Melissa D. Rodriguez
Lecturer

Areas of Interest

Playwriting, producing pieces with strong female characters; performance, acting and dance; researching the various roles of women in theatre history and how they continue to evolve, specific focus on the mother figure and archetype. Screenwriting for both independent features and television series for streaming networks. Communication and its role in fighting child trafficking. Media and social influence, and social media.

Education

05/25 PhD in Communications at Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA.

12/09 Master of Arts in Theatre Specialization in Playwriting at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX.

05/00 Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts—Theatre with minors in Studio Art and French from
Troy University at Troy, AL. (summa cum laude)

06/06 Texas Teaching Certificate, 4-8 Generalist and EC-12 Generic Special Education from the Education Service Center at Region 20 in San Antonio, TX.

Employment History

Lecturer, Texas State University, Introduction to Fine Arts (TH 2313). Writing lectures, review sheets, and exams, organizing and preparing a syllabus for the course, building and updating a TRACS site for the class, posting announcements, information, and grades, figuring final grades, supervising teaching assistants, presenting lectures, answering questions, and meeting the needs of the students enrolled. (Dec 2011-Present)

Teaching Assistant, Texas State University, for Dr. Debra Charlton (Dramatic Theory and Analysis, Graduate Advisor, and Study Abroad Program) and Intro to Fine Arts. Involved acting as personal assistant, keeping files and records, posting pertinent information, teaching classes, grading assignments and posting grades in online gradebook, scheduling meetings, organizing paperwork for study abroad, general errands and jobs as required to meet needs of professor and students. (August 08-December 09)

Behavior Mastery Center Teacher, Northside Alternative Middle School-South Campus, San Antonio, TX. Special Education position responsible for regular

curriculum and social skills classes for students identified as being Emotionally Disturbed, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Oppositional Defiant, and other behavioral disorders. Responsible for deescalating explosive, disruptive situations. (Fall 2006-Spring 08)

Group Fitness Instructor, Gold's Gym International, San Antonio, TX. Teaching Les Mills classes in cardio dance (Body Jam) yoga based strength and flexibility (Body Balance) weight training (Body Pump) self-designed freestyle ballet based toning (GGX Barre) and functional fitness and toning (LM Tone). Responsible for modeling correct technique and form, coaching choreography, technique, and form, and motivating members to reach their goal. (Oct 2004-Present)

Classroom Teacher, John H. Wood Jr. Public Charter District, San Antonio, TX. Responsible for teaching curriculum and behavior in a lockdown residential treatment center. Responsible for 12-20 students at a time, ranging from 6th to 12th grade. (Jan 04-Aug 06)

Published Work

Rodriguez, Melissa (2025) "A Question of Fidelity: Comparing Successful Book to Series Narrative Adaptations Through the Lens of Kline's Four Paradigms and Simonton's Success Criteria for Cinema." Dissertation for completion of PhD program, Proquest.

Ramsey, Joel and Rodriguez, Melissa (2024) "Online Media Coverage of the Dry Scoop Challenge." *Communications Replications Review.*

Rodriguez, Melissa (2022) "Faith on Facebook: A Replication Study Exploring the Effects of Church Communication on a Social Media Platform." Presented at Euromedia 2022, London, England. IAFOR (International Academic Forum) Also published in *Communications Replications Review.*

Unpublished Work

Rodriguez, Melissa (2022) "Examining the Transition from Radio to Television Through *The Adventures of Superman*." Unpublished Manuscript.

Rodriguez, Melissa (2022) "Keeping Theatre Alive: Teaching Live Theatre During the Covid-19 Pandemic." Unpublished Manuscript.

Smith, Melissa (2007) "Comparing Gender Identity, Hysteria, and the Supernatural in Macbeth and Belle Moral and the Redemption of the Mother Figure." Unpublished manuscript.

Smith, Melissa (2008) "The Humanist Experience of Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)." Unpublished manuscript.

Smith, Melissa (2008) "Reflections of Femininity in the Portrayal of Titania in William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream." Unpublished Manuscript

Smith, Melissa (2008) "Lady Gregory's Use of Myth and Language to Celebrate Irish Tradition in The Golden Apple, The Dragon, and Aristotle's Bellows." Unpublished Manuscript.

Smith, Melissa (2008) "Hometown." A Three-Minute play. Unpublished Manuscript.

Smith, Melissa (2008) "Coffee with the Girls." A Ten-Minute Play. Unpublished Manuscript.

Smith, Melissa (2008) "Murder…or not." Seven-Minute Radio Play. Unpublished Manuscript.

Smith, Melissa (2008) "Condoms and Cantaloupe." Seven-Minute Screenplay. Unpublished Manuscript.

Smith, Melissa (2008) The Dancing Stars of the Hollywood Boulevard. One-Act Play. Unpublished Manuscript.

Smith, Melissa (2009) Lady M. Full-Length Play. Unpublished Manuscript. (Performed in Austin, TX at Salvage Vanguard Theatre in February, 2010)

Related Experience

Performance-Stage

Sandra, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 1996
Ms. Kurten, Dracula, 1996
Clea, Black Comedy, 1997
Dr. Lake, Nightwatch, 1997
Betty, The Last Stand of the Polish Sharpshooters, 1997 *
LtCmdr Joanne Galloway, A Few Good Men, 1997
Hot Box Dancer, Guys and Dolls, 1998
Mustardseed, A Midsummer Night's Dream, 1998
Chorus, The Robber Bridegroom, 1999
Trista May, Wayne Brown and the Neon Princess, 2000
Sheila, A Chorus Line, 2000 *
Bianca, Othello, 2001
Lady Macbeth, Macbeth, 2008
Hecate, Macbeth, 2009
Jennifer, Five Eggs Left, 2010

Sylvia Plath, The 27 Club, 2015
Sylvia Plath, Limbotastic, 2015

* denotes roles earning Irene Ryan Nomination by ACTF adjudicator.

Performance-Film

Marian, *Pro Bono*, Not So Sane Productions, 2025
Lissa, *The Good, the Bad, and the Cheugy*, 2024
Candice, *Knight Watchmen*, Not So Sane Productions, 2022
Connie, *Serial Rabbit 7*, Not So Sane Productions, 2022
SSGT Cassandra Beckett, *The Oath: Outbreak* (pilot series, postproduction), 2020
Tori, Texas Tall Tales, 2018 (post-production)
Cer, Operation Redpoint, 2013
Julian's Mother, Line of Duty, Brian Ramirez, 2012
Woman/Angel/ Supporting, The Cain Complex. Zamarripa Visual Arts, LLC. 2011
Staci Grayson/Lead, Backlash. Ferro Studios, 2009/2010
Priss, "1-800-Tech-Support", Travis Thompson
Ajay, Never Say Goodbye, Ponderous Productions, 2008
Jessica/Lead, Cup of Joe, Ferro Studios, 2007
Sherri, Crosshairs, Ferro Studios, 2007
Valkyrie Assassin, Who is Cesar Tampico?, Ferro Studios, 2007
Beta Hunter/Supporting, The Knight Watchman, Ponderous Productions, 2007
Tillie/Supporting, Dayplayer, Tom Balmos, 2006
Themis/Lead, Valadorn, Ferro Studios, 2006
Mary Abraham/Supporting, John 3:16, Allison Herrera, 2005
Kelly/Supporting, House of Keys, P.U.S.H. Productions, 2003
Lola/Lead, Consequences, Christopher Long, 2002
Angela/Supporting, With Serpent Tongue, Stebner Studios, 2001
O/C, Come and Take It Day, Jim Mendiola, 2001
Various Commercials and Industrial Films, Plus modeling experience

Technical Experience

Communication Journals
Editor: *Artifact Analysis*

Reviewer: *Communication Replication Review*, *Artifact Analysis*, and *Online Media and Global Communication*

Costume Design
Designer:
Dracula, Black Comedy, Seven Stories, A Few Good Men, Guys and Dolls, Clown's Play. All 1996-2000

Assistant Designer:

Playhouse Creatures, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, My Fair Lady, The Miracle Worker, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Robber Bridegroom. All 1996-2000

Make-up and Hair:

Playhouse Creatures, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Seven Stories

Other Technical Experience

Assistant Set Designer, When You Comin' Back Red Ryder, 1999
Assistant Lighting Designer, Dance Recital, TSU, 1997
Technical Crew, Playhouse Creatures, 1996

References

Dr. John Fleming, Department Chair, Department of Speech and Theatre
Department of Theatre and Dance
Texas State University
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512)245-2147
jf18@txstate.edu

Dr. Stephen Perry, Chair- School of Communication and the Arts, Regent University
(757)352-4203
1000 Regent University Dr. COM 245
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
sperry@regent.edu

Erin Gregory, National Group Fitness Manager
Gold's Gym (Multiple Locations)
San Antonio, TX
(210)764-6600 (Bandera Trails Location)
egregory@goldsgym.com

Susie Mariano, Behavior Specialist (Former Principal at J.H. Wood PCD)
Dr. Martha Mead Elementary
3803 Midhorizon
San Antonio, TX 78229
(210)397-1750
Susie.Mariano@nisd.net

Awards

Irene Ryan Nominations for Polish Sharpshooters (1998) and A Chorus Line (2000);Barbizon Nomination for Design in Theatre: Black Comedy, 1997 and A Few Good Men, 1997; Award for High G.P.A. in Department of Speech and Theatre, 2000; Torch Award for Outstanding Sophomore in Honors Program, 1998; Best Actress, A Few Good Men, Alpha Psi Omega, 1998

Organizations

Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Psi Omega, Condra Artista Talent Agency, SAG Eligible

Supplemental Information

Dance: Jazz, Hip-Hop, Ballroom, Ballet; Voice: Mezzo-Soprano; Kickboxing, Shaolin Kung Fu, and Yoga, Stage Fighting, Experience as Hair and Make-up artist for various models.