

# Rebecca Simon

Specialist in Voice, Text and Dialect coaching

Specialist in Acting Pedagogy and Auditioning

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## EDUCATION & TRAINING

**2010** Certification, Louis Colaianni Technique for Speech Training

Louis Colaianni, New York, NY

**2009** Master of Fine Arts in Acting

Florida Atlantic University,

**1998** Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance

The University at Buffalo

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**2019**                    **TENNESSEE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

**Murfreesboro, TN**

MASTER TEACHER OF MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Taught Musical Theatre Acting classes, provided one-on-one coaching and taught master classes in Voice/Speech and Dialects for summer program

**2016-present**        **RIDER PRE-COLLEGE MUSICAL THEATRE INSTITUTE**

**Lawrenceville, NJ**

MASTER TEACHER OF ACTING

Served as Acting teacher for pre-college program focusing on monologues and contemporary scene study. Served as voice/text/dialect coach for summer productions.

**2009-present**        **RIDER UNIVERSITY**

**Lawrenceville, NJ**

PRIORITY RANKED ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEATRE

## Classes Taught

THE 410                ADVANCED PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP: VOICE FOR THE ACTOR

MTR 335                SPEECH AND DIALECTS FOR THE ACTOR

This course is an exploration of the International Phonetic Alphabet and various dialects including Standard British. Students learn through the incorporation of the Louis Colaianni Pillow technique to embody the various sounds of language and then apply it to text work. Students also learn how to warm up and be confident in public speaking, in addition to an introduction of the basic physical, imaginative, and vocal skills necessary for speech work

THE 222                SPEECH AND DIALECTS FOR THE ACTOR

Same course as MTR 335 for the BA Acting program.

THE 221                VOICE FOR THE ACTOR

This work is based upon the classic progression of voice exercises of Kristen Linklater. The exercises are designed to liberate the voice from habitual psycho-physical tensions as well as develop sensitivity to impulse. This approach offers the possibility of liberating your natural speaking voice rather than adopting a vocal technique. The natural voice is transparent, and revealing, connected to thought, emotion, sound and language.

AR 217 IMPROVISATION AND MOVEMENT @ Westminster Choir College

Students explore themselves as individuals and members of a group through a variety of theatre exercises. These exercises encourage each individual to overcome personal fears and insecurities enabling them to develop their creativity, spontaneity, honesty, concentration, and commitment to action. The class also focuses on body movement through Viewpoints and other various techniques.

THE 120 THEATRE APPRECIATION (full semester and 3 week January/summer term and **online 2021**)

This course examines the collaborative process of Theatre arts from the printed page to the live performance. The course investigates the contributions of the playwright, actor, director, designers and the audience.

THE 110 ACTING II: SCENE STUDY

This class continues the cultivation of “psycho-physical” acting through the study of contemporary Theatre scenes.

THE 107 ACTING I: INTRODUCTION TO ACTING (also taught this at Westminster Choir College)

This course is an introduction to the world of theatre performance. It emphasizes developing the fundamental skills in developing a “psycho-physical” process for the actor. It also helps the student develop an overall appreciation for the role of the theatre in today’s society. In addition, the class hopes to make the student a more astute observer of human interaction and behaviors. Finally, this course emphasizes the *process* of acting and will serve as a foundation for the students pursuing theatre as a career.

**2009-2019 McCARTER THEATRE COMPANY**  
RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST

**Princeton, NJ**

Resident teaching artist for musical theatre courses culminating in productions of *Once on This Island*, *Oliver* and *Bye Bye Birdie*. Also taught the Shakespeare residencies for Princeton area schools culminating in productions of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Hamlet*, *Much Ado about Nothing* and *The Winter’s Tale*. In addition, conducted residencies in conjunction with the touring production of *The Odyssey* and *Sunjata* and teacher workshops for experiential drama in the classroom. Served as coach for the McCarter High School Summer Rep on *Twelfth Night* and *Urinetown* and the McCarter First Stage Production Season.

**2007-present SIMON VOICE AND ACTING STUDIO**

**Lawrenceville, NJ**

Owned and operated private singing, acting, dialect, and text coaching studio for actors (student & professionals). I work with all levels of voice and acting training with singers, actors and work on coaching academics with conference presentations. I also do work with accent reduction.

**2006-2009 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**  
INSTRUCTOR

**Boca Raton, FL**

**Classes taught:**

THE 4930 PROFESSIONAL MUSIC THEATRE TECHNIQUE IV

This class is a continuation of Professional Music Theatre Technique III. This will culminate in a final showcase performance. In addition served as Voice teacher (singing) for the class

THE 4930 PROFESSIONAL MUSIC THEATRE TECHNIQUE III

This was the first time this class was offered by the university. It is a continuation of Professional Music Theatre Technique II. This class expansion continues with selection of proper audition material and completion of the audition “book” for aspiring musical theatre performers. This class serves as a laboratory for giving real-world scenarios for the student artist.

THE 4930 PROFESSIONAL MUSIC THEATRE TECHNIQUE II

This was the first time this class was offered by the university. It is a continuation of Professional Music Theatre Technique I. This class begins expansion into performance for an audience. It culminated in an original evening of musical theatre entitled *Heart & Music A Showcase of Contemporary Music Theatre*. The participants in the class will then make up the core company for The FAU Summer Festival Repertory (along with Equity guest artists)

THE 4930 PROFESSIONAL MUSIC THEATRE TECHNIQUE I

This class was a self-designed, yearlong, diagnostic, conservatory-based performance class. This yearlong sequence was designed to aid the student in the selection of appropriate audition material. It instructed the student in proper audition etiquette. The course helped the student design strategies for pursuing professional aspirations in the professional theatre. This class also intended to help students find physical and emotional life in their work, in other words, to “act” their songs. This was the first time a class of this nature was offered in the undergraduate program at Florida Atlantic University. Students were required to attend professional auditions and private voice lessons as a lab component to the class.

TPP 2110 ACTING II

This course emphasizes developing the fundamental skills in cultivating a process for developing character for the actor. The methodology of the class is based on the work of Master Teacher Sanford Meisner, but will also include exercises and analysis work based on the teachings of other Stanislavski-based teachers (Hagen, Shurtleff, etc.)

TPP 4175 VOICE FOR THE ACTOR

This work is based upon the classic progression of voice exercises of Kristen Linklater. The exercises are designed to liberate the voice from habitual psycho-physical tensions as well as develop sensitivity to impulse. This approach offers the possibility of liberating your natural speaking voice rather than adopting a vocal technique. The natural voice is transparent, and revealing, connected to thought, emotion, sound and language.

TPP 2110 ACTING I

Introduction to Acting for majors and non-majors

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR FOR BFA/MFA STUDENTS

This is a professionally based seminar on developing strategies of entering the professional world. It will assist students in learning about the professional and monetary demands of becoming a professional actor. It will encompass various aspects of the profession, including information about professional audition techniques. It will also instruct students about union membership, promotional materials and using new media to fully market their product (web sites, demos, etc.). The seminar also introduces graduate school options for the student desiring further training.

**PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

2017 FORESTBURGH PLAYHOUSE (Equity LOA)

STEEL MAGNOLIAS, Truvy, Trent Blanton (director)

Forestburgh, NY

2016 FORESTBURGH PLAYHOUSE (Equity LOA)

THE ADDAMS FAMILY, Morticia Addams, Michael Rader (director)

Forestburgh, NY

<b>2015 FORESTBURGH PLAYHOUSE (Equity LOA)</b> YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN, Frau Blucher, Larry Smiglewski (director)	<b>Forestburgh, NY</b>
<b>2014 FORESTBURGH PLAYHOUSE (Equity LOA)</b> A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED, Mitzi, Trent Blanton (director) LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, Lady Jacqueline, Dann Dunn (director)	<b>Forestburgh, NY</b>
<b>2012 AURORA THEATRE (Equity SPT)</b> SWEET CHARITY, Charity, Sean Daniels (director)	<b>Lawrenceville, GA</b>
<b>2009 ACTORS PLAYHOUSE (Equity LOA)</b> LES MISERABLES, Factory Girl et al., David Arisco (director)	<b>Coral Gables, FL</b>
<b>2009 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY FESTIVAL REPERTORY (Equity URTA)</b> TWELFTH NIGHT, Feste, Jean-Louis Baldet (director) COMPANY, Marta, Trent Blanton (director)	<b>Boca Raton, FL</b>
<b>2008 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY FESTIVAL REPERTORY (Equity URTA)</b> EVITA, Eva Peron, Jean-Louis Baldet (director) CAROUSEL, Julie Jordan, Bruce Linser (director)	<b>Boca Raton, FL</b>
<b>2007 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY FESTIVAL REPERTORY (Equity URTA)</b> NOISES OFF, Belinda Blair, Jean-Louis Baldet (director)	<b>Boca Raton, FL</b>
<b>2004 YORK THEATRE (Equity Off-Broadway)</b> MASADA (world premier), Miriam, Scott C. Embler (director)	<b>New York, NY</b>
<b>2003 GENE FRANKEL THEATRE (Equity Showcase Code Production)</b> PIPER'S SONG, Elizabeth, Susan Streater (director)	<b>New York, NY</b>
<b>2002 PLAYHOUSE ON THE GREEN (Equity Guest Artist Contract)</b> BABES IN TOYLAND, Contrary Mary, Christian Saint-Gerard (director)	<b>Bridgeport, CT</b>
<b>2001-2002 FIDDLER ON THE ROOF BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR</b> (Equity Production Contract, starring Theodore Bikel) Fruma-Sarah, Hodel, Chava understudy Director: Sammy Dallas Bayes, Ken Daigle (Associate Director)	<b>New York, NY</b>
<b>2000-2001 THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER NAT'L TOUR</b> Starring Michael Bolton Featured Soloist, Arlene Phillips (director) & Patrick Vaccariello (musical director)	<b>New York, NY</b>
<b>2001 THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA NATIONAL TOUR</b> Featured Vocalist	<b>New York, NY</b>
<b>2001 NYU GRADUATE MUSICAL THEATRE WRITING PROGRAM</b> SALOME, Salome ALCESTIS, Death	<b>New York, NY</b>

2001 **RAW SPACE (Equity Showcase Code Production)** New York, NY  
BOULEVARD X, Beth, Susan Horowitz (director)

1998-1999 **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF NATIONAL TOUR (1998-1999)** New York, NY  
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, Fruma-Sarah, Sammy Dallas Bayes (director), Ken Daigle (Associate Director)

1998 **MUSICALFARE THEATRE** Buffalo, NY  
NUNSENSE Sister Mary Leo, Lisa Ludwig (director)  
SHAKE RATTLE AND ROLL, Lead Vocalist, Lynne Kurdziel-Formato (director)

1997 **SIX FLAGS DARIEN LAKES THEME PARK** Buffalo, NY  
STATE OF RHYTHM, Principal singer and dancer, Steve Dahlem (director)

**PROFESSIONAL VOICE, DIALECT AND TEXT COACHING**

**McCARTER THEATRE COMPANY (Equity LORT)** Princeton, NJ  
A CHRISTMAS CAROL (2017) (Assistant to Gillian Lane-Plescia) (Adam Immerwahr, director)  
THE WHITE SNAKE (2013) (Mary Zimmerman, director)

**GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE (Equity LORT)** New Brunswick, NJ  
A WALK ON THE MOON (upcoming) (Sheryl Kaller, director)  
LITTLE GIRL BLUE: THE NINA SIMONE MUSICAL (2019) (Devanand Janki, director)  
AMERICAN HERO (2018) (David Saint, director)  
TRYING (2018) (Jim Jack, director)

**BRISTOL RIVERSIDE THEATRE (EQUITY LOA)** Bristol, PA  
WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION (2017) (Susan D. Adkinson, director)  
THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE (2016) (created dialect for invented language) (Adam Immerwahr, director)

**FORESTBURGH PLAYHOUSE (EQUITY LOA)** Forestburgh, NY  
STEEL MAGNOLIAS (2018) (Trent Blanton, director)  
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (2016) (Trent Blanton, director)  
OLIVER! (2015) (Trent Blanton, director)  
A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED (2014) (Trent Blanton, director)

**NJ THESPIANS ALL STATE PRODUCTION** Robbinsville, NJ  
GIRLS LIKE THAT (2019) (Alison Sussman, director)

**RIDER UNIVERSITY (resident Voice and Speech Coach)** Lawrenceville, NJ  
GIRLS LIKE THAT (2020) (Stan Cahill, director)  
THE WOLVES (2020) (Ryenne Domingues, director)  
BRIGHT STAR (2019) (Trent Blanton, director)  
IN EVERY NOTE (2019) (Ivan Fuller, director)  
CHICAGO (2019) (Trent Blanton, director)  
THESE SEVEN SICKNESSES (2018) (Trent Blanton, director)

THEORY OF RELATIVITY (2018) (Trent Blanton, director)  
OKLAHOMA (2018) (Nathan Brewer, director)  
BONNIE AND CLYDE (2017) (Robin Lewis, director)  
SHE KILLS MONSTERS (2016) (Trent Blanton, director)  
THE TEMPEST (2016) (Christopher Parks, director)  
THE PENELOPIAD (2015) (Trent Blanton, director)  
THE PRAYING MANTIS (2015) (Trent Blanton, director)  
METAMORPHOSES (2014) (Trent Blanton, director)  
CRUMBLE (2014) (Ivan Fuller, director)  
LUCKY STIFF (2014) (Nathan Hurwitz, director)  
OUR TOWN (2013) (Trent Blanton, director)  
THE MISANTHROPE (2012) (Miriam Mills, director)  
THE CRUCIBLE (2012) (Trent Blanton, director)  
NINE (2012) (Nathan Hurwitz, director)  
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (2012) (Trent Blanton, director)  
THE LARAMIE PROJECT (2011) (Trent Blanton, director)  
STRIKING 12 (2010) (Trent Blanton, director)  
ANATOMY OF GREY (2009) (Trent Blanton, director)  
RENT (2009) (Miriam Mills, director)

#### **PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL**

**Princeton, NJ**

THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON (2019) (Stan Cahill, director)  
GIRLS LIKE THAT (2017) (Stan Cahill, director)  
MACBETH (2016) (Stan Cahill, director)

#### **ROBBINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**

**Robbinsville, NJ**

MIDSUMMER/JERSEY (2017) (Alison Sussman, director)  
PETER AND THE STARCATCHER (2016) (Alison Sussman, director)  
A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED (2015) (Alison Sussman, director)

#### **COMMERCIALS/ VOICEOVER/INDUSTRIAL**

##### **ARBY'S TV COMMERCIAL**

**New York, NY**

Principal On-Camera

##### **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (PROMO)**

**New York, NY**

Fruma-Sarah On-Camera

##### **AMENA CELL PHONES**

**New York, NY**

Principal On-Camera

##### **HONEYWELL SECURITY**

**New York, NY**

Principal On-Camera

##### **SIX FLAGS DARIEN LAKES**

**New York, NY**

Principal Voiceover

**SOONER PRODUCTIONS**  
Principal Voiceover

New York, NY

**ORIGINAL STUDIO RECORDINGS**

**PLEASANTVILLE, THE MUSICAL**  
Vocalist

New York, NY

**STEPPING OUT OF TIME**  
Vocalist

New York, NY

**VARIOUS SIX FLAGS SHOWS**  
Vocalist

New York, NY

**CONCERT PERFORMANCES**

**2008 SYMPHONY OF THE AMERICAS**

Fort Lauderdale, FL

BENEFIT FOR ALZHEIMER'S CARE FOUNDATION

Broadway style concert for black tie benefit for Alzheimer's Foundation at the Caldwell Theatre in Boca Raton, FL

**2006-2008 DYNAMIC DUO CONCERTS**

Various Cities

BROADWAY CABARET (2006-present)

Touring cabaret show

**2001-2005 VARIOUS CONCERTS FOR COMPOSER NEIL BERG**

New York, NY

**UNIVERSITY PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

**2006-2009 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAM**

Boca Raton, FL

COME BACK TO THE 5 AND DIME..., Juanita, Des Gallant (director)

TITUS ANDRONICUS, Demetrius, Sheldon Deckelbaum (director)

THE BALCONY, Irma, Jean-Louis Baldet (director)

THE THREE SISTERS, Masha, Jana Tift (director)

THE LADY FROM DUBUQUE, Elizabeth, Des Gallant (director)

HUNTING THE BASILISK, Madame, Nanique Gheridian (director)

A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY, Zillah, Jean-Louis Baldet (director)

**1995-1998 UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO**

Buffalo, NY

CHICAGO, Go to Hell Kitty, Lynne Kurdziel-Formato (director)

CABARET, Telephone Girl, Jerry Finnegan (director)

THE SHOEMAKER'S PRODIGIOUS WIFE, Gypsy, Maria (director)

ELECTRA, Lady of Argos, Aaron Cabell (director)

**DIRECTING EXPERIENCE**

**2018 RIDER UNIVERSITY**  
HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL

Lawrenceville, NJ

**2015 ARCADIA UNIVERSITY THEATRE DEPARTMENT**  
SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL

Glenside, PA

- 2014-present FORESTBURGH PLAYHOUSE (Equity LOA)** **Forestburgh, NY**  
 SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL (2016)  
 FALLING IN LOVE (2016) (cabaret series)  
 BROADWAY NOW (2014) (cabaret series)  
 REMEMBERING WOODSTOCK (2014) (cabaret series)
- 2013 RIDER UNIVERSITY** **Lawrenceville, NJ**  
 THE HUMAN HEART  
 Cabaret performance
- 2013 PASSAGE THEATRE COMPANY** **Trenton, NJ**  
 CUENTOS DEL ARBOL  
 Bilingual Theatre Performance with students from El Centro in Trenton, NJ
- 2010-19 McCARTER THEATRE COMPANY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT** **Princeton, NJ**  
 THE TEMPEST (2014), Director and workshop facilitator  
 Performance component of Shakespeare Residencies in Princeton area schools.  
 THE WINTER'S TALE (2012), Director and workshop facilitator  
 Performance component of Shakespeare Residencies in Princeton area schools.  
 OLIVER (2011), Director  
 Performance component of a yearlong musical class for high school students  
 ONCE ON THIS ISLAND (2010), Director  
 Performance component of a yearlong musical class for high school students  
 HAMLET (2012, 2016), Director and workshop facilitator  
 Performance component of Shakespeare Residencies in Princeton area schools.  
 A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (2011, 2016) Director and workshop facilitator  
 Performance component of Shakespeare Residencies in Princeton area schools.  
 MACBETH (2010, 2015), Director and workshop facilitator  
 Performance component of Shakespeare Residencies in Princeton area schools.
- 2008-09 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY MAINSTAGE** **Boca Raton, FL**  
 HEAR MY SONG (2009)  
 Original Revue of contemporary music theatre featuring the students of Professional Music Theatre classes  
 THE BREL PROJECT (2009), Director & Associate Musical Director/Vocal Coach  
 World premiere musical revue featuring new translations of Jacques Brel material by Arnold Johnston (named by France Brel as the exclusive translator of Brel's work)  
 HEART & MUSIC: AN EVENING OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC THEATRE (2008)  
 Original Revue of contemporary music theatre featuring the students of the Professional Music Theatre classes
- 1995 CAMP TIMBERTOPS** **Greeley, PA**  
 OLIVER  
 A TOUCH OF BROADWAY  
 DISNEY REVIEW



## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**March 2011 SOUTHEASTERN THEATRE CONFERENCE**

**Atlanta, GA**

“Auditioning from the Heart: Cultivating organic audition material that you love.” (with Trent Blanton & Mariann Cook)

This workshop is an organic approach to cultivating effective audition “book” material. It starts with them and helping them avoid the pitfall of selecting ineffective audition material.

**March 2010 SOUTHEASTERN THEATRE CONFERENCE**

**Lexington, KY**

“Don’t Sing This, Sing THAT! Song Selection and Audition Book Building that Really Works” (with Trent Blanton)

This workshop tells what actors need in their auditions books. More importantly, it tells them what they don’t need.

## GRANTS

**2007-2008 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

**Boca Raton, FL**

“Professional Music Theatre Technique Class”- \$7500

This grant was given to offset expenses for students attending the Florida Theatre Conference screening auditions. The funds were also used to offset the cost of attendance for the Southeastern Theatre Conference. The grant was also used for a two-day master class by Laurence O’Keefe (composer of Broadway’s *Legally Blonde*, off-Broadway’s *Bat Boy: The Musical* and the upcoming *Heathers*).

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

**2006-2009 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

**Boca Raton, FL**

**2008 DONOR RELATIONS/DISCOVER FAU EXECUTIVE BREAKFAST, FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

This was the culmination of the yearlong Discover FAU program. This event served as the “ask” for the donors. Our work with the Alzheimer patients served as the emotional “hook” in the program.

**2007-2008 OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

Featured performer on President Frank Brogan’s holiday CD (along with husband and fellow MFA candidate, Trent Blanton) detailing community outreach experience with Alzheimer’s patients from FAU’s Green Wellness Center.

**2006-2008 SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

Served as lecturer/welcome for potential donors and community partners. As a representative of the MFA programs in the School of the Arts, this “point-of-entry” presentation was instrumental in securing contacts and establishing ongoing relationships with possible future school benefactors.

**2006-2008 SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

Produced a Broadway style concert with another MFA and PhD candidate to do community outreach for the School of the Arts. We also served as a live commercial for the quality of programs at the university and to advertise the wide array of events in the School of the Arts.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY DEPT. OF THEATRE & DANCE (2006-2009)**

**Boca Raton, FL**

JOSHUA LOGAN GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP, Recipient (3 year full fellowship)

**KENNEDY CENTER/AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATRE FESTIVAL**

**Washington, DC**

IRENE RYAN ACTING NOMINEE

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO GOLDEN KEY HONOR SOCIETY

Buffalo, NY

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS**

•ACTOR'S EQUITY ASSOCIATION

•SOUTHEASTERN THEATRE CONFERENCE

•VOICE AND SPEECH TRAINERS ASSOCIATION

\*MUSICAL THEATRE EDUCATORS' ALLIANCE