

# JESSIE AUSTRIAN

## THEATER EDUCATOR

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### PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Theater maker with nearly 15 years experience teaching college and early-career professional actors. Passionate about text-centered training with a focus on freeing the actor's unique, most resonant, pleasurable and authentic voice. Regularly teaches approaches to Shakespeare's text (verse and prose), ensemble rehearsal, voice and speech, public speaking and acting for musical theater. Co-founder and co-artistic director of New York City's acclaimed Fiasco Theater.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor | 2011-present

New York University Gallatin School of Individualized Study

- Conceived and currently teach: Acting for Musical Theater, Shakespeare acting Intensive, The Open Voice (breath, body and resonance alignment) and Voicing the Text (performance and public speaking).
- Mentor and advise students pursuing paths in the arts and regularly advise tutorials and independent studies with focus on Shakespeare, Stephen Sondheim or Public Speaking

Teacher, Co-Artistic Director, Director and actor | 2009-present

Fiasco Theater, New York, NY

- Developed pedagogy and currently teach for Fiasco Theater's Training Program, including the Free Training Initiative and the Conservatory Program (a 9 week full-time immersive program in Fiasco's approach to text-based, joyful, ensemble theatre-making).

Guest Teacher/Visiting Director | 2012-2024

- Taught workshops and intensives in Shakespeare Text-Analysis, Acting Shakespeare, Voice and Speech and Ensemble Rehearsal at: Brown University, Marquette University, Louisiana State University, American Theatre Wing SpringboardNYC, NYU Atlantic Theater.
- Visiting Director at Playmakers Rep/University of North Carolina Chapel Hill of critically acclaimed professional production of Ken Ludwig's *Sherwood the Adventure's of Robin Hood* with resident company and MFA students (2018).

### ACADEMIC HISTORY

Brown University | 1999-2003

BA in Theatre, Speech and Dance

Brown University/Trinity Rep MFA | 2003-2006

Master of Fine Arts in Acting

Extensive practical Shakespeare study in London & New York with: Richard Digby Day, Cicely Berry & Andrew Wade.

### AWARDS:

Helen Hayes Award Nomination | 2015

Best direction of a play, Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*

Off Broadway Alliance Award | 2012

Best Revival Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*

### REFERENCES

Jill Rafson | Classic Stage Company

Artistic Director

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Liz Hayes | Columbia University

Head of Voice and Speech

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### ADDITIONAL RESUMES

**Directing**

**Acting**