

# Sam Nelson

Theatre Generalist. Teacher. Artist.  
Curriculum Vitae



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 [www.Sam-Nelson.net](http://www.Sam-Nelson.net)

## OHIO UNIVERSITY PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

2023 – Present

### THAR 4720 – Global Theories of Performance (Forms of Drama)

Aiming to expand horizons beyond the West, this class examines key theoretical questions and debates from modern and contemporary Southern Africa, North Africa, the Middle East, Oceania, Latin America, East Asia, the Caribbean, and India. The course also incorporates readings in dramatic literature to present these theories in their respective historical, cultural, and theatrical contexts. Issues in postcolonialism, aesthetics, globalization, and interculturalism are also explored in this class in search of a genuinely global understanding of theatre and performance.

### THAR 4710 - History of Acting Theory (Seminar in Theatre History and Drama)

This seminar investigates the development of ideas concerning acting from Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe, spanning from antiquity to the present day. Students work towards developing a systematic understanding of the concepts and issues that informed ideas of what acting is, has been, or should be.

### THAR 4700/5700 – Practicum in Dramaturgy

Practical experience as a dramaturg on School of Theater productions, including historical, textual, and biographical research, as well as audience outreach activities.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

2018 – 2021

### TH 141 – Acting I

This course explores the study and practice of basic principles of realistic acting, voice, and movement as outlined by Stanislavski and other theatre methodologies. Work centers on modern scene study, exercises, literature, and observation.

## Education

### PhD ABD – Interdisciplinary Arts

Scholar/Artist Track: Theatre & Performance Studies  
Ohio University

*Dissertation in Progress: “Embodied Mental Imagery:  
Interdisciplinary Expansions of the Actor’s Imaginative  
Techniques”*

### Master of Fine Arts – Acting

The University of Alabama

### Bachelor of Arts – Theatre Arts

Furman University

## Research & Teaching Interests

Actor training and pedagogy, voice and movement training for performance, history of acting theory, practice as research, interdisciplinary research, dramatic theory & criticism, practical dramaturgy, Shakespeare, *Commedia dell’Arte*, mask design & construction, mask performance, postcolonial theatre, feminist theatre, and applied theatre.

**TH 115 – Beginning Acting (for Non-Majors)**

Training in the basic elements of the actor's craft. Explores the study and practice of basic principles of realistic acting. This course centers on modern scene study, exercises, and observation.

**TH 114 – Introduction to Theatre (Online & In-Person)**

Through a survey of plays, stage histories, practitioners, dramatic structure, and production styles, as well as an introductory overview of acting, directing, design, and technical elements of production, students are given tools for critical assessment.

**GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT****Ohio University: 2021 – 2022****THAR 2710 – Theatre and Performance History I**

Primary Instructor: Dr. Shane Breaux

Primary Instructor: Dr. Matthew Cornish

**THAR 2711 – Theatre and Performance History II**

Primary Instructor: Dr. Shane Breaux

**The University of Alabama: 2018 – 2022****TH 452 – Theatre History II**

Primary Instructor: Dr. Steve Burch

**TH 445 – Acting V: Acting Shakespeare**

Primary Instructor: Seth Panitch

**TH 442 – Careers in Professional Theatre**

Primary Instructor: Seth Panitch

**MASTERCLASS INSTRUCTOR****Ohio University: 2022**

Introductory Physical and Character Half-Mask  
Performance Techniques

**Mill Mountain Theatre: 2022**

Mask Design and Construction Techniques

**GUEST LECTURER****Ohio University: 2021 - Present****THAR 2710 – Theatre and Performance History I**

Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, *El Divino Narciso*

**THAR 2710 – Theatre and Performance History I**

The *Commedia dell'Arte*: Style, Masks, and Characters

**THAR 2711 – Theatre and Performance History II**

Dario Fo's Italian Marxist Theatre

**FAR 1500 – Viewing the Arts**

Acting and Viewing Acting Performances

**The University of Alabama: 2018 – 2022****TH 422 – Careers in Professional Theatre**

Working as a Scholar/Artist – Merging Scholarship with  
Creation, Theory with Practice

**TH 452 – Theatre History II**

The African Grove Theatre Company

Romanticism, Melodrama, and the Well-Made Play

The History and Legacy of American Minstrelsy

Theatre of Cruelty, *Jet of Blood*

**TH 114 – Introduction to Theatre**

Theatre's Origins

Ancient Greek and Roman Theatre

Medieval European Drama

The *Commedia dell'Arte* and The Italian Renaissance

Kathkali and Ancient Sanskrit Drama in India

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## ACTING COACHING

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### 2018 - Present

#### **Audition and Repertoire Coaching**

Working with professional and amateur actors, focusing on intention, emotion, impulsivity, and connection.

Guiding audition monologue repertoire selection.

#### **Showcase Scene Coaching**

Preparing high school and college seniors for acting showcase events through coaching of individual scenes aimed at best highlighting individual strengths.

#### **Private Dialect Coaching**

Working with professional and amateur actors, focusing on shaping the voice and speech of a character by exploring the phonetics of stage dialects through drills and exercises.

Working with ESL students to strengthen their General American dialects for class presentations and other public speaking events.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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#### **SheNYC Summer Theatre Festival**

Best Overall Production for *Sheepwell* by Margaret Caterisano (2022)

#### **Ohio University**

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (2021 – Present)

#### **The University of Alabama**

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (2018 – 2021)

Marian Gallaway Award for Distinguished Graduate Acting (2019)

#### **Furman University**

James B. Duke Scholarship Recipient (2013 – 2017)

## PRESENTATIONS AND SERVICE

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#### **Ping Institute for the Humanities**

Served as a panelist for a discussion of Shakespeare’s dramaturgy (2023)

#### **Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine**

Performed in scenarios for admissions interviewer implicit bias training (2022)

#### **The Mid-America Theatre Conference**

“Counter-Hegemonic Interpretation: Dario Fo’s Characterization and Satire Through Intersemiotic Translation” (2022)

#### **The Southeastern Universities Graduate Research Symposium**

“The Commedia dell’Arte as a Weapon of Cultural Warfare” (2020)

#### **The Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference**

Adjudicated four undergraduate research presentations (2019)

## EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

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*Just A Buncha Clowns: Comedic– Anarchy and Racialized Performance in Early Twentieth Century Musical Variety*, Shane Breaux (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press)

Editorial Assistant: Copyedited and proofread manuscript (2023)

## PROFESSIONAL ACTING CREDITS

<i>Sheepwell</i>	Thomas	<b>SheNYC Summer Theatre Festival</b>	Margaret Caterisano
<i>Miss Julie</i>	Jean	<b>Guerrilla Shakespeare Co. (SC)</b>	Caroline Davis
<i>Bull</i>	Tony	<b>Guerrilla Shakespeare Co. (SC)</b>	Robert Fuson
<i>Hamlet</i>	Grave Digger, et al.	<b>Guerrilla Shakespeare Co. (SC)</b>	Crystal Stewart
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Paris	<b>Guerrilla Shakespeare Co. (SC)</b>	Robert Fuson
<i>Footloose</i>	Coach Dunbar	<b>Theatre West Virginia</b>	Ashley Meyer
<i>Ring of Fire: Music of Johnny Cash</i>	Sam	<b>Theatre West Virginia</b>	Neil David Seibel
<i>Hatfields and McCoys</i>	Tolbert McCoy	<b>Theatre West Virginia</b>	Jason Adkins
<i>The Addams Family</i>	Ensemble	<b>Theatre West Virginia</b>	Dan Henthorn

## ACADEMIC ACTING CREDITS

<i>See Rock City</i>	Dempsey	<b>Ohio University Theatre</b>	Steven Strafford
<i>John Proctor is the Villain</i>	Mr. Smith	<b>Ohio University Theatre</b>	Sarah Curtis
<i>Antigone</i>	Creon	<b>University of Alabama Theatre</b>	Matt Davis
<i>Shooting Star</i>	West	<b>University of Alabama Theatre</b>	Seth Panitch
<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	Antonio	<b>University of Alabama Theatre</b>	Reid Watson
<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Callahan	<b>University of Alabama Theatre</b>	Stacy Alley
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Major-General Stanley	<b>University of Alabama Theatre</b>	Alex Ates
<i>The River</i>	The Man	<b>University of Alabama Theatre</b>	Reid Watson
<i>Gnit</i>	Moynihan, et al.	<b>University of Alabama Theatre</b>	Alex Ates
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	Falstaff	<b>University of Alabama Theatre</b>	Seth Panitch
<i>The Christians</i>	Elder Jay	<b>University of Alabama Theatre</b>	Alex Ates
<i>Danny and the Deep Blue Sea</i>	Danny	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Carol Sutton
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Lord Capulet	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Maegan Azar
<i>Kappa Kappa Scream</i>	Chet	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Jay Oney
<i>The Birthday Party</i>	McCann	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Rhett Bryson
<i>Arcadia</i>	Hannah Jarvis	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Jay Oney
<i>Rumors</i>	Lenny Ganz	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Carol Sutton
<i>The Pillowman</i>	Katurian	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Robert Fuson
<i>The Threepenny Opera</i>	Macheath	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Maegan Azar
<i>The Imaginary Invalid</i>	Thomas Diafoirus	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Rhett Bryson
<i>These Shining Lives</i>	Tom	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Maegan Azar
<i>Pomp &amp; Circumstance</i>	Wyatt	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Jay Oney
<i>Gruesome Playground Injuries</i>	Doug	<b>Furman University Theatre</b>	Callie Nestleroth

## NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT/STAGED READINGS

<i>The Model Congressman</i>	(Dramaturg)	Ohio University Theatre	Steven Strafford
<i>Life After Exorcism</i>	Jason	Guerrilla Shakespeare Co. (SC)	Robert Fuson
<i>Though the Heavens May Fall</i>	Judge Horton	Steve Burch	Steve Burch
<i>A Christmas Memory</i>	Narrator	Tuscaloosa Public Library	Alex Ates
<i>Armed (Devised)</i>	Sam	GLOW Lyric Theatre	Jenna Tamisiea
<i>Death at Downton</i>	Robert Squally	Furman University Theatre	Randall David Cook
<i>In a Town Near Faith</i>	Hank	Furman University Theatre	Randall David Cook

## DIRECTING CREDITS

<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Asst. Director, Dramaturg, Text Coach	Tantrum Theater	2023
<i>Squeakers</i> <i>*World Premiere</i>	Director	Ohio University Theatre	2023
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Asst. Director, Text Coach	Ohio University Theatre	2022
<i>... "Iron" Mike Malloy</i> <i>*World Premiere</i>	Director	Ohio University Theatre	2022
<i>Miss Samantha</i> (Audio Play)	Director	The Flourish	2020

## TECHNICAL THEATRE CREDITS

### Technical Director and Production Manager, Tryon Fine Arts Center (2018)

Edwin McCain, Indie Rock Concert	Lighting Designer, Stage Manager	Tryon Fine Arts Center	
Christopher Titus's <i>Amerigeddon</i> , Stand-up Comedy Show	Lighting Designer, Stage Manager	Tryon Fine Arts Center	
Destiny Stone's <i>Nina Now</i> , Nina Simone Tribute Concert	Lighting Designer, Sound Engineer, Stage Manager	Tryon Fine Arts Center	
<i>Best of Enemies</i> (Play)	Lighting Designer, Sound Designer, Stage Manager	Tryon Fine Arts Center	Robin Edgar
<i>Pure Poetry</i> , Poetry Readings Featuring Various Artists	Technical Director	Tryon Fine Arts Center	
<i>John Lennon, the Mobster and the Lawyer</i>	Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Dark Horse Theatre Project	
Dan Keller Jazz Trio	Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Tryon Fine Arts Center	
<i>Zoe &amp; Cloyd</i> , Americana Duo	Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Tryon Fine Arts Center	

William Florian, Country Soloist	Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Tryon Fine Arts Center	
<i>Brother Bluebird</i> , Folk Duo	Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Tryon Fine Arts Center	
Fassoux Mclean & Brandon Turner, Country Duo	Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Tryon Fine Arts Center	
Lightwire Theatre's <i>Moon Mouse: A Space Odyssey</i>	Stage Manger, Technical Director	Super Saturday Children's Theatre Festival	
<i>Rhythm Dances from Around the World</i>	Stage Manager, Technical Director	Super Saturday Children's Theatre Festival	
<i>Windsync</i> , Wind Quintet	Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Tryon Concert Association	
Benefit Variety Show	Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Foothills Parkinson's Support Group	
Polk County Early College Graduation Ceremony	Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Polk County Public Schools	
<i>Celebrating Nina Simone</i> , Tribute Performances by Various Artists	Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Tryon Fine Arts Center	
<i>James and the Giant Peach</i>	Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Tryon Little Theatre	Chris Tinkle
<b>Technical Theatre Internship Supervisor, Tryon Fine Arts Center (2018)</b>			
<b>The Flourish: A BIPOC Student Arts Organization (2020)</b>			
<i>Return Sender Return</i> (Audio Play)	Audio Editor Audio Engineer	The Flourish	Christian Tripp
<b>Furman University (2014-2017)</b>			
2014-2017 Season Productions	Costume Shop Assistant	Furman University Theatre	Margaret Caterisano
<i>The Woman of Lockerbie</i>	Stage Manager	Furman University Theatre	Jayce Tromsness
<i>Durang/ Durang</i>	Master Electrician	Furman University Theatre	Rhett Bryson
<i>Hair</i>	Publicity Crew Head	Furman University Theatre	Maegan Azar
<i>God of Carnage</i>	Assistant Stage Manager	Furman University Theatre	Rhett Bryson

## EDUCATION – COURSES COMPLETED

### PhD – Interdisciplinary Arts

Ohio University

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<b>Performance of Black Thought</b>	Dr. J� Hooper
<b>Dramaturgies of Comedy</b>	Dr. Shane Breaux
<b>Theatre and Ethics</b>	Dr. Matthew Cornish
<b>Dance Ethnography</b>	Dr. Zelma Badu-Younger
<b>Dramaturgy</b>	Tyler Adams
<b>Directing</b>	Dr. Daniel Dennis
<b>Chekhov Technique</b>	David Haugen
<b>Suzuki Method</b>	Dr. Daniel Dennis
<b>Viewpoints</b>	Dr. Daniel Dennis
<b>Stage Combat</b>	Brian Evans
Unarmed & Single Sword	
<b>History of Aesthetics</b>	Dr. Vladimir Marchenkov
<b>Contemporary Aesthetics</b>	Dr. Vladimir Marchenkov
<b>Critical Theory and the Arts</b>	Dr. Erin Schlumpf
<b>Transnational and Global Theories</b>	Dr. Daniel Spencer
<b>Text, Translation, and the Arts</b>	Dr. Charles Buchanan, Dr. Garrett Field
<b>Feminism and the Arts</b>	Dr. Charles Buchanan, Dr. Erin Schlumpf
<b>Research and Writing Skills</b>	Dr. Charles Buchanan
<b>Pedagogy and the Arts</b>	Dr. Andrea Frohne

### MFA – Acting

The University of Alabama

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<b>Acting Shakespeare</b>	Seth Panitch
<b>Graduate Acting Studio – Scene Study</b>	Seth Panitch
<b>Acting for the Camera</b>	Seth Panitch
<b>Styles of Shaw, Ibsen, &amp; Chekhov</b>	Seth Panitch
<b>Stand-up Comedy,</b>	
<b>Styles of Coward, &amp; Wilde</b>	Seth Panitch
<b>Alexander Technique</b>	Kelley Schoger
<b>Styles of Restoration Comedy</b>	Allison Hetzel
<b>Rodenburg &amp; Fitzmaurice Vocal Training</b>	Allison Hetzel
<b>Dialects &amp; Accents</b>	Allison Hetzel
<b>Acting Pedagogy</b>	Allison Hetzel
<b>Private and Studio Singing Training</b>	Dr. William Martin
<b>Graduate Theatre History I</b>	Dr. Steve Burch
<b>Graduate Theatre History II</b>	Dr. Steve Burch
<b>Dramatic Theory &amp; Criticism</b>	Dr. Steve Burch
<b>Playwriting</b>	Dr. Steve Burch
<b>Script Analysis</b>	Dr. Steve Burch



**BA – Theatre Arts**Furman University

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<b>Acting I</b>	Maegan Azar
<b>Acting II: Characterization</b>	Maegan Azar
<b>Acting III: Period Styles</b>	Maegan Azar
<b>Movement for the Actor</b> Laban & Suzuki	Maegan Azar
<b>Advanced Movement Techniques</b> Commedia dell'Arte, Mask, Clowning	Maegan Azar
<b>Directing</b>	Maegan Azar
<b>Playwriting</b>	Randall David Cook
<b>Theatre History I</b>	Dr. Jay Oney
<b>Theatre History II</b>	Dr. Jay Oney
<b>Stage Makeup</b>	Margaret Caterisano
<b>Costume Crafts</b>	Margaret Caterisano
<b>Modern British &amp; American Drama</b>	Margaret Caterisano
<b>Fashion History for Costume Design</b>	Margaret Caterisano
<b>Advanced Rendering</b>	Will Lowry
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Rhett Bryson
<b>Stage Craft</b>	Rhett Bryson
<b>Private Singing Coaching</b>	Gail Schoonmaker