

Darrell Johnston AEA | MFA

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The University of Iowa
Department of Theatre Arts
200 N Riverside Dr
Iowa City, IA 52242

Dear Search Committee,

I am thrilled for the opportunity to apply for the position of Visiting Assistant Professor at The University of Iowa. This opportunity was given to me by a colleague.

My experiences directing and acting on a professional level, developing award winning work, and connections in the theatre and film industry enhance the classroom and student experience. I have acted with Dolly Parton at the Ordway, with Broadway star Allison Luff at the Folger Theatre, taught masterclasses at the Guthrie/University of Minnesota, Cal Arts, UCLA, Graceland University, Concordia College and other regional theaters. As a part of my film work I have interviewed actor Bryan Cranston, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, film stars, producers, governors, and senators. Additionally I have collaborated with National Geographic, Public Television, and my films with Highway Walkers Media have been purchased by Oscar affiliated websites. As a proud member of Actor's Equity Association, my professional experiences have taught me the value of hard-work, being collaboration-minded, and the value of creating new work.

My theatre pedagogy is based on three fundamentals; improvisation, movement, and rigor. Improvisation teaches students to maintain a flexible mind and to always listen to each other. Movement teaches physical and mental discipline and to focus on the work rather than the outcome. Rigor reminds students to always be academically and physically specific. The incorporation of all three is rooted in the training I received from the Pacific Performance Project/East which revolutionized my perception of physical specificity and academic precision. I studied with Robyn Hunt and Steve Pearson, founders of P3/East while earning my MFA. My movement pedagogy is grounded in the work of Suzuki, Viewpoints, Alexander Technique, and Grotowski. My vocal training is rooted in Hart method and the teachings of Cicely Berry. Additionally I have experience teaching Stanislavsky and Meisner at a collegiate level.

Collegiate theatre programs should be centered around an academic and production-oriented curriculum and should be on a constant search for quality. I have written two books, released five documentaries, acted at some of the best regional theaters in the country, and regularly teach at the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program. I believe in being a generative artist and creating new work that reflects the diversity within our community. I have worked in environments that lack visible diversity and I believe it is in the students best interest developmentally and academically to prosper in a department that sees diversity as an asset.

The University of Iowa is ensuring students have the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve success as working professionals. I believe my experience and professionalism will continue this work. Thank you for your time and consideration.

My best,
Darrell Johnston