

# SARA J. GRIFFIN

---

Email: saragriffin12@gmail.com

Phone: 608-516-0972

## Curriculum Vitae

### Professional Profile

- Professional Actor, Actor's Equity Association
- Consent Forward Artist, Intimacy Directors and Coordinators
- Head of Acting, Senior Lecturer, UW-Whitewater, 2019- 2024

### Education

2008- 2011 *Professional Theatre Training Program (PTTP), University of Delaware: MFA*

Joann Browning: Movement  
Deena Burke: Voice, Speech, Classical Text  
Leslie Reidel: Rhetoric, Classical Text  
Sandy Robbins: Acting  
Steve Tague: Acting, Voice, Classical Text  
Jewel Walker: Movement, Acting

#### **Intensives**

Voice and Movement	Roy Hart Theatre Company
Acting	Anthony Zerbe
Shakespeare and Voice	Andrew Wade
Stage Combat	Lee Ernst
Clown and Mask	Carine Montbertrand
Professional Auditioning	Pat McCorkle

2003- 2007 *University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: BFA- Performance (Magna Cum Laude)*

Jim Butchart: Acting, Vocal Production & Stage Speech, Classical Text  
Angela Iannone: Acting, Movement  
Skip Grover: Theatre History  
Tom Colwin: Theatrical Design  
Steve Chene: Carpentry and Lighting  
Denise Ehren: Costuming

### Training

2024 *UW-Whitewater Continuing Education*  
Spring Book Discussion Group, "Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary"

Resilient Disabled Body”, by Rebecca Taussig

2023      *Intimacy Directors and Coordinators: Intimacy Director Certification (in progress)*  
Consent Forward Artist Certification, September 2023

**Courses Taken**

Decolonization and De-Centering Whiteness in Intimacy Choreography

Level 1: Foundations of Intimacy Training

Level 2: Foundations of Intimacy Training

Attributes of White Supremacy: Awareness and Unlearning

***In Progress***

Intimacy Professional Accelerator Program

(formerly Level 3: Advanced Training Intimacy Direction for Live Performance)

2022      *Actors Studio Chicago: On Camera Training*

**Course Taken**

Advanced on Camera with Janelle Snow

**Professional Appointments and Teaching Experience**

2019- 2024      *Head of Acting, Senior Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater*

**Courses Taught**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| THE 120 | Introduction to Acting<br>A study of basic principles and techniques of acting, including physical and vocal control and basic approaches to characterization.  |
| THE 201 | Acting Practicum<br>Participation as an actor in a University Theatre production. Students are expected to assist in costume and scenery construction. In general, 40 hours of participation per half credit of practicum are expected.       |
| THE 215 | Auditioning<br>This is a lecture/laboratory course which offers training in resume preparation, in preparing for an audition, and in presenting audition material.  |
| THE 220 | Acting: Analysis and Performance<br>A study of techniques of character analysis and development which seeks to explore and integrate the internal and external aspects of acting in order to develop a dynamic approach to the actor's craft. |

THE 225	<p>Script Analysis</p> <p>A study of the basic elements of drama and how these elements combine to create a play. Particular emphasis will be placed on how to discover a valid interpretation of the playwright's intentions and transfer that interpretation to the stage.</p>
THE 230	<p>Movement for the Actor</p> <p>Movement for the Actor is a course designed to develop the physical performance ability of acting students. Body alignment will be explored in relation to movement dynamic and the search for a neutral base. A personal physical warm-up will be established for each student. Range of performance energy will be explored as well as the development of character through movement.</p>
THE 301	<p>Acting Practicum</p> <p>Acting a major role in a University Theatre/Dance Department production. Eligible roles are designated by the department prior to auditions.</p>
THE 312	<p>Directing Practicum</p> <p>Participation as a Director of a production approved by the department with responsibilities to include pre-production research and script preparation, supervision of production conferences and rehearsals, and presentation of a public production.</p>
THE 320	<p>Acting: Problems of Style</p> <p>Theories and techniques of character analysis and of acting in several theatrical periods, e.g., Classical, Elizabethan and Restoration.</p>
THE 325	<p>Improviseational Drama</p> <p>A study of the techniques of non-scripted drama, including theatre games, improvised scenes, creative drama and story dramatization. Implications and uses of non-scripted drama for education and performance are explored through lectures, demonstrations and group participation.</p>
THE 328	<p>Vocal Production and Stage Speech</p> <p>A study of vocal production and vocal techniques for the actor. Emphasis on the fundamentals of freeing the actor's voice: breathing, relaxation, resonance, articulation, variety and projection.</p>
THE 422	<p>Acting: For the Camera</p> <p>A course to study and practice basic principles of on camera performance. Through regular on-camera assignments students learn skills necessary to work as actors in the TV and film industries.</p>

THE 498      Independent Study  
Individual study of voiceover techniques and professional practices.

THE 499      Senior Project  
A capstone project in which the student demonstrates proficiency in directing, acting, designing, promotion, playwriting or criticism on a major project proposed by the student and approved by the department.

2023      *Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival: Workshop Leader*

**Workshops Created and Taught**

Dive Into Dialects  
Unlocking Shakespeare

2022      *Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival: Workshop Leader*

**Workshops Created and Taught**

Dive Into Dialects  
Crash Course in Shakespeare

2019      *Idaho Shakespeare Festival: Masterclass Teacher*

**Classes Taught**

Movement for the Actor (creator)  
Laban, leading centers, physical storytelling

Actor Preparation (creator)  
Yoga, breath work, massage, vocal resonance

The Business of Acting (creator)  
Professional realities and how to set yourself up for success

2017      *University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Substitute Professor*

**Courses Taught**

THE 328      Vocal Production and Stage Speech  
THE 120      Intro to Acting

2017      *First Stage Theater Academy: Lead Teacher*

**Classes Taught**

Voice & Movement for Actors (Grades K-12)

Acting: Scene Study (Grades 9-12)

2016- 2017    *American Shakespeare Center: Actor, Workshop Leader*

**Workshops Taught**

The Art of Disguise in Shakespeare (creator)

Audience Contact

Shakespeare's Staging Conditions

Embedded Stage Directions

Textual Variants

2016            *Resident Ensemble Players: Actor, Workshop Leader*

*To Kill a Mockingbird* Workshop (Grades 3-12)

2014            *University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Guest Lecturer*

**Courses Taught**

THE 215        Auditioning

THE 230        Movement for the Actor

THE 328        Vocal Production and Stage Speech

2014, 2012    *Utah Shakespeare Festival: Actor, Teacher*

**Classes Taught**

Actor Training 1: Monologue Coach

Actor Training 1: Stage Combat

Actor Training 2: Monologue Coach

Acting for Directors: Monologue Coach

Shakespeare for Junior Actors: Monologue Coach

Shakespeare for Junior Actors: Voice and Speech

Shakespeare for Junior Actors: Stage Combat

**Professional Memberships and Certifications**

2017- present                    Actor's Equity Association

2023                                Consent Forward Artist  
(Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, IDC)

## Professional Directing

2023	Madison Theatre Guild	<i>Sondheim on Sondheim</i>
------	-----------------------	-----------------------------

## Script Adaptations

2019	UW-Whitewater	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
2022	UW-Whitewater	<i>The Busybody</i>
2023	UW-Whitewater	<i>Pirates of Penzance</i>
2023	UW-Whitewater	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>

## Educational Directing

2019	UW-Whitewater	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
2020	UW-Whitewater	<i>Vanity Fair</i>
2021	UW-Whitewater	<i>Antigone</i>
2021	UW-Whitewater	<i>She Kills Monsters</i>
2022	UW-Whitewater	<i>The Busybody</i>
2022	UW-Whitewater	<i>Perfect Wedding</i>
2023	UW-Whitewater	<i>Pirates of Penzance</i>
2023	UW-Whitewater	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
2024	UW-Whitewater	<i>The Sweet Science of Bruising</i>

## Educational Production Support

2015	UW-Whitewater	<i>The Furies</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assistant Director</li><li>• Voice and Text Coach</li><li>• Assistant Choreographer</li></ul>
2023	UW-Whitewater	<i>Macbeth</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intimacy Coach</li></ul>

## University Service

2019- 2024	UW-Whitewater	TH/D Department Meetings
2019- 2024	UW-Whitewater	College Excellence Award Committees
2019- 2024	UW-Whitewater	KCACTF Faculty Mentor/Chaperone
2019- 2020	UW-Whitewater	Play Selection Committee
2020- 2024	UW-Whitewater	Chair of Play Selection Committee
2021	UW-Whitewater	Assessment Institute Participant (TH/D)
2021- 2024	UW-Whitewater	TH/D Department Academic Advising
2021- 2024	UW-Whitewater	KCACTF Region III Respondent

2022-2023  
2022- 2024

UW-Whitewater  
UW-Whitewater

General Education Review Committee  
SOAR Academic Advising

## University Research

2023

UW-Whitewater

LTC Conference Presenter  
“Let the Influencers do the Influencing”  
(Using Instagram as a teaching tool)

## Professional Acting Experience

<i>Dracula: The Bloody Truth</i>	Actor 4	Charles Fee	Idaho Shakespeare Festival
<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Merchant	Sara Bruner	Idaho Shakespeare Festival
<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Merchant	Sara Bruner	Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival
<i>Macbeth</i>	Witch/ L. Macduff	Charles Fee	Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival
<i>Shear Madness</i>	Barbara	Bob Lohrmann	John F. Kennedy Center
<i>The Bells</i>	Annette	Theresa Rebeck	Resident Ensemble Players
<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Alice	Sandy Robbins	Resident Ensemble Players
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Mayella Ewell	Sandy Robbins	Resident Ensemble Players
<i>O Beautiful (World Premiere)</i>	Alice Fletcher	Sandy Robbins	Resident Ensemble Players
<i>Boeing Boeing</i>	Gloria	Christopher L. Moore	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>Hamlet</i>	Ophelia	Marco Barricelli	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>	Laura	J.R. Sullivan	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Hero	B.J. Jones	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>Richard III</i>	Lady Anne	Kathleen Conlin	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	Lucetta	Robynn Rodriguez	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Lucy Steele	Joe Hanreddy	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Lydia Bennet	Blake Robison	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	Anne Page	Peter Amster	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>Les Miserables</i>	Ensemble	Brad Carroll	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>Dracula</i>	Vixen	Jesse Berger	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Ensemble	David Ivers	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>Romeo &amp; Juliet</i>	Nurse	David Ivers	Utah Shakespeare Festival
<i>Ten Chimneys</i>	Uta Hagen	B.J. Jones	Northlight Theater
<i>Cyrano DeBergerac</i>	Lise/Sis. Marte	Penny Metropulous	Chicago Shakespeare Theater
<i>Henry VIII</i>	U/S Anne B	Barbara Gaines	Chicago Shakespeare Theater
<i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i>	Constance	Jim Warren	American Shakespeare Center
<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	Julia	Jemma Levy	American Shakespeare Center
<i>Romeo &amp; Juliet</i>	Lady Capulet	Ben Curns	American Shakespeare Center
<i>Our Town</i>	Mama Gibbs	Jim Warren	American Shakespeare Center
<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	Jacquenetta	Curt Tofteland	Illinois Shakespeare Festival
<i>Richard II</i>	Salisbury	Robert Quinlan	Illinois Shakespeare Festival
<i>Love's Labors Won</i>	Jacquenetta	Sara Becker	Illinois Shakespeare Festival
<i>Our Town</i>	Emily Webb	Jewel Walker	Resident Ensemble Players
<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Hermia	Sandy Robbins	Resident Ensemble Players
<i>Dancing at Lughnasa</i>	Chris	M.Gotch/S.Robbins	Resident Ensemble Players
<i>Way to Heaven</i>	Girl #2	Matthew Earnest	Resident Ensemble Players
<i>The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui</i>	Ensemble	Heinz Uwe-Haus	Resident Ensemble Players
<i>All The King's Men</i>	Anne Stanton	Adrian Hall	Resident Ensemble Players

**AWARDS**

Michael and Janet Finlayson Acting Award, Utah Shakespeare Festival, 2012

**SPECIAL SKILLS**

Combat training (Broad sword, rapier, hand to hand), Waltzing, Tumbling, Dialects (RP, NY-Queens, Cockney, Northern Irish, Southern American, Lateral Lisp), Basic Piano and Flute skills, Basic Tap (Timestep)