

# Thomas J. Foster II

Actor, Director, Teacher  
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## **Mission Statement**

*To make an impact on the world as a theatre artist  
by creating culturally significant work  
that both illuminates difficult truths about our humanity  
and helps the collective  
transcend the human experience*

## **EDUCATION**

### **UNIVERSITY**

#### **Master of Fine Arts in Classical Acting**

The Shakespeare Company's Academy for Classical Acting at George Washington University, Washington, DC

#### **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre**

The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

#### **Acting/Musical Theatre BFA Program**

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

#### **Internship, Summer Cabaret at Yale**

Yale School of Drama, New Haven, CT

#### **High School Diploma with a concentration in Drama**

University of North Carolina School of the Arts, School of Drama, Winston-Salem, NC

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Chesapeake Bay Alexander Studies

- Alexander Technique teacher Training, 1 year completed

Aaron Hagan

- Private study in Singing

The Center - Dody DiSanto, director

- Study and exploration in the work of Jacques LeCoq (Neutral mask, Character mask, Clown)

# TEACHING

## **TOMMY FOSTER PRIVATE STUDIO**

- One-on-one and small group teaching
- College audition counseling and prep
- Comprehensive lessons including classical text analysis, acting classical text, contemporary monologue prep, voice for the actor, singing, acting a song, material selection and personalization, and Alexander Technique
- Students accepted to UNCSA School of Drama High School and College Programs, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Michigan, The Hart School, Texas State University, Ball State University, and Ithaca College among others

## **CATAWBA COLLEGE, Salisbury, NC**

- Assistant Professor of Theatre 2016-2019
- Head of Musical Theatre 2018-2019
- Adjunct Professor 2013-2016

### **Duties & Accomplishments**

- 4/4 course load
- directed yearly MainStage production
- advised students both academically and professionally
- served on Academic Integrity committee and Enrollment committee
- participated in major curriculum revision for BFA and BA programs in Theatre, Acting, Musical Theatre, and Design
- served on multiple search committees
- organized partnership with the Shakespeare Theatre Company to bring BFA students to DC to workshop material with MFA students and participate in master classes
- organized yearly workshop preparing students for SETC professional auditions
- served as mentor for students cast in professional internships at professional local theatres
- advised and taught independent study courses in Alexander Technique and Stage Dialects
- served on admissions panel and scholarship judiciary

### **Instructor of Record**

#### **TA-3539 Musical Theatre Performance**

A practical study of the special theories, techniques, and practices of theatrical performance and musical theatre styles.

#### **TA-3530 Playing Shakespeare**

Study and practice of scenes, monologues, and sonnets of Shakespeare with emphasis on Elizabethan movement, manners, customs, and the practicalities of analyzing and performing Shakespeare's language.

#### **TA-2525 Stage Speech & Movement (Voice & Speech)**

An intermediate study in the development of onstage characterization and personal development with an emphasis on the application of vocal and physical theories.

**TA-2534 Intermediate Acting (Physical Theatre)**

A practical study of the theories, techniques, and practices observed in contemporary acting with a focus on physical theatre.

**BA-1134 Beginning Acting for Majors**

A practical study of the fundamental approach to acting in contemporary realistic drama, rooted in the foundations of Stanislavski.

**BA-1135 Beginning Acting for Non-Majors**

A practical study of the fundamental approach to acting in contemporary realistic drama, rooted in the foundations of Stanislavski. For non-majors.

**TA-1537 Audition Techniques**

Performance theory and techniques of auditioning for stage, film, television, and musical theatre.

**DAN-1101 Foundations of Movement**

An introductory study of basic concepts in movement, vocal and physical performance techniques through exploration of embodied anatomy, yoga, Alexander Technique geared specifically for theatre majors.

**DAN-1100 Introduction to Dance**

A survey of basic concepts, history, and movement techniques in dance, including ballet, modern, jazz and other dance forms designed to serve the inexperienced dancer. Appropriate clothing and shoes required.

**DAN-2501 Tap/Jazz Dance I**

A fundamental study of tap and jazz dance technique, history, performance, and style with an emphasis placed on execution, vocabulary and terminology.

**CHILDREN'S THEATRE OF CHARLOTTE, Charlotte, NC**

• Teaching Artist, 2013-2023

**Pre-Professional Company**

The highest level in the School of Theatre Training Conservatory. This company of actors was made up of teens and co-taught by Steven Levine and myself, including text analysis, classical scene study, physical theatre, clown, and song performance. Additional emphasis on preparing high school seniors for college auditions.

**Musical Theatre Company**

The second highest level in the School of Theatre Training Conservatory. Focus of the class was on text analysis and scene study with physical theatre and clown exploration to influence song performance. Additional emphasis on preparing high school seniors for college auditions.

**Summer Teen Musical Theatre Experience**

Summer program for teens by audition only that explored acting, singing, and dance as it relates to telling a story. Program culminated with performances of full musicals including SWEENEY TODD, CHICAGO, and EVITA.

**Summer Teen Shakespeare Experience**

Summer program for teens by audition only, created by me, that explored bringing classical text to life through scansion, mask work, and physical exploration - culminating a workshop production of a classical play, including MACBETH and THE TEMPEST.

## **ROWAN CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Concord & Salisbury, NC**

- Instructor of Record, 2013-2016

### **DRA-130 Acting I**

This course provides an applied study of the actor's craft. Topics include role analysis, training for the voice, body concentration, discipline, and self-evaluation. Upon completion, students should be able to explore their creativity in an acting ensemble.

### **DRA-126 Storytelling**

This course introduces the art of storytelling and the oral traditions of folk literature. Topics include the history of storytelling, its value and purpose, techniques of the storyteller, and methods of collecting verbal art. Upon completion, students should be able to present and discuss critically stories from the world's repertory of traditional lore.

### **DRA-411 Theatre Appreciation**

This course provides a study of the art, craft, and business of the theatre. Emphasis is placed on the audience's appreciation of the work of the playwright, director, actor, designer, producer, and critic. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a vocabulary of theatre terms and to recognize the contributions of various theatre artists.

## **CENTRAL CABARRUS HIGH SCHOOL, Concord, NC**

- Instructor of Theatre Arts, 2007-2008

- produced and directed two major productions utilizing theatre and non-theatre students
- re-created courses in theatre providing an intense academic approach regarding play structure and text analysis
- incorporated stronger standards for the content of Movement and Speech
- re-created course in Musical Theatre expanding from doing a musical in class to learning the skills needed to do a musical incorporating basic ballet and tap, investigating a musical script and how to perform a song
- re-designed the stage and theatrical playing space from a traditional proscenium into a removable thrust
- supervised construction of stage extension and sets
- supervised the theatre facilities including hosting to outside groups
- coordinated with parents to form sub-committees that supported the theatre department
- Classes Included Theatre I, II, III, IV, and Musical Theatre

## **WORKSHOPS & MASTER CLASSES**

### **Voice & Speech**, Children's Theatre of Charlotte – Charlotte, NC

- Master Class focusing on the foundations of vocal production, projection and support; introduced students to the foundations of Fitzmaurice Voice Work and Alexander Technique in preparation for the conservatory production of THE GIVER.

### **Master Class in Acting**, Children's Theatre of Charlotte – Charlotte, NC

- Master Class in acting technique, deepening the stakes, playing action, and making the work personal for the production of The Hundred Dresses

### **Voice, Speech & Dialects**, Children's Theatre of Charlotte – Charlotte, NC

- Two Master Classes focusing on the foundation of vocal production, projection and support; introduced students to the foundations of Fitzmaurice Voice Work and Alexander Technique; coached students on a Connecticut Dialect and a Polish Accent for the production of The Hundred Dresses

**Master Class**, Northwest School of the Arts – Charlotte, NC

- Master Class for the musical theatre students in acting a song and communicating text in addition to working privately with the leads of the school musical

**Master Class**, Mill Mountain Theatre – Roanoke, VA

- Master Class in physical improvisation and storytelling based on a piece of music; for elementary school students

## DIRECTING

### **Director**

*Hamlet*

*Anything Goes*

*The Children's Hour*

*Liars*

*The Last Five Years*

*The Tempest*

*Chicago*

*MacBeth*

*Sounds of the 60's*

*Sweeney Todd School Edition*

*Reasons to Be Pretty*

*South Pacific*

*Annie*

*Disney's Cinderella*

*Disney's The Aristocats*

*Carousel*

*Our Town*

*John & Jen*

Catawba College

Catawba College

Catawba College

Children's Theatre of Charlotte Substance Abuse Tour

Lee Street Theatre

Children's Theatre of Charlotte

Children's Theatre of Charlotte

Children's Theatre of Charlotte

Lee Street Theatre

Children's Theatre of Charlotte

Carolina Actor's Studio Theatre

Old Courthouse Theatre

Acting Up Children's Theatre

Acting Up Children's Theatre

Acting Up Children's Theatre

Cabarrus Playmakers

Central Cabarrus High School

Old Courthouse Theatre

### **Director/Choreographer**

*Into the Woods*

*Broadway Lullabies: Songs of the Golden Age*

*Hello, Dolly!*

*Hello, Dolly!*

*A New Brain*

*Godspell*

*Oliver!*

Lexington Live!

Lee Street Theatre

Old Courthouse Theatre

Central Cabarrus High School

University of Michigan Basement Arts

Old Courthouse Theatre

Old Courthouse Theatre

### **Choreographer**

*Oklahoma*

*Godspell*

Children's Theatre of Charlotte

Acting Up! Children's Theatre

### **Assistant Director**

*Overruled*

*How He Lied to Her Husband*

Summer Cabaret at Yale

Summer Cabaret at Yale

## **Dialect Coach**

*Stage Kiss*, directed by Ann Marie Costa                      Actor's Theatre of Charlotte  
• Good American Speech, Northern Irish, Brooklyn, and Midwestern

*The Hundred Dresses*, directed by Michelle Long              Children's Theatre of Charlotte  
• Polish and New England dialects

## **Fight Choreographer**

*Reasons to Be Pretty*, directed by Tommy Foster              Carolina Actor's Studio Theatre  
• Two person, hand to hand

*Oklahoma*, directed by Sarah Diener                      Children's Theatre of Charlotte  
• Two person. hand to hand

# **ACTING**

## **THEATRE**

<i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, the Musical</i>	Bob	Children's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Narnia the Musical</i>	Aslan/Professor Digory	Children's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Falsettos</i>	Marvin	Triad Pride Stage Company
<i>A Grand Night For Singing</i>	Billy	Piedmont Players Theatre
<i>Ma Rainey's Black Bottom</i>	Sturdyvant	BNS Productions
<i>Fun Home</i>	Bruce Bechdel	Lee Street Theatre
<i>Jekyll &amp; Hyde</i>	Dr.Jekyll/Mr.Hyde	CPCC Summer Theatre
<i>Matilda! the Musical</i>	Agatha Trunchbull	Children's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Next to Normal</i>	Dan	Lee Street Theatre
<i>Big Fish</i>	Edward Bloom	Lee Street Theatre
<i>Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical</i>	Rufus Jeeter	Actor's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Schoolhouse Rock Live!</i>	Tommy	Children's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Journey to Oz</i>	Lion	Children's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Ella's Big Chance</i>	Mr. Parker/Dance Capt.	Children's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Elephant &amp; Piggie's We Are In A Play</i>	Gerald the Elephant	Children's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Oliver!</i>	Bill Sykes	CPCC Summer Theatre
<i>The Normal Heart</i>	Ned Weeks	Theatre Charlotte
<i>Jackie &amp; Me</i>	Father/Dixie Walker	Children's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Inc.</i>	Phillip/Tripp	Actor's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Scrooge! the Musical</i>	Jollygoode/Fezziwig	Children's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>River City</i>	Father Schroeder/Roger	Actor's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>The Scarlet Pimpernel</i>	Percy Blakeney	CPCC Summer Theatre
<i>The Hundred Dresses</i>	Mr. Petronski/Mr. Svenson	Children's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Next to Normal</i>	Dr. Fine/Dr. Madden	Music Theatre of Connecticut
<i>The Atheist's Tragedy</i>	Borachio	Academy for Classical Acting
<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>	2nd Lord Dumain	Academy for Classical Acting
<i>I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change</i>	Man 1	Cape Fear Regional Theatre
<i>The Full Monty</i>	Jerry Lukowski	Cape Fear Regional Theatre
<i>The Who's Tommy</i>	Captain Walker	The Gallery Players
<i>John &amp; Jen</i>	John Tracy	Music Theatre of Connecticut
<i>SLUT! The Musical</i>	Adam	Actor's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Dance With Me</i>	Larry Hart	York Theatre Staged Reading
<i>The Roxy</i>	Trenton Baines Jr.	Staged Reading

<i>The Wild Party</i> (Lippa Version)	Burrs	Kalliope Stage
<i>The Last Five Years</i>	Jamie	The Gorilla Theatre
<i>Pompeii the Musical</i>	Ensemble	World Premiere Theatrical Prod.
<i>tick...Tick...BOOM!</i>	Jon	Actor's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Carousel</i>	Billy Bigelow	Gateway Playhouse
<i>The Wars</i>	Villiers/Devlin	Staged Reading
<i>Footloose</i>	Willard Hewitt	Ogunquit Playhouse
<i>George M!</i>	Freddie/Hank	Ogunquit Playhouse
<i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i>	Aslan	Theatreworks USA
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Frederic u/s	Mill Mountain Theatre
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Balthazar	Mill Mountain Theatre
<i>Rapunzel</i>	Prince Brian	Mill Mountain Theatre
<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	Scarecrow/Tinman u/s	Mill Mountain Theatre
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	Ensemble	Staged Reading, Pre-Broadway
<i>Cabaret</i>	Ernst Ludwig	University of Michigan
<i>A New Brain</i>	Gordon	University Basement Arts
<i>John &amp; Jen</i>	John Tracy	Old Courthouse Theatre
<i>Candide</i>	Ensemble	University of Michigan
<i>Anything Goes</i>	Ensemble – featured	University of Michigan
<i>A Grand Night For Singing</i>	Bari-Tenor	Old Courthouse Theatre
<i>Love! Valour! Compassion!</i>	Bobby Brahms	Stage One
<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	Voice of Audrey II	Old Courthouse Theatre
<i>Stanton's Garage</i>	Harlon	Actor's Theatre of Charlotte
<i>Meet Me In St. Louis</i>	Ensemble	The Mac-Haydn Theatre
<i>A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum</i>	Hero	The Mac-Haydn Theatre
<i>The Sound of Music</i>	Ensemble	The Mac-Haydn Theatre
<i>Grease</i>	Ensemble	The Mac-Haydn Theatre
<i>Crazy For You</i>	Perkins/Custus	The Mac-Haydn Theatre
<i>Joseph &amp; the Amazing, Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>	Baker/Joseph u/s	The Mac-Haydn Theatre
<i>The Poet and the Rent</i>	Aunt Georgie	Summer Cabaret at Yale
<i>Like A Family</i>	Ensemble	UNC School of the Arts

## **COMMERCIAL**

- Nickelodeon's Monster Days of Christmas
- Food Lion
- McDonalds

## **TELEVISION**

- Sex and the City

## **CRUISE SHIP**

MS Norwegian Crown, Lead Production Singer

- The Best of Broadway
- Showstoppers
- Hooray for Hollywood
- An American in Paris
- Rhythm of the Night
- Tommy Foster in Concert

## CONCERT AND CABARET

<i>Bringing Me Home</i>	Petra's Piano Bar and Cabaret	Charlotte, NC
<i>Neverland</i>	Old Courthouse Theatre	Concord, NC
<i>Coming Up For Air</i>	Triangle Center for Spiritual Living	Raleigh, NC
<i>Mama Says</i>	Barnes Theatre	Concord, NC
<i>Not While I'm Around</i>	The Duplex	New York, NY
<i>The Method to My Madness</i>	Don't Tell Mama	New York, NY
• Bistro Award Winner from 'Backstage' for Best Theme Show		
<i>The Method to My Madness</i>	Actor's Theatre of Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
<i>Falling Up</i>	Don't Tell Mama	New York, NY
<i>Moving On</i>	Don't Tell Mama	New York, NY

## AWARDS & HONORS

### AWARDS

Bistro Award from <i>Backstage</i>	Best Theme Show	<i>The Method to my Madness</i>
Old Courthouse Theatre Award	Best Direction	<i>South Pacific</i>
Old Courthouse Theatre Award	Best Direction	<i>Hello, Dolly!</i>
Old Courthouse Theatre Award	Best Production	<i>Hello, Dolly!</i>

### NOMINATIONS

Broadway World Award	Best Actor Nomination	<i>Jekyll &amp; Hyde</i>
Broadway World Award	Best Actor Nomination	<i>Matilda the Musical</i>
Metrolina Theatre Association	Best Actor Nomination	<i>tick...Tick...BOOM!</i>
Creative Loafing Theatre Award	Best Actor Nomination	<i>tick...Tick...BOOM!</i>
Creative Loafing Theatre Award	Best Actor Nomination	<i>The Method to my Madness</i>

## REFERENCES

**Meredith Fox**, Former Head of Musical Theatre, Catawba College  
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**Dr. Aaron Butler**, Assistant Professor of English, Catawba College  
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**Adam Burke**, Artistic Director, Children's Theatre of Charlotte  
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**Steven Levine**, Director of Production, Children's Theatre of Charlotte  
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