

## CURRICULUM VITAE

# JUSTIN EMEKA

MEMBER: SDC, ACTOR'S EQUITY

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## CURRENT POSITION

**Associate Professor of Theatre and Africana Studies** at Oberlin College.

*Courses taught include: Acting I, II, & III; Directing I & II; Adv. Scene Study: Black and Brown Playwrights; Movement for the Actor; Adv. Scene Study: Non-Traditional Casting and Classical Theatre; Directing from Non-dramatic Texts, and Capoeira Angola I & II.*

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## EDUCATION

<b>Masters of Fine Arts</b> in Directing	University of Washington	2005
<b>Bachelor of Arts</b> in African-American Studies	Oberlin College	1995

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## REGIONAL THEATER DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

<b><i>Sweat</i></b> by Lynn Nottage	Pittsburgh Public Theatre	opened 11/16/18
<b><i>Sweat</i></b> by Lynn Nottage	Philadelphia Theatre Company	opened 10/16/18
<b><i>Sunset Baby</i></b> by Dominique Morisseau	Dobama Theatre	opened 9/2/18
<b><i>Hamlet</i></b> (assisted Barry Edelstein)	Old Globe Theatre	opened 8/12/17
<b><i>Stick Fly</i></b> by Lydia Diamond	Intiman Theater	opened 5/26/16
<b><i>Detroit '67</i></b> by Dominique Morisseau	Karamu House	opened 2/5/16
<b><i>Romeo and Juliet</i></b>	Classical Theater of Harlem	opened 7/5/14
<b><i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i></b>	Classical Theatre of Harlem	opened 7/12/13
<b><i>A Raisin in the Sun</i></b> by L. Hansberry	Oberlin Summer Theater Festival	opened 7/8/11
<b><i>Julius X</i></b> by Al Letson, jr	Karamu House	opened 2/1/08
<b><i>Sankofa Theater</i></b> (Co-writer)	Seattle Theater Group	opened 7/24/03
<b><i>Dutchman</i></b> by Leroi Jones	Ethnic Cultural Theater	opened 5/19/03
<b><i>A Raisin in the Sun</i></b> by L. Hansberry	ArtsWest Theater	opened 1/19/00

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## UNIVERSITY THEATER DIRECTING

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<b><i>The Boogie Gentleman</i></b>	NYU Grad. Acting Program	Spring 2019
<b><i>The Bluest Eye</i></b> <i>by Lydia Diamond</i>	Oberlin College	opened 11/30/17
<b><i>Macbeth</i></b> (workshop production)	Old Globe USD Graduate Program	7/31/17
<b><i>Wedding Band</i></b> <i>by Alice Childress</i>	Oberlin College	opened 10/2/15
<b><i>Follow Me to Nellie's</i></b> <i>by Dominique Morisseau</i>	Oberlin College	opened 2/8/14
<b><i>The Compromise</i></b> <i>by Gabriel Emeka</i>	Oberlin College	opened 4/19/12
<b><i>Macbeth</i></b>	Oberlin College	opened 10/7/11
<b><i>Death of a Salesman</i></b> <i>(w/Avery Brooks)</i>	Oberlin College	opened 9/17/08
<b><i>Stop Kiss</i></b> <i>by Diane Son</i>	Oberlin College	opened 4/21/06
<b><i>Macbeth</i></b>	University of Washington	opened 1/30/05
<b><i>Unfinished Women...</i></b> <i>by Aisha Rahman</i>	University of Washington	opened 5/26/04

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## ACTING HIGHLIGHTS

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<i>King Lear</i>	Edgar	Yale Repertory Theater
<i>Our Town</i>	Sam Craig	Intiman Theater
<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	Biff	Langston Hughes Performing Arts
<i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i>	Gilbert	Oberlin Summer Theatre Festival
<i>Race (by David Mamet)</i>	Henry	The Beck Center
<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>	Tom	Oberlin Summer Theatre Festival
<i>Ma Rainey's Black Bottom</i>	Toledo	Oberlin College
<i>The Right to Dream</i>	<i>One-man show</i>	Living Voices
<i>All's Well that Ends Well</i>	Parolles	Oberlin College
<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry</i>	Stacy Logan	Seattle Children's Theater
<i>The Best X-Mas Pageant Ever</i>	Charlie	Seattle Children's Theater

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## ADMINISTRATIVE

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**Board of Trustee, Faculty Member**—*Oberlin College*. Served as Faculty liaison to the Oberlin College Board of Trustees. Helped identify and build relationships with parents, alumni, and potential donors for Oberlin College. (2014-2016)

**Artistic Associate**—*Oberlin Summer Theater Festival*. Provide artistic and administrative support to the Artistic Director in the founding and managing a professional summer theater company. (Summer 2011-current)

**Artistic Director**—*University of Washington's Ethnic Cultural Theater; Seattle, WA*. Season planning, directing, teaching, coordinating, and producing for the University of Washington's theater committed to cultural diversity. (2002—2005)

**Artistic Director**—*Sankofa Theater, Seattle Theatre Group; Seattle, WA*. Created an annual, theatrical commemoration of the African Slave trade that featured over 100 African and African-American performers in dance, drama, music, and poetry. (2002 -- 2005)

**Artistic Director**—*Jungle Creations; Seattle, WA*. Founded a 501c(3) non-profit organization; wrote and directed original performances; designed workshops celebrating and exploring the performance legacy of the African-American community. (1996 --1998)

**Artistic Director**—*Langston Hughes Summer Theater Day Camp; Seattle, WA*. Supervised teachers and counselors; wrote and directed performances involving over 60 children. (summer 1994, 1993)

**POSSE Mentor**—*Oberlin College; Ohio*. On-campus mentor for urban public high school students selected by the POSSE Foundation to receive four-year scholarship. Plan events, as well as, advise and counsel scholars through the rigors of academic life. (2007—2011)

**Program Director**—*African-American Children's Theater Project*. Developed a theater program producing drama workshops and productions for Seattle Public School District's African American Academy K-8. (2000—2002)

**Program Director**—*Garfield High School Mentoring Arts Program*. Developed artistic mentoring program that produced plays, workshops, and special events for students at Garfield High School in Seattle, WA. (1998-2000)

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## TEACHING

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**Associate Professor of Theater/Africana Studies**—*Oberlin College, OH.* Courses include: "Acting I"; "Adv. Scene Study"; "Non-Traditional Casting and Shakespeare" "Intro to Directing"; "Directing II: Process; "Directing from Non-Dramatic Sources"; "African American Theater"; "Acting I"; (Fall 2006 - Current)

**Guest Instructor** *ODAG Shakespeare in Prison.* Serve as advisor and teach classes on performing Shakespeare to inmates at the Ohio State Penitentiary Grafton Correctional Institute. (2015-current)

**Movement Instructor**—*California State Summer School for the Arts,* taught movement for the stage for exceptional high school theater students. (July 2010)

**Guest Lecturer**—*University of Washington; Seattle, WA.* Led workshops in "Performing Shakespeare" for undergraduate acting 251 classes. (September 2004 – May 2005)

**Movement Specialist**—*King Lear, Yale Repertory Theater.* Worked with director Hal Scott to create a unique physical vocabulary and fight techniques for actors in production of *King Lear*, set in Ancient America. (January – February 2004)

**Guest Lecturer**—*Oberlin College; Oberlin, OH.* Led classes in African-American Drama as well as a Capoeira Angola workshop during a two-week residency. (February 2002)

**Drama Teacher**—*Garfield High School, Seattle, WA.* Taught "Introduction to Theater" and "Advanced Acting" at inner-city high school. (September 1998 – June 2000).

**Acting Instructor**—*Seattle Children's Theater.* Taught classes to children age 8-18 in areas such as "Movement", "Dramatic Imagination", "Beginning Acting", and "Advanced Scene Study". (September 2000 – August 2002)

**Improvisation Teacher**—*Seattle Center Academy.* Taught summer class in Improvisation to high school and middle school age young people. (Summer 2005)

**Capoeira Angola Instructor**—*ArtsCorp, Seattle, WA.* Taught Capoeira Angola classes and workshops to young people in inner-city schools and community centers. (September 2000 – June 2003)

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## PUBLICATIONS

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**"Playing with Race in the New Millennium"** in the book *Casting a Movement*. Edited by Daniel Banks. Routledge December 2019 (expected publication).

**"Seeing Shakespeare through Brown Eyes"** in the book *Black Acting Methods: Critical Approaches* edited by Dr. Sharrell Lockett, Routledge 2017.

**"Pre-Show/Post-Show Interview with Justin Emeka"** SDC Journal Winter 2018.

**"Directing Actors of Color in Classic Texts: Tony Award Winner Ron Simons and Justin Emeka in Conversation"** Continuum Journal. June 24, 2017.

**"Using Cultural Elements From the African Diaspora to Heighten Shakespeare's Tales of Comedy and Woes"** *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*. Winter 2015.

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## PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

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**"Playing with Race: Approaches to Non-traditional Casting"** *Exploring Beauty and Truth in Worlds of Color: A Conference on Race, Art, and Aesthetics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Oberlin College 2017.

**"Re-Imagining American Classical Theatre"** Cleveland Playhouse Square Theatre, February 2017.

**"SDC Masters of the Stage: Ruben Santiago-Hudson and Justin Emeka"** SDC Foundation, November 2016.

**"Seeing Shakespeare through Brown Eyes"** Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, August 2016.

**"Classical Acting Methods Panel"** Black Theatre Association Conference, August 2016.

**"Capoeira Angola and movement in the Diaspora"** International Association of Blacks in Dance 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Cleveland, OH. January 2015.

**"Master Classes in Theatre and Capoeira"** guest residency Skidmore College October November 2015.

**"The Art of Directing & Casting in Contemporary American Theater"** *Guest Lecture*, City College of New York, October 2011.

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## **HONORS/AWARDS**

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\*Drama League Fellowship in Classical Directing

\*Oberlin College Teaching Award

\*Seattle Arts Commission Literary Grant—Playwriting

\*University of Washington Graduate Office of Minority Affairs Program—Presidential Scholar Award

\*Washington State Film Commission Screenwriting Award

\*National Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship

\*Oberlin College Department of African-American Studies—Departmental Honors Award