

# ALLISON NELSON

Enthusiastic, Collaborative, Empathetic

## Teaching Philosophy

Learning enriches our understanding of the world and builds our capacity for empathy. Learning for the actor never ceases. Like moving through life, the actor learns from every risk, success, failure, and shared moment with their ensemble. It is the teacher who must find how best to provoke and facilitate each student's rigorous journey. The teacher must hold the student to strong standards of practice, which are investigative, experiential, and continuously challenge the student to play with conviction.



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## EDUCATION

### MASTERS OF FINE ARTS IN ENSEMBLE-BASED PHYSICAL THEATRE

Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre

Blue Lake, CA, U.S.A. | 2009-2011

Thesis: Clown

Training: Movement/ Clown/ Mask,

Playwriting/ Ensemble Devising/ Tragedy/

Melodrama/ Commedia dell'arte /Applied

Theatre/ Puppetry/ Viewpoints/ Dance/

Ensemble Singing

### BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN DRAMATIC ARTS

University of Lethbridge

AB | 1997-2000

Training: Acting/ Voice/ Playwriting/ Movement/

Theatre History/ Costume Design &

Construction/ Stagecraft/ Stage Design/

Directing/ Musical Theatre

Additional Studies: Sociology/ Psychology

### BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

Specialization in Secondary Fine Arts

University of Calgary

AB | 2015-2017

Courses include: Language and Literacy/ STEM/

Diversity/ Assessment/ Interdisciplinary

Learning/ Ethics and Law/ Indigenous Education/

Design-based Thinking.

Practicums:

-High School: teaching Drama 30, English 10---1 and ALP Drama.

-Junior High: teaching Foods, Fashion and Gr.8 & 9 Drama.

## TEACHING EMPLOYMENT

### ROSEBUD SCHOOL OF THE ARTS • SESSIONAL CLOWN INSTRUCTOR

March-April 2015 | Rosebud, Alberta

Taught two-month course, Advanced Topics in Acting, with a focus in Clown.

Students learned about the history of clowning, physical comedy, routine building and created original character clowns.

### RED DEER COLLEGE • THEATRE PERFORMANCE CREATION PROGRAM • SESSIONAL CLOWN INSTRUCTOR

2011-2016 | Red Deer, Alberta

Taught yearly intensive in Clown; training students in physical comedy, new work creation and character clown routines.

### MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY • SESSIONAL MOVEMENT INSTRUCTOR

Sept-Dec 2013 | Calgary, Alberta

Taught advanced movement to second year students in the Performing Arts Conservatory Theatre Program. Students developed physical conditioning, improvisational and structural movement techniques, original character mask work, dances based in Laban Movement Analysis, and completed a research paper and dance homage in a style which expanded their movement palate.

### CENTRAL MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL • GUEST INSTRUCTOR

Feb-March 2013 | Calgary, Alberta

Guest Artist in Performance Creation with High School students. Created two original productions (with two classes of 20 students) based on research on the themes of social media, gender, objectification and cyber-bullying. Pieces were devised through research, student's writing and ensemble physical theatre creation.

### MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY • SESSIONAL CLOWN INSTRUCTOR

January 2013 | Calgary, Alberta

Sessional Instructor for students' Production Practicum in Clown. Students studied physical comedy, eccentric dance, devising comic routines, and character clown. This course culminated in a final sharing for students and faculty.

## **DIRECTING EXPERIENCE**

2017	SKIN FLICK	Morpheus Theatre, Calgary
2016	THE UNDERNEATH	Theatre BSMT, Calgary
2015	THREE LITTLE PIGS (TYA)	New West Theatre, Lethbridge
2014	HAMLET (TYA outreach project)	The Shakespeare Company, Calgary
2014	COCKTAILS AT PAM'S	Morpheus Theatre, Calgary
2013	CRIME IN THE MADHOUSE, Director	Underdog Theatre, Calgary
2013	3 LITTLE PIGS (TYA)	Loose Moose Theatre, Calgary
2013	CLOWNS WITHOUT BORDERS South Africa, Director	Eastern Cape Expedition
2013	AESOP'S FABLES (TYA)	Loose Moose Theatre, Calgary
2012	THE BOYS OWN JEDI HANDBOOK (TYA)	Empress Theatre, Fort Macleod
2012	MOCKINGBIRD CLOSE	Lunchbox Theatre, Calgary
2012	PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE	Morpheus Theatre, Calgary
2011	SLEEPING BEAUTY (TYA)	Loose Moose Theatre, Calgary
2011-'12	Awarded the position of Emerging Director	Lunchbox Theatre, Calgary

## **PLAYWRITING**

2016	KING ARTHUR AND HIS MAGNIFICENT KNIGHTS	Maplewood School, MBZ City, UAE
2016	ANIMAL FARM TREATMENT/ LA FERME DES ANIMAUX REVISITEE	Touring to Alberta High Schools
2015	THE CLINIC	Urban Curvz, Calgary
2014	MS.SUGARCOAT	Sage Theatre's Ignite Festival, Calgary
2012	KEEP SWEET: A Polygamy Musical, w/ Stephen Denalo	Staged Reading, Auburn Saloon
2010	THE WORRY WART, Playwright	Empress Theatre, Fort Macleod
2008	RAUNCH: The Rise of Female Chauvinist Pigs, w/Jacqueline Russell	Downstage Theatre, Sarasvati Prod.
2008	ELEPHANT IN ZULU, Playwright	Loose Moose, CAOS & Lyric Theatre, CA
2006	LOCAL CELEBRITY, Playwright	Canadian Fringe Circuit, Penn State

## **PRODUCTION HISTORY: ACTING (Production, Role, Company)**

ONGOING (2010-Present): MED SKILL Standardized Patient- trained in various medical cases to simulate and educate medical students in the University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine program.

2017	JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME, Clarisse	Quest Theatre/Heritage Park, Calgary
2016	SNOW WHITE, Evil Queen	Loose Moose Theatre, Calgary
2015	PIGS IN A CANOE/PETITS COCHONS DANS UN CANOT, Puppeteer	WP Puppet Theatre, Calgary
2015	MS.SUGARCOAT, Performer, Puppeteer	Sage Theatre's Ignite Festival, Calgary International Festival of Animated Objects
2013	CRIME IN THE MADHOUSE, Performer, Puppeteer	Underdog Theatre, Calgary
2012	LAND OF DREAMS, Clown	Underdog Theatre, Calgary
2010	HOW I BECAME INVISIBLE-CLUNK Puppet Lab, Puppeteer	Puppets Up Festival, Ontario
2010	ELEPHANT, Creator, Performer	International Festival of Animated Objects
2010	RAUNCH, The Rise of Female Chauvinist Pigs, Co-creator, Performer	Sarasvati Productions, Winnipeg Magnetic North (2012), Calgary
2009	MATADORA, La Reverte, Co-creator	Trepan Theatre, Calgary
2009	ELEPHANT, Creator, Performer	CAOS, Animated Object Festival, Calgary
2008	LOCAL CELEBRITY, Creator, Performer	Edmonton, Winnipeg, Calgary Fringes

## **GRADUATE WORK, Ensemble Generated -Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre, California**

2011	LAND OF DREAMS (Thesis Project), Actor/Creator
2010	MUSICIANS OF BREMEN, Script Adapter/Farmer/Rocker/Robber
2010	NIGHT TERROR: 3-D SHADOW PLAY, Creator/Puppeteer
2010	IPHIGENIA MUST DIE, Script Adapter/ Menelaus, Chorus
2009	LITTLE DID THEY KNOW...,Klara (Hitler's Mom), Femme Fatale

## VOLUNTEER WORK

### 2006-Present CLOWNS WITHOUT BORDERS

Clown, Workshop Instructor, Clown Show Director (2013)

As a volunteer with Clowns Without Borders, I have attended four trips (2006, 2007, 2008 and 2013) to South Africa, working in places with high HIV/AIDS rates (Lesotho, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Eastern Cape). Two or three other clowns and I performed shows for schools, communities and orphanages. We instructed workshops in life dreams (which included games, acting out dreams/wishes and group work in creation) for orphans and vulnerable children. As well, I taught adults how to create dramas that addressed issues in their community (HIV testing, gossip, stealing, death, rape), using Forum Theatre and narrative improvisation. The clowns also visited the clinics and improvised gentle clowning for patients in maternity wards, I.C.U. and waiting areas. Currently I give presentations on the work of Clowns Without Borders, fundraising for the organization and raising awareness on HIV/AIDS in Africa. My solo show ELEPHANT is about my experiences and is performed with the goal of sharing the stories of the children and families in Africa in a time of health crisis.

## AWARDS, GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Jan '16	Alberta Foundation for the Arts: Theatre Project Grant \$12 500 Project towards development and test performances of Animal Farm Treatment/ La ferme des animaux revisitéé.
Jan '14	Alberta Foundation for the Arts: Theatre Project Grant \$4500 Project Grant towards development and performance of Ms. Sugarcoat, a new solo show to be featured at Sage Theatre's Ignite Festival 2014.
Jan '12	Alberta Foundation for the Arts: Theatre Project Grant \$12 000 Project Grant towards development and staged reading of KEEP SWEET: A Polygamy Musical!
March '10	Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund's Arts Graduate Scholarship \$15 000 towards training: MFA Year 3 at Dell'Arte International
Nov '09	Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Grants to Individual Artists \$14 000 Theatre Project Grant: training or career development, MFA Year 3 at Dell'Arte International
August '09	Calgary Animated Object Society Scholarship \$4000 Scholarship towards training: MFA Year 2 at Dell'Arte International
April '09	Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund's Arts Graduate Scholarship \$15000 towards training: MFA Year 2 at Dell'Arte International
February '09	Canada Council/AFA: Creative Development Initiative Grant \$9500 towards RAUNCH development and production at Loose Moose Theatre, Calgary
January '09	Alberta Lottery Fund: Community Initiative Program Grant \$14 000 towards production of Elephant in Zulu at Calgary Animated Object Festival.
December '08	Calgary Arts Development Association: Special Project Grants \$7000 towards RAUNCH: The Rise of Female Chauvinist Pigs at Loose Moose Theatre, Calgary Budget included: artist fees, prop/set fees, administrative fees, promotional materials and space rental.
September '08	Alberta Foundations for the Arts: Grant to Individual Artists \$7000, Theatre Project Grant: training or career development, MFA Year 2 at Dell'Arte International.
June 08	Calgary Arts Development Association: Special Project Grants \$6500 towards Elephant at Loose Moose Theatre, Calgary

## WORKSHOPS & INTENSIVES

### POWER AND BALANCE IN DISARTS

Banff Centre, Alberta | February 2017

Training: Community-engaged work/  
disability-centered performance creation.

### STAGE COMBAT

Academy Duello, Vancouver | May 2016

Training: Basic Actor Combatant  
Certification- Single Sword/ Quarterstaff /  
Unarmed Combat

### PUPPETRY

Humber College, Toronto | June 2013

Training: Manipulation/ Design/  
Construction (carving, casting, foam  
and fabric).

### IMPROVISATION

Loose Moose Theatre, Calgary 2006-'16

Training: Company member/ Improvisor/  
Theatresports performer/ Light & Sound  
Improvisor.

### CLOWN (Pochinko Training)

Manitoulin Island, Ontario | '03, '05, '08

Training: Company member/ Improvisor/  
Theatresports performer/ Lights & Sound

## REFERENCES

Jean-Pierre (JP) Fournier

Instructor – University of Alberta, Drama Department  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Home: (780) 476-7101

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Thomas Usher

Instructor- Red Deer College, Alberta, Canada  
Theatre Performance & Creation Program

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Christine Cook

Artistic Director- Calgary Animated Object Society  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

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Nathan Schmidt

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Rosebud, Alberta, Canada

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## TRAINING AND SKILLS (Instructor, Training)

### ACTING & PHYSICAL THEATRE at Dell'Arte Physical Theatre School:

Ronlin Foreman - Le Jeu (Lecoq Pedagogy), Clown, Melodrama

Michael Fields - Melodrama, Grand Guignol, TYA (Holiday Show)

Joan Schirle - Mask (Neutral, Character), Tragedy, Viewpoints

John Achorn - Commedia dell'Arte, Improvisation

Lauren Wilson - Michael Chekhov Technique, Ensemble Writing

Jeff Raz- Clown

Daniel Stein - Mime, Movement

### IMPROVISATION

Dennis Cahill - Narrative Improvisation, Improv formats

Keith Johnstone - Trance Mask, Improvisation, Theatresports

Shawn Kinley - Movement in Improvisation

Rebecca Northan - Narrative Improvisation

### STAGE COMBAT

David McCormick - Unarmed, Quarterstaff, Single Sword

Mike Kovac - Unarmed, Single Sword

Nathania Louise Bernabe - Quarterstaff, Single Sword

### VOICE

Joan Schirle - Teaching of Patsy Rodenburg

Evamarrii Johnson - Linklater

Jacqueline Dandeneau - Ensemble Singing

James Peck - Linklater

David LeReaney - Standard American accent

### PLAYWRIGHTING

TJ Dawe - Solo show development

Ron Chambers - One Act, Full-Length

Joe Slabe - Musical Theatre (Lyrics and book)

### DANCE AND MOVEMENT

Joe Krienke - Acrobatics, Alexander Technique

Bruce Marrs - Contract Improv, Eccentric Dance, Tango

Laura Munoz - Contact Improv, Ballet, Movement, Yoga

Donlin Foreman - Martha Graham based Modern Dance

### MASK MAKING

Bruce Marrs - Commedia Masks, Sculpture and Papier Mâché

Xstine Cook - Casting and Neoprene

### PUPPETRY

Tamara Unroe - Shadow Puppetry (projector, light table, overhead)

Puppetmongers - Shadow Puppetry, marionettes, object

Clunk Puppet Workshop - Table Top Puppets

Peter Balkwill (Old Trout Puppet Workshop) - Manipulation

Wayann Merdika - Balinese Shadow Puppet Construction and Performance

### ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Stilt-walking (3 Foot/5 Foot), Accordion (Beginner-Intermediate), Rollerskating  
(Jam Skating), Juggling (3 ball), Guitar (basic chords), ukulele (basic chords),  
costume construction (draping and sewing skills) and archery.