

A portrait of Jan Alexandra Smith, a woman with short, dark, wavy hair and light-colored eyes, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a light-colored collared shirt. The background is a solid dark grey.

Jan Alexandra Smith

ACTING INSTRUCTOR

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Profile

As an actor, I have played major roles across the country from Charlottetown to Vancouver and have enjoyed return engagements with the Shaw Festival, Theatre Calgary, Vertigo Theatre, The Citadel, The Royal Alex, Charlottetown Festival, Royal Manitoba Theatre Center and The Grand Theatre. As a director and choreographer, I've staged award nominated productions ranging from mysteries to musicals, contemporary to classical. And as an acting instructor, I have much to impart both from my own mentors and 35 years of professional experience.

My class instruction focuses primarily on identifying and playing Actions through collaborative group exercises and guided script analysis; student actors develop specificity in performance and explore transitive verb application to develop their emotional, physical and vocal characterizations. This helps them learn how to rehearse, how to perform, to work collaboratively and is a vital tool for short notice audition requirements.

When directing students, my objective is to replicate a professional rehearsal experience while still providing instruction when requisite demands of a given production exceed a student's familiarity with acting, movement or vocal techniques. Accordingly, I insist upon effort, discipline and teamwork.

Experience

Grand Theatre, London Ontario - Culture City Instructor 2019 Acting workshop instructor for 20 students in Grade 7/8 at Tecumseh Public School as part of the annual Culture City Program.

Shakespeare Co., Calgary, Alberta - Director 2018 Director of MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING for professional mentoring company. Two thirds of the cast were non-professional, and advised / trained throughout rehearsals.

Grand Theatre, London Ontario - High School Project 2017 Director and Choreographer of EVITA; mentored 45 high school students from throughout London, Ontario and surrounding area.

Theatre Aquarius, Hamilton, Ontario - ODE Program 2017-2018

Musical Performance instructor for children, youth and young adults with economic and cultural barriers.

St. Lawrence College, Brockville Campus, Brockville, Ontario - 2015 Directed and choreographed SEUSSICAL with a cast of 19 students in either their second or final year of Musical Performance training.

Charlottetown Festival, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island - 2015-2016 Acting & Action workshop instructor for the Charlottetown Festival Young Company for two consecutive seasons.

Festival Players of Prince Edward Country - Picton, Ontario - 2014 Acting & Action Workshop and Yoga instructor for Festival Players Young Company.

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting), University of Alberta, Graduate with Distinction - 1992

Hatha Yoga 200 HR Certification, Rishikesh YogPeeth, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, India - 2010

Skills

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| •••• Acting | •••• Singing | ••• Dance |
| •••• Movement | •••• Yoga | ••• Choreography |
| •••• Leadership | •••• Verbal Communication | ••• Patience |
| •••• Responsibility | •••• Scheduling | |
| •••• Planning & Efficiency | | |

Referrals

Dennis Garnhum, Grand Theatre Artistic Director
dgarnhum@grandtheatre.com

Jennie Esdale, Theatre Aquarius, ODE Faculty Program Director
jesdale@theatreaquarius.org