

Middle School Playwriting Program

Teaching Artists (Page 1 of 2)



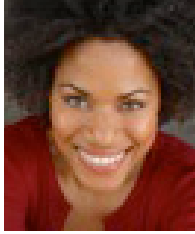
Bernard K. Addison recently performed in the West Coast premiere of *The Ballad of Emmett Till* (winner of the 2011 LA Stage Ovation Award, the Backstage Garland Award and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for both Production of the Year and Acting Ensemble) and the Ovation Award-winning Los Angeles production of *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, both at the Fountain Theatre. He was nominated for the 2006 LA Weekly Theatre Award for Lead Actor for his performance in *Joe Turner* as Herald Loomis. He has performed in other LA productions at Boston Court (*Mother Courage*), the Odyssey (*Macbeth*) and the Ahmanson Theatre (*Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Sir Peter Hall). His New York credits include Broadway (*Electra*) and Off-Broadway (*Incommunicado* at the Judith Anderson, *Uncle Jack* at the Worth Street Theatre). In the regional theatre, he has been a company member at such notable theatres as The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Shakespeare Theatre (formerly the Folger) in Washington, DC, and PlayMakers Repertory Company in Chapel Hill. He has also performed on the stages at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Denver Theatre Center, The Long Wharf Theatre, California Shakespeare Festival, and Indiana Rep. Recent television credits include *Castle*, *Ugly Betty*, *Las Vegas*, *Weeds*, the Emmy-winning seasons of *24*, *Frasier* and *Law and Order*. Film credits include Woody Allen's *Celebrity* and narration for the documentary *The Farm* (1998 Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary). This will mark Bernard's ninth year with Center Theatre Group. He has worked extensively as a teaching artist in New York with the *Lincoln Center Institute*, *Theatre for a New Audience* and the *Theatre Development Fund*. He has also been a teaching artist in the *Text Alive!* Education program at The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington, DC. Originally from Columbia, South Carolina, he was an Assistant Professor of Theatre at the University of South Carolina where he received his bachelor's degree. He holds an MFA in Acting from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



B.J. Dodge is the Faculty Coordinator for the California Institute of the Arts' Community Arts Partnership Youth Theater Workshop at Plaza de la Raza in Lincoln Heights. She has been making theater with youth, students and alumni from CalArts and community-based artists for 20 years, and has taught at CalArts since 1984. She teaches with Center Theater Group and has co-designed a template for collaboration between CTG and L.A.'s Best. She also teaches mask, movement and acting for California State Summer School for the Arts, is a founding member of the Center for Theatre of the Oppressed and Applied Theatre Arts, and a board member of Fringe Benefits, an organization whose mission is to teach tolerance through theater making. A student of Suzuki/Viewpoints, she studies with Anthony Burns and J.Ed Araiza in Los Angeles, and has participated in S.I.T.I. Company's intensive training summer programs in Los Angeles and at Skidmore College. She has participated in REDCAT's "NOW" Festival and Studio series as director and performer, has collaborated recently with "Slanguage" arts consortium as part of a residency at MOCA, and is finishing a memoir about the CAP program's first 20 years at Plaza. In the summer of 2010, she participated in a workshop at Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theater with Jesser de Souza, of LUME Teatro in the physical preparation of the actor.

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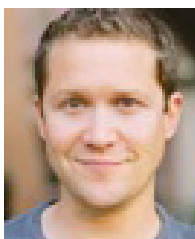


Lee Sherman hails from Denver, Colorado where the creativity bug hit early on as she started classical ballet at the age of 4, attended special programs for dance, singing and acting, and in her teens performed with the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. She then made a transition to the runways and camera lenses in the US and Paris. As a thespian Lee has received favorable reviews in the Los Angeles Times, LA Weekly, Backstage West and Toluca Times. She is currently doing a national tour of a one-woman, seven-character show *New Faces of America*. Other credits under Lee's acting belt include numerous commercials, and a recently released feature film *Contract Killers*. Lee has been teaching at Gary Spatz's The Playground: A Young Actors'

Conservatory for the past 5 years, coaches children for film/television/commercials, and is a teaching artist for Center Theatre Group. She has also worked for DISNEY as a dialogue coach for the *Wizards Of Waverly Place*. Lee takes very seriously the task at-hand -- to be able to teach kids skills to cultivate success in acting but more importantly, in life. She believes wholeheartedly that working with kids has allowed her to keep alive and nurture her own "inner child". Life's a Playground...LET'S PLAY!



Paula Weston Solano has performed in numerous theater productions in Los Angeles and has appeared in independent feature films and episodic television. She spent several years writing and performing political cabaret as a member of *The Platform*. Her solo play *Appearances* was commissioned by the Mark Taper Forum. Paula was awarded a Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department grant to lead an intensive four month writing/production workshop with local at-risk youth and involved them in a critically acclaimed production of *Appearances* at The Met Theater. As a teacher-artist, she has worked on numerous occasions with Cornerstone Theater Company, California State University Summer Arts Program, ASK Theater Projects, Fringe Benefits Alliance, and others. Her plays have been produced by Cornerstone Theater Company, Highways Performance Space and Shakespeare Festival LA/Will Power To Youth. Published works include contributions to "Cootie Shots" and "Conducting a Life: Reflections on the Theatre of Maria Irene Fornes". Paula holds a BA in Theater from California State University, Long Beach and is currently an adjunct faculty member in the Theatre Department at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.



Michael Yurchak is an actor and teaching artist in Los Angeles. In addition to his work with The Middle School Playwriting Program, Michael serves as a project faculty member and curriculum designer for other projects within the department at CTG and Theatricum Botanicum. Michael has taught in New York with the Roundabout Theater Company and The New Victory Theater as well as at Vassar College, NYU, UCLA, and various high schools and middle schools across the country. Favorite acting credits include *Mad Men*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *Watching the Detectives*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *R & J*, and *King Lear*. Michael has also voiced multiple animated characters for Nickelodeon and Cartoon Network. He has recorded over 50 audio

books, and was nominated for a New York News Emmy for his promo work on NY1. Michael holds an MA from NYU and a BA from Colgate University.

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