

JESSICA CLAIRE

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SKILLS

- Management (MFA)
- department chair/assistant
- Program Head (University)
- Educator (university level)
- Author
- Actor
- Director
- Fight Director
- Actor-Combatant

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah • 1995
Ph.D.: Theatre History, Theory, Criticism, and Literature
Studied history, theory, criticism and literature under David Jones, protégé of Tyrone Guthrie.
Studied directing under Tom Markus, Producing Artistic Director of the Pioneer Theater Company and Peterborough Players, and Marilyn Holt, professional actress/director. Continued to act and direct while working on degree.
Was cast as lead in *KLAC*, a musical winner, *THE GLOSS*, which played the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Ph.D.: Theater
Began work on Ph.D. in Directing, but program was terminated shortly after I arrived in Ann Arbor. In one year's residency I studied with Richard Burgin, award winning director, and Eric Fredrickson, President of the Society of American Fight Directors.
I served as fight captain on a production of *CYRANO DE BERGERAC*, with fight director Paddy Crean (fight choreographer for *Errol Flynn*). I taught beginning acting to undergraduates and fencing technique to MFA actors. Course work was shutting down (including seminars) and strategic faculty was leaving. I transferred to the University of Utah after one academic year. Eric Fredrickson wrote me a letter of reference for the Society of American Fight Directors Advanced Combat Workshop which led directly to my later acceptance into the SAFD Teacher Training Workshop (Certified, 1992).

University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, Mississippi • 1983
Master of Arts: Theater: Acting & Directing
Offered full ride scholarship and the opportunity to both act and direct for the Southern Arena Theater, the professional summer theater in residence.

I served as fight captain of the Sabre squad during the 1978-79 season. Also appeared in productions with the local Civic Light Opera (Fullerton) and at Clute University in Azusa.

Studies briefly interrupted when I received my Equity in the spring of my junior year and returned for 9 months. I then returned and completed my degree in 1979.

California State University, Fullerton, California • 1979
Bachelor of Arts: Theater
Emphasis in Acting
Studied acting under professional directors Dean Hess, Kirk Wee, and Gretchen Kanne. Appeared in multiple main stage productions including principal roles in *COMMON, TEN LITTLE INDIANS, THE VOYAGE, THE CRUCIBLE, THE RED PEPERS, ANTONY & CLEOPATRA, AND WHAT THE BUTLER SAW*. Was a member of the CUF Fencing Team and served as captain of the Sabre squad during the 1978-79 season. Also appeared in productions with the local Civic Light Opera (Fullerton) and at Clute University in Azusa.

Studies briefly interrupted when I received my Equity in the spring of my junior year and returned for 9 months. I then returned and completed my degree in 1979.

SUMMARY

I have devoted the last twenty-five years of my career to attempting to maintain a balance between working in the academy and working in the industry of live-theater, television, and film. During that time I have been an educator in three institutions of higher education. I have served as program head and chairman, at various times, at all three of those institutions. I have successfully engaged a wide range of students from elementary age to MFA students in acting. I maintain an active freelance ownership, under various pseudonyms, in film and television as well as a scholar/actor as well.

EXPERIENCE

Regent University - Professor, Chairman of Department of Theatre Arts
Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA; July 2013 - Present
Developed only MFA in Acting in world to explore the intersection of intensive actor training and the Christian worldview. Also developed BA in Theater and BFA in Acting. Over saw and developed MFA program with over 30 MFA students. Directed and supervised undergraduate students. Newly developed BFA in Acting now has 11 students in residence. Also serve as Onsite-Coordinator for the Virginia Beach BASH Stage and Screen Combat Workshop. An Society of American Fight Directors sanctioned workshop in residence for Regent University.

Regent University - Associate Professor and Theater Subgroup Chairman
Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA; June-August 2015
Served as Sub-group Chair over Theater Arts in a Department of Speech and Theater. Taught acting, directing, voice, movement, period, and style in Acting, stage combat, and introduction to theater. Oversee curricular development, budget, and program assessment.

Galveston College - Assistant Professor, Head of Theater
Galveston College, Galveston, TX; June-August 2013
Served as Head of Theater, Producing Artistic Director of the Semi-professional/Community/Amateur Theater in residence. Oversee subscription, budget, and personnel. Taught acting, directing, stage combat, voice and movement, and introduction to theater.

ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
Kirkland, Jessica. *A Selected and Annotated Bibliography of Stage Combat Resource Materials*. Ph. D. Dissertation. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT. June, 1995.

MASTER OF FINE ARTS CREATIVE THESIS PROJECT
Kirkland, Jessica. *The Elephant Man: A Creative Project in Directing*. M.F.A. Thesis Project. University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS. August, 1983.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY: ACADEMIC

Full Professor (tenured) and Chairman, Department of Theatre Arts. Regent University. Virginia Beach, VA; July 2013 to present (total of ten years).

Full Professor (tenured) Chairman and Head of MFA Acting Program. Department of Theatre Arts. Regent University. Virginia Beach, VA; July 2013 to July 2014.

Associate Professor (tenured) Head of MFA Acting Program. Department of Theatre Arts. Regent University. Virginia Beach, VA; July 2008 to July 2013

Adjunct Professor, Stage Combat, Department of Theatre. Old Dominion University; January 16, 2010 to present.

Adjunct Professor, Acting & Directing. Monterey Peninsula College Department of Theatre. Monterey, CA; June 21-August 8, 2009.

Associate Professor and Chair (tenured). Department of Theatre Arts. Regent University. Virginia Beach, VA; July 2002 to 2008.

Adjunct Associate Professor. Introduction to Theater. Old Dominion University. Norfolk, VA; Sept. 2002 to May 2003.

Associate Professor and Subgroup Chair (tenured). Department of Speech Communication and Theatre. Kutztown University. Kutztown, PA; Promoted; May 2002.

Assistant Professor. Dept. of Speech Communication and Theatre. Kutztown University. Kutztown, PA; August 1995 to July 2002 (Upper Deck Theater, 2000).

Producing Artistic Director. Upper Deck Theater. Galveston, TX; August 1989 to June 1995.

Assistant Professor and Director of Theatre. Department of Theatre and Speech. Galveston College, Galveston, TX; August 1989 to June 1995 (Tenured March, 1994).

Instructor. Houston Grand Opera Studio. Houston, TX; May 1992 to June 1995.

Adjunct Assoc. Prof. Drama Department. Houston Community College. Houston, TX; January 1993 to June 1995.

Chairman and Instructor. Department of Theatre Arts. Academic and Performing Arts Complex. Jackson Public Schools. Jackson, MS; August 1986 to June 1989.

Adjunct Assistant Professor. Department of Theater. Millsaps College. Jackson, MS; September 1987 to June, 1989.

Graduate Instructor. Department of Theatre. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT. September 1984 to July 1986.

Graduate Instructor. Department of Theatre Arts. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI; August 1983 to June 1984.

Adjunct Assistant Professor. Department of Theater and Dance. University of Southern Mississippi. Hattiesburg, MS; August 1981 to August 1983.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY: PROFESSIONAL

Director. *The 39 Steps*. Tidewater Stage. Eric Harrell, Producing Artistic Director. Virginia Beach, VA; March, 2017.

Fight Director. *Venue in Flux*. Virginia Stage Company, Norfolk, VA; Director: Jessica Holt; February-March 2017.

Director and Actor. *The Confessional*. Beyond Broadway Productions. Andrew Gowanlad, Producer. Arlington, VA; June-August 2014.

Actor. *The Herd*. Role: Warwick Walgrave. Tidewater Stage. Eric Harrell, Producing Artistic Director; Virginia Beach, VA; July-August, 2014.

Fight Director. *The Three Musketeers*. Americana Theater Company. Derek Martin, Producer, Mainstage, director: Virginia Beach, VA; May-June 2015.

Director. *The Village*. Tidewater Stage. Eric Harrell, Producing Artistic Director. Virginia Beach, VA; July-August, 2014.

Director. *The Cottage*. Americana Theater Company. Derek and Jennifer Martin, Producers. Plymouth, MA; June-July, 2014.

Actor. *Barefoot in the Park*. Role: Victor Masco. Tidewater Stage. Eric Harrell, Producing Artistic Director. Regent University. Virginia Beach, VA; July-August, 2013.

Fight Director. *Romeo and Juliet*. Hampton University. Hampton, Virginia; Director: Robin Boisseau; February-March 2008.

Director & Fight Director. Actor. *Blackbeard & Calico Jack: A Swashbuckling Vaudeville*. Beach Entertainment. Virginia Beach, VA; Producer: Jessica Kirkland; May 2011.

Actor. *Man of La Mancha*. Role: "Sancho Panza." Virginia Musical Theatre. Virginia Beach, VA; Director: Jessica Licata; Producer: Jeff Meredith; October, 2010.

Fight Director. *The Tragedy of Macbeth*. Tidewater Community College. Chesapeake, VA; Director: Ed Jacob, June 2009.

Fight Director. *The Art of Murder*. Genesis Theater Company. Norfolk, VA; Director: Matt Friedman, August 2008.

Director. Christmas, the Best Time of the Year. Musical Theater Performance. Atlantic Shores Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA; December 2004.

Fight Director. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Director: Mark Hudgins. Virginia Musical Theater, Virginia Beach, VA; January 2004.

Fight Director. *MacBath's "The Game of Love and Chance*. Director: Prof. Francine Roussel. Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA; January 2002.

Resident Fight Director. *Muhlenberg Summer Musicals*, Allentown, PA; July-August, 1999.

Teaching Assistant. Society of American Fight Directors National Stage Combat Workshop. University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV; July-August, 1998.

Resident Fight Director. Berks Festival Theatre. Reading, PA; June 1997 to August 1997. Visiting Guest Director. Lafayette College. Dept. of Theatre. Easton, PA; January to March 1997.

Resident Movement Instructor and Fight Director. Houston Grand Opera. Houston, TX; September 1992 to August 1995.

Resident Movement Instructor and Fight Director/Choreographer. The Ensemble Theater of Houston. Houston, TX; January 1994 to August 1995.

Resident Fight Director. Houston Shakespeare Festival. Houston, TX; June 1992 to August 1992.

Founder and Producing Artistic Director. The Alternative Space Theater. The Alternative Production Company. Jackson, MS. March, 1987 to August, 1989.

Program Director. Stephens College/Perry Mansfield Performing Arts Camp. Steamboat Springs, CO. March, 1989 to August 1989.

Founder and Artistic Director. Riverchase Theater. Jackson, MS. August 1986 to January 1989.

Fight Director. Park City Shakespearean Festival. Park City, UT. May 1986 to August 1988.

CLASSES TAUGHT

- Stage Production Acting at all levels (BA BFA)
- Melrose Technique and Melrose Approach (MFA)
- Volvo & Movement: Lessac (BA, MA, and MFA)
- Acting Periods: Shakespeare (BA, MA, and MFA)
- Acting Periods & Styles (BA, BFA, and MFA)
- Stage Combat: Armed & Unarmed (various weapons/forms; BA, BFA, and MFA)
- Acting. Theater Workshop (BA, BFA, and MFA)
- Playwriting (BA & MFA)
- Playing Any/All (BA)
- The Director/Designer Collaboration (MFA)

PUBLICATIONS

Kirkland, Jessica. "Performing the Sacred: Theology and Theatre in Dialogue" by Todd E. Johnson and Dale Savidge, *Religious Studies Review* (book review); Rice University. March 22, 2010.

Kirkland, Jessica. *Stage Combat Resource Materials: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography*. Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc. (Praeger Publishers), Westport CT. 2006.

Kirkland, Jessica. "The Search for Style in Troy: Sword Master Richard Ryan's Contribution to Wolfgang Peterson's Epic Film." *The Fight Master: Journal of the Society of American Fight Directors*. Spring, 2005.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Celebrating the Thirtieth Anniversary of Richard Lester's *The Three Musketeers* and *The Four Musketeers*: An Interview with Actor, Jessica York, Part 2." *The Fight Master: Journal of Society of American Fight Directors*. Spring 2004.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Celebrating the Thirtieth Anniversary of Richard Lester's *The Three Musketeers* and *The Four Musketeers*: An Interview with Actor, Jessica York, Part 1." *The Fight Master: Journal of Society of American Fight Directors*. Spring 2003.

Kirkland, Jessica. Book Review: *Theater: The Live! Art*. A solicited review on McGraw-Hill Theater *Text*. October 1999.

Kirkland, Jessica. Response to a Series of Articles by Professor Bruce Lecure at Miami University in *Stage Directors*. Volume 10, Number 8. September, 1997.

Kirkland, Jessica. Review of Book of the Sword, Sir Richard F. Burton, as published in *The Fight Master: Journal of the Society of American Fight Directors*. Volume 14, number 2, March 1991.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Custom versus nature in Ogier's Preface to *Tyr et Sidon* as compared to Johnson's Preface to *Shakespeare*." *Theater Southwest: Journal of the Southwest Theater Association*. April, 1990.

Kirkland, Jessica. (1987). "A comparison of Romeo and Hamlet as a Reflection of Elizabethan and Jacobean Sensibilities and Shakespeare's Maturation as an Artist." *Theater Southwest: Journal of the Southwest Theater Association*. March, 1987.

*** Peer Reviewed**

INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, CONSULTANCES AND CREATIVE WORKS

Kirkland, Jessica. Director and Actor. *The Confessional*. Beyond Broadway Productions. Andrew Gowanlad, Producer. Arlington, VA; June-August, 2014.

Kirkland, M. Director. *Flashdance*, the Musical. MGA Academy of the Performing Arts, Festival Theatre, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK; May-June, 2013.

Kirkland, M. Teacher. Master Class Series: "Unarmed Combat for the Stage." MGA Academy of the Performing Arts, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK; May-June, 2013.

Kirkland, M. Teacher. Master Class Series: "The Melrose Approach to Acting." MGA Academy of the Performing Arts, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK; April-May, 2013.

Kirkland, M. "The Weapons of Shakespeare's Plays." Christians in Theater Arts International Theatering Conference, Concordia University, Irvine, CA. June 2004.

Kirkland, M. "An Introduction to Melrose Technique." Christians in Theater Arts International Networking Conference. Regent University. June 2003.

Kirkland, M. and R. Ryan "Master Class: Medieval Broadsword Technique." Lecture and Demonstration. Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, London, England. June 2001.

Kirkland, M., R. Ryan & B. Yount. "Master Class: Eighteenth Century Smallsword Technique. London City College of Literature. London, England. June 2001.

Kirkland, M. "Master Class: Jessica Shurtlett Auditioning Techniques." Birmingham School of Acting. Birmingham, England. May 2001.

Kirkland, M. "Master Class: Single Sword Fencing Techniques." Birmingham School of Acting. Birmingham, England. May 2001.

Kirkland, M. "The Sanford Melrose Approach." Lecture and Demonstration. Birmingham School of Acting. Birmingham, England. November, 1999.

Kirkland, M. "Dirty R&B: Blending Rap and Dagger with Unarmed Techniques." Birmingham School of Acting; Birmingham, England. November, 1999.

Kirkland, M. and R. Ryan "The Eighteenth Century Smallsword." Lecture and Demonstration. Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, London, England, London, England. March, 1998.

Kirkland, M. and R. Ryan "Sixteenth Century Elizabethan Rapier and Dagger Technique." Marymount College/London. March 1998.

Kirkland, M. "Competitive Sabre Drills as Entrée to Theatrical Single Sword Technique." Birmingham School of Acting. Birmingham, England; March 1998.

Kirkland, M. "North American Sub-Cultures in the Works of Tony Kushner and Tennessee Williams." Birmingham School of Acting. Birmingham, England; March 1998.

*Peer Reviewed

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, CONSULTANCES AND CREATIVE WORKS

Kirkland, Jessica. A Hauling. "The Allen House." Role: Mark Spencer, lead. Nationally Televised Cable Program. The Discovery Channel. World Dominion Productions. Portsmouth, VA; November 2012.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Stick and No Don Bar: "Ninon Fighting Techniques." Lecture, Demonstration, and Performance of Fight. Society of American Fight Directors Fight Directors Camp. International participation; July 1998.

Kirkland, Jessica. *Medical Detectives*. "The Severs Murders". Role: Roger Severs; Nationally Televised Cable Program. The Learning Channel, MedStar Productions. Allentown, PA; March 1997.

* Peer Reviewed

REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, CONSULTANCES AND CREATIVE WORKS

Kirkland, Jessica, and others. "Breaking Into the Entertainment Industry." Convenor: Booker Mattison, Hampton University March 2017.

Kirkland, Jessica, Mark Paladini, Marianne Savel, and Scott Hayes. "Quo Vadis? The Christian Actor in the 21st Century." Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC), Lexington, KY; International participation. March 2017.

Kirkland, Jessica, Mark Paladini, Marianne Savel, and Scott Hayes. "Quo Vadis? The Christian Actor in the 21st Century." Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC), Greensboro, NC; International participation. March 2016.

Kirkland, Jessica (convenor), Mark Paladini, and Marianne Savel. "Quo Vadis? The Christian Actor in the 21st Century." Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC), Greensboro, NC; International participation. March 2015.

Kirkland, Jessica. "A Smallsword Primer." The Virginia Beach BASH. SAFD Sanctioned Regional Workshop; Regent University; international participation. March 2015.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Combat Improvisation and Apache Knife." The Virginia Beach BASH. SAFD Sanctioned Regional Workshop. Regent University. international participation. March 2015.

Kirkland, Jessica and Hayes, Scott. "Quo Vadis? The Christian Actor in the 21st Century." Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC), Chattanooga, TN; international participation. March 2012.

Kirkland, Jessica (convenor), Mark Paladini, and Scott Hayes. "Quo Vadis? The Christian Actor in the 21st Century." Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC), Birmingham, AL; international participation. March 2013.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Medieval European Quarterstaff." The Virginia Beach BASH. SAFD Sanctioned Regional Workshop. Regent University; international participation. March 2013.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Combat Improvisation and Apache Knife." The Virginia Beach BASH. SAFD Sanctioned Regional Workshop. Regent University. international participation. March 2013.

Kirkland, Jessica and Scott Hayes. "Quo Vadis? The Christian Actor in the 21st Century." Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC), Chattanooga, TN; international participation. March 2012.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Sword Combat: A Multi-Disciplinary Warm-Up." The Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC), Chattanooga, TN; international participation. March 2012.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Fighting with Arthur: Stage Combat and Arthur Lessac's Four Derived Energy Stages." The Virginia Beach BASH. SAFD Sanctioned Regional Workshop. International participation. March 2012.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Speak Softly and Carry a Big (Medieval) Stick: European Quarterstaff." The Virginia Beach BASH. SAFD Sanctioned Regional Workshop. Regent University; international participation; March 2012.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Geronimo: Combat Improvisation and Apache Knife." The Virginia Beach BASH. SAFD Sanctioned Regional Workshop. Regent University; international participation. March 2012.

Kirkland, Jessica and Paladini, Mark. "Quo Vadis? The Christian Actor in the 21st Century." Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC), Atlanta, GA; international participation. March 2011.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Combat Psychology: Combative Verbs and the Playable Action." The Virginia Beach BASH. SAFD Sanctioned Regional Workshop. Regent University. Virginia Beach, VA; international participation; March-April 2011.

Kirkland, M. Man of La Mancha. Actor: Manservant/Sancho Panza. AEA Guest Artist Contract. Virginia Musical Theatre, Virginia Beach, VA; October, 2010.

Kirkland, M. Man of La Mancha. Actor: Manservant/Sancho Panza. AEA Guest Artist Contract. Virginia Musical Theatre, Virginia Beach, VA; October, 2010.

Kirkland, Jessica and Mark Paladini. "Quo Vadis? The Christian Actor in the 21st Century." Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC), Lexington, KY; international participation. March 2010.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Lessac Energy Stages and Apache Knife." The Virginia Beach BASH. SAFD Sanctioned Regional Workshop. Regent University; international participation. March 2010.

Kirkland, Jessica. "Combat Psychology: Combative Verbs and the Playable Action." The Virginia Beach BASH. SAFD Sanctioned Regional Workshop. Regent University. Virginia Beach, VA; international participation; March-April 2011.

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