

Cornelia Hart

Actor, Director, Teaching Artist, Audition and Performance Coach

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EXPERIENCE

Independent Contractor, Greater Washington, DC Area — *Acting Instruction, Audition Coaching, Private Teaching*

2003 - Present

In response to the needs of my students, I developed the *Think, Breathe, Say* method, an accessible technique for students of acting to express a character's responses in a way that is personally and emotionally safe. Discovering a character's thought and emotional life through text, rhythms of speech, breath and movement are central to this teaching method, particularly as applied to Shakespeare's verse. I also provide independent, private coaching for those preparing to audition, whether for professional opportunities, or for acceptance into pre-professional programs.

1993 - 2011

Taught classes in British Literature, and Composition and Rhetoric to secondary school students within the local home-schooling communities. My Composition and Rhetoric curriculum included a unit on public speaking and oral presentation of researched projects.

Workshop Development and Presentation

2009 - 2010

Developed, created and present *Acting Shakespeare*, and *Acting in Verse: Workshop Training in Verse Performance and Text Analysis for Actors*. These twin workshops, designed for presentation over from one to three days, help student actors find and exploit textual clues for the development and voicing of characters through lecture, power point, and practica. Both workshops can be combined into a seminar format, which I successfully presented to faculty and students at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio in 2010.

2012 - Present

Developed and present a *Lector Workshop* for parishioners who wish to participate in the reading of scripture during the liturgy. The workshops impart skill in voice production, clarity of speech, physical presence (stance, centering, freedom of the breath and vocal apparatus), and aid in interpretation of material (how to read for sense and clarity of intention, how to communicate central ideas). This is an ongoing volunteer service I provide to Saint Bernadette Church in Silver Spring, MD in response to a request by the pastor, Msgr. K. Bartholomew Smith.

SKILLS

Directing, Teaching, Writing,
Acting and Public
Presentations

Voice and speech, movement,
and public reading/ speaking,
audition techniques,
performance.

Diagnose and address issues
that impair performance in
voice, speech and movement.

On Camera and Voiceover

Teleprompter

AWARDS

Forbes-Robertson Prize for
performance in Shakespeare,
awarded by the Royal
Academy of Dramatic Art,
London, 1978

Hardwicke Memorial Prize
for performance in the works
of George Bernard Shaw,
awarded by the Royal
Academy of Dramatic Art,
London, 1978

Dame Flora Robson Prize for
outstanding student, awarded
by the Royal Academy of
Dramatic Art, London, 1978

**Outstanding Actress in a Play
in Professional Theater**
awarded by Washington
DCMetroTheaterArts 2016

HST Cultural Arts, Rockville, MD — Co-Artistic Director

September 2008 - May 2014

Assisted in the development of vision, direction and oversight of production and artistic choices for the organization's various performing arts programs.

HST Cultural Arts, Rockville, MD — Shakespeare Troupe Artistic Director/Production Director

September 2003 - Present

Train and direct a select group of secondary school students for a fully realized production of a play by William Shakespeare performed in April each year at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in Rockville, MD as part of the Rockville Civic Arts Initiative. My curriculum includes basic training in voice, speech, and movement, as well as the cultural and historical context of the plays. My responsibilities include dramaturgy, and design oversight. I also created a Stage Management Training program for the students concentrating on technical theater.

Begun as a scene study class in 2003, the program was so successful in its first year, that projected enrollment forced a move to larger venue, Montgomery County's Bushey Drive Theater (formerly Round House Theater), and provided the budget for a higher level of production values. It has continued to grow and please large audiences each year.

Cedar Brook Academy, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Tutoring Academy, St. Philomena Academy Silver Spring/Rockville/Olney — Teacher/Tutor Literature & Composition & Rhetoric

September 1993 -May 2011

Developed and taught curricula in Literature (British, American, Shakespeare AP) and Composition/Rhetoric. Areas of concentration included historical and cultural context, text analysis, literary imagery and symbolism, research projects using primary source materials where possible, oral presentation of research. Certain classes could be classified as Advanced Placement courses.

EDUCATION

Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London — Honours 1978

1976 - 1978

Completed with honours and awards the full professional conservatory course for actors. Studied with Michael McCallion, Elizabeth Pursey (voice and speech), June Kemp, Eva Ronin, and Maria Feodorova (modern and historic/period dance, movement), Ben Benison (clowning/mime), Henry Marshall (fencing/stage combat), all under the guidance of the legendary Hugh Cruttwell, Principle of the Academy.