

Michele Fleiger

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Educational Background:

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Practice 2010-2012	University of Alberta
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) 1977-1981	University of Alberta

Career History:

Associate Lecturer (Drama) 2024-25	University of Alberta
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Interim Director of Undergraduate Programs and BA Coordinator

I support faculty and ATS in Undergraduate programs in preparation for instruction and with specific needs throughout the term. This includes holding BA committee meetings (2 per term). I provide support for students as they navigate various course challenges and program requirements. I work with the Student Advisors dealing with course transfer equivalency issues, assist the Chair in planning and implementation of new initiatives, attend monthly meetings with other Undergraduate Directors in the Faculty of Arts to implement faculty-wide initiatives and keep the department apprised of relevant information that may impact the Department of Drama

Associate Lecturer (Drama) 2002 to present	University of Alberta
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I have taught several courses in the BA Drama program including:

Presentation and Presence (Drama 247) for non-Drama Majors and *Voice in Performance* (Drama 240) Drama majors. These are practical class designed to explore basic techniques of oral communication and expressive interpretation of written material with an emphasis on personal creative process, self-confidence, and physical and vocal ease.

Theatre Making for Everyone (Drama 149) for non-Drama majors and *Making and Performing Theatre* (Drama 150) for Drama Majors. These courses are designed to extend students' physical and vocal range of expression by exploring non-habitual ways of moving, thinking, being and listening. These courses help students discover their creative potential and develop their ability to access their creative resources, help them to be a true member of a creative ensemble and develop an understanding and awareness of the process of acting and dramatic form. This culminates in an ability to compose and perform presentations of meaning that incorporate the essence of

dramatic form-truth in character, relationship and conflict, with focus and attention to detail.

Solo Performance (Drama 452) for Drama Majors This course introduces students to the history and theory of solo performance, and the practice and performances of various solo performers. Students demonstrate their understanding and application in the presentation of three solo performances.

Performer Created Theatre (Drama 259) for Drama majors. This course is designed to give students the opportunity to explore various principles and techniques of performer created/devised theatre. These are made apparent through exposure to a variety of improvisational structures. The improvisational structures guide the students' discovery and deepening of the following tenets of the creative process: Gathering and exploring and distilling an imaginative response to a variety of sources, physical manifestations of concept, the integrity of self in the relationship and responsibility to the ensemble and theatrical values of expression.

Scene Study (Drama 257) a course for Drama and non-Drama majors. The focus is on the foundational tenets of script analysis with an emphasis on performance.

**Workshop Facilitator (International Student Centre) University of Alberta
2009-present**

I have devised and facilitated various workshops for the International Student Centre including the *Expressive Voice and Body* and *A Dramatic Approach to Communication*. I work with visiting exchange students and have provided a special orientation workshop for incoming international undergraduate students.

**Workshop Facilitator (Arts and Humanities in Health and Medicine Program) University of Alberta
2010 to 2019**

In collaboration with the Department of Arts and Humanities in Health and Medicine I worked with first and second year medical students in a workshop elective designed to enhance the doctor-patient relationship through creative process techniques.

**Opera Workshop Instructor (Dept. of Music) University of Alberta
2013-14**

I co-created and facilitated an acting workshop for aspiring opera singers with Musical Director Peter Dala. The workshop was designed to encourage attention to the fundamental principles of improvisation as a means of encouraging an approach to opera that is grounded in the power of the narrative.

**Course Coordinator (Drama) University of Alberta
2008 to 2011**

I was the course coordinator for Drama 247 a second year course for non-Drama majors. I assisted in curriculum development and supervised the GTA's who were charged with teaching the course. As there were a number of international students in the course I also acted as a liaison between the Visiting Student Certificate Program and the Department of Drama.

**Instructor (Department of Science) University of Alberta
2008/2009**

I was contracted by the Department of Science to assist in the training of international graduate students in preparation for their upcoming teaching assistant assignments.

**Project Manager (Drama) University of Alberta
2007-2010**

I taught and developed curriculum to introduce Shakespeare to children ages 8-16 during a week long summer camp that culminated in a short performance. This expanded into an in-school residency program at Victoria School for the Performing Arts.

**Instructor
2002 to 2009**

Citadel Theatre

I taught and developed curriculum for the adult acting program at the Foote Theatre School.

**Workshop Leader/Adjudicator
2000 to 2015**

Theatre Alberta

I traveled throughout the province facilitating a variety of workshops with community arts groups ranging from acting basics to directing to text analysis and scene work. I have also been an adjudicator for a number of local and provincial drama festivals

**ESL teacher
1986 to 2000**

Alberta College, Etc.

I worked in Edmonton, Vancouver and Tokyo as an ESL teacher in a wide variety of settings with a clientele ranging from Japanese businessmen to international exchange students and new immigrants. My last position was with Grant MacEwan College (University)

**Professional Actor and Musician
1980 to present:**

Freelance

I have worked as a professional actor and musician from St. John's Nfld. to Whitehorse Yukon, from Edmonton AB to Turin, Italy. I have worked primarily in the theatre and these theatres include, Workshop West, Shadow Theatre, Mayfield Dinner Theatre, independent theatres including November Theatre and TheatrePublic. I have initiated self-produced independent projects such as *Outside the Lines* and *The Adventures of Wanda and Jack*, participated in year two of the Fringe Theater festival and continued participation for several years garnering three consecutive Outstanding Performance by an Actress nominations for *The Old Curiosity Shop*, *The Maids* and the *Trojan Women*, I have been and continue to be involved in the workshopping of countless new works for theatres including Springboards Festival, Skirts Afire, Northern Light Theatre, Catalyst Theatre, the Citadel Theatre, Concrete Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects, and APN's Script Salon.

Affiliations:

- Canadian Actor's Equity Association (CAEA)
- Association of Canadian Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA)
- Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA)
- Theatre Alberta/Alberta Playwright's Network (APN)

Relevant Community Service:

- President Board of Theatre Alberta 2010-2013
- Past President Board of Theatre Alberta 2013-2014

Conference Presentations and Publications

2016 *Performative Reflection: Use of a Longitudinal Theater Elective to Promote Relational-Responsive Awareness among Medical Students* in **Keeping Reflection Fresh: Top Educators Share Their Innovations in Health Professional Education**

2012 *Devising Large: A methodology for Performer Created Theatre with a large ensemble* Poster Presentation at the **Centre for Teaching and Learning conference Teaching Big: The Joy of Large Classes** at the **University of Alberta**

2012 Co-authored a poster presentation: *Feedback-Feed Forward: Using Qualitative Data to Enhance a Theatre Based Elective in Medical Education* at the **Qualitative Health Research Conference (Montreal)**

I co-presented TLEF sponsored research findings in a conference presentation titled *Accent Doesn't Have to be an Obstacle* along with Professor Betty Moulton at the University of Alberta, at the ISSOTL conference in **2008** (Edmonton) and the STLHE conference in **2010** (Toronto).

Awards and Scholarships

University of Alberta OnCampus Inclusive Educator Award 2017

Teaching Excellence Appreciation Award Delta Chi 2015

Government of Alberta Graduate Scholarship 2011

Graduate Award 2011

Theatre and Community Change Scholarship 2011

Alberta Foundation for the Arts Theatre and Performance Arts Project Grant 2011

Harriet Snowball Winspear Graduate Fellowship in the Performing Arts 2010

Professional Recognition

Member of the following award winning ensembles

- Sterling Award Outstanding Independent Production - *A Life in the Day*
2009
City of Edmonton Salute to Excellence Citation - *Cast of The Black Rider*.
2006
- Sterling Award Outstanding Production of a Musical - *The Black Rider*
2006
- Betty Mitchell Award (Calgary AB) Outstanding Production of a Musical - *The Black Rider*
2006
- Sterling Award Outstanding Collective - *Stop Kiss*
2002

Individual Award

- Sterling Award Outstanding Performance by an Actress *The Old Curiosity Shop (Fringe Festival)*
2002