

Jerry Prell

Profile

Jerry has been engaged in the performing arts and entertainment industry as an administrator, teacher, trainer, producer, director and performer for over 30 years. He is the founding Artistic/Managing Director of the New England Academy of Theatre. As an educator, Jerry has developed curriculum, facilitated classes and workshops for colleges, universities and other educational organizations. He was the Dean of Musical Theater and Director of Admissions at the Hartford Conservatory. As a personal development trainer, Jerry has facilitated workshops for corporations and organizations. As a professional actor, Jerry has appeared on such television shows as The Young and The Restless, Hill Street Blues, Cheers and others. He has worked in feature films and on stage in New York, Los Angeles, Regionally and in Europe. He is the recipient of the Arts Council of Greater New Haven's Arts Award and the CT Commission on the Arts Distinguished Advocate for the Arts Award.

Professional Experience

2003 - 2009 Hartford Conservatory, Hartford, CT

Dean of Musical Theater / Director of Admissions / Senior Management Team

- Curriculum Development – Reviewed working curriculum, organized and chaired curriculum advisory committee, drafted new curricular structure, facilitated departmental mission and outcome statements. Successfully increased student enrollment and retention by redirecting musical theater curriculum toward a comprehensive “triple threat” program.
- Advisor/Instructor/Artist – Counseled and advised musical theater students on their curricular track, goal setting and progress. Facilitated instructional workshops. Directed musicals and consulted on other events. Recruited and supervised faculty.
- Admissions/Recruitment – Developed and implemented recruitment plan. Developed marketing ideas and materials, attended college fairs, presentations to high school students, their families and guidance counselors. Organized open houses and other recruiting events. Supervised staff. Communicated with prospects and tracked file completion.

Professional Experience

1992 – 2002 New England Academy of Theatre (NEAT), Hamden, CT

Artistic/Managing Director (Founder)

- Artistic Director – Built a respected and dynamic regional organization that embraced and encouraged emerging and established theater artists and new works. Produced/Executive Produced over 200 events, play reading series, one-act play festival, multi-play seasons, and comedy showcases. Directed events and stage productions and facilitated play reading discussions.
- Director of Education – Established NEAT as a premiere facilitator of performing arts education. Supervised, reviewed and established quarterly educational curriculum for over 800 adults and children per year. Managed multiple workshop and seminar sites. Hired and supervised 20 plus faculty artists.
- Director of Outreach – Successfully connected the arts to the community. Created, collaborated and supervised community outreach programming, The Circus School Project – an after school program for at risk urban middle school students, The Senior Drama Project – a program to bring performing arts education and programming to senior communities, The Monologue Project – a program for urban high school students to express the teen experience through writing and performing.
- Fundraising – Developed yearly fund raising strategy, facilitated annual appeal campaign, provided organizational support for annual fundraising event and special fund raising projects. Wrote and managed grants and collaborated with development director.
- Operations Management – Supervised day-to-day organizational activities including internal and external communications, general accounting and payroll. Developed, supervised and managed annual budget. Developed and designed marketing and publicity for events, projects and programs, including brochures, flyers, news releases, public service announcements.

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Professional Experience

1975 – Current

Performing Arts Instructor / Faculty Artist / Consultant / Personal Development Trainer

- Facilitated (30 years plus) performing arts classes, workshops and seminars in acting, comedy improv, mime and movement, stage combat, mask, the business of show biz, on-camera acting technique, voice and speech, commercial voice over, presentational skills, and marketing for artists.
- Created, facilitated and directed theme based educational performance projects.
- Private coach for theatrical auditions and performance and corporate presentations.
- Jerry has conducted Team Building, Humor in the Workplace, Acting for the Sales Person and other personal development workshops for United Way of Greater New Haven, People's United Bank, Travelers Insurance, The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, The Leadership Council of Greater New Haven, the Eastern Area Health Education Center, the Connecticut Commission on the Arts – Urban Artists Initiative, and TEM Associates of Rocky Hill, CT.

Facilitated Educational Workshops and Programs at these Venues and Organizations

- *University of Hartford* – Guest Speaker/ Facilitator, Creativity Course
- *New England Academy of Theatre* – CT
- *Eugene O'Neill Theater Center/Creative Arts in Education* – Waterford CT
- *New England Theater Conference*
- *Guilford High School* – Guilford CT
- *Hopkins School* – New Haven CT
- *Jewish Federation Department of Education* – New Haven CT
- *ACES/Educational Center for the Arts* – New Haven CT
- Project Leader /Artist, *Greater Waterbury Regional Educational Arts Project* – CT
- *Mermaid Theater* – Copenhagen Denmark
- *George Shdanoff Acting Studio* – Los Angeles
- *JCA – Camp for the Performing Arts* – L.A.
- *Illusions of Fantasy Mime Troupe* based in Washington D.C. (Co-founder) at Vassar College, Williams College, Hood College, Bowdoin College, New Playwrights' Theatre, Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts, School District Fairfax VA, and the Little Theater of Alexandria VA

Professional Associations

- Member: Academy of Television Arts and Sciences – Screen Actors Guild – Actors Equity Association – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
- 2003 Grants Panelist – Connecticut Commission on the Arts
- 2003 Mentor - Urban Artists Initiative Mentoring Program
- 1993 – 1995 Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director: Artspace Small Theater Festival, New Haven

Board of Directors and Committees:

- 2003 – 2005 Member, Strategic Planning Committee, Hartford Conservatory, Hartford CT
- 1992 – 2003 Director, New England Academy of Theatre, North Haven CT
- 1997 – 2009 Shoreline Arts Alliance Theatre Scholarship Adjudicator
- 1991 – 1993 Director, Artspace, New Haven CT
- 1988 – 1990 Committee Vice-Chair: Screen Actors Guild – Membership Education & Relations Committee
- 1980 – 1990 Director, West Coast Drama Clan of Carnegie Mellon University

Awards

1998 CT Commission on the Arts Distinguished Advocate for the Arts Award
1995 Arts Council of Greater New Haven's Arts Award

Education

Graduate Carnegie Mellon University, BFA Drama/Acting