Spencer Dee Hansen (he/him)

AEA, Music Director, Instructor, Pianist, Performer
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Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Practice, Music Direction and Accompaniment 2024-Present
Texas State University
Music Director, Accompanist, and Musicianship Instructor for Musical Theatre

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Acting and Accompaniment 2021-2024
West Virginia University
Acting Instructor, Accompanist, and Music Director for the College of Creative Arts

Performance Coach and Accompanist 2018-2020
Marymount Manhattan College
Accompanist and Performance Coach for Musical Theatre students

University Education

MFA Acting - West Virginia University 2024
Full Tuition Waiver and Teaching Assistantship
Thesis Title: "Ask The Duke, Why: How Fabrications Can Undermine Impact in Shakespeare's Measure for Measure*"*

BFA Musical Theatre, Specialization in Music Direction - Texas State University 2017
Magna Cum Laude
National Council of Scholars
Pioneer of the Music Direction Specialization Degree Program

Additional Training

Rob Clare - Royal Shakespeare Company/National Theatre 2019-Present

Specialized Shakespeare Analysis and Acting Training

Scott Freeman Studio - Alex Neil 2018-2020
Scene Study, Acting Training

Upright Citizen's Brigade - Lou Gonzalez 2018-2020
Improvisation, Sketch Writing

Growing Studio - Book of Mormon 2019
Work sessions with casting directors

Theatre Apprenticeship - Theatre Aspen 2015
Performed in main season/workshops and devised apprentice showcase

Bob Krakower - On-Camera Acting 2015
Focused on making accurate and organic choices quickly

Teaching Experience

West Virginia University Graduate Teaching Assistant 2021-2024
Taught Acting the Song, Introduction to Acting, Accompanist Etiquette; Served as Music Director, Rehearsal/Classroom/Audition Accompanist, and Vocal Coach

Nexus Faculty/MD/Accompanist 2023-2024
Taught Intro to Musicianship, Accompanist Etiquette; Served as Music Director and Rehearsal/Classroom/Audition Accompanist

Camp Baco/Chenawah Instructor/MD/Accompanist 2023
Served as Music Director and Rehearsal Accompanist

Summer at Sem Instructor/MD/Accompanist 2018-2022
Taught Shakespeare Acting, Acting the Song, Ballet, Tap, Accompanist Etiquette; Served as Music Director, Rehearsal/Classroom/Audition Accompanist, and Vocal Coach

Marymount Manhattan Uni. Music Coach/Accompanist 2018-2019
Served as Classroom/Audition Accompanist and Vocal Coach

Pace University Music Coach/Accompanist 2018-2019
Served as Classroom/Audition Accompanist and Acting Coach

Texas State University Teaching Assistant/MD/Accompanist 2013-2017
Assisted the Teaching of Singing for the Actor; Served as Music Director, Rehearsal/Classroom/Audition Accompanist, and Vocal Coach

Rose Summer Intensive Voice Teacher/Accompanist 2008-2013
Served as Music Director, Rehearsal/Audition Accompanist, and Vocal Coach

Oregon Children's Choirs Voice Teacher/Accompanist 2008-2013
Served as Music Director, Rehearsal Accompanist, and Vocal Coach

Courses Taught

Fundamentals of Voice West Virginia University 2023-Present
Taught sustainable and practical vocal production techniques to undergraduate theatre majors at the 200 level.

Acting the Song West Virginia University 2023
Taught a mix of Junior Musical Theatre and Acting BFA's through the musical application of acting techniques, character connection, and song analysis.

Introduction to Acting West Virginia University 2021-Present
Taught the beginning level Acting course to a variety of undergraduates. Focused on the fundamentals of character building and organic interaction.

Shakespeare Acting Summer at Sem 2018-2022
Taught scansion and poetic analysis in Shakespeare's text. Focused on creating a natural sound using analytical work to inform character and story.

Vocal Technique Summer at Sem/Marymount Manhattan 2018-2022
Coaching students through navigating challenging musical pieces. Focused on ease of sound, pitch/rhythmic accuracy, and intentional music choices.

Singing for the Actor Texas State University 2015-2017
Assisted Kaitlin Hopkins in teaching the fundamentals of character and storytelling through song to a variety of undergraduate performers.

Workshops Taught

Dialects and IPA West Virginia University 2023-Present
Utilizing Knight-Thompson techniques, I have taught workshops breaking down several dialects ranging from Glaswegian Scottish to Yiddish (Poland).

Accompanist Etiquette WVU/Nexus/WV Thespian Conference 2018-Present
Teaching advanced industry techniques for working/communicating with an audition accompanist.

Advanced Song Analysis West Virginia University 2023
Combining scansion and music theory, this course approaches characterization and storytelling through in-depth musical analysis.

Theory for Actors West Virginia University/SAS 2018-2023
Teaching a customized curriculum that gives musical actors the knowledge they need in preparation for professional work.

Teaching Areas

Acting (all levels), Shakespeare, Musical Theatre Performance, Meisner Technique, Dialects, IPA, Audition Techniques, Accompanist Etiquette, Music Direction

Current Research Interests

Consent for Unscripted Acting Exercises

Many scene study/acting classes incorporate unscripted exercises as part of their curriculum without establishing a base expectation of safety and consent before asking students to improvise without a scenario or a script. I am particularly interested in finding acting exercises that emphasize and establish consent and boundaries before the improvisation begins.

Song Analysis Using Scansion Techniques

The music/underscore/accompaniment to Musical Theatre songs can give the actor clues towards characterization and story just as Shakespeare's poetic structure does. I am interested in forming musical analysis techniques that allow actors to scan songs like they would Shakespeare's text.

Accompanist Etiquette Standardization

There are dozens of differing opinions on how actors should interact with their accompanist. I am interested in providing instructions to actors that guide them through all the required aspects of a professional audition while maximizing the artistic fruitfulness of their limited time at the piano.

Industry Experience

Music Director/Music Supervisor (Professional)

2023	*Narnia*	West Virginia Public Theatre
2023	*Switched (Workshop)*	Texas State University
2022	*I Do, I Do!*	West Virginia Public Theatre
2022	*Community Garden*	West Virginia Public Theatre
2021	*A Christmas Carol*	West Virginia Public Theatre
2019	*Book of Merman*	St. Luke's Theatre (NYC)
2019	*My Favorite Murder Cabaret*	Green Room 42 (NYC)
2018	*A Charlie Brown Christmas*	National Tour
2017	*Curious George and the Golden Meatball*	Little Theatre On The Square
2017	*Fancy Nancy*	Little Theatre On The Square
2016	*Dear Edwina*	Theatre Aspen

Performer (Professional)

2022	*Ghost Brothers (dir. Jeff Calhoun)*	West Virginia Public Theatre

2019	*Billboard on Board*	Holland America Lines
2019	*Follies*	Astoria Performing Arts Project
2018	*A Charlie Brown Christmas*	National Tour
2017	*Mama Mia*	Little Theatre On The Square
2017	*Thoroughly Modern Millie*	Little Theatre On The Square
2017	*Beauty and the Beast*	Little Theatre On The Square
2016	*Mama Mia*	Theatre Aspen
2015	*Peter and the Starcatcher*	Theatre Aspen
2015	*Cabaret*	Theatre Aspen
2015	*Junie B. Jones*	Theatre Aspen
2015	*Huzzah (Laurence O'Keefe+Nell Benjamin)*	Theatre Aspen
2013	*The Music Man*	Oregon Festival of American Music
2012	*Kiss Me Kate*	Oregon Festival of American Music
2011	*Girl Crazy*	Oregon Festival of American Music

Music Director/Music Supervisor (Academic)

2023	*Ride the Cyclone*	West Virginia University
2023	*Something Rotten*	Camp Baco/Chenawah
2023	*Willy Wonka Jr.*	Camp Baco/Chenawah
2022	*Pippin*	Summer At Sem
2022	*Run Towards Fear*	West Virginia University
2017	*The World According to Snoopy (Andrew Lippa)*	Texas State University
2016	*Intimate Apparel (original score)*	Texas State University
2016	*Legally Blonde*	Texas State University
2016	*Romeo & Juliet*	Texas State University
2015	*Lyon's Den*	Texas State University
2015	*[title of show]*	Texas State University
2013	*Yerma*	Texas State University

Performer (Academic)

2024	*Book of Will*	West Virginia University
2023	*Measure for Measure*	West Virginia University
2022	*Indecent*	West Virginia University
2022	*Carrie*	West Virginia University
2021	*Airness*	West Virginia University
2016	*Romeo & Juliet*	Texas State University
2016	*25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*	Texas State University
2015	*Evita*	Texas State University

2014	*Rent*	Texas State University
2014	*Anything Goes*	Texas State University

Miscellaneous Skills/Training

Professional Piano
Music Transcription/Arrangment/Composition (Experience with Finale, Sibelius, Musescore)
Advanced Dialects
Firearm Safety
Beginning French
Basic ASL
Advanced Vedic Meditation
Sport Fencing
Professional Cake Decoration