

MERCEDES HERRERO

EDUCATION

- **Yale School of Drama**, M.F.A in Acting, class of 1995.
Trained in speech, voice, movement, scene study, classical and contemporary theatre.
Techniques: Stanislavski, Meisner, Laban, Linklater and The Gister Method.
Studied with Earle Gister, Ursula Meyer, Barbara Somerville, David Chambers and Mark Bly.
- **University of Virginia**, B.A. in Comparative Literature, Cum Laude.
- **Languages:** Fluent in Spanish. Proficient in French and Italian.

AWARDS

- Sarasota Magazine Best Supporting Actress Award for Paulina *The Winter's Tale*, 2008.
- Bay Area Circle Critics Award (BACCA) for Best Ensemble for *The Laramie Project*, 2001.
- Richard Ward Memorial Scholarship and Herschel Williams Acting Award, Yale Drama School, 1994-5.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

A) THEATRE AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

2019-2020 **Lecturer**. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

Currently teaching two sections of **Acting I**, and one section of **Speaking in Public**. Students in my acting classes work on contemporary scenes and monologues as well as improvisation and devising. They learned theatrical methods and how to apply them to their performances. In Public Speaking, they learn communication and storytelling tools for various types of Speeches including Narrative, Extemporaneous, Persuasive.

2017-2019. **Instructor**. LiveArts Community Theatre, Charlottesville, Va.

This theatre performs mainly contemporary plays, and has an excellent reputation. I've taught 5 courses here: **Chekhov and The Earle Gister Method, Devised Theatre, High Comedy: Coward, Wilde and Durang, Theatre LAB: An Actor's Toolkit** and **Circle, Mirror, Transformation: A Meta-class**.

Spring, 2017. **Visiting Professor**. Bennington College, Bennington Vt.

Taught **The Actors Instrument** (2000 level) and **Acting in Tragicomedies** (4000 level). **The Actors Instrument** focused on introducing the students to basic vocal, movement and acting techniques putting into practice the writings and teachings of Kristin Linklater, Cicely Berry, Yoshi Oida and Earle Gister. **Acting in Tragicomedies** was an advanced scene study class based on the tragicomic texts of Anton Chekhov, Samuel Beckett, Garcia Lorca, Lynn Nottage and Christopher Durang.

2016-2019. **Training Consultant** in Public Speaking with Ovation Communication, various locations in the USA. Taught **Public Speaking Skills** and **Storytelling for Business** to companies such as Raymond James Financial, TIAA, and Microsoft.

Summers of 2007-2008. **Instructor**. Middlebury College: The Spanish School, Middlebury, Vt.

- Taught, in Spanish, a graduate-level course: **Embodying the Text: 20th Century Spanish Theatre From the Performance Perspective**. In this course, my students learned the fundamentals of acting and did scene work from Lorca's *Yerma*, Miguel Mihura's *The Three-Cornered Hat* and Buero Vallejo's *The History of a Staircase*.
- Directed, wrote and produced **The Spanish School Cabaret**, a night of dance, song, and sketch comedy.

1995-present. **Private Coaching**. NYC, Chicago, Charlottesville. Coaches young actors for conservatory/school auditions, and professional actors for every day auditions including monologues and scene work.

B) SPANISH LANGUAGE

2018-present. **Instructor**. Speak! Language Learning Center, Charlottesville, Va.

Teaches Spanish conversation and grammar classes both privately and in groups.

1990-1992. **Instructor.** Language Learning Enterprise, Washington, D.C.
Prepared U.S. diplomats for their FSI exams prior to being stationed abroad in a Spanish speaking country.

1989-1990. **Instructor.** Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, Washington, D.C.
• Full-time Spanish language and literature instructor, Grades 9-12, and Director of Spanish Club.

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

City of Band aids. Wrote, directed and performed a play based on interviews I conducted regarding the white nationalist hate riots of August 12th in Charlottesville, Virginia. Performed on UVA grounds and downtown, for the theatre festival *ArtInOddPlaces*, Charlottesville, Va., 2018.

Just Like Us by Karen Zacarías. Directed a staged reading of this timely play about a group of dreamers trying to navigate high school and college, while the threat of deportation lurks around the corner. Ruth Caplin Theatre, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, 2017.

El Gesticulador by Rodolfo Usigli and **Las Putas de San Julian**, by Rubén Mosquera. Assistant Director to distinguished professor Fernando Operé for his annual Spanish Department productions at the Culbreth Theatre, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, 2017 and 2018.

Dreaming America, a devised piece based on the book by Seth Michelson about undocumented youths in a maximum security prison in Staunton, Virginia. I was consultant and lead various workshops on Moment Work for the actors. The play was devised by Charlottesville High School students and performed at Charlottesville High School, 2018.

Chicago Theatre Sweatshop: Co-founded, along with playwright Emilio Williams, this Storefront Theatre Company in Chicago, IL. Under it's auspices, I directed the following:

- **The Thing I Never Shared With You** by Claudia Hidalgo and **Artsy: A Hipster Farce** by Felipe Sant'Angelo, for the International Voices Project, Chicago, IL, 2014.
- **Moment Workshop** Co-directed a full day workshop with Kelli Simpkins to create moments for an Aids Project written by Emilio Williams, Chicago, IL, 2013.
- **Desire Caught by the Tail** by Pablo Picasso. Staged Reading of the only play Picasso wrote, Chicago, IL., 2014.

ACTING EXPERIENCE

Mercedes Herrero's acting career spans three decades, two continents and three languages. In the United States she was seen on Broadway for two years in the 5-time Tony winning play **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time**. Her many Off-Broadway credits include: **The Laramie Project and The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later** (original company member) at The Union Square Theatre and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, **Henry V**, **Richard III**, and **Measure for Measure** at the Public Theatre, **Comic Potential** at Manhattan Theatre Club, **Seven** at LaMama, **O Jerusalem** at the Flea Theatre, and **The House of Bernarda Alba** in English and Spanish at Intar. Regionally, Ms Herrero has been a part of 13 world premieres of new works by Lynn Nottage, Nilo Cruz, Lynn Redgrave, Moises Kaufman, A.R. Gurney, and Craig Wright among others and played many classical roles in such venues as Arena Stage, The Yale Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Berkeley Rep, Indiana Rep, Syracuse Stage, Asolo Rep, etc. Her television roles include three seasons as N.I. Director Vanessa Morrison on **House of Cards**, a slew of lawyers on **Law and Order/SVU/CI/Trial by Jury** and films include: **Deception**, **Arranged**, **Sidney Hall**, and **The Tao of Steve**. Ms Herrero performed **Sonata Strindberg** by Emilio Williams in Madrid, Spain, and played Ines in **Huis Clos** (in French) as a student at the Sorbonne. She holds a B.A. in Comparative Literature from the University of Virginia and an M.F.A. in Acting from the Yale School of Drama. She is a proud member of AEA, and SAG/AFTRA.