



# **SOA THEATRE**

**2021-2022**

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SOA Theatre Department  
2021-2022

*Making the Invisible Visible...*

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the CCSOA Theatre Department! We are excited to see what the coming future holds for all of us as we seek to create theatre in these unique times. It is obvious that you all have been busy over the summer and we look forward to hearing about your adventures and for those that are new to us; we look forward to **introducing** you to an **exceptional** theatre program.

This handbook contains basic information for the theatre major and family. We realize for SOA theatre department veterans this may seem redundant, however, look at it with fresh eyes! Of course if you have questions please ask! We will be happy to help you.

Once again, we are **glad to have you here** and hope you are ready to start the year! We have some **great times ahead**. If you have any questions concerning the program, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

*Shannon Horn*  
Instructor

*Derek Pickens*  
Instructor

*George Younts*  
Instructor

5109 West Enterprise St. B  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
(843) 529-4990 ext. 26210  
[first\\_last@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:first_last@charleston.k12.sc.us)

# Faculty Bios

## **Shannon Horn**

Originally from the Midwest, Shannon has been a passionate arts educator and advocate for 25 years. She has a Master of Arts in Theatre Production and her Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance and Education. During her tenure as an educator, she has been fortunate to direct over 100 productions. Some of her favorites include: *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *The Wedding Singer*, *The Elephant's Graveyard*, *Blues*, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, *Macbeth* and so many more! She serves on the national Advocacy Leadership Network board and works with politicians and lawmakers to advocate for arts education. Shannon has been recognized as the SCTA *Outstanding Theatre Educator*, EdTA's *Volunteer of the Year*, SCSTA's *Communication Arts Teacher of the Year*, and as a SCISA *Master Teacher*. She is mom to fur babies Gypsy and Cosette.

## **Derek Pickens**

Derek is excited to be back for his third year at SOA. This is his 8th year teaching in Charleston, although he is originally from Maryland. Derek received his B.A. in Theatre Education from Greensboro College in North Carolina, and his M.F.A. in Performing Arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design. He is a member of the Acting Ensemble at Charleston Stage, where some of his credits include *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth), *Mamma Mia!* (Bill) and *Disney's Little Mermaid* (Scuttle). Derek has also been seen on stage in Charleston in *Rock of Ages* (Franz), *Monty Python's Spamalot* (Sir Robin), and *The Lyons* (Curtis) at Village Rep, where he is also a member of their Acting Ensemble. Before stepping into the classroom, Derek performed across the country including the national tour of *Horrible Harry*, based on the popular children's book, and at the Kennedy Center in the "Page to Stage" series.

## **George Younts**

Originally from Illinois, George has worked around the USA and Charleston as a director, designer, producer, technician, and performer and, annually, tours in a one-man adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*. With over 25 years of teaching experience he was at the *BAK Middle School of the Arts* in West Palm Beach, FL before *SOA* and is a SCTA's *Outstanding Theatre Educator Award* recipient. An *Illinois Wesleyan* graduate, his show credits include: *Alice in Wonderland*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Hamlet*, *The 39 Steps*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Oklahoma*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Grease*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Hamlet*, *Dracula* and comedic revues. He teaches stage tech, coaches *SOA's Fighting Gnomes*, performs as a local actor and magician plus, runs a prison theatre workshop. Affiliations: AEA, SCTA, SETC & NEA.

# Contact Information

Shannon Horn	shannon_horn@charleston.k12.sc.us	529-4990 ext. 26210
Derek Pickens	derek_pickens@charleston.k12.sc.us	529-4990 ext. 26210
George Younts	george_younts@charleston.k12.sc.us	529-4990 ext. 26210

## Teaching Schedules

First Semester						
	Horn		Pickens		Younts	
Period	A Day	B Day	A Day	B Day	A Day	B Day
1	Interventionist	Interventionist	Planning	Planning	7 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
2	Planning	Interventionist	6 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Planning	Planning
3	8 <sup>th</sup>	Planning	9 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	HS Stage Tech	8 <sup>th</sup>
4	10 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>

Second Semester						
	Horn		Pickens		Younts	
Period	A Day	B Day	A Day	B Day	A Day	B Day
1	Interventionist	Interventionist	7 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	Planning	Planning
2	Planning	Interventionist	Planning	Planning	6 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
3	9 <sup>th</sup>	Planning	8 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	HS Stage Tech	9 <sup>th</sup>
4	Specialty 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup>	Specialty 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup>	Specialty 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup>	Specialty 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup>	Specialty 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup>	Specialty 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup>

## SOA Theatre Majors Go To College!

*Past students have been accepted into the following Colleges and Universities as well as Theatre Training Programs: New York University, Occidental College, Savannah College of Art & Design, Brigham Young, Emory, Loyola- New Orleans, North Carolina School of the Arts, Catawba, Boston University, Brevard, Fordham University, DePaul University, Columbia University, Georgia Tech, Illinois State, Washington and Lee University, Tulane University, Brevard College, University of Montevallo, High Point College, University of Virginia, PACE University, SUNY Purchase, Southern Methodist University, Penn State, American Academy for Dramatic Arts, Morehouse, University of Colorado- Boulder, American Musical and Dramatic Academy, William & Mary, Spelman, Oglethorpe, Chicago Art Institute, Columbia College Chicago, University of Illinois, American University, Mary Mount Manhattan, University of Georgia, Carnegie Mellon, California Institute of the Arts, Rutgers along with full rides and partial scholarships to such South Carolina Institutions as Clemson Honors, Furman, Wofford, South Carolina Honors, College of Charleston Honors, Newberry, South Carolina State, Winthrop and many more.*

# General Information

When the Charleston County School of the Arts (CCSOA) began in 1995 there were only two grades (6th & 7th). Each year a new grade level was added resulting in the school as we now know it, spanning 6th through 12th grade. The theatre department has been part of this evolution and consequently has developed into one of the **most unique and challenging theatre education programs** to be found for grades six through twelve in the Southeastern USA.

As a program **Centering on the Actor and Story**, the department aims to facilitate a level of competency that allows students to utilize the knowledge and skills acquired through the course work for the **challenges of life**.

The program's concentration builds each year through integrating and reemphasizing previous curriculum and activities so that the students develop the necessary skills to complete the program's challenging goals. Its method **emphasizes learning-by-doing** in a format that is **intensive, highly disciplined** and focused on **individual development**. Having this specific **educational mission** allows the program to provide an integrated and concentrated curriculum, which develops definable and significant results in individual student artistic successes.

For in the final analysis, whatever new technologies, experiments, trends, designs, personalities or ideas that may come to the world of Theatre, everything ultimately depends on **the story to be told about the human condition**. Or as Shakespeare says:

*"...to hold, as 'twere, the mirror up to nature, to show virtue her own feature, scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time his form and pressure."* - Hamlet. III.2.

As a result the department produces over **70 performances throughout a school year** including student created productions, improv shows, full length plays, educational outreaches (performance and instructional) to other schools, Shakespeare, comedies, dramas, musicals, showcases of different genres and experimental work, ensemble created pieces, scene and monologue showings, children's theatre productions and one-person shows.

This challenging program offers an environment of constant focus on **creative and problem solving skills** while the students work **collaboratively and creatively** toward achieving goals. As a result they learn to accept and deal with their lifelong process of learning more effectively than students who have not studied in the CCSOA Theatre Department.

Graduates take these skills with them to college and into the workplace and **are highly sought after** because they can think, reason and adapt to challenges. Theatre students are prepared for life. Hence, it is our aim that graduates don't take with them hopes of "stardom" **but rather usable high level skills**, resulting from the experience of elevated standards in creativity, intellect, work ethic and collaboration.

## **Mission Statement:**

The CCSOA Theatre Department is a **process-oriented program** centered on **actor** and **playwright** training.

*Our goal is to facilitate a level of competency that allows theatre students to utilize their acting knowledge/skills and playwriting knowledge/skills for the challenges of life.*

## ***Rationale***

The Theatre Arts includes many demanding disciplines such as; Lighting Design, Set Design, Costume Design, Arts Management, Dramaturgy, Directing, Dance, Singing, Speech Training, Movement, Styles, Musical Theatre, Scene Design, Carpentry Skills, Theatre History and Technical Theatre.

To be proficient at any one of the above-cited disciplines, it takes more than just a couple of years of specialized focused study. A multi-focused curriculum results in a weak theatrical product and process.

In order to accomplish a high level of student achievement and product, the CCSOA Theatre Department focuses its curriculum on the two disciplines which lie at the heart of a theatre experience and its essential foundation:

1. Actor training
2. Playwright training.

Having a specific process-centered educational mission allows the program to provide an integrated and concentrated curriculum, which develops definable and significant results in individual student artistic successes.

In the final analysis, whatever new technologies, experiments, trends, designs, personalities or ideas that may come to the world of Theatre, everything ultimately depends on the human being and the story to be told--the actor and the script. Or as Shakespeare would have put it:

“...the purpose of playing, whose end, both at the first and now, was and is, to hold, as 'twere the mirror up to nature; to show virtue her own feature, scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time his form and pressure.”

*Hamlet III.2*

# Core Curriculum Goals

SOA's Theatre curriculum is designed to meet and exceed South Carolina's Theatre Standards by creating students who have the following skills:

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL**

- Self-sufficiency in play & script analysis
- Ongoing development and awareness of their acting apparatus: voice, body, technique, imagination & confidence
- Facility to create theatrical stories
- Good work ethic
- High level of collaboration skills
- Command of general theatre knowledge and vocabulary

## **HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL**

- Self-sufficiency and understanding of dramaturgy
- Ongoing development of their acting apparatus: voice, body, technique, imagination & confidence
- Good work ethic
- Ability to create original written and performance work
- Ability to integrate images of theatrical design
- Command of theatre history, styles & theories
- High level of collaboration skills
- Ability to take on the role of a director for self and group work
- Intellectual skills to explore, examine, interpret and integrate from a wide variety of ideas and concepts for the purpose of creating performances for theatre

## **CCSOA Theatre Major Activity Fee:**

There will be an activity fee for each theatre major of \$150.00. This fee will help to defray the operation costs of the department. Each year we have printing, paper, copying, computer supplies as well as theatre supplies that are necessary for the yearly function of the department. Theatre supplies include such items as scripts, rights and royalties, gray floor paint, black stage paint, lumber, lamps for lighting instruments and general building supplies of nails, screws, etc. The departmental awards, entrance fees into competitions and state/regional association's dues. This fee will be collected at the start of the school year. Please make the check payable to the SOA Black Box Boosters. Students should turn in their activities fee to their individual teacher.

# Students Staying Afterschool

As you know there are several times during the year that theatre majors will stay after school to rehearse, attend a work session and/or perform, or perhaps stay after to attend a 4pm or 6:30pm theatre department performance.

- If a student is doing so then there are guidelines to this activity.
- The Theatre Teacher who is running a rehearsal or work session will have specific instructions for that theatre student to follow and this activity is still considered part of the school and all campus and student conduct rules apply.
- Likewise if your student is staying after to watch a 4pm performance or 6:30pm performance then this is considered part of school and all campus and student conduct rules apply.
- If the student is staying after as an audience member for a 6:30pm performance ***then this student must check in and let the theater teacher know that they are staying after for the performance as well as receive guidelines for where they have to be on the campus.***

## Students Going Home After Activities Are Completed

Our students come from all over the Charleston County to be part of the *School of the Arts Community* and have a wide range of travel arrangements to get them to and from the BW campus every day.

- When there is an afterschool rehearsal, work session, performance or evening activity that the theatre department is running then that teacher running this activity is responsible to make sure that all of the students involved in this activity are gone from the campus once the activity is done. This is an educator's professional responsibility. The teacher cannot leave until these students are gone.
- With this in mind, we ask that parents and students be mindful of this and work out arrangements ahead for time so that all students can go home in a timely matter.
- A window of being picked up or going home ***in 15 minutes after an activity is over*** is generally considered an appropriate amount of time for a teacher to wait.
- If there is a foreseeable obstacle to a student(s) being picked up or going home ***in 15 minutes after an activity is over, then we ask that you let the theatre teacher know a head of time so that we can work on a solution or make accommodations in our personal schedule.***

# Things to Think About

## What is acting?

Acting is the study and communication of human behavior in service of telling stories. The best actors are interested in the human condition. They are experts in using their bodies and voices to communicate all kinds of human struggles. They are storytellers. There is an infinite amount to learn about acting because there is an infinite amount to learn about life. It takes years of hard work and dedicated study to develop quality acting skills and to build your knowledge of the human condition.

## Why it is important to get along with others in positive relationships?

A famous actor once said, "You will meet actors where you think, if only you could just clean up your act and get it together, people would want to work with you. Some people are so difficult; it's not worth working with them! "

## What does talent really mean?

Can you be born with "it" and have the "natural" ability to act? Sure, just like you can be born with the natural ability or "potential" to become a master ballet dancer. But can you imagine someone auditioning for the principal dancer in a world-class dance company having studied dance for only a year or two? Can you imagine an ice skater trying to qualify for the Olympics having trained for only a year? Absurd. Can you imagine a nuclear physicist claiming to be an expert about nuclear physics, saying she was just "born with it," bragging that she never actually studied physics? Insane.

## How to show up on time?

Early is on time. On time is late.

## How to complete the program?

- The "potential" which is shown in an audition gets you into SOA Theatre Department.
- Developing artistic skills, intellect, work ethic, knowledge, discipline and techniques makes you a SOA theatre student. That is what allows you to come back year after year.

## Why study acting?

Are you interested studying what it means to be an actor because you want people to look at you? Or are you interested because you want people to see themselves and the human condition differently through your work as an actor?

## What great theatre does?

Ruth Draper, a famous monodramatist in the early 20th century is quoted as saying,

"It is the audience that must supply the imagination. All I can do myself is to make the audience give it to me. I suppose my work needs more of this than most acting does, for I give people no help in the way of scenery lighting or stage effects. Long ago a man who knew a great deal about the theatre told me that the old advice to actors *you must put it over* was wrong. What is really important is not to put anything over, but to bring the audience onto the stage and into the scene with you. It is they who must give you even more than you give them in the way of imagination and creative power. This was once the great fact of the drama. It needed no artificial effects; it simply brought the actor and the audience together and fused their minds and feelings in an imagined reality. The great trouble today is that so much entertainment--cinema, radio, television--makes people passive, deadens their imagination. It gives them so much that it leaves them nothing to give in return. In the older drama Oriental, Greek, Medieval, Shakespearean--the audience had to supply what wasn't there. The poet or dramatist gave the cues, and of course his genius lay in giving the right ones; but it was from the audience that the experience of truth had to come."

# Performing Outside of the CCSOA Theater Department

Our students have always done very well for themselves in the local theater and entertainment industry scene. Appearing in commercials, feature films, radio, print ads, television shows as well as performing with all of the local theater companies we are proud of their accomplishments. However, many of our parents have a nonperforming arts/entertainment industry background. Thus, we are sometimes fielding questions. Here are ten bits of advice for you, and your student, to consider if he or she is involved or wants to get involved in this area.

1. First of all, it would probably be best to begin an ongoing discussion with your child about the definitions and perceptions of- success, notoriety, fame, publicity, media illusion, reality and money. It is very easy for children, and even grown adults, to become enamored with illusions of grandeur!
2. The pay for doing performance work in the entertainment industry (film, television or commercials) in Charleston or South Carolina is not much. In addition, be cautious when navigating this industry. There are scams, and scam artists out there! Be careful and error on the side of caution. If you are unsure about anything then please feel free to contact us for advice.
3. An agent for an actor is only paid if that agent gets the actor a job and he does it. This usually is around 5 to 10 percent of the gross paycheck. A manager is more heavily involved in developing an actor's career and receives around 10 to 15 percent only if the actor gets the job and they do it.
4. It is our professional opinion that one should never pay money to “be seen” in a showcase for an agent, a casting director or a “big-time” director.
5. Rehearsing and performing in the Charleston theater scene is an exhilarating, time consuming, and tiring. Make sure you are getting enough sleep, eating well and keeping up with school work. Students will have stress during this period and therefore will become more prone for sickness during it, or afterwards. This then results in missing school and getting seriously behind with studies.
6. Charleston theater scene pay is not much. Remember that you and your child are giving your and his time along with his talents, skills and experience to make a production happen. You and your child should be treated with respect and sincere gratitude by those who are in charged.
7. That show that your child is performing in will eventually end and life will return to how it once was and that theater company will be on to another show. Practice humility, good manners and gratitude at all times and then the transition back a “non-show life” will not be so difficult, or bitter, or a surprising let down.
8. If the environment your student is rehearsing or performing in has a structure that is not mentally or physically healthy then speak up and say something. Well-being is more important than “the show must go on!”
9. A good grade point average is more important for admittance into a college, or a college theater program, than how many roles, or leading roles, an applicant has done on the stage or on the small/big screen in his HS/MS career. The GPA gives college admissions the most accurate idea of how successfully a student will be in their program!
10. SOA Theatre does not give extra credit for any theater or industry work done outside school. Not every child has a support system to make this happen in their life. However, we do recognize this work at the HS level through our lettering program (see Mr. Younts). Nor are extensions on classroom assignments given just because one is auditioning for, or actually performing in a movie, commercial, or a play outside of school. The expectations are that theatre students will get their assignments in on time for all SOA classes and be at all required rehearsal and performances. Theatre students will always strive for good grades in their major and in their academics.