

Michael Lawrence Franz

Curriculum Vitae

August 2026

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Mississippi , Oxford, Mississippi Instructional Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts, Department of Theatre & Film	Fall 2024—Present
Chestnut Hill College , Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Adjunct Instructor, School of Undergraduate Studies	Spring 2024
University of Central Florida , Orlando, Florida Adjunct Instructor, School of Performing Arts	Fall 2022 – Summer 2023
Florida State University , Tallahassee, Florida Instructor, School of Theatre	Spring 2022

EDUCATION

Florida State University , Tallahassee, Florida Ph.D. - Theatre Studies	December 2022
Villanova University , Villanova, Pennsylvania Master of Arts - Theatre	August 2017
DeSales University , Center Valley, Pennsylvania Bachelor of Arts - Theatre: Acting/Directing	May 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Mississippi: Theatre History II Sports in Theatre (formerly “Sports and Theatre”) Appreciation of the Theatre for Non-Majors	Fall 2025 Spring 2025 – 2026 Fall 2024 – Present
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Chestnut Hill College:

Introduction to Theater Arts: Sports and Theater

Spring 2024

University of Central Florida:

Theatre Survey (Introduction to Theatre for Non-Majors)

Summer 2023

Theatre Survey (Introduction to Theatre for Non-Majors)

Summer 2023

Theatre Survey (Introduction to Theatre for Non-Majors)

Spring 2023

Theatre History and Dramatic Literature II

Spring 2023

Theatre History and Dramatic Literature I

Fall 2022

Theatre History and Dramatic Literature III

Fall 2022

Florida State University:

Play Analysis (Instructor of Record)

Spring 2022

World Theatre History I (Teaching Assistant)

Fall 2021

Introduction to Theatre for Non-Majors (Teaching Assistant)

Spring 2021

Introduction to Theatre for Majors (Teaching Assistant)

Fall 2020

World Theatre History II (Teaching Assistant)

Spring 2020

Introduction to Theatre for Non-Majors (Teaching Assistant)

Fall 2017-2019

Wolf Performing Arts Center (Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania):

Teaching Artist

Fall 2023

Moorestown Theater Company (Moorestown, New Jersey):

Teacher (Improv Theatre Games), Director

2017-2019 (June-
August)**Mainstage Center for the Arts (Blackwood, New Jersey):**

Teacher, Assistant Director

2015 (June-August)

POSITIONS HELD

Spinning® Instructor

Florida State University Campus Recreation

2019-2022

Virtua Center for HealthFitness

2016-2019

Student Scene Shop Assistant

Villanova Theatre Scene Shop

2015-2016

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Franz, Michael Lawrence. "From Stadium to Stage: Teaching Sports Plays in Theatre and General Education Courses." *Theatre Topics* 36, no. 3 (in press, November 2026).
- Franz, Michael Lawrence. "Erupting Presence into Absence: Possibility, Potentiality, and Performance in New Orleans' 2019 Boycott Bowl." *The Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism* 38, no. 1 (Fall 2023): 29–42.
- Franz, Michael. "Coming to America: Jacques Copeau's Vieux Colombier in the U.S." *Six Magazine*, Spring 2018. (Copies available upon request)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2022 Graduate Student Award, Sport Literature Association (SLA)
- 2022 Jay and Dr. Sue Newman Conference Paper Award, School of Theatre, Florida State University
- 2021 School of Theatre Professional Development Grant, Florida State University
- 2021 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Florida State University (Nominated)
- 2019 Ada Belle Winthrop-King Visual Arts Endowment, College of Fine Arts, Florida State University

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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| 2026—2028 | Associate Conference Planner, Mid-America Theatre Conference |
| 2024 – 2026 | Co-Chair, Theatre History Symposium, Mid-America Theatre Conference |

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

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| 2025 – Present | Faculty Advisor, Student Theatre (Ghostlight Repertory Company),
Department of Theatre & Film |
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CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

- 2026 "Centering the Embodied Mind: Simone Biles and the Dramaturgy of the Body in Performance." American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), Minneapolis, MN. November 12-15.
- 2026 Theory and Criticism Roundtable: "Activating the Dramatic Imagination." Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), Baltimore, Maryland. July 22-26.

- 2025 “White Sox, White Smoke, and the Sports Rabbit Hole: Tracing Papal Sports Fandom in a Time of Crisis” Political Figures and Performance of Sports Fandom and Politics.” American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), Denver, CO. November 6-9.
- 2024 “Working Against the Clock: Candace Parker and Performances of Corporeality.” American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), Seattle, WA. November 14-17.
- 2024 “You and I Are Not So Different: A Historiography of Molière at the Abbey Theatre.” Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC), Theatre History Symposium, Madison, Wisconsin. March 7-10.
- 2023 “Never Tell Me the Odds: The Impossible Pedagogy of Teaching Sports Plays.” Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC), Pedagogy Symposium, Minneapolis, Minnesota. March 9-12.
- 2022 “‘We’re Talking about Practice’: Rehearsing Possible Pedagogy through Lauren Yee’s *The Great Leap*.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), Emerging Scholars Panel, Detroit, Michigan. July 28-31.
- 2022 “Playing for Sports: Sports Plays as a Theatrical Endeavor.” Sport Literature Association (SLA), Virtual Session. June 15-18.
- 2022 “The Game is Not Over: The Performance of Possibility and Potentiality in New Orleans’ 2019 Boycott Bowl.” Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC), Articles in Progress Session, Cleveland, Ohio. March 3-6.
- 2022 “Erupting Presence into Absence: Possibility, Potentiality, and Performance in New Orleans’ 2019 Boycott Bowl.” Jay and Dr. Sue Newman Award in Theatre Studies Virtual Presentation. January 24.
- 2021 “Erupting Presence into Absence.” University at Buffalo (UB) Theatre and Dance Graduate Students Association, Output in the Interstice: Performance and Product in Times of Hiatus, A Virtual Symposium. May 22.
- 2021 “Erupting Presence into Absence.” Doctoral Theatre Students Association (DTSA) Graduate Student Conference (via Howlround and Martin Segal Center). April 28-29. [Moved online due to COVID-19]
- 2020 “Just One of the Boys: Oscar Asche’s Sporting Career Portraying the Muscular Christian Orient.” Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC), Articles in Progress Session, Chicago, Illinois. March 6-9.
- 2019 “The Illustrious Lady: Madeleine Béjart’s Role as Actress/Administrator in Seventeenth-Century French Theatre Practice.” American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference, Pre-1850 Publics Working Group, Arlington, Virginia. November 7-10.
- 2018 “King of Kings: LeBron James’ Arousing Performance in the 2017-2018 NBA Season.” ASTR, Drive and Desire Working Group, San Diego, California. November 15-18. [ASTR conference was canceled due to a worker strike; my working group met virtually as planned.]

PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

Directing

- 2019 Director, *Guys and Dolls Jr.* by Abe Burrows and Frank Loesser, adapted by Music Theatre International (MTI); Moorestown Theater Company, Moorestown, New Jersey.
- 2019 Director and Devisor, *Broadway Teens*, based on a script written by RJ Durante; Moorestown Theater Company, Moorestown, New Jersey.

- 2018 Co-Director, *Broadway Kids IV* by RJ Durante; Moorestown Theater Company, Moorestown, New Jersey.
- 2018 Assistant Director, *Fiddler on the Roof Jr.* by Joseph Stein with music by Jerry Bock and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick; Moorestown Theater Company, Moorestown, New Jersey.
- 2018 Director, *Disney's High School Musical 2 Jr.*, adapted by David Simpatico and Bryan Louiselle (based on the Disney Channel Original Movie by Peter Barsocchini); Moorestown Theater Company, Moorestown, New Jersey.
- 2017 Assistant Director, *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Jr.*, adapted by Leslie Bricusse and Timothy Allen McDonald with lyrics and music by Anthony Newley (based on the book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl); Moorestown Theater Company, Moorestown, New Jersey.
- 2017 Assistant Director, *Disney's High School Musical*, adapted by David Simpatico with songs by Matthew Gerrard (based on the Disney Channel Original Movie by Peter Barsocchini); Moorestown Theater Company, Moorestown, New Jersey.
- 2015 Assistant Director, *Once Upon a Time: A Musical Revue*; Mainstage Center for the Arts in Blackwood, New Jersey.
- 2015 Assistant Director, *The Wizard of Oz* adapted by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jeremy Sams with additional lyrics by Tim Rice (based on the novel by Frank L. Baum); Mainstage Center for the Arts in Blackwood, New Jersey.

Acting

- 2017 Actor (Ensemble), *Little Women* by Allan Knee with music by Jason Howland and lyrics by Mindi Dickstein (adapted from the novel by Louisa May Alcott); Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania.
- 2016 Actor (Pylades), *Electra* by Sophocles (adapted by Frank McGuinness), Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania.
- 2016 Actor, Director, *Abbey Theatre Summer Studio Showcase*; The Peacock Theatre, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2015 Actor (Mr. Banks), *Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins* by Julian Fellowes with music by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman (based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film); Mainstage Center for the Arts, Blackwood, New Jersey.
- 2015 Actor (Hansel), *Hansel and Gretel* by The Brothers Grimm, adapted by Vera Morris; DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania.
- 2015 Actor (Ensemble), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* by Frank Loesser with book by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock, and Willie Gilber; DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania.
- 2014 Actor (Elwood u/s), *Harvey* by Mary Chase; DeSales University, Center Valley, PA.
- 2014 Actor (Ensemble, Charlie u/s), *The Music Man* by Meredith Wilson; DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania.
- 2013 Actor (Fred), *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge* by Mark Brown; DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania.
- 2013 Actor (The Juror, Ensemble), *Chicago* by John Kander and Fred Ebb; DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania.
- 2013 Actor (Ensemble, Darnay and Carton u/s), *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens; DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania.

- 2012 Actor (Officer O'Hara), *Arsenic and Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring; DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania.
- 2012 Actor (Officer #2, Ensemble), *A View from the Bridge* by Arthur Miller; DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania.

Fight Choreography

- 2018 Fight Choreographer, *Disney's Newsies* by Harvey Fierstein with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Jack Feldman (based on the Disney film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White); Moorestown Theater Company, Moorestown, New Jersey.
- 2017 Fight Choreographer, *West Side Story: School Edition* by Arthur Laurents with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim; Moorestown Theater Company, Moorestown, New Jersey.

Dramaturgy and New Play Development

- 2026 Actor (Ron), *The Garden of Memories* by Jessica Bashline, Association for Theatre in Higher Education Judith Royer Playwriting Award, Baltimore, Maryland.
- 2024 Actor (Charlie), *The Appliance Department* by Bella Poynton, Mid-America Theatre Conference Playwriting Symposium, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2024 Actor (Britt), *I Had My Suspicions* by Mikki Gillette, Mid-America Theatre Conference Playwriting Symposium, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2024 Dramaturg, *Gen Xers Move into a Retirement Community* by Helen Cheng Mao, Mid-America Theatre Conference Playwriting Symposium, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2023 Director, *Into Me* by DC Cathro, Mid-America Theatre Conference Playwriting Symposium, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2023 Actor (Rick), *Subject for a Short Story* by Ahon Gooptu, Mid-America Theatre Conference Playwriting Symposium, directed by Stephen Cedars, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2022 Actor (Keith), *True Skies* by John Mabey, Mid-America Theatre Conference Playwriting Symposium, directed by Collin Vorbeck, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 2022 Actor (Alex), *Nothing Got* by Straton Rushing, Mid-America Theatre Conference Playwriting Symposium, directed by Bobbi Masters, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 2020 Actor (Letter "E"), *Type* by Becky Retz, Mid-America Theatre Conference Playwriting Symposium, directed by Matt Fotis, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2019 Dramaturg, *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* by Anne Washburn; Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.
- 2019 Actor (Eric), *Tide Pod Challenge* by Emma Seely, Mid-America Theatre Conference Playwriting Symposium, directed by Emily Rollie, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 2019 Actor (Maximillion), *Satisfaction Guaranteed* by Judd Lear Silverman, Mid-America Theatre Conference Playwriting Symposium, directed by Allison Gibbes, Cleveland, Ohio.

Technical Theatre

- 2016 Assistant Stage Manager, *Translations* by Brian Friel; Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania.
- 2015 Board Operator, *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare; Villanova University, Villanova, PA.

- 2013 Scenic Run Crew, *Rodgers and Hart: A Celebration* by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, concept by Richard Lewine and John Fearnley; DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania.
- 2012 Assistant Stage Manager, *A Christmas Story* adapted by Jean Shepherd (based on the motion picture *A Christmas Story*); DeSales University in Center Valley, Pennsylvania.
- 2012 Deck Electrician, *Anything Goes* by Cole Porter; DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)
American Theatre and Drama Society (ATDS)
Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC)
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)

LANGUAGES

French: Basic reading comprehension