

KATE EASTWOOD NORRIS
Actor / Teacher / Director
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Education Experience

Associate Visiting Professor

Mary Baldwin College---Staunton, VA

During the summers of 2003,'04,'05, '07 and '09 I developed and taught a 3 credit graduate level class in Clown. The course topics included the origins of clowns and comedy, comic slapstick movement, the mentality and execution of the red nose clown, exploration and development of each student's "personal clown" and some years involved introductory commedia dell arte movement and mask training. As with most of my classes, the teaching style was performance based and the final exam was an ensemble presentation for the public.

Keynote Speaker

VMI Undergraduate Research Conference

In April of 2009, I was privileged to act as the Keynote Speaker for the students and professors from 9 different colleges on the topic of research and its use for the actor. The speech was entitled "Behind the Scenes on the Front Lines" and focused on the different forms research can take and how a working actor might use scholarship in crafting a role. I dealt mainly with Shakespearean roles as these were English students presenting papers on Renaissance and Shakespearean research. Please go to academics.vmi.edu/english/vmiurcsc.html for online information about the conference.

Guest Lecturer

Virginia Military Institute---Lexington, VA

"Hamlet – A Character Dissection"
*"The Complexity of Villainy in *The Merchant of Venice*"*
"Hotspur for President? – An exploration of Honor"
"To Tame a Shrew - Redirecting Kate"

University of Mary Washington---Fredericksburg, VA

"To Tame a Shrew – Redirecting Kate"
"In Their Shoes -How to Read a Play like an Actor"
"Introduction to the physical art of Mask"

St. Mary's College---St. Mary's, MD

"Cross Gender Casting – Playing the Humanity"

Georgetown University---Washington, DC

"Hamlet in Performance"

University of Maryland---College Park, MD

Actor/Lecturer for 2001,2002 UM Shakespeare Conference

Workshop and Class Leader

Shenandoah Shakespeare Express (SSE)---National Tours '97,'98 actor, teacher

I participated in and/or lead over 500 workshops for elementary through graduate level students across the United States. Class topics included Theater History, Stage Combat, Movement and Shakespeare in Performance. The second year of tour, I acted as Educational Assistant, gaining responsibility in workshop development and organization.

SSE Young Company Theatre Camp (YCTC) director, workshop leader

Director---*Clowns and Fools* An evening of scenes

Director---*The Tempest* full production

Educational Theatre Company (ETC) actor, teacher

ETC is a Washington, DC based touring group of theatre instructors who provide workshops and performances for elementary through high school students. I developed and lead over 50 classes with ETC on such subjects as Slapstick Comedy, Mask, Movement, Comic Combat, Playing Comedy, Understanding Shakespeare, Commedia dell Arte. I also Directed two of ETC's three week summer camps and was responsible for the development of over 90 hours of class time, each camp culminating in a student performance, one of which was *King Lear*, admirably performed by fearless fifth graders.

Training

- *B.A. in Theatre Arts, Virginia Polytechnic and State University
emphasis on performance
- *Whole Actor Research Project (W.A.R.P.)-Adele Cabot and Carey Upton, DC
approaching dramatic texts through organic movement and impulse
- *The School For The Comic Actor- Antonio Fava, Reggio Emilia, Italy
Commedia dell Arte, Mask, Movement, Circus, Acrobatics, Clown

Commendations

Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress '06 and '08
Two Helen Hayes Award Nominations for Outstanding Lead Actress: '01,'02
Theatre Lobby Mary Goldwater Award Winner for Outstanding Actress: 00
Source DC Theatre Festival Best Actress Award: '99

References

Dr. Ralph Alan Cohen -Mary Baldwin College 540-292-0080
Professor Alan Baragona -VMI upon request