

MAVIS JENNINGS

Acting Instructor and Director

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SUMMARY

Mavis Jennings is an acting instructor, director, and performer whose work centers on the intersection of technique, imagination, and presence. He teaches actors to build a clear and repeatable process using Stanislavski-based and Michael Chekhov approaches, supported by voice and movement training.

His teaching encourages actors to remain responsive in performance, allowing the tools of their craft to inform each moment as it unfolds. Through ensemble work, physical awareness, and imaginative play, students develop the ability to create work that is both grounded and alive.

Mavis' artistic practice is informed by nearly two decades of international performance and coaching with Cirque du Soleil, where he developed a deep commitment to ensemble, precision, and creative collaboration.

EXPERIENCE

Temporary Full-Time Faculty (Visiting Professor of Acting & Directing)

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

📅 08/2025 - Present 📍 Indiana, Pennsylvania

- Acting I (THEA 240); Acting II (THTR 340); Auditioning (THEA 332); Foundations of Performance Ensemble (THEA 140); Introduction to Theatre: Teamwork (THEA 161); Music Industry (THEA 420); Practicum in Production (THEA 486); Senior Thesis (THEA 495).
- Taught introductory and advanced actor training emphasizing ensemble awareness, imaginative play, and character development.
- Integrated psychophysical approaches including Stanislavski, Michael Chekhov, Lecoq, and Lessac.
- Designed movement, voice, and improvisation practices to develop embodied presence and responsiveness.
- Guided students in scene study, performance analysis, and devised theatre processes.
- Ride the Cyclone (Spring Mainstage Musical, 2026).
- Sold-out performances.
- Three Irene Ryan nominations; Ensemble Commendation, American College Theater Festival.
- 46 Plays for 46 Presidents (Fall Mainstage Production, 2025).
- Four Irene Ryan nominations; Ensemble Commendation, American College Theater Festival.
- Collaborated with playwright Andy Bayiates and the Neo-Futurists on a newly devised ending.

Director: Young Actors Workshop

Interlochen Center for the Arts - Camp

📅 06/2023 - Present 📍 Interlochen, MI

- Taught immersive acting intensives integrating Stanislavski, Michael Chekhov, Laban, and Lecoq techniques
- Directed devised productions, including *Hello, Earth!*, a movement-based ensemble work
- Mentored young actors in vocal technique, character development, and ensemble-building

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS



Recruitment Committee

Volunteered to support recruitment efforts for the College of Arts, Humanities, Media, and Public Affairs at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Curriculum Committee

Volunteered to support efforts in Curriculum creation supporting the College of Arts, Humanities, Media, and Public Affairs at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



The Colloquium Committee

Duties included the procurement and orientation of various speakers through and from our committee to the Kent State University at Stark faculty and staff.



The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Duties included creating policies that promote a support system for those students from communities who are not properly served.



The Student Complaint Committee

Duties included fielding student complaints and sharing them equitably and fairly through proper channels as set forth under our University Handbook's rules and regulations.



Dean's Student Advisory Board

Graduate Student Representative - Kent State University College of the Arts

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

"The Imagination Gym" - a workshop for Creative Writing

📅 Date period 📍 Location

Designed and led interdisciplinary theatre workshops that strengthened student writing through embodied narrative, ensemble awareness, and imaginative exploration, connecting theatrical practice to composition pedagogy.

- Indiana University of Pennsylvania: Theatre Outreach

"Imagination is my BFF!"

📅 2023 📍 North Canton, OH

Cultivating a healthy relationship with the artists' imagination; for the stage and for life.

- Arts in Stark Festival

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Theatre / Director of Theatre

Kent State University at Stark

📅 08/2021 - 05/2023 📍 North Canton, OH

- **Courses Taught**
Acting Process; Voice for the Actor; Mask Technique; Michael Chekhov Technique; Scene Study; Theatre Styles; Theatre History
- Designed and implemented a comprehensive undergraduate theatre curriculum.
- Taught acting, voice, and movement with emphasis on psychophysical training and performance process.
- Directed student productions and mentored actors through rehearsal and performance development.
- Supported student growth through collaborative and ensemble-based practices.

Adjunct Professor and Graduate Assistant

Kent State University

📅 08/2016 - 05/2020 📍 Kent, OH

Adjunct Professor and Graduate Assistant at Kent State University. Taught a variety of performing arts techniques and methods, including coaching monologues and scenes. Participated in curriculum development and assessment

- Taught performance techniques, including Lecoq, mask and clown, and constructive relaxation.
- Coached students on monologues, scenes, and audition techniques.

Singer and Character

Cirque Du Soleil - World Tours of "Quidam" and "Varekai"

📅 11/1998 - 05/2016

Served as the first American singer to tour globally with Cirque du Soleil, showcasing versatility as an actor and vocalist. Appointed by the Artistic Director as a vocal coach and "put-in" captain, training world-class gymnasts in performance and theatre techniques.

- Performed in over 5,500 shows worldwide, maintaining vocal health and excellence throughout.
- Officially served as vocal coach to the young singer in *Quidam*, providing guidance on vocal technique, performance dynamics, and maintaining vocal health for high-demand performances.
- Collaborated with artists from diverse cultural and artistic backgrounds.
- Mentored acrobats in movement and character integration for seamless performance transitions.
- Participated in Cirque du Soleil Special Events, performing for Pope Francis in Rome, Prince Rainier in Monaco, Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee in London, and the Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

Additional Directing Experience

📅 04/2018 - 11/2024

- "May I Please Have an A?"
- "Attack of the Pom-Pom Zombies"
- "Hello Earth!"
- "Shel Silverstein Takes the Stage"
- "Toxic Avenger - the Musical"
- "Reasons to Be Pretty"
- "Once"
- "The Fish Must Die"
- "Hedwig and the Angry Inch"
- "West Side Story"
- "The Pirates of Penzance"
- "Now"
- "The Bear"
- "This is Me... Right Now"

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

"Where's the BEEF?"

📅 2023 📍 North Canton, OH

Discovering good use of Beauty, Ease, Entirety and Form in theatre and in life.

- Kent State University at Stark - Colloquium Committee Presentation

"Integrating Theatre Techniques for Business Majors"

📅 2021 - 2023 📍 North Canton, OH

Led workshop applying theater methods to enhance self-awareness and motivation for business students. Utilized experiential exercises like improvisation and role-playing, fostering both personal and professional development.

- The workshop garnered significant popularity on campus, attracting a diverse cohort of students eager to enhance their communication skills and confidence. As a result, enrollment in acting classes saw a notable increase, providing students with further opportunities to cultivate self-possession and ease in interpersonal interactions and presentations
- Kent State University at Stark - Business School

"My Artistic Path"

📅 2019 - 2023 📍 P'yŏngsan, "Korea, North"

Highlighting the importance of Arts in the economic investment of a community.

- Rotary Club International
- Ashland University
- Independence High School

"Why Choose an Artist Life?"

📅 2018 📍 Kent, OH

Exploring the Advantages, Challenges, and Responsibilities of Choosing an Artistic Life.

- Kent State University - Graduate Studies Research Symposium

AWARDS

☆ Best Show Award - 'Now'

Recognized for excellence in directing and producing a groundbreaking devised theater piece that seamlessly integrated movement, music, and projection to create a captivating and immersive theatrical experience at Kent State University.

☆ Best Director Award - 'Now'

Kent State University

☆ Sacre Diem - Music Performance Award

Festival du Cirque - Monte Carlo, Monaco

INTERESTS

⚡ Devised Theatre

⚡ Directing

EXPERIENCE

Production Assistant

Capalbo Productions

📅 05/1995 - 10/1997 📍 New York City

- Provided production assistance on over 20 music video sets for high-profile artists, including Madonna, Mariah Carey, and Jay-Z, ensuring seamless coordination and execution.
- Observed and supported directors in their collaboration with actors and performers, gaining valuable insights into on-camera performance techniques.

Production Assistant

Viacom

📅 03/1992 - 06/1994 📍 New York City

- Provided production support for multiple episodes of MTV's *The Real World* and *The Jon Stewart Show*, collaborating with production teams to ensure smooth operations before transitioning to freelance work.
- Gained hands-on experience in camera work, staging, and actor-director dynamics.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre

Kent State University

📅 08/2016 - 05/2018 📍 Kent, OH

- GPA 3.98 / Alpha Psi Omega Honor Society

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre

The Ohio State University

📅 09/1982 - 06/1987 📍 Columbus, OH

- Delta Theta Sigma

Master Class Intensive Training

National Michael Chekhov Association

📅 06/2020 - 06/2022 📍 Fort Worth TX, Gainesville FL, Las Cruces, NM

- Summer 2022, Winter 2021, Summer 2020

Music Production, Skills and Publishing

Berklee College of Music online

📅 01/2009 - 03/2015

- Courses studied include, Music Production, Guitar and Piano Skills, Mixing and Mastering, and Publishing

TRAINING/ COURSES

Theatre Movement

Cirque du Soleil, Kent State University

Voice Health and Character Voice

Cirque du Soleil, Kent State University, The Lessac Institute

Character Creation

Cirque du Soleil, Kent State University

Mastering.com

The Reverse Engineer Course: Sound Design

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Actors Equity Association (AEA)

📅 06/2018 - Present

- Mavis Jennings (AEA) - *legal name - Timothy Craig Jennings

INTERESTS

⚡ Acting

⚡ Playwriting

⚡ Screenplay Writing

⚡ Songwriting

⚡ Singing

⚡ Video Content Creation

⚡ Financial Analysis and Budget Management

SKILLS

Acting

Theatre Movement

Vocal Training and Health

Singing

Theatre Directing

Auditioning

Intimacy Training

Sound Design

Playwriting

Screenplay Writing

Curriculum Development

Effective Time Management

Strategic Planning

Financial Budgeting

MS Office

Canvas Course Creation

Blackboard Course Creation

CapCut

Adobe Premiere

Logic Pro

Ableton

FIND ME ONLINE



LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com/in/tc-mavis-jennings-a47022142



Website - Portfolio

<http://tcmapisjennings.com>

CREATIVE PROJECTS

The Imagination Gym

Youtube, Instagram, TikTok

📅 05/2024 - Present

🔗 <https://www.youtube.com/@theimaginationgym>

Creator and host of a daily video series that explores meditation, imagination, and artistic spontaneity through nature-inspired storytelling. With 216 episodes to date, the series includes segments like *Let's Meditate*, *Song Fishing*, and *Exploring Terrains*, encouraging mindfulness, creativity, and self-expression.

VOLUNTEERING

Cirque du Monde, Cirque du Soleil

Arts Outreach

- Volunteered for 15 years, delivering theatre training workshops to underserved communities in over 20 cities across five continents, impacting hundreds of participants.
- Provided mentorship and engaged in meaningful cultural exchanges with young individuals.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

"One student, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

Malala Yousafzai

REFERENCES

Joanna Shaw

Executive Producer / Partner
So Happy Entertainment,
All Day Everyday Entertainment
Los Angeles, California
+1-917-545-8305
Joanna@alldayeveryday.com

Jennifer Hemphill

Music Theatre Director - Baldwin
Wallace University
275 Eastland Road
Berea, OH 44017
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jhemphil@bw.edu

Eddy Trotter

Creative Director/ Scene Designer
350 NE 24th ST suite 105
Miami, FL 33137
+1-646-369-9676
eddy@trotterdesign.com

CREATIVE PROJECTS

Playwriting and Screenwriting

Developed and adapted original works, including the screenplay *Ghost Car*, collaborating with emerging talent.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



- * Directed and produced diverse theatrical productions, fostering artistic growth and community engagement.
- * Designed and implemented innovative curricula for theater and performing arts programs, enhancing student learning and creative exploration.
- * Built strong partnerships with industry professionals and organizations, creating opportunities for students and supporting career development.
- * Demonstrated leadership and operational excellence in managing theater departments and programs, ensuring academic success and efficiency.
- * Advanced performing arts education through active participation in academic committees, conferences, and professional presentations.
- * Mentored and inspired emerging artists, cultivating creativity, collaboration, and personal growth.