

# Jo Ann Mendelson

[www.JoAnnMendelson.com](http://www.JoAnnMendelson.com)

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## **EDUCATION**

**California State University, Los Angeles** - May 2018

Master of Fine Arts in Performance for Television, Film and Theatre, *magna cum laude*

**Loyola Marymount University** - May 2008

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance, *magna cum laude*

## **STAGE COMBAT TRAINING**

**Dueling Arts International** –

*Recognition as Associate Fight Director - 2022*

*Recognition as Full Instructor – 2019*

*Assistant for Level Two training at 2018-2019 Winter Workshop*

*Assistant for Professional Development Workshop - 2018*

*Fight Direction Workshop 2016 (participated as Fight Director)*

*Recognition as Associate Instructor – 2013*

*Recognition as Intermediate Actor Combatant in all disciplines – 2013*

*Recognition as Beginning Actor Combatant in all disciplines – 2008*

## **FIGHT DIRECTION & STUNT COORDINATION EXPERIENCE** (\* indicates an Actor's Equity or SAG-AFTRA production)

*\*RENT*

By Jonathan David Larson

Unarmed techniques & falls

Coeurage Theatre Ensemble, 2022

Dir. Reena Hutt

*Cabaret*

By Joe Masteroff & John Kander

Unarmed techniques & falls

Loyola Marymount University, 2022

Dir. Dana Resnik

*SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical*

By Kyle Jarrow

Unarmed meleé, falls, and comedic  
movement coaching

Milken Community School, 2022

Dir. Sarah Figoten

*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr.*

*Hyde*

Adapted by: Noah Smith

Unarmed techniques & falls

Santa Monica College, 2022

Dir. Dr. Adrienne Harrop

*Hamlet*

By William Shakespeare

Rapier & Dagger and Unarmed  
techniques

Flintridge Sacred Heart, 2021

Dir. Sarah Foster

*Romeo & Juliet*

By William Shakespeare

Single Rapier and Unarmed techniques;  
one-on-one and meleé

Milken Community School, 2021

Dir. Sarah Figoten

*Romeo & Juliet*

By William Shakespeare

Single Rapier, Rapier & Crow, and  
Unarmed; one-on-one and meleé

Thousand Oaks HS, 2021

Dir. Bree Mack

*The Tragedie of Macbeth*

By William Shakespeare

Unarmed, Quarterstaff, Dagger,  
Broadsword & Axe techniques, one-on-  
one and meleé

The Cursed Players, 2021

Dir. Catherine Leong

*Broken Mirror*

By G. Bruce Smith

Unarmed techniques and falls

Santa Monica College, 2021

Dir. Perviz Sawoski

<i>*Pieces of Me</i> By Julia Max (short film)	Unarmed technique & taser effects	Julia Max Productions, 2020 Dir. Julia Max
<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> By Joseph Stein	Unarmed and found object techniques	Milken Community School, 2020 Dir. Sarah Figoten
<i>*Cabaret of Spies</i> by Rolf Kent	Unarmed and found object techniques within an immersive theater environment	The Unmarked Door, 2019 Dir. Lola Kelly
<i>*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i> by Simon Stephens	Unarmed techniques performed in the round, experience with neuro-divergent performers	Greenway Court Theatre, 2019 Dir. Kate Jopson
<i>Taming of the Shrew</i> By William Shakespeare	Unarmed, found object, Commedia Dell'Arte-inspired comedic violence	Milken Community School, 2019 Dir. Sarah Figoten
<i>*Deadly – the musical</i> By Vanessa Stewart	Found object, knife, unarmed	Sacred Fools, 2019 Dir. Jamie Robledo
<i>*As You Like It</i> By William Shakespeare	Unarmed techniques and lifts	Shakespeare on the Bluff, 2019 Dir. Jim Holmes
<i>Treasure Island</i> By Robert Louis Stevenson	Cutlass, unarmed, knife, found object, and high falls	Laguna Beach Playhouse, 2019 Dir. Donna Inghima
<i>Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson</i> By Friedman & Timbers	Unarmed, found object, and melee-style fights	Milken Community School, 2019 Dir. Sarah Figoten
<i>The Lady Demands Satisfaction</i> By Arthur M. Jolly	Smallsword, unarmed and found object fights; comedic violence	LOFT Ensemble, 2018 Dir. Danielle Ozymandias
<i>Peter and the Star Catcher</i> By Rick Elice	knife, cutlass, found object, unarmed techniques and lifts	Milken Community School, 2018 Dir. Sarah Figoten
<i>Wolf Cub</i> By Che Walker	stage falls & unarmed techniques	McCadden Place Theatre, 2018 Dir. Che Walker
<i>The Dead Guy</i> By Eric Coble	unarmed and found object techniques	Cal State LA, 2018 Dir. Leslie Ishii & Tanya Kane-Parry
<i>Romeo &amp; Juliet</i> By William Shakespeare	Knife and unarmed techniques	LOFT Ensemble, 2018 Dir. Stephen Rockwell

<i>Vengeance</i> By Sherri Berg	unarmed techniques	LA 48-hour Film Festival, 2017
<i>The Bachelors</i> By Rachel Rios	unarmed and found object techniques	The Tavern Rakes, 2017 Dir. Jesse Arrow
<i>School for Wayward Girls</i> By Peter Schulyer	unarmed and found object techniques	LOFT Ensemble, 2017 Dir. April Morrow
<i>Latina</i> By Milcha Sanchez-Scott	unarmed techniques and stage falls	Cal State LA, 2016 Dir. Steve Rothman
<i>Hello, Game of Thrones</i>	unarmed, broadsword and found object techniques	Perfectly Serious Productions, 2016
<i>Dracula: Blood Before Dawn</i> By Raymond Donaghey	unarmed, small sword, dagger, double falcatta, staff, axe, and found object techniques, one-on-one and melee style fights	LOFT Ensemble, 2016 Dir. Raymond Donaghey & Bree Pavey
<i>McCready</i> By Jon Bernstein & Jennifer Blake	unarmed and found object techniques	Hollywood Fringe Festival, 2016 Off-Broadway, 2017 Dir. Robert Glen Decker
<i>Star Wars: The Path of Freedom</i>	Lightsaber & unarmed techniques	Star Wars Fan Film Contest, 2016 Dir. Adam Ruben
<i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> By Dale Wasserman	unarmed combat techniques	LOFT Ensemble, 2015 Dir. Adam Chambers
<i>Will You Save Them?</i> By Bree Pavey	armed and unarmed combat techniques and blood effects	LOFT Ensemble, 2014 Dir. Tor Brown
<i>Friend of the Devil</i> By Forrest Lee	Single rapier	The Tavern Rakes, 2014 Dir. Jesse Arrow
<i>Hamlet</i> By William Shakespeare	armed and unarmed combat techniques, rapier and dagger	LOFT Ensemble, 2014 Dir. Bree Pavey
<i>Cahoots Macbeth</i> By Tom Stoppard	Broadsword	Loyola Marymount University, 2014 Dir. Dana Friedman
<i>The Bronze Court</i>	single rapier vs. small sword, unarmed vs. knife	online short, 2013

<i>The Teen Titans Project</i>	broadsword vs. double gladius	online episodic, 2013
<i>Tea Time</i>	group melee, unarmed and found object combat and comedic stunts	Top 25 finalist Doritos's Crash the Super Bowl contest, 2012
<i>Moon Over Buffalo</i> By Ken Ludwig	single rapier and comedic stunts	Crespi Carmelite High School, 2012
<i>The Pillow Man</i> By Martin McDonagh	found object and unarmed combat, blood pack prosthetics	Back Gate Theatre Ensemble, 2010

## **STAGE COMBAT TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Adjunct Faculty**

August 2018 – present

#### *Loyola Marymount University – Beginning Stage Combat*

- Instruction of college undergrads in beginning level Stage Combat
- Train students in three of the following disciplines per semester: Unarmed Combat, Quarterstaff, Broadsword, Rapier & Dagger.
- Lead students through the development of safe and consistent physical techniques to create the illusion of violence.
- Direct students in creating fully realized performances grounded in text analysis
- Submit students for recognition as Level One Actor Combatants by the Dueling Arts International governing body.
- Adapted course to both Hybrid & Distance Learning formats (synchronous & asynchronous) during COVID-19 pandemic

### **Adjunct Faculty**

August 2018 – present

#### *Loyola Marymount University – Advanced Stage Combat*

- Instruction of college undergrads in beginning level Stage Combat
- Train students in the disciplines of Rapier & Dagger, Single Rapier, Small Sword each semester
- Lead students through the development of safe and consistent physical techniques to create the illusion of violence.
- Direct students in creating fully realized performances grounded in text analysis
- Submit students for recognition as Level One Actor Combatants by the Dueling Arts International governing body

### **Adjunct Faculty**

Spring 2021 - present

#### *Santa Monica College – Stage Combat*

- Work directly with department chair and administration to create SMC's Stage Combat curriculum
- Instruction of college undergrads in beginning level Stage Combat
- Train students in Unarmed and Quarterstaff techniques
- Instruct students in the development of safe and consistent physical technique to create the illusion of violence
- Direct students in creating fully realized performances grounded in text analysis
- Submit students for recognition as Level One Actor Combatants by the Dueling Arts International governing body.
- Adapted course to both Hybrid & Distance Learning formats (synchronous & asynchronous) during COVID-19 pandemic

## **UNION AFFILIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**SAG-AFTRA** - *Union Performer – since 2013*

**DUELING ARTS, INTERNATIONAL** - *Governing Body Member*

*President – March 2021-present*

*Vice President – January 2021-March 2021*

*Secretary – 2019-2020*

*Member Representative – 2017-2018*

## **OTHER TRAINING**

Introduction to Motion Capture Performance

Introduction to Voice Over

Strategic Diversity Initiative Training

We Are the Canon: An Anti-Racist Approach to Theatre Pedagogy

Disruptive Equity Education Project – Professional Development

Theatrical Intimacy Education – Education for Directors & Instructors

Intimacy Directors International - Director's Workshop

Cal State LA Teachers Professional Development Workshop

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Actors Workshop

Dueling Arts International Fight Director Workshop

Advanced Acting Studio for Theatre

Advanced Scene Study & Character Development

Foundations of Commercial Acting

Audition Technique for Television and Film

Improvisation 101, 201, & 301

Richard Dorton, The MoCap Vaults, 2021

Susan Palyo, VoiceTrax West, 2021

Dr. Anne Phibbs, 2020

Dr. Daphnie Sicre & Prof. Karl Williams, 2020

Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson, 2020

Laura Rikard, 2019

Tonia Sina, 2018

Stephen Wangh, 2018

Leslie Ishii, 2018

Gregory Hoffman, 2016

Barry Gordon, 2016

Steve Rodriguez, 2008-2015

Killian Commercial Acting, 2015

Meg Mormon & Sunny Boling, 2015

The Upright Citizens Brigade, 2011-2012