

Curriculum Vitae

Mitchell McLean Thomas
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Education

M.F.A., University of Washington Professional Actor Training Program, Seattle, WA
1999. GPA: 3.99

B.A., Whitworth College, Spokane, WA 1995. GPA: 3.74. Graduated with Honors

Professional Affiliations

Member, Actors Equity Association (AEA)

Member, Screen Actors Guild (SAG)

Affiliate Member, American Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)

Certified Actor-Combatant, The Society of American Fight Directors

Areas of Special Interest

Acting

Development of new plays and devised theatre

Actor Movement

Directing

Voice and Speech

Teaching Experience

Tenured Associate Professor of Theatre, Westmont College 2011 – present

Teaches all levels of acting, voice and speech, and directs 1-2 mainstage productions per year. Mentors and oversees multiple senior capstone projects per year.

Department Chair, Theatre Arts, Westmont College 2007-present

Wrote grant that won department \$42000 Capital Improvement Grant in 2010 for technical and design equipment. Represented department in administrative negotiations and oversaw 2011 \$750,000 renovation of Theatre building to include movement classroom, seminar room, and additional lighting and costume storage. Created and developed youth outreach program reaching 1,000 underserved high school students in Santa Barbara. Wrote grants for external and internal funding totaling \$40,000 over a two-year period from 2008 - 2010. Balanced and oversaw budget for department production season and operations. Recruited and hired adjunct instructors, designers, and technicians for academic program and production season in both theatre and dance. Chair of search committee for tenure track position in design and technology in theatre

arts. Planned and developed new requirements within the theatre arts curriculum, including major and minor (theatre and dance emphasis). Participated in college wide budget, programming, and long range vision discussions as representative from theatre arts and served as liaison between the college and the department. Wrote department assessment reports related to student learning outcomes and program review. Proposed and received 33% increase in production budget and student worker program for department.

Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts, Westmont College 2004-2011

Created and developed acting program sequence for majors and minors. Coordinated special programs and colloquia. Commissioned acclaimed playwright to develop world premiere play with student actors. Created and taught classes in theatre, including Beginning Acting; Physical Acting; Acting Shakespeare; Voice and Speech Thru Performance, Senior Capstone Project, and World Theatre I and II. Conceived and directed new work for Fringe Festival. Conceived and executed project to offer playwriting component to program. Directed award-winning mainstage productions at college, including classic and contemporary plays and with a focus on encouraging new plays and original, devised material. Served as faculty mentor and advisor for senior capstone projects. Commissioned student playwright to write first-ever bilingual full-length stage play produced in department season.

Guest Director and Teacher, University of CA, Santa Barbara, May 2007

Guest Director/Lecturer, University of CA – Santa Barbara, May 2007

Invited by renowned playwright Naomi Iizuka to participate in the coaching and directing of new work by student playwrights.

Workshop Leader

Developed and led workshops in physical acting at the 2006 Gdansk International Shakespeare Festival in Gdansk, Poland. Developed and led workshops in low-flying trapeze work at Westmont College.

Teaching Assistant, University of Washington, 1998

Created syllabus and course requirements for progressive acting series for majors and non-majors. Taught three course sequence in beginning acting. Coached contemporary and classical audition pieces for students. Directed monologues, scenes, and culminating performance of full studio production.

Acting Experience

Professional Actor, 1995-present

Selected Productions:

If I Did This, Spring 2013, SB Playfest, Directed by R. Michael Gros
Creditors, Spring 2012, Ensemble Theatre Company, Directed by Jonathan Fox
Peer Gynt, Fall 2011, Lit Moon Theatre Company, Directed by John Blondell

The Fever, 2011, Genesis West Theatre Company, w/ performances in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and London, Directed by Maurie Lord
The Adventures of Nils, Fall 2010, Center Stage Theatre, **w. premiere by Naomi Iizuka**
Our Town, February 2010, Santa Barbara Theatre, Directed by John Blondell
Othello/Measure for Measure, 2008, Lit Moon Theatre Company, Directed by Lilia Abedjieva of the National Theatre of Bulgaria
Queen C, Midnight Sun Festival 2007, Lit Moon Theatre Company
Panic (staged reading), Midnight Sun Festival, 2007, Lit Moon Theatre Company
Georgia (reading), new play workshop, 2008
The Memory of Water, Ensemble Theater Company, 2007
Richard II (title role), Lit Moon Theatre Company, 2005-6 **Indie Award, performance Invited and performed in Gdansk and Legnica, Poland, & Santa Barbara, CA**
The Earthquake Predictor Rides the Bus, Off Axis, 2006 **World Premiere**
Classic Santa Barbara, 2004, Santa Barbara International Film Festival
Star Quality, Pasadena Playhouse, 2003 **American Premiere**
Daedalus, South Coast Repertory Theatre, 2003
RHD/LA, CBS, 2003
Madison Heights, PBS, 2002
Wasteland, ABC, 2001
Pericles, A Noise Within, 2002
Our Country's Good, NoHo Actor's Studio, 2002
Volunteers, Blank Theatre Company, 2001 **World Premiere**
Cymbeline, A Noise Within, 2000
Louis Slotin Sonata, Circle X Theatre Company, 2000
Hamlet (title role), The Playhouse, 1999
Touching the Void, Meany Studio, 1999, **created and performed one-man show**
Dream of a Common Language, 1999, The Playhouse
Jihad, Hutchinson Theatre, 1998, **created and performed one-man show**
The Last Night of Ballyhoo, 1998, Interplayers Theatre
Chaps (The Musical!), 1998, Idaho Repertory Theatre
Much Ado About Nothing, 1998, Idaho Repertory Theatre
Troilus and Cressida, 1997, Colorado Shakespeare Festival
Romeo and Juliet, 1997, Colorado Shakespeare Festival
House Not Touched By Death, 1997, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, **World Premiere**
Noises Off!, 1996, The Tamarind Theatre
Baby, Edge of the World Theatre, 1996
The Music Man, 1995, PCPA Theaterfest
The Pirates of Penzance, 1995, PCPA Theaterfest

Directing Experience

Much Ado About Nothing, Westmont, Fall 2012
Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Staged reading at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Jan. '12
Animal Farm (the musical), Westmont, Spring 2012
Macbeth, Westmont, Fall 2010

The Servant of Two Masters, Westmont, Fall 2010
GLIMPSE: beyond, (Devised), Westmont, Spring 2010
The Bald Soprano by Eugene Ionesco, Westmont Fall 2009
Muéveme. Muévete., by Diana Small, La Casa de la Raza, Spring 2009 **World Premiere**
Fortune's Fool: stop the violence or i'll kill you, (Devised), Westmont, Spring 2008
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë, adapted by Polly Teale, Westmont, Fall 2007
Don't Be Fooled By Me, (Devised), Westmont, Spring 2007
Car Plays, Santa Barbara Downtown 1st Thursday Art Festival, Spring 2007
The Earthquake Predictor Rides the Bus by Hank Willenbrink, Santa Barbara Off Axis Festival, 2006, **World Premiere**
The Car Play Project by Westmont Students, 2006, **15 World Premieres**
Rogue by Erik Ehn, 2006, **invited to Lit Moon World Shakespeare Festival**
Big Tent Love, (Devised), Westmont, Spring 2006
The Saint Plays by Erik Ehn, 2006, **World Premiere**
Ablaze by Mitchell Thomas, 2005, **World Premiere**
Reckless by Craig Lucas, 2004
Blood Relations by Sharon Pollock, 1998
Hello Out There by William Saroyan, 1995

Grants, Awards, Publications, Panels, Committees and Conferences

Member, Personnel Committee, Fall 2012. Served as Humanities representative on Personnel Committee of college.

Indy Awards, Acting, Spring 2012. Awarded Indy for acting in both the Ensemble Theatre production of *Creditors* and the Lit Moon production of *Peer Gynt*.

Artist in Residence, Ensemble Theatre Company, Santa Barbara, CA, Spring 2011. Appointed first ever artist-in-residence for Ensemble Theatre company. Assisted artistic director in new play development, season selection, new audience initiatives, and community connections as theatre moves into expanded theatre space and season.

Representative, Academic Senate, Fall 2011. Served as one of three representatives from Humanities division on college-wide Senate committee.

Producer, Tim Crouch's *ENGLAND*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, November 2011. Initiated project and served as sole producer to bring international performing artist Tim Crouch to Santa Barbara to present his critically acclaimed production of *England*. Co-presented by Santa Barbara Museum of Art and the Lit Moon Theatre company.

Winner, 2008 Arlin G. Meyer Prize. The Arlin G. Meyer Prize is awarded biennially to a fulltime faculty member from a college or university in the Lilly Fellows Program National Network for work that exemplifies the practice of the Christian artistic vocation.

Producer, Diversity in the arts theatre project, 2007-2010. Three year initiative and collaboration with Intercultural Programs Office to include culturally and racially

diverse theatrical performances as part of main stage season, resulting in performances of Richard Wright's *Black Boy*, Naomi Iizuka's *Anon*, Diana Small's *Muéveme. Muévete.*, and the hereandnow theatre company's *Telling Our Stories*.

Clown, Christopher Bayes Clowning Workshop, Summer 2010. Invited to participate in week long clowning intensive at Juilliard School in NYC with Chris Bayes, Director of Movement of the MFA Acting program at Yale School of Drama.

Member, Student Life Committee, 2009 – 2011. Served as Chair of student life committee, overseeing student discipline process and student life initiatives.

Writer, article in Across Cultures diversity magazine, Spring 2009.

Grant Recipient, 2009. Montecito Bank and Trust Community Partners grant for bilingual theatre production at La Casa de la Raza.

Writer, Trinity Episcopal Church – Fall 2008. "*I Need A Hero!*", Original play performed as kickoff to stewardship season.

Service and Supply Branch Director – 2007-2009. Westmont College Earthquake Emergency Response Team.

Chair, Open spaces committee and playground re-build committee – 2008-2009. Post-fire neighborhood recovery effort, Las Barrancas.

Director of narrators and actors, Westmont College Christmas Festival – 2007 and 2008.

Grant Recipient, 2007 and 2008. Venoco grant for theatre program outreach to underserved high school students in SB and Ventura counties.

Representative, Lily Foundation for Westmont College, Fall 2008. Chosen as theatre artist to represent Westmont College in Lily Foundation Faith-based artist awards, a program designed to reward integrative and substantial projects by artists of faith.

Participant, Teacher Development Workshop, New York, NY – Summer 2008. Invited to participate in two-week workshop with master teachers Ron Van Lieu (Yale), Chris Bayes (Yale), and Slava Dolgachev (Moscow Art Theatre) in 120-hour workshop for actors and teachers of acting. Studied scene study, textual analysis, and clowning.

Panelist, Center Stage, Santa Barbara, CA – Fall 2008. "The Theatre of Lilia Abedjieva". Discussion into the mechanics and processes of notorious Bulgarian director Lilia Abedjieva from an actor's perspective.

Recipient of Professional Development Grant, Summer 2008. Grant helped fund travel and expenses to Teacher Development Workshop in New York, NY.

Moderator, Westmont College – Spring 2008. “Race and Ethnicity in American Theatre” with playwright Naomi Iizuka, Director of MFA Playwriting Program, UCSD.

Respondent, Phi Kappa Phi Lecture, Westmont College – Spring 2008. “Born in the USA: William Shakespeare and the American Theatrical Tradition”.

Chapel Speaker, Westmont College – Spring 2008. “*Wilderness and Vocation*”.

Grant Writer/Director, Westmont College – Fall 2007 and Fall 2008 “Found in Translation: Great Literature in the Theatre”. Public high school outreach program to over 1300 students intended to expose underserved students to adaptations of literature through the theatre.

Member, The Beatitudes Society, 2006-2008

Member, Westmont Personnel Committee – 2007-2008

Member, Westmont Academic Senate (Theatre Representative) – 2007-2009

Guest Director/Lecturer, University of CA – Santa Barbara, May 2007
“From Page to Stage: Bringing to Life an Original Script”. Invited by renowned playwright Naomi Iizuka to participate.

Guest Artist, International Summer Academy of Theatre and Drama, Gdansk, Poland, 2006, “Rediscovering the Body: Approaches to Physical Acting”. Created and led workshop designed for Polish actors and teachers of acting.

Recipient of Professional Development Grant, 2006. Grant helped support the international tour of the Lit Moon/Westmont College co-production of *Richard II* by William Shakespeare.

Theatre Writer, Santa Barbara Independent, 2006, “An ethnographic journey: a director’s journal”. Explained the artistic process of the new play development between Erik Ehn and Westmont College theatre students.

Recipient, Integrating Faith and Learning Grant, 2005-6. Grant facilitated academic and artistic dialogue around the Saint Plays by Erik Ehn and their subject matter, as well as the commissioning of a world premiere play.

Member, Westmont Athletic Committee, 2005-2007.

Coordinator, Globe Lecture Series on the Saint Plays, 2006. “The Saint Plays: A Bewildered Historian’s Response”, “Thinking phenomenologically about the Saints”, “Division and Healing in the Saint Plays: Stories, Histories, Theatrical Art”.

Participant, Five Day Workshop in Fitzmaurice Voicework, Los Angeles, 2006.
Workshop explored the connection of breath and the body in its connection to vocal production for the stage.

Speaker, Westmont New Faculty Workshop, 2005.

Guest Lecturer, Santa Barbara Adult Education Theater Class, 2005, “Myths of Shakespeare: Exploring the True Tradition”.

Co-Presenter and Performer, Westmont Downtown Conversation Series, 2005, “Sad Stories of the Death of Kings: Approaches to Staging Shakespeare’s King Richard II”.

Participant, American Theatre in Higher Education Conference, 2005, “Bridging Communities, Engaging Creativity”. Participated in various workshops, lectures, and demonstrations related to the teaching of acting and voice.

Faculty Sponsor, Westmont in the Arts, 2004.

Coordinator and Performer, Westmont Faculty Forum, 2004, “A Child’s Christmas in Wales”.

Theatre Review, Santa Barbara Independent, 2005, “The Intimate Edge of Reason”.

Theatre Writer, Santa Barbara Independent, 2004, “Exits Makes Its Entrance”.