue/audition workshop, Shakespeare intensive, vocal/physical exercises, and scene study.

Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School, Midland, PA – *Content Designer* 2006

- Designed exciting and challenging interactive on-line courses including: Shakespeare's Greatest Hits, Great Female Playwrights, Early 19th Century Playwrights, Best of the Greeks, and Theatre History.

Hofstra University, Long Island, NY – *Acting Teacher* 2003-2005

- Inspired and directed elementary age students in Acting class using age specific improvisations, acting techniques, practical warm-up exercises, vocal and physical awareness and a final collaborative performance.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, Astoria, NY- *Substitute Teacher* 2003-2004

- Successfully taught elementary age students in urban Catholic school with diverse multi-cultural and socio-economic population; successfully followed lesson plans on short notice and managed various disciplinary issues in large class sizes; skillfully navigated interpersonal conflicts between students and provided extra support for full-time teachers.

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA – *Graduate teaching assistant/Director/Supervisor* 2000-2003

- Introduced undergrads to the study of acting based on the Stanislavski technique as well as vocal and physical exercises for the actor, improvisation, monologue workshops, and scene study for 16-week course; provided outside coaching for auditions and scene work throughout the semester; and served as an effective mentor to undergraduate theater majors.
- Successfully recruited, supervised, and managed intensive summer camp for high school aged, experienced actors; effectively taught audition and vocal techniques, scene study, and verse acting while skillfully supervising/managing other teachers of stage combat and collaboration; impressed parents and community with fabulous final performance.

Belin Blank International Center - University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA - *Gifted Teacher* 2000-2003

- Successfully challenged elementary age gifted students in acting classes focusing on the exploration of acting through improvisation, physical awareness, vocal technique, and story telling.

Riverside Theatre's Young People's Company, Iowa City, IA - *Director* 2002

- Brilliantly directed *Two Gentlemen of Verona* with 15 high school students performing complete text of script; cast rehearsed and mounted show for five performances in professional theatre space in a short three-week period; and collaborated with designers, actors and technicians while organizing publicity events to gain public interest/support.

Chicago Shakespeare Touring Company, Chicago, IL - *Teacher/Actor* 1999-2000

- Skillfully designed age specific lesson plans for elementary, middle and high school age students encompassing literary devices of Shakespeare including themes, scansion, operative words, antithesis, alliteration, assonance, repetition, simile, and metaphor; worked with other professional actors to perform scenes to reiterate lessons for students.

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL - *Graduate teaching assistant* 1998-1999

- Lightened the load for tenured professor in theatre history course for large class of undergraduate students; graded papers/essays, supervised classroom exams, acted as liaison between students and professor for grading/evaluations, organized study groups, and operated audio/visual equipment for lectures.

My Turn Productions, Seattle, WA - *Teacher/Director/Administrator* 1995-1999

- Designed and taught acting for on-camera classes for students ranging from 5-22; focused on the exploration of improvisation, concentration, moment-to-moment connection, and screen writing techniques; skillfully directed small performances for fund raising purposes which raised donations dramatically; collaborated closely with CEO on marketing strategies, administration of enrollment, and grant writing to further the goals of the company.

CERTIFICATIONS/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PA Instructional II Professional Certification (Secondary English)
Reading Intervention Techniques: “Corrective Reading Strategies,” “Read Naturally,” “Rev it Up”
Point Park University Mentoring Program (student teaching component of teacher certification program)
PA Gifted Education Conference (Harrisburg, PA 2008)
Saint Joseph’s Graduate Courses (School Law & the Classroom/Professional Approach to Teacher-Parent Relationships)

EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Theatre Arts, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa (GPA – 3.9 – Honors)
Concentrations: Acting with an emphasis on new works and the collaborative process
Thesis: Stanislavski’s System of Acting: My Personal Process
Thesis Role: Rosaura in *Life is a Dream* / Advisor: Eric Forsythe

B.A. in Theatre Arts, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon (GPA – 3.5 – Cum Laude)
Concentrations: Acting with an emphasis on the classics /Advisor: Dr. Edgar Reynolds

Professional Graduate Training, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois (GPA – 3.5)
Concentrations: Acting with an emphasis on the Meisner technique

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Pennsylvania State Education Association (2006-2011)
Strongland Education Committee (2006-2009)
PA Association for Gifted Education (2006-2009)
Actors Equity Association (2000-current)
SAG/AFTRA (1995-current)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Teacher of the year – University of Chicago (*nominated by Valedictorian of Shady Side Academy*)
Ferrell Award for Teacher Excellence (“*a teacher who goes above and beyond*”)
Iowa Arts Fellowship, Honor Roll, Dean’s List – University of Iowa
Best Actor – Iowa New Play Festival, University of Iowa
Distinction in Acting Award, Dean’s List – Lewis and Clark College
Best Actress of the Year, Bainbridge High School

SOFTWARE COMPREHENSION/INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

MS Office	Google Drive	Canvas	Strong work ethic	Organization	Flexibility
Dictation	Spreadsheets	Rubicon	Collaboration	Problem-Solving	Leadership
Mac OS	Outlook	Proofreading	Detail-oriented	Communication	Adaptability

PROFESSIONAL ACTING TRAINING

Stanislavski, Meisner, Grotowski, Classical Styles, Shakespearian acting, Suzuki, Williamson/Laban, Le Coq, Advanced Commercial Acting, Voiceover, Sitcom, Improvisation, Singing (belt)

Dialects: Standard British, Southern Mountain, Plantation Southern, and Russian

Rob Clare - Shakespeare (NYC)	The Art of Voice-Overs - Steve Harris (NYC)
Peter Forster - Commercial Acting (Chicago)	Shirley Rich - Commercial Acting
Alice Ripley - Musical Theatre	Lloyd Williamson - Laban/Williamson Technique

Letters of recommendation(s)/ references, Corporate & legal industry resume/ Acting resume - All available upon request