

*Curriculum Vitae*

# Cooper Dean Sivara

[coopersivaradirecting@gmail.com](mailto:coopersivaradirecting@gmail.com)

418 E 31<sup>st</sup> St Apt 79, Hastings, NE 68901

(650) 804-5642

<https://coopersivaradirecting.com>

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## **Education**

**M.F.A., Theatre Directing**, Baylor University, Waco, TX 2019

**B.A., Theatre Acting**, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 2011

## **Training**

**Noh Traditional Theater Training** – Kyoto Art Center 2018

- Month-long training program in the art of Noh performance
- Studying with Noh masters exploring movement, gesture, chanting, fan, and mask work
- Learning to play the *kotsuzumi*, a shoulder drum used in performances
- Workshops in kyōgen performance, a comedic form of traditional Japanese theatre
- Practical application through a recital on a traditional Noh stage
- Performance of a solo dance, or *shimai*, as well as a choral chant

**The Viewpoints/Suzuki Method** – Anne Bogart & SITI Company 2018

- Month-long intensive as part of SITI Company's Summer Theater Workshop
- Training focusing on The Viewpoints and Suzuki Method
- Courses taught by Anne Bogart and members of SITI Company
- Composition work on *The Bacchae* by Euripides
- Workshop performance of *The Bacchae* directed by Anne Bogart

**Lessac Voice Intensive** – Dr. Marion Castleberry 2018

- Two-week voice intensive exploring the work of Arthur Lessac
- Readings from and discussions about Lessac's *The Use and Training of the Human Voice*
- Exercises focusing on vocal energies, breathing, relaxation, and text work

**Acting Internship** – Shakespeare Santa Cruz 2010

- 3-month internship during SSC's summer season
- Ensemble role in *Othello*, directed by Pam MacKinnon

**Directing Internship** – Shakespeare Santa Cruz 2009

- 3-month internship during SSC's summer season
- Assistant directing *Julius Caesar*, directed by John Sipes

## University Teaching

Visiting Instructor of Theatre, Hastings College, Hastings, NE

2022 – Present

### THRE 101/201/301/401: Production Involvement I – IV

- Course for students participating in mainstage productions
- Director collaborating with student actors, designers, technicians, and crew
- Productions directed: *The Whale* (2023), *She Kills Monsters* (2024)

### THRE 121: Fundamentals of Acting

- Introductory course designed for Theatre major and non-major students
- Introduction to action-based acting techniques including improvisational exercises, script analysis, character development, journaling, and physical & vocal exercises
- Practical application through a monologue project from a contemporary play

### THRE 240: Improv

- Introductory course designed for Theatre major and non-major students
- Introduction to foundational storytelling elements such as character development, relationships, given circumstances, conflict, and resolution
- Practical application through improvisational exercises, games, and performance

### THRE 334: Directing

- Advanced course designed for Theatre major and minor students
- Introduction to directing technique including script analysis, dramaturgy, rehearsal structure, concept development, and director/actor collaboration
- Practical application through 10-minute scenes directed by the students

### THRE 335: Movement for the Stage

- Advanced course designed for Theatre major/minor students and non-major students
- Group movement and choral work rehearsing scenes from Euripides' *The Bacchae*
- Introduction to The Viewpoints of gesture, spatial relationship, and tempo through scene work from *A Streetcar Named Desire*

### THRE 450: Survey of Theatre History

- Part of a Directed Study for one Theatre major student
- Co-taught the course with my half serving as an introduction to Shakespeare
- Readings and discussions from John Barton's *Playing Shakespeare*
- Dramaturgical analysis and discussions of several of Shakespeare's plays

Part-Time Faculty – Theatre, Coconino Community College, Flagstaff, AZ

2022

*\*Hired, but classes did not make enrollment*

### THR 101: Introduction to Theatre

- Introductory course featuring lectures, group discussions, student-led creative projects, and exercises to offer students a theoretical and experiential introduction to theatrical arts

THR 110: Acting I

- Introductory course featuring exercises, monologue work, scene work, and group discussions to offer students a hands-on approach to the fundamentals of acting

**Visiting Lecturer – Theatre Generalist, Baylor University, Waco, TX**

2019 – 2020

THEA 1102: Fundamentals of Voice & Movement II

- Introductory practical course for Theatre major students
- Co-taught the course with a professor of voice
- Character development through physical and vocal exercises
- Practical application through a monologue project from a contemporary play

THEA 3114 & THEA 4114: Workshop in Traditional Musical Theatre II & III

- Upper-level musical theatre performance course designed for Theatre major students
- Co-taught the course with two music directors
- Coursework focusing on character development, musical text, storytelling, movement, and voice
- Practical application through a cabaret-style public performance

THEA 1306: Introduction to Theatre

- Introductory course for 25 non-major students
- Class topics explore the artists, traditions, and history of theatre
- Students attend, discuss, and analyze productions from Baylor Theatre's mainstage season
- Student-led creative projects, practical introductory exercises, and group discussions

**Teacher of Record, Baylor University, Waco, TX**

2017 – 2019

THEA 1314: Acting for Non-Majors

- Introductory acting course designed for 12-16 non-major students
- Improvisation, character development, voice, movement, and action-based acting techniques
- Practical application through monologue work and scene study

THEA 1206: Theatre Appreciation

- Lecture course designed for 60-100 non-major students.
- Exploring the evolution of theatre from social, historical, and cultural perspectives
- Introducing the artists, skills, crafts, traditions, and history of theatre

**Online Teaching, Baylor University, Waco, TX**

2020

THEA 1102: Fundamentals of Voice & Movement IITHEA 3114 & 4114: Workshop in Traditional Musical Theatre II & IIITHEA 1306: Introduction to Theatre**Guest Lectures/Demonstrations**Baylor University, THEA 3302: Acting: Period Styles

2020

- Introductory exercises in The Suzuki Method

**Teaching Assistant, Baylor University, Waco, TX**

2016 – 2018

THEA 3301: Acting: Advanced Realism

- Advanced acting course for Theatre major students
- Introducing Stanislavski's system through reading and class discussions of *An Actor's Work*
- Practical application of Stanislavski's system through scene work from playwrights including Ibsen, Miller, and contemporary playwrights
- Teaching assistant responsibilities include leading discussions on *An Actor's Work*, grading student responses to the text, and offering direction and acting coaching on scene work in tandem with the professor

THEA 1206: Theatre Appreciation

- Teaching assistant responsibilities include grading tests, monitoring student attendance and participation, and guest lecturing

**Teaching Artist**

**Center REPertory Company's Young Rep Workshop, Walnut Creek, CA**

2016

Advanced Acting – Teaching Assistant

- Summer acting course designed for advanced high school students
- Class discussions and readings focused on major American acting teachers and techniques
- Practical application of those techniques through scene work from contemporary plays

Advanced Actor's Performing Workshop – Teaching Assistant/Assistant Director

- Summer production course designed for advanced high school students
- Experiential learning through rehearsals and performances of *Hamlet*

**Theatre of Arts, Los Angeles, CA**

2013 – 2015

Acting I

- Introductory course on fundamental principles of acting
- Class readings and discussions exploring the work of Stanislavski
- Practical application through contemporary monologues and scene work

Acting IV

- Advanced course dedicated to analyzing, rehearsing, and performing Shakespeare's works
- Readings from and group discussions about John Barton's *Playing Shakespeare*
- Practical application through monologues and scene work

Rehearsal Production

- Introduction to the conventions, expectations, and challenges of the rehearsal process
- Practical application through rehearsals and performances for faculty and students

Contemporary Scene Study

- Scene work exploring character, language, physicality, and action-based techniques

## **Professional Positions**

### **City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ**

College Depot at Phoenix Public Library – College Access Advisor 2022

- Develop, lead, and moderate presentations on the college planning process
- GRIT Advisor – one-on-one advisement for high school students throughout their senior year focusing on college applications, financial aid, and scholarships
- Writing, developing, and editing video content for YouTube channel
- Website and social media management

College Depot at Phoenix Public Library – Librarian Assistant 2020 - 2022

- Develop, lead, and moderate presentations on the college planning process
- Administrative duties
- Writing, developing, and editing video content for YouTube channel
- Website and social media management

### **Baylor University, Waco, TX** 2016 – 2017

Theatre Department – Research Assistant

- Support professor’s research through organizational, administrative, and clerical work
- Employ different research strategies to fully investigate a topic or source

Theatre Department – Front of House Manager

- Overseeing will-call
- Organizing and supervising ushers
- Pre-show, intermission, and post-show management
- Patron relations

### **Ark Theatre Company, Los Angeles, CA** 2012 – 2014

Associate Artistic Director

- Season planning in collaboration with the Artistic Director
- Directing multiple productions for the company
- Box office management, marketing, and finances

## **Technology**

- Microsoft Office, Outlook, Google Workspace
- Microsoft Teams, Zoom, WebEx, Discord, Google Meet
- Social Media Management – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
- Website Design & Maintenance – Squarespace & SharePoint
- Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere Pro, iMovie, QLab, Canva
- Canvas Learning Management System

## **Publications**

“*Performing Kamishibai: An Emerging New Literacy for a Global Audience* (review).” *Asian Theatre Journal* 37.1 (Spring 2020).

## University Service

Co-director of Baylor's iGrad, an educational, sketch-based performance for new student orientation 2019 – 2020

## Awards & Nominations

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Baylor University [Nomination] 2019

Judy Locy Wright - Patricia Cook and Bill Cook Endowed Theatre Scholarship 2018

## Conference Presentations

“To Thine Own Self Be True: Creating Unique Directorial Concepts in Cross-Genre Shakespearean Adaptation,”  
Comparative Drama Conference (CDC), Orlando, FL 2018

“Weathering the Storm: The Supernatural in Conor McPherson’s *The Seafarer*,” Texas Educational Theatre  
Association (TETA) Academic Symposium, Galveston, TX 2018

## Directing Experience

### Professional Theatre

<i>Hamlet</i>	William Shakespeare	Ark Theatre Company
<i>Equivocation</i>	Bill Cain	Ark Theatre Company
<i>Clutch</i>	Mary Beth Menna	Ark Theatre Company
<i>The Pillowman</i>	Martin McDonagh	Ark Theatre Company
<i>The Death of Kings</i> [adaptation]	William Shakespeare	Ark Theatre Company
<i>babel</i>	Sevan K. Greene	The Blank Theatre

### Educational Theatre

<i>She Kills Monsters</i>	Qui Nguyen	Hastings College
<i>The Whale</i>	Samuel D. Hunter	Hastings College
<i>CaBEARet Spring 2020</i>	Various	Baylor University
<i>CaBEARet Fall 2019</i>	Pasek & Paul	Baylor University
<i>Ice Glen</i>	Joan Ackermann	Baylor University
<i>Honeymoon in Vegas</i> [co-director]	Jason Robert Brown	Baylor University
<i>Harp with Human Head (Kundi)</i>	Devised	Baylor University
<i>The First Celestial Adventure of Mr. Antipyrine, Fire Extinguisher</i>	Tristan Tzara	Baylor University
<i>Grand Concourse</i>	Heidi Schreck	Baylor University
<i>The Tempest</i>	William Shakespeare	UCLA
<i>Edward II</i>	Christopher Marlowe	UCLA

## Acting Experience

<i>Audience</i> [Staged Reading]	Vanek	Baylor University / Steven Pounders
<i>The Bacchae</i> [Workshop]	Chorus	SITI Summer Theater / Anne Bogart
<i>The Taming Of The Shrew</i>	Grumio	Ark Theatre Company / Paul Wagar
<i>The Death of Kings</i> [Adaptation]	Falstaff	Ark Theatre Company / Cooper Sivara
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Snug	Ark Theatre Company / Paul Wagar
<i>La Ronde</i>	The Count	Shakespeare Santa Cruz / Kirsten Brandt
<i>Love's Labor's Lost</i>	A Forester	Shakespeare SC / Scott Wentworth
	Don Armado [u/s]	
<i>Othello</i>	Ensemble	Shakespeare SC / Pam MacKinnon
	Iago [u/s]	
<i>Paradise Lost</i>	Gus Michaels	UCLA / Marilyn Fox

## **References**

**DeAnna Toten Beard, M.F.A., Ph. D.**

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs  
Professor of Theatre History  
Baylor University  
One Bear Place #97262  
Waco, TX 76798  
[DeAnna\\_Toten\\_Beard@baylor.edu](mailto:DeAnna_Toten_Beard@baylor.edu)  
(254) 710-6486

**Annette Vargas, Ph.D.**

Vice President for Access, Enrollment, & Performance  
Hastings College  
710 N Turner Ave.  
Hastings, NE 68901  
[avargas@hastings.edu](mailto:avargas@hastings.edu)  
(402) 461-7349

**Judy Reno**

College Depot Director  
Phoenix Public Library  
Burton Barr Central Library, 2nd Floor  
1221 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004  
[judy.reno@phoenix.gov](mailto:judy.reno@phoenix.gov)  
(602) 262-7783

**David Jortner, Ph.D.**

Graduate Program Director  
Associate Professor of Theatre Arts  
Baylor University  
One Bear Place #97262  
Waco, TX 76798  
[David\\_Jortner@baylor.edu](mailto:David_Jortner@baylor.edu)  
(254) 710-6452

**Steven Pounders, M.F.A.**

Professor of Acting  
Baylor University  
One Bear Place #97262  
Waco, TX 76798  
[Steven\\_Pounders@baylor.edu](mailto:Steven_Pounders@baylor.edu)  
(254) 710-6483

**Kristopher Seydel**

College Depot Associate Director  
Phoenix Public Library  
Burton Barr Central Library, 2nd Floor  
1221 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004  
[kristopher.seydel@phoenix.gov](mailto:kristopher.seydel@phoenix.gov)  
(602) 402-2105