

Curriculum Vitae
TARA CHIUSANO
EMC
(she/her)
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EDUCATION

M.F.A., Theatre Arts: Classical Acting (3.97 GPA) July 2018
Perform and defend the role of Dionyza in *Pericles*
The Academy for Classical Acting with George Washington University, and The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington, DC

B.A., Theatre Arts: Performance (3.0 GPA) May 2002
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages- TESOL (150 hours) Fall 2022
Arizona State University, Accredited, globally recognized

Teaching English as a Foreign Language- TEFL (120 hours) Summer 2022
TEFL Hero, Accredited, globally recognized

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

UT Martin Safe Zone Training, Part 1 Fall 2022
University of Tennessee Martin

Title IX Annual Training Fall 2022
University of Tennessee Martin

TESOL Teach English Now! Capstone Project 2 Fall 2022
Arizona State University, Coursera.org

TESOL Teach English Now! Technology Enriched Teaching Fall 2022
Arizona State University, Coursera.org

TESOL Teach English Now! Second Language Speaking, Listening, and Pronunciation Summer 2022
Arizona State University, Coursera.org

TESOL Teach English Now! Second Language Reading, Writing, and Grammar Summer 2022
Arizona State University, Coursera.org

Annual Campaigns: Building a Case for Support Summer 2022
UC Davis, Coursera.org

Fundraising and Development Foundations Summer 2022
UC Davis, Coursera.org

Virtual: Moving Voice to Text with Ausar Stewart Fall 2020
Pounds per Square Inch, Toronto, CA

Foundations of Mindfulness Winter 2022
Rice University, Coursera.org

Mindfulness and Well-Being: Living with Balance and Ease Spring 2022
Rice University, Coursera.org

TESOL Teach English Now! Capstone Project 1 May 2022
Arizona State University, Coursera.org

TESOL Teach English Now! Foundational Principles Summer 2021
Arizona State University, Coursera.org

TESOL Teach English Now! Lesson Design and Assessment Fall 2021
Arizona State University, Coursera.org

TESOL Teach English Now! Theories of Second Language Acquisition Fall 2021
Arizona State University, Coursera.org

Life Coaching Certificate Winter 2021
The Academy of Modern Applied Psychology, Udemy.com

3-Day Intensive Workshop: Shakespeare's Heightened Language Fall 2016
Patsy Rodenberg, New York, NY

Dad's Garage Training Program (4 semesters) Summer 2012
Matt Horgan and Staff, Decatur, GA

ACADEMIC TEACHING

Lecturer of Theater Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
Theatre Department, University of Tennessee Martin, Martin, TN
Taught Basic Acting for majors and non-majors, Advanced Acting, Playwriting, and Intro to Theater. Built entire courses from scratch on Canvas. Used Canvas for grading, quizzes, discussions, and assignments.

Guest Instructor of Voice and Speech Fall 2021 – Spring 2022
Theatre Program, University of Tennessee Martin, Martin, TN
Responsible for teaching Voice and Speech for the Stage and IPA courses

Instructor of Theatre

Spring 2016 - Spring 2017

Theatre Department, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

*Taught Acting for majors and non-majors. Used Canvas for grading and assignments.***PRIVATE COACHING****Acting, Voice & Speech, Movement Coach**

2020-Present

Speak with Tara, Remote work and Face-to-Face

*CEO of Speak with Tara, in charge of scheduling, marketing, updating the website, taking payments, creating lesson plans, and teaching***Online Acting, Voice & Speech, Accent Reduction, Improv, and Life Coach** 2020-2022

Preply.com, iTalki.com, Remote work

*Taught online private lessons to students of all ages from around the world. Responsible for selling classes, and creating lesson plans for ESL students, lawyers, doctors, IT professionals, and actors.***NON-ACADEMIC TEACHING****Actor/Teaching Artist**

2018-2020

The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington, D.C.

*Perform in shows A Mini-Summer Night's Dream and Tiny Tempest and then assist with post-show teaching workshops that help deepen the students' understanding of Shakespeare's plays.***Improv Camp Instructor/Curriculum Creator**

2015-2017

Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA

*Lead improv summer camps for high schoolers, host the final showcase performance and design the curriculum for the camps.***Actor/Teaching Artist**

2013-2015

Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Atlanta, GA

*Perform in the school tour of James and the Giant Peach, teach after-school drama classes, lead summer drama camps, and activities for kids ages 5+.***Corporate and Educational Improv Facilitator**

2008-2015

Self-employed, Atlanta, GA

*Corporate Improv Credits: Equifax, Levantina Stone Company, State Farm Insurance. Taught improv comedy for Senior Citizens at The Stage Troupe. Performed at The Basement Theatre with The Janiteers.***TEACHING AREAS****University of Tennessee Martin, Martin, TN**

- **THEA 420, Advanced Acting**

This course develops and enhances the actor's skills and techniques through advanced analysis and performance of monologues, scenes, and improvisation. The course will focus on various period styles, performance methodologies, the audition process, the actor's process/approach, and critique.

University of Tennessee Martin, Martin, TN

- **THEA 220, Basic Acting for Majors and Non-Majors**

Acting 220 is a beginning acting class designed to introduce students to the skills necessary to practice the craft of acting. Students will participate in various exercises designed to stimulate those creative processes through improvisation and solo and group exercises. Emphasis will be communication with other actors, stage movement, character/text analysis skills, playing an action, and performance.

University of Tennessee Martin, Martin, TN

- **THEA 110, Understanding Theater (Intro to Theater)**

This class incorporates all elements of the art of theatre. We will talk about the aesthetics, origins, and development of theatre, as well as the social implications and practical processes involved in producing live theatre. Lecture, discussion, videos, and live theatre performances are used to bring students to an appreciation of the vital role theatre plays in society.

University of Tennessee Martin, Martin, TN

- **THEA 390, Playwriting**

The course includes but may not be limited to; lecture, research (concrete and/or imaginative), creative exploration/ process, writing exercises, viewing/reading assignments, and presentations. Students learn to write by writing. There will be writing exercises designed to help each student create/write a monologue, a one-minute play, a 10-minute play, and a one-act play for the Final Project. In class, some time will be spent writing and hearing each other's work. For parts of each class, except the last class, there will be a lecture about the elements of writing and helping students to think as a writer.

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

- **THEA 120, Acting I for Non Majors: Intro to Acting**

Introduction to basic principles, theories, and techniques of acting: concentration, observation, relaxation, and objective. Students will learn basic character study with exploration of physical and vocal dynamics. The focus will be on the creation of the fundamental aspects of the craft of acting, an introduction to basic behavioral and imaginative skills, and the development of a practical method for creating simple belief and playing an action. Students will learn a rehearsal approach to developing a scene and a monologue. Moreover, they will be given a framework for observing the work of an actor by attendance at IU productions.

University of Tennessee Martin, Martin, TN

- **ENG 390, Playwriting for English Majors**

The course includes but may not be limited to; lecture, research (concrete and/or imaginative), creative exploration/ process, writing exercises, viewing/reading assignments, and presentations. Students learn to write by writing. There will be writing exercises designed to help each student create/write a monologue, a one-minute play, a 10-minute play, and a one-act play for the Final Project. In class, some time will be spent writing and hearing each other's work. For parts of each class, except the last class, there will be a lecture about the elements of writing and helping students to think as a writer.

SERVICE TO THE THEATRE PROGRAM

University of Tennessee Martin, Martin, TN

- Dialect coach Spring 2022
 - *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Russian and Italian)
- Voice & Speech Coach Fall 2021
 - *Macbeth*

OUTREACH

Young Writer's Conference, Martin, TN

November 18th, 2022

Taught a playwriting workshop with 20 high schoolers. Introduced the fundamentals of good playwriting and started with a generative activity. The workshop culminated in the students writing and performing their one-minute play.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Workshop "Connection Through Conversation"- led by Amber L. Wright, TEDx speaker and Life Coach

Equity Membership Candidate in the Actor's Equity Program

Creative Mornings Global Network

George Washington University Professional Development Alumni Book Club

Books read and discussed: *The Elevated Communicator: How to Master Your Style and Strengthen Well-Being at Work* by Maryanne O'Brien

GW Alumni in Media and Communications Group

Global Women's Institute

LinkedIn

HONORS SOCIETY AND RECOGNITION

A proud member of Alpha Psi Omega- National Theatre Honor Society

Golden Key International Honor Society

Actor – Zoom & Gather

Antigona, various roles 2021
 Tapanco in Merida, YUC, Dir. Alejo Medina

AWake for 2020, various roles 2020
 Urban Garden Productions, Dir. P.J. Maske

Actor - Film & Television

The Infection, role of X 2019
 Longacre Lea, Dir. Seamus Miller
*Official Selection Canada Shorts Film Festival, Global Shorts Winner (special mention),
 Award Winner Best Shorts Competition, Official Selection Portland Film Festival*

A Clown Named Vernon, role of Roxanne 2016
 Indiana University, Dir. Michael Blomquist

Missing Person's Unit, role of Brooke Henson (Ep. #2.11) 2008
 CourtTV/TruTV, Dir. Eric Hunsaker

Happenstance, role of Sarah 2007
 Under Construction Production, Dir. Daniel Kernkraut, Dir. Peter Withers
Official Selection Palm Springs Film Festival

FOURGE, role of Freida Biggins 2007
 48 Film Festival, Dir. Kevin Finkelstein

Festivale, role of Becky Simpson 2007
 Unknown Penguin Productions, Dir. Patrick Flynn

Buddy Jackson, role of Irina/Susie (Ep. "The Russian Quandary") 2007
 Integral Arts, Dir. Barry Gribble

Two Front Teeth, Featured 2006
 Roast Beast LLC, Dir. Jamie Nash, Dir. David Thomas Skrabulis

The Invasion, Stand In 2007
 Warner Bros., Dir. Oliver Hirschbiegel

Actor - Theatre

Tiny Tempest, adapted by Dan Crane, roles of Trinculo/Ariel 2018
 Based on William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*
 The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington, DC, Dir. Samantha Wyer Bello

A Mini-Summer Night's Dream, adapted by Dan Crane, roles of Helena/Pyramus 2018
 Based on William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
 The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington, DC, Dir. Samantha Wyer Bello

<i>The Bridges of Madison County</i> , by Marsha Norman, role of Marian The Legacy Theatre, Atlanta, GA, Dir. Mark Smith	2019
<i>Macbeth</i> , by William Shakespeare, roles of Witch #1/Fleance/Lady MacDuff Chesapeake Shakespeare, Baltimore, MD, Dir. Seamus Miller	2018
<i>Pericles</i> , by William Shakespeare, role of Dionysis The Academy for Classical Acting, Dir. Alec Wild	2018
<i>Julius Caesar</i> , by William Shakespeare, roles of Decius/Titinius The Academy for Classical Acting, Dir. Cameron Knight	2018
<i>Hamlet</i> , by William Shakespeare, role of Rosencrantz The Harmon Center, Dir. Alec Wild	2018
<i>Persuasion</i> , by Jennifer Le Blanc, roles of Mary/Mrs. Smith Indiana University Summer Theatre, Dir. Dale McFadden	2017
<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i> , by William Shakespeare, role of Moth Indiana University Summer Theatre, Dir. Jonathan Michaelson	2017
<i>The Tempest</i> , by William Shakespeare, role of Trinculo Indiana University, Dir. Henry Woronicz	2017
<i>My Children! My Africa!</i> , by Athol Fugard, role of Isabel Art of Africa, Dir. Murray McGibbon	2017
<i>Vanya, Sonia, Masha & Spike</i> , by Christopher Durang, role of Sonia Indiana University, Dir. Jonathan Michaelson	2016
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , by William Shakespeare, role of Puck Indiana University Summer Theatre, Dir. Jonathan Michaelson	2016
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i> by Joseph Hanreddy and JR Sullivan, role of Lucy Steele Indiana University Summer Theatre, Dir. Dale McFadden	2016
<i>Occupants</i> , by Mauricio Miranda, role of Alma (Lead) Indiana University, Dir. Katie Horowitz	2016
<i>Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play</i> , by Anne Washburn, roles of Maria/Lisa Indiana University, Dir. Jonathan Michaelson	2015
<i>Water Works!</i> by SMP Staff, role of "Boss" Stone Mountain Park Entertainment, Dir. SMP Staff	2015

<i>Train Show</i> by SMP Staff, role of Train Guide Stone Mountain Park Entertainment, Dir. Marcie Millard	2015
<i>Rocket Boys the Musical</i> by Homer Hickam, Jr., role of Fence Wife The Legacy Theatre, Dir. Mark Smith	2015
<i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens and SMP Staff, various roles Stone Mountain Park Entertainment, Dir. Robert Egizio	2014
<i>Music Man</i> by Meredith Wilson, role of Ethel Toffelmier The Legacy Theatre, Dir. Mark Smith	2014
<i>Keep on the Sunny Side</i> by Douglas Pote, role of Maybelle Carter The Legacy Theatre, Dir. Thomas Ward	2014
<i>Camelot</i> by Lerner and Lowe, role of Ensemble Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Dir. Bob Farley	2014
<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i> by Mary Rogers, role of Ensemble Stage Door Players, Dir. Robert Egizio	2013
<i>Harry the Dirty Dog</i> by Various, role of “Girl” The Legacy Theatre, Dir. Mark Smith	2013
<i>Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson</i> by Michael Friedman, role of Ensemble Actor’s Express, Dir. Freddie Ashley	2013
<i>The Woman in Black</i> by Stephen Mallatrat, role of Actor/Kipps Grassroots Theatre, Dir. Joel Coady	2013
<i>James and the Giant Peach</i> by Roald Dahl, role of Ladybug Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Dir. Laurel Crowe	2011-2012
<i>Candide</i> by Leonard Bernstein and Voltaire, role of The Old Woman Georgia Theatre Alliance, Dir. Sally Robertson	2011
<i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i> by William Shakespeare, role of Hermia Tallapoosa Theatre Festival, Dir. Michelle Darby	2011
<i>The Vagina Monologues</i> by Eve Ensler, various M. Power Productions, Dir. Onyx Keesha	2010
<i>This Digital Life</i> by Joseph Price, various roles Capitol Theater Festival, Dir. Joseph Price	2008
<i>One Touch of Venus</i> by Kurt Weill, role of Ensemble	2007

American Century Theatre, Dir. ACT Staff	
<i>Winnie the Pooh</i> by A.A. Milne, role of Rabbit Adventure Theatre, Dir. Shelby Sours	2006
<i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens, role of Tiny Tim American Family Theatre, National Tour, Dir. AFT Staff	2005
Children's Theater Tours, various roles Theatre IV, East Coast USA, Dir. Ford Flannagan	2002-2004
<i>Annie</i> by Strouse and Charnin, role of Annie Theater West Virginia, Dir. Rich Jagunic	2003
<i>Oklahoma!</i> by Rogers and Hammerstein, role of Ado Annie Theater West Virginia, Dir. Rich Jagunic	2002
<i>Joseph and...Dreamcoat</i> , by Tim Rice and Andrew Webber, role of Ensemble Theater West Virginia, Dir. Rich Jagunic	2001
<i>Winnie the Pooh</i> by A.A. Milne, role of Roo The Children's Playshop, Dir. Bill Buck	2000

Director - Theatre

<i>Speed-the-Plow</i> by David Mamet Theater West Virginia	2001
<i>Talking With</i> by Jane Martin Theater West Virginia	2002
<i>Chicago the Musical</i> by Kander and Ebb Theatre II, James Madison University	2002
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by William Shakespeare Theatre II, James Madison University	2001

CURRICULUM DESIGN

Tiny Tots Drama Kids	2010-2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEO of <i>Music with Miss Tara</i>, creator, and developer of dramatic play classes for Pre-K aged kids. The curriculum consisted of dramatically interpreting fairy tales and fables. Students learned the basics of voice, movement, and how to use their imagination. The class culminated in a final showcase of Tara Chiusano's original adaptation of the Jack and the Beanstalk story called: <i>Jackie and the Beanstalk</i>. 	
Georgia Shakespeare	2014

- Created and developed the curriculum for an original 8-session class for grades 4-5 called *Sounds of Shakespeare*. Focused on the integration of music, found sounds, and dance in Shakespeare's plays. The class culminated in a final showcase of scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tempest*.
- Created and developed the curriculum for Georgia Shakespeare's first Shakespeare summer camp for grade school kids. Full day camp teaching acting, voice, and movement. The camp culminated in a final showcase of scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Virtual Standardized Patient/Room Monitor for Walter Reed Behavioral Health 2020-Present

- Perform online as six different characters based on real cases and issues
- Interact professionally with doctors, administrators, and room monitors
- Use Microsoft Teams for online encounters
- Navigate difficult conversations and demonstrate improvisational abilities
- Memorize scripts and create backstories for the six clinical cases.
- Perform Room Monitor (stage management) duties as needed

Urban Garden Performing Arts Winter 2020

- Marketing assistant, EventBrite and Patreon setup

Lifestyle Blogger and Social Media Officer (citytocountryliving.com) July 2020 - 2022

- Write weekly blog posts about small-town living
- Carry out weekly digital marketing campaigns using Mailchimp and Instagram
- Edit photos, videos, and sound clips for blog and social media posts
- Set up website using Squarespace tools
- Created an eBook for free distribution to subscribers

Sexy Veggie Brand Ambassador and Sales Associate 2017-2020

- Sold vegetarian, vegan, and Gluten-Free prepared food at DC Metro farmer's markets
- Marketed and secured product distribution deals with local coffee shops
- Demonstrated professionalism and a high level of customer service
- Handled setup and breakdown in all weather conditions
- Successfully recruited and mentored new employees

Doggywalker.com Dog Walker and Professional Pet Sitter 2019 - 2020

- Walked dogs around the entire Alexandria, Arlington, and Northern Virginia area
- Provided quality pet sitting services when owners were away
- Regularly corresponded with owners and the office management
- Developed strong bonds with all the animals and the owners
- Taught some basic commands to young puppies

Eclectic Music Guitar, Piano, Voice, and Summer Camp Teacher 2009-2013

- Taught private Guitar, Piano, and Voice lessons to kids and adults
- Created the curriculum for Musical Theatre Camp and Spanish for Kids classes

- Led summer camps and group classes
- Prepared students for recitals and final showcase performances
- Worked independently with little supervision

Music with Miss Tara: Early Childhood Music Classes/Events

2007-2014

- Taught classes & private lessons all around the DMV and Atlanta Metro areas
- Created the Tiny Tots drama program for Pre-K kids
- Led birthday parties
- Performed at live events
- Self-produced three albums for children that are available to stream worldwide