

Chauntee' Schuler Irving

PROFILE

- Currently guest starring as Maria Cross in the upcoming Amazon Studios/Amazon Prime series "Cross" (2024) based upon James Patterson's novel. The show is helmed by showrunner and executive producer Ben Watkins, creator of "Burn Notice" (2010-2013) and Amazon Prime's series "Hand to God" (2014-2017) as well as Emmy nominated director, Nzingha Stewart (*Daisy Jones and the Six*), and Craig Siebels.
- Assistant Professor of the Practice at Duke University teaching courses such as Acting for the Camera and The Singing Actor: Song Interpretation for Musical Theatre. Recipient of the David L. Paletz Innovative Course Enhancements Award (Spring 2023 and Spring 2024) and recognized for being in the Top 5% of undergraduate teachers for Fall 2022 and Spring 2023.
- 22 years as a professional actor, singer, and dancer, with lead roles on Broadway, Off Broadway, Broadway National Tours, New York, and regional productions, as well as roles on television and in national commercials.
- Have worked in multicultural casts under the direction of Julie Taymor, James Lapine, Kathleen Marshall, Michael Mayer, Trip Cullman, Christopher Ashley, Benny Sato Ambush, Dan Knechtges, and Mercedes Ellington.
- Specialized training in BGB and Barrow Group methodologies with Seth Barrish, Lee Brock, and Alyson Schacherer with concentrations in scene study, television, film, and musical theatre. Estill training with Joan Lader and 14 years of professional dance training in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Horton, Modern, Fosse, and Broadway styles.
- Member of Actors' Equity Association and the Screen Actors' Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Honored to serve as a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar in Theatre, Keynote Speaker for the Virginia Theatre Association Conference, and a Barrymore Nominee for Best Actress.

EDUCATION

Virginia Commonwealth University

*Master of Fine Arts
Performance Pedagogy*

Richmond, Virginia
M.F.A. 2019

Actors' Studio Drama School

*Master of Fine Arts
Acting*

New York, New York
M.F.A. Candidate '03-'04

University of Richmond

*Bachelor of Arts
Theatre and Political Science*

Richmond, Virginia
B.A. 2003

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Anti-Racist Theatre Training

Building Better (Play) Worlds *BBPW Educators*

Becoming a Series Regular

BGB Studio Los Angeles *Corey Parker*

Advanced Scene Study

The Barrow Group *Seth Barrish/Lee Brock*

Acting for the Camera

The Barrow Group *Lorrel Manning*

Musical Theatre Prep

The Barrow Group *Lee Brock*

Viewpoints

The Actors' Studio *Movement Faculty*

Strasberg Method

The Actors' Studio *Barbara Portier*

Alexander Technique

The Actors' Studio *Cynthia Reynolds*

Fitzmaurice Voicework

VCU Masters Program *Karen Kopryanski*

Directing

VCU Masters Program *David Leong*

Shakespeare

ACT Studio Program *Laura Wayth*

TV/Film Acting

Lisa Robertson Studio *Lisa Robertson*

Estill Method

Private Voice *Joan Lader*

Estill/Broadway Techniques

Private Voice *Andrea Green*

Modern Dance

American Dance Festival *Tony Johnson*

Fosse Repertoire

Broadway Dance Center *Diane Laurenson*

Ballet

Broadway Dance Center *Kat Wildish*

Tap

Broadway Dance Center *Germaine Salsberg*

Horton/Modern

Alvin Ailey Studios *Tina Bush*

Audition Technique

NYC Workshop *Lonnie Price*

Stage Combat

University Course *David Bridgewater*

TEACHING AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Introduction to Theatre

A survey and exploration of performance basics for the beginning theatre student.

First Year Acting

Acting for majors course designed to introduce application of skills and techniques through improvisation, theatre games, role-playing, and basic script work.

Scene Study

Exploration of embodied character work and development of advanced skills and techniques as it applies to modern acting.

Advanced Scene Study

Continuation of embodied character work through self-evaluation to foster independence and prepare advanced acting students for professional settings.

Acting for the Camera

A collaborative, hands-on study of camera work, acting techniques, and modern industry expectations for screen actors with an additional focus on self-taping for auditions.

Self-Taped Audition

A practical and pedagogical exploration of the current industry uses and standards for self-tapes, tools for integration into the acting classroom, and hands-on production training.

Audition Technique

Practical, audition style course designed to introduce concentrated techniques for auditioning for the stage, television, and film.

Introduction to Voice and Speech

A study of the basic elements of vocal relaxation, production, and awareness for the actor.

Musical Theatre Performance

A course developed to introduce students to the physical and vocal skills necessary for performing in the musical theatre genre.

Song Interpretation

An advanced research and workshop-based musical theatre course designed to introduce students to the analytical and performative demands of acting a song.

Performing Ethnicity

An advanced acting course created to examine the effect of ethnicity on character in narrative storytelling through a study in documentary theatre.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Acting for the Camera: On Location Assistant Professor Duke University

(Spring 2024) *Acting for the Camera on Location* is a rigorous workshop-based course designed to introduce students to the practical and performative demands of screen acting. The course aims to give students an “on set” experience and a working knowledge of current industry standards, practical tools for integrating the technical demands of taping along with craft, as well as hands-on methods to approaching camera work. Class material consists of acting exercises, scenes, and monologues from various styles with a continued focus on truthful acting and practiced spontaneity on camera while on location.

The Singing Actor Assistant Professor Duke University

(Fall 2023) *The Singing Actor* is a research and workshop-based musical theater course designed to introduce students to the analytical and performative demands of acting a song through digital and live mediums. The course aims to give students a working knowledge of music theory methods, exercises, and essential aesthetics in vocal production and vocal wellness, as well as an in-depth study of script analysis, score analysis, and character development for the musical.

Mainstage Production: Rent Ass. Professor/Director Duke University

(Spring 2023) *An immersive course where students analyze, research, rehearse, and produce a theatrical text for public performance. Practical acting, movement, and vocal techniques are introduced with a focus on dramaturgical context.*

Acting for the Camera Assistant Professor Duke University

(Fall 2022/2023) *An intensive course designed to introduce students to the practical and performative demands of screen acting. The course aims to give students a working knowledge of current industry standards for self-taping as well as practical tools for integrating the technical demands of taping along with craft.*

Musical Theater Workshop Assistant Professor Duke University

(Fall 2022) *A research and workshop based musical theatre course designed to introduce students to the analytical and performative demands of creating a musical showcase. The course aims to give students a working knowledge of musical theater history, dramaturgical research methods, exercises and essential aesthetics in dance and vocal production, as well as in-depth study of script analysis, score analysis, and character development for the musical.*

Industry and Networking Faculty AMDA Los Angeles

(Spring 2022) *A collaborative course developed to equip pre-professional artists with essential skills and career-launching tools for professional self-marketing and promotion. Audition trends and expectations are explored and put to practical use through industry guest visits.*

Media for the MT Performer Faculty AMDA Los Angeles

(Fall 2021) *A technology centered course created to investigate the criteria and techniques in digital media used to promote and market a professional musical theatre performer. Emphasis is placed on the selection of audition footage, processing and uploading the footage onto the appropriate medium, and basic editing applications.*

Essential Repertoire Faculty AMDA Los Angeles

(Fall 2021) *An advanced course in which students learn to research, develop, and fine-tune audition selections as preparation for professional musical theatre auditions. Students learn to evaluate the musical and acting elements that will effectively enhance their audition portfolio.*

Mastering the Callback Faculty AMDA Los Angeles

(Fall 2021) *Students learn to collaborate with a director during the professional musical theatre audition callback setting and quickly break down audition sides from the musical theatre repertoire. Song, dance, and musicianship are advanced.*

Self-Taped Audition Faculty American Conservatory Theatre
(Spring 2020 to present) A fast-paced studio workshop designed for actors of all levels to discover the current industry uses and standards for self-tapes as well as learning accessible methods and technologies for professional-quality self-tapes through hands-on production training.

Acting Series Faculty American Conservatory Theatre
(Spring 2020 to Spring 2022) A rigorous studio series of professional acting courses aimed to engage a diverse population of students in various styles of acting material with advanced instruction in active listening and responding to scene partners.

Embodied Basics of Acting Guest Lecturer University of California Los Angeles
(Spring 2022) An advanced acting workshop designed to give BFA and MFA level students a working knowledge of the overlooked elements of human expression in acting. We explore pedagogies that hinder the acting mechanism and discover actor centered dramaturgy that creates fluidity and spontaneity in performance.

Embodied Basics of Acting Guest Lecturer University of Missouri Kansas City
(Spring 2022) An advanced acting workshop designed to give BFA and MFA level students a working knowledge of the overlooked elements of human expression in acting. We explore pedagogies that hinder the acting mechanism and discover actor centered dramaturgy that creates fluidity and spontaneity in performance.

Embodied Basics of Acting Guest Lecturer Oklahoma State University
(Spring 2022) An advanced acting workshop designed to give BFA and MFA level students a working knowledge of the overlooked elements of human expression in acting. We explore pedagogies that hinder the acting mechanism and discover actor centered dramaturgy that creates fluidity and spontaneity in performance.

Embodied Basics of Acting Guest Lecturer Smith College
(Spring 2022) An advanced acting workshop designed to give BFA and MFA level students a working knowledge of the overlooked elements of human expression in acting. We explore pedagogies that hinder the acting mechanism and discover actor centered dramaturges that creates fluidity and spontaneity in performance.

Embodied Acting Basics for Singers Guest Lecturer Central Michigan University
(Spring 2022) An advanced musical theatre workshop designed to give BFA level students a working knowledge of the overlooked elements of human expression in acting through song. We explore pedagogies that hinder the acting mechanism and discover actor centered dramaturgy that create fluidity and spontaneity in vocal and acting performance.

Self-Taping for the Actor Faculty Tennessee Arts Academy
(Summer 2019) A rigorous and fast-paced course that equipped high school theatre educators with the vital industry skill of self-taping. The practical and pedagogical exploration included a survey of current industry uses and standards for self-tapes, tools for integration into the acting classroom, and hands-on production training. The curriculum provided teachers with the resources and knowledge they needed to aid their students in producing effective self-tapes.

Acting II Lecturer Virginia Commonwealth University
(Spring 2018) A continuation of Acting I with a deepening of examination in text analysis, monologue and scene preparation, freeing the physical and vocal instrument, as well as rehearsal and performance techniques.

Acting I Lecturer Virginia Commonwealth University
(Fall 2017) Acting for majors course designed to introduce the first-year student to the world of acting through the discovery of self and the connection between real life and theatrical life.

Audition Technique

Lecturer

Virginia Commonwealth University

(Fall 2017) A senior level course designed to give acting students a working knowledge of the elements of the audition process including monologues, prepared scenes, cold readings, and industry interviews. The core focus of the course was the development of audition material and presentation skills in conjunction with practical preparation for the business of acting for the pre-professional student.

Broadway Musical Theatre

Teaching Artist

Camp Broadway, NYC

(Fall 2010 to Spring 2012) A master class taught by Broadway artists for high school musical theatre students visiting and training in New York City. Broadway artists taught and coached students on material from their respective shows with the option to create new work.

Broadway Musical Theatre

Teaching Artist

On and Off Broadway, NYC

(Fall 2010 to Spring 2012) Broadway master classes designed to challenge students aged 15-21 with fast-paced choreography in a mock audition setting. Tailored for the student interested in entering the theatre business. Included choreography, song coaching, and scene preparation with a primary focus on acting the song and storytelling within dance.

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE***Rent***

Duke University

Spring 2023

Reverie

Duke University

Fall 2022

Before We Go

AMDA Los Angeles

Spring 2022

Come Into My World

AMDA Los Angeles

Fall 2021

TEACHING AND ACADEMIC AWARDS***David L. Paletz Innovative Course Enhancement Award***

Duke University

TDE Arts Grant

Duke University

Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

University of Richmond

PROFESSIONAL ACTING EXPERIENCE

<i>Cross</i>	<i>Maria Cross</i>	<i>Amazon Prime TV Series</i>
<i>The Lion King</i>	<i>Nala</i>	<i>Broadway</i>
<i>Murder Ballad</i>	<i>Narrator U/S</i>	<i>Off Broadway</i>
<i>Everyday Rapture</i>	<i>Mennonette</i>	<i>Off Broadway</i>
<i>The Lion King</i>	<i>Nala</i>	<i>Broadway National Tour</i>
<i>Xanadu</i>	<i>Erato</i>	<i>Broadway National Tour</i>
<i>The Producers</i>	<i>Ensemble</i>	<i>Broadway National Tour</i>
<i>Applause</i>	<i>Gypsy</i>	<i>Encores City Center</i>
<i>Party Come Here</i>	<i>Volere</i>	<i>Williamstown Theater Festival</i>
<i>Dreamgirls</i>	<i>Deena Jones</i>	<i>Prince Music Theater</i>
<i>Smokey Joe's Café</i>	<i>Brenda</i>	<i>Ogunquit Playhouse</i>
<i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i>	<i>Ermina</i>	<i>Theater Virginia</i>
<i>Company</i>	<i>Amy</i>	<i>Modlin Center for the Arts</i>
<i>As The World Turns</i>	<i>Bonnie McKechnie</i>	<i>CBS</i>
<i>Onion News Network</i>	<i>Angelique Clark</i>	<i>Independent Film Channel</i>
<i>Chase Bank - Triplets</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>National Commercial</i>
<i>Longhorn Steakhouse - Date Night</i>	<i>Featured</i>	<i>National Commercial</i>

READINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND CONCERTS

<i>Little Miss Sunshine</i>	<i>Miss California</i>	<i>New York City</i> <i>dir. James Lapine</i>
<i>Little Miss Sunshine</i>	<i>Miss California</i>	<i>Sundance Theatre Lab</i> <i>dir. James Lapine</i>
<i>I DREAM - MLK Musical</i>	<i>Claudette Colvin</i>	<i>New York City</i> <i>29-Hour Reading (Jan 2014)</i>
<i>I DREAM - MLK Musical</i>	<i>Claudette Colvin</i>	<i>New York City</i> <i>29-Hour Reading (Aug 2014)</i>
<i>You May Worship Me Now</i>	<i>Mennonette</i>	<i>Actors' Equity Benefit Concert</i> <i>dir. Michael Mayer</i>
<i>Once on This Island</i>	<i>Timoune</i>	<i>Actors' Equity Benefit Concert</i> <i>Lion King National Tour Cast</i>

AFFILIATIONS

<i>Actors' Equity Association</i>	<i>Member Since 2002</i>
<i>SAG/AFTRA</i>	<i>Member Since 2007</i>
<i>Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society</i>	<i>Member Since 2003</i>
<i>Mortar Board Honor Society</i>	<i>Member Since 2003</i>

REPRESENTATION

<i>Phoenix Artists Inc.</i>	<i>Randi Ross</i>	<i>Theatre, Television, Film</i>
<i>Abrams Artists</i>	<i>Tracy Goldblum</i>	<i>Commercial and Voiceover</i>
<i>Abrams Artists</i>	<i>Joe Thompson</i>	<i>Print</i>

SERVICE

QuadEx

Faculty Fellow

Duke University

Provost appointment designed to mentor and support students through interdisciplinary and extracurricular community programming. Involvement has included Quad Council meetings, weekly staff meetings, Wicked at DPAC program with Edens, Trinity, and Bell Tower quads, Hope Dinner, joint RA programming, and individual student meetings.

Duke Centennial

Artistic Director

Duke University

Create, organize, and direct student performance for the impact segment of the Centennial Kickoff in collaboration with the President's office and event organization, XPL. Responsibilities include co-collaborating in the creation of musical arrangements, assisting in technical design and vision, and leading rehearsals.

DPAC/Duke Partnership

Program Director

North Carolina

I established a collaborative community engagement program between the Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC) and Duke's Theater Studies department. The program's goal is to foster inclusivity and arts engagement through workshops and events with professional artists specifically for Durham public school students and the local community.

Durham Performing Arts Center

Facilitator

North Carolina

Served as a facilitator for DPAC's and Kids Night on Broadway. I introduced and engaged members of the Broadway touring cast of Disney's Frozen in conversation about their personal and professional experiences with the show for the DPAC audience.

DPAC/Triangle Rising Stars

Finalist Judge

North Carolina

Assisted DPAC as a judge in the National High School Musical Theatre competition. Along with other professional judges, I evaluate students based on their performance skills, knowledge, and creative potential to determine which finalists would move forward to attend the national competition in New York City.

Durham Public Schools

Host/Mentor

North Carolina

Created and hosted a free Broadway audition workshop for Durham Public Schools theatre students at Duke campus in which professional vocal coach/guest artist Sheri Sanders spent several hours mentoring and coaching attendees in song performance. Recent artist workshop included a Broadway masterclass by AUDELCO winner and Broadway performer, James T. Lane.

Artist in Residence Search Committee

Committee Member

Duke University

Collaborated with fellow Theater Studies committee members to research and procure insights about potential artist in residence applicants. Created discussion priorities and submitted committee recommendations to the departmental Chair for final determination.

145S Review Committee (Fall 2023)

Committee Member

Duke University

Collaborated with fellow Theater Studies committee members to restructure and reimagine the gateway course THEATRST 145S. Created discussion priorities and submitted committee recommendations to the departmental Chair for final determinations.

African Children's Choir

Performer and Fundraiser

New York

The African Children's Choir program promotes the beauty, dignity, and unlimited ability of the African child around the world. I worked to raise funds for the choir as well as perform with the choir in their New York City benefit concert.

Girl Scouts of Greater New York

Performer and Guest Speaker

New York

The Girls Scouts of Greater New York's mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. I served as a guest speaker to many local NYC based Girl Scouts troops and performed at their annual gala in New York City.

New York Public Schools

Graduation Speaker and Mentor

New York

Served as a graduation speaker and guest mentor for Bronx high school and Brooklyn elementary school students. I discussed the importance of mentors and ways to serve and develop the arts in the New York City public schools in partnership with students, teachers, and administrators.

Los Angeles Public Schools

Guest Artist

Los Angeles

A Lion King workshop designed for elementary aged children to be exposed to the cultural and historical origins of the Lion King story through costumes, African history, and improvisational games designed around mask and animal work.

REFERENCES

Douglas Jones

Associate Professor of Theater Studies, Duke University

Neal Bell

Playwright and Professor of the Practice of Theater Studies, Duke University

Courtney Liu

Assistant Professor of Music Theatre, Elon University

Seth Barrish

Founding Co-Artistic Director, The Barrow Group Theatre Company and School

Lee Brock

Founding Co-Artistic Director, The Barrow Group Theatre Company and School

Alyson Schacherer

Founding Teacher and Faculty, The Barrow Group Theatre Company and School

Dan Knechtges

Artistic Director, Theatre Under the Stars

Joan Lader

Estill Master Teacher, National Association of Singing Teachers, The Voice Foundation

Andrea Green

Voice Faculty, Manhattan School of Music

Mark Jackson

Director of Studio A.C.T. and MFA Faculty, American Conservatory Theatre

Laura Wayth

Professor of Theatre, San Francisco State University

Keith B. Kirk

Director of Graduate Studies, VCU Department of Theatre

Aaron D. Anderson

Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies, VCU Department of Theatre

David S. Leong

Society of Directors and Choreographers, The College of Fellows of the American Theatre