

WILLIAM J. WHITAKER
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Current Position

Professor of the Practice – Washington University in St. Louis – 1994 – Present

Education

M.F.A. Florida Atlantic University – Directing & Acting

M.A. The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. – Dramatic Literature

B.A. Niagara University, New York – English

Meisner Certification – Larry Silverberg – True Acting Institute – Willamette University 2012/2013

Washington University Teaching – Courses -- ** Indicates Recent Work

**Devised and Ensemble Created Theater: Senior Capstone
(New Course for Fall 2018 with Pannill Camp)

**Introduction to Theater: Plays, Performance & Public Speaking
(Developed for ***Prisoner Education Program*** at MECC, Pacific, MO)

Acting One

Acting Two

Embodied Communication: Public Speaking

Acting Styles in Theory and Practice (with Pannill Camp)

Fundamentals of Directing

Advanced Directing

Acting Shakespeare – Globe Theatre, London

Directing Shakespeare – Globe Theatre, London

Theories of Acting -- Seminar

Graduate Independent Studies

Senior Honors Theses

Acting Three

Washington University Directing

She Kills Monsters – Qui Nguyen – Edison Theatre – October 2021

Tough! -- George F. Walker – Mudd Field – April 22-24, 2021

The Covid Mysteries – Robert Henke – PAD Mobile Stage on Mudd Field – April 1-4, 2021
World Premiere of a new play and the first “live theatre” event staged since Covid-19 pandemic arrived. Outdoor performance on a modern pageant wagon.

Hotchner New Play Festival – Direction of Staged Reading – ***Cheryl Robs a Bank*** -- Fall 2020

The Triumph of Love – Marivaux – Zack Theatre – March 2020 – (Professional Production with Student Participation)

*****Frankenstein Performance*** – September 28-30 (2018)-- Washington University Medical School – “Curren(t)cy of Frankenstein” – Directed the staged performance in Clopton Hall for the 3-day Symposium -- in collaboration with Wash U Medical School and Romance Languages.

*****The Rocky Horror Show*** – Richard O’Brien – Edison Theater – Fall 2018

Hotchner New Play Festival – Multiple Playwrights & Plays – Direction for Staged Readings -- Fall 2008-2017

Kiss – Guillermo Calderon – Hotchner Theatre – Fall 2017

Gossip – George F. Walker – Edison Theatre – Spring 2017

Tom Sawyer Whitewashes a Fence (World Premiere) – Carter W. Lewis – Washington D.C. Four Seasons Hotel – Spring 2017 (PAD students performed before the Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts, Jr. as part of Washington University Law School’s 150th Anniversary Celebrations)

Anon(ymous) – Naomi Iizuka – Edison Theatre – Fall 2014

My Children! My Africa! – Athol Fugard – Hotchner Theatre – Fall 2013
(Production featured Ron Himes of The Black Rep and 2 student actors.)

The Night Season – Rebecca Lenkiewicz – Hotchner Theatre – 2012

Anatol – Arthur Schnitzler -- Hotchner Theatre – (World Premiere of my adaptation) – 2011

The Stroke Scriptures – Chris Kammerer -- Hotchner Theatre - (World Premiere) – 2011

Fabulation – Lynn Nottage – Hotchner Theatre – 2010

Mother Courage – Bertolt Brecht – Edison Theatre – 2009

Hamlet – The First Quarto – Edison Theatre – 2009

(Directed a public reading of this rarely produced version of the play on the Edison stage with distinguished Washington University faculty members from several different departments -- Joe Lowenstein, Carl Philips, Rob Henke, and Carter Lewis.)

The 1940's Radio Hour – Walton Jones – Edison Theatre – 2007

Kokoschka – Henry I. Schvey – Hotchner Theatre - (World Premiere) – 2007

Hickorydickory – Marisa Wegrzyn – Hotchner Theatre - (World Premiere) – 2006

Escape From Happiness – George F. Walker – Hotchner – 2005

Into The Woods – Sondheim/Lapine – Edison Theatre – 2005

The Good Person of Szechuan – Bertolt Brecht – Edison Theatre – 2004

All's Well That Ends Well – Shakespeare – Edison Theatre – 2003

Killing Women – Marisa Wegrzyn – Hotchner Studio Theatre – (World Premiere) – 2002

Marie and Bruce – Wallace Shawn – Hotchner Studio Theatre – 2001

The Imaginary Invalid – Moliere – Edison Theatre - (World Premier of my adaptation) – 2000

A Midsummer Night's Dream – Shakespeare – Edison Theatre – 1998

La Ronde – Arthur Schnitzler – Edison Theatre – 1997

The Girl from Clare – Patricia Cobey – Hotchner Theatre - (World Premiere) – 1997

The Double Inconstancy – Marivaux – Hotchner Theatre – 1995

Blood Wedding – Garcia Lorca – Hotchner Theatre – 1994

Washington University Service

****Production Committee – Chair -- 2014-Present**

Artistic and organizational leadership for The Performing Arts Department's theater productions. Outreach to PAD and campus community regarding play submissions and audience development. Develop a four to five play season yearly. Work with all levels of the department -- directors and designers -- regarding the suitability of our plans to our resources.

Hotchner New Play Selection Committee – Multiple years of service – 2008-2018.

Reading 6-8 new plays yearly and working with other committee members to discern their suitability for the Hotchner Festival.

New Play Development Workshops – Dramaturgical Development on at least 8 full length student plays in preparation for Hotchner Festival. (2008-2017)

Presidential & Vice Presidential Debate Analysis

2012 Barack Obama vs. Mitt Romney
<http://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/24415.aspx>

2008 Joseph Biden vs. Sarah Palin
<http://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/12647.aspx>

2004 George W. Bush vs. John Kerry
<http://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/4032.aspx>

Served as performance analyst during the on campus debates between George W. Bush vs. John Kerry (2004) and Joe Biden vs. Sarah Palin (2008). In 2012, served on a panel evaluating debate strategies during the 2012 Presidential campaign: Obama vs. Romney. Large forum presentations – audiences @ 300 for each event and for closed circuit television.

Washington University's Shakespeare's Globe Program, London: (1996-2014) Serve as point person for Washington University's Summer Program at Shakespeare's Globe. Oversee curriculum development and communication between PAD and Globe Education, London. Master class bookings, theatre bookings, housing arrangements, travel information, PR development and communications with parents and students.

Faculty Coordinator for University College and Summer Courses in Drama – 2000 -2014.
Coordinate all Drama and Speech Classes. Development of new courses and programs.

Performing Arts Department International Studies Liaison -- Currently: Advising for PAD students studying abroad.

Graduate Student Selection Committee – Multiple years of service prior to the closing of the M.A. program, and since the reinstatement of the program – 2011- 2014.

Production Committee – 2002-2014 – Planning and selection of PAD seasons for Edison and Hotchner stages. Chair of Committee in Fall of 2014.

Faculty Advisor: Irene Ryan Competition – Various Years -- Prepare students for competition. Organize and lead travel to the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF).

Lifelong Learning Out-Reach: Ongoing lectures and workshops that coincide with PAD production work. 1992-2014.

Faculty Associate for the Teaching Center: (1997-2002) Appointed by Prof. Jim Davis as an “Associate” -- Seminars and Workshops for Teachers and Graduate Students.

Zoe Caldwell Residency: Responsible for negotiating and hosting Ms. Caldwell’s visit. Organized her master classes, Helen Morrin Lecture, PR, scheduling and introductions.

PSP Committee (Planning and Special Projects – 1999-2002) – committee oversees and coordinates student theatrical and dance productions for the department.

Representative Professional Directing

<i>The Triumph of Love</i> – Marivaux	.Zack Theatre, St. Louis (March 2020 – Featured Performance for the ASECS Conference – American Society of Eighteenth Century Scholars)
<i>True West</i> by Sam Shepard -- 2019	Actor's Studio Theatre
<i>Eat Your Heart Out</i> by Courtney Baron	R-S Theatrics, December 2014
<i>Art Control & Other Plays</i> – Carter Lewis	OnSite Theatre, 2014 -- World Premiere – May 16, 2014
<i>Entertaining Mr. Sloane</i> – Joe Orton	Hot City Theatre, 2013
<i>Goodbye, Ruby Tuesday</i> – E.M. Lewis	Hot City Theatre, 2012 (World Premiere)
<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> – Tennessee Williams	Dramatic License Theatre, 2012
<i>Shrew in a Few</i> -Shakespeare	Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis, 2011
<i>One Extraordinary Darkness</i> - Elizabeth Birkenmeier	OnSite Theatre, 2009 (World Premiere)

<i>Killing Women</i> – Marisa Wegrzyn	Hot City Theatre, 2008
<i>Bluish</i> – Janece Shaffer	New Jewish Theatre, 2008
<i>The Underpants</i> – Steve Martin	City Theatre, St. Louis, 2003
<i>The Homecoming</i> – Harold Pinter	City Players of St. Louis, 2003
<i>Cobb</i> – Lee Blessing	City Players of St. Louis, 2002
<i>Dancing at Lughnasa</i> – Brian Friel	Crest Theatre (Co-Directed with Zoe Caldwell)
<i>The Marriage of Bette and Boo</i> -- Christopher Durang	Florida Atlantic University
<i>Anatol</i> – Arthur Schnitzler	The Washington Stage Guild
<i>The Simpleton</i> – G.B. Shaw	The Washington Stage Guild
<i>An Ideal Husband</i> – Oscar Wilde	The Washington Stage Guild
<i>Marie and Bruce</i> – Wallace Shawn	Asst. Director - Wooly Mammoth Theatre

Washington University Performance

Hamlet – The First Quarto
Staged Reading – Edison Stage

“Ghost”

Shakespeare

Private Jokes, Public Places
Staged Reading/Co-Production between School of Architecture & Performing Arts Department

“Erhardt”

Author: Oren Safdie

Hannah’s Shawl

“Eli”

Author: Henry Schvey

World Premiere production with Jane Lapotaire of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) -- 2000

Oldies on the Rocks

“Dad”

Author: Daniel Sullivan

World Premier production of the Hotchner Award winning play

Caught in Carnation

“Perry”

Author: Peter Hanrahan

New Play Reading of the Hotchner Award Winning Play – Also, participated in dramaturgical workshop with playwright Julie Jensen.

“*Unforgettable*” – a performance/dance piece developed by Christine O’Neill. Performed as part of departmental *Dance Close-up* production. Participated in fundraiser for a local woman’s shelter, and appeared on panel discussion on spousal abuse – which was the theme and focus of the piece.

“*For Robert*” – a performance/dance piece by Mary Jean Cowell. *Dance Close-up*.

“*Research*” – a performance/dance piece by Mary Jean Cowell. *Dance Close-up*. Narrator and Dancer.

Professional Acting

(AEA – Member of Actors' Equity – the association of professional actors in the USA)

<i>Daytrader</i>	Phil	Hot City Theatre Greenhouse Festival 2010
<i>Songs of Extinction</i>	Ellery	Hot City Theatre Greenhouse Festival 2008
<i>The Exonerated</i>	Kerry Max Cook	Hot City Theatre 2004
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	Friar	Latin America Theatre Festival – Cordoba, Argentina
<i>Sign of the Lizard</i>	Garcia Lorca	Florida Atlantic Theatre – (director: Robert Whitehead)
<i>The Simpleton</i>	Iddy	Zellerbach Playhouse, Berkeley, California
<i>Man and Superman</i>	John Tanner	Zellerbach Playhouse, Berkeley, California
<i>A Shayna Maidel</i>	Duvid	Olney Theatre, Maryland
<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	Charles	Washington Stage Guild
<i>Translations</i>	Yolland*	Washington Stage Guild (*Nominated for Helen Hayes Award – "Best Supporting Actor")
<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	Proteus	Round House Theatre, Maryland
<i>The Water Engine</i>	Dave Murray	Round House Theatre, Maryland
<i>Chekhov in Yalta</i>	Bunin	Washington Stage Guild, D.C.
<i>First Lady</i>	Stephen Wayne	Washington Stage Guild, D.C.
<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Tranio	Shakespeare in the Park, D.C.
<i>Scheherazade</i>	Rapist	Horizons Theatre, D.C.
<i>Key Exchange</i>	Michael	Studio Theatre, D.C.
<i>Out!</i>	Buck Weaver	New Playwright's Theatre, D.C.

Television

The Maudelene Company -- Associate Producer for this independent international film and video production company. Currently, serve as a consultant to the Executive Director, Joseph D. Fenton, S.M.

"Ronald Neame: A Life in Film" – premiered 2011 – Direction of Interview sequences, writing, research and editing supervision for the project. This was an international production (PBS "WNET" and Television 4, BBC) exploring the life of the prominent film director Ronald Neame.

“The Company: Inigo and his Jesuits” -- A major documentary on the history of the Society of Jesus for Channel 4 Television in London and American PBS in association with WNET, NY. Researched, wrote, and assisted the director on all levels of the production. Directed two major sequences in the production: Stonyhurst, England portions and all Spain sequences. Film featured the Irish actor Cyril Cusack and historian Paul Johnson.

“Return of the Saints” -- This documentary explored the origins of Christianity in England, focusing on the Venerable Bede, St. Cuthbert, St. Hilda of Whitby, and St. Aidan. Shot on location in Northern England. Hosted by the former Cardinal Archbishop of London – Basil Hume. (PBS & Channel 4, London.)

“China at the Crossroad” – On camera Host and Narrator for this **ABC Television News Documentary**. The program was shot in Shanghai and Hong Kong just three months before the upheaval in Beijing. Also, researched and assisted on all phases of the production – especially on-camera interviews. The documentary studied religious freedom in Communist China, and focused on “state sponsored religion” of The Patriotic Association of Shanghai. Also, the production studied religious freedom in the future, especially Hong Kong.

“Westminster Choir School” – co-wrote and directed with Joseph D. Fenton, this 30-minute special featuring the daily life of choristers and students at Westminster Cathedral Choir School in London.

The Guardian – NBC National Television Special – played the lead role of “Christus” in this original passion play shot at Studio 8-H, New York City. Co-starring: Carl Don.

“KETC – Channel 9 – St. Louis -- Pledge Programming” – Host for live television broadcasts during prime time programming. Introduced guests and programs; appealed for financial support for the Channel 9 network. Worked on multiple campaigns.

Awards

St. Louis Theatre Circle Award – Nomination 2014 -- Eat Your Heart Out -- “Outstanding Ensemble in a Comedy” and for “Best Supporting Actress” – Winner in Best Supporting Category – Katie Donnelly

St. Louis Theater Circle Award – Nomination 2013 – Entertaining Mr. Sloane – Nominated in 3 Categories – “Outstanding Ensemble in a Comedy” – “Outstanding Actress in a Comedy” – “Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy” –

St. Louis Post Dispatch “Judy” awards for **Entertaining Mr. Sloane** – Best of 2013Awards – “Best Actress” and “Best Supporting Actor.”

The Kennedy Center—American College Theatre Festival XXXIX– 2007 – Commendation for Achievement in Direction – for **Hickorydickory**

The Kennedy Center—American College Theatre Festival XXXVIII – 2006 – Commendation for Achievement in Direction – for **Escape from Happiness**

Riverfront Times – Exonerated – “Best Stage Production 2005” – performed “Kerry Max Cook”

Helen Hayes Award nomination for “Outstanding Supporting Actor” – Lt. Yolland, **Translations**, Washington Stage Guild.

Theatre Lobby’s “Mary Goldwater Award” for acting – Washington, D.C.

The Eisner Prize, University of California at Berkeley, for “Creative Achievement of the highest order in Dramatic Art – Acting.”

The “Angel Award” for playwriting for **Father & Son** – NBC Radio

Additional Teaching & Professional Experience

Florida Atlantic University -- 1992-94

Classes Taught: Directing I, Advanced Directing, Theatre History, Introduction to Acting, and Advanced Characterization.

Artistic Director for Studio 2 Theatre (1992 - 1994) -- produced over twenty full-length and one-act plays.

Latin American Theatre Festival – Cordoba, Argentina 1992. Taught directing and acting workshops to festival participants: "Staging Shakespeare."

The George Washington University -- 1983-90

Lecturer: Department of English & Composition. Taught English Composition, Introduction to Literature & Theatre, Remedial Composition. Also, Educational Outreach Program: taught Introduction to College Composition at local Inner City High Schools in Washington, D.C.

Acting for Lawyers –1985-89

Taught presentation skills workshops with founder Gillian Drake. Utilizing techniques from the theatre we trained lawyers, politicians, journalists and business professionals develop their communication skills in dynamic and practical ways.

The American University -- 1988-90

Lecturer: Taught Speech and Performance skills to a wide range of students: actors, broadcast journalists, lawyers and business professionals -- Graduate Seminars. Large and small groups. Individual Coaching, Vocal Training, Public Presentation Guidance.

The Washington Stage Guild -- 1985-91

Founding member of The Washington Stage Guild (WSG), a professional theater company (AEA) in Washington, D.C. Direction on three main stage productions. Educational Outreach and Instruction. Also, helped develop WSG's Mission Statement, and assisted with grant proposals and fund-raising. Planned two full seasons and assisted with new play selection and dramaturgy.

The Arena Stage, Washington, D.C.

Professional Internship: Worked directly with Associate Artistic Director and Literary manager. Worked with Mr Douglas Wager (Artistic Director) on several full productions: Tom Stoppard's *On the Razzle*, Dario Fo's *The Accidental Death of An Anarchist*, Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. Participated in the development of New Play Series, reader on priority play submissions, research assistance for plays in production -- worked closely with Dramaturg on plays in progress and play development.

Writing & Publications

Anatol – adaptation of the Arthur Schnitzler play for World Premiere production at Washington University in 2011. Hotchner Studio Theatre

The Imaginary Invalid – adaptation of the Moliere play with Paul Azarra for World Premiere production at Washington University in 2000 on the Edison stage.

Fictions – a play. Produced at the Market Five Theatre, Washington, D.C.

“Acting Techniques for Teachers” – a commissioned essay for the Teaching Center, Washington University in St. Louis. (Fall 2001)

“Life in the Margin: The Hidden Agenda in Commenting on Student Writing.” Journal of Teaching Writing. Spring/Summer, 1992, Vol. 11, No. 1.

“Performance and Composition: Thoughts from a Director’s Notebook and a Composition Teacher’s Journal.” George Washington Forum, spring, 1990, No. 37.