

# LUKE YANKEE

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### **AREAS OF INTEREST: ACTING, DIRECTING, PLAYWRITING**

**(323)-823-4474**  
**luke@lukeyankee.net**  
**www.lukeyankee.com**

#### **EDUCATION:**

- December 2016      MFA in Writing for the Performing Arts, University of California, Riverside.
- January 1983      BA in Specialized Studies (Drama & Literature), New York University.

#### **SPECIALIZED TRAINING:**

- 1993                  USC School of Film and Television – summer filmmaker’s workshop
- 1984-85              Wynn Handman Acting Studio, New York
- 1980                  Circle in the Square program, New York
- 1979                  Catholic University of America
- 1978-80              The Juilliard School, New York (Acting)
- 1977                  National High School Institute, Northwestern University
- 1974-76              Herbert Berghof Acting Studio, New York

#### **TEACHING AREAS/COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH:**

Monologue & Scene Study	Fundamentals of Directing
Acting for the Camera	Advanced Directing
Period Acting Styles	Playwriting
The Business of Show Business	Fundamentals of Television Writing
Musical Comedy Audition Technique	Energy Awareness

#### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

- 2009-2013      UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA – IRVINE:  
  
Guest Faculty teaching period acting styles for four consecutive years focusing on Greek tragedy (Euripides) & French farce (Feydeau). Also taught “The Business of Show Business” for three consecutive years.
- 1998-2001      COLUMBIA COLLEGE - HOLLYWOOD:  
Taught two to three semesters of the following courses per year over a three year period: Directing I, Acting I, Audition Techniques & History of Television.

- 1990–2000 AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ARTS, New York & Los Angeles  
 AMERICAN MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC ACADEMY (AMDA), New York & LA
- Adjunct Faculty for five years - Audition Techniques, The Business of Acting, Creative Visualization, Substitute teacher in Speech and Dialects (Edith Skinner Technique), Styles of Acting, Shakespeare, Moliere & Chekhov.
- 1979-1984 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL INSTITUTE OF DRAMA, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY:
- Four years as faculty member and guest director. Taught 16 different workshops (including foreign dialects, speech, monologue & scene study, commercial acting energy awareness, fundamentals of the Alexander Technique and musical comedy auditioning) and directed four productions.

**GUEST INSTRUCTOR & LECTURER:**

- 2015 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, COLORADO SPRINGS  
 2014 ROLLING HILLS ESTATES SUMMER CONSERVATORY, Rolling Hills, CA  
 2008 NORRIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS – Torrance, CA  
 2000 OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY - Columbus, OH  
 2000 DENISON UNIVERSITY - Granville, OH  
 1998 UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO - Albuquerque, NM  
 1993 UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON - Charleston, SC  
 1991 DOUBLE IMAGE THEATRE - NY  
 1990 ACTOR’S INFORMATION PROJECT – NY
- Recurring workshops in monologue & scene study, audition techniques, cold readings, the business of acting, speech, dialects, acting styles, Alexander Technique, energy awareness & creative visualization.

**UNIVERSITY GUEST DIRECTOR:**

- 2014 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH – *Sonia Flew*  
 Undergraduate Acting Program
- 2000 OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY – *Lost In Yonkers* - Graduate Acting Program
- 1991 FOLKWANG HOCHSCHULE – Essen, Germany - *Kiss Me, Kate & Evita*

**GUEST DIRECTOR:**

- 2011-2013 MIRA COSTA HIGH SCHOOL - Manhattan Beach, CA - Guest Director:  
*The Apple Tree, The Dining Room, & You Can’t Take It With You*
- 1990 – 2000 AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ARTS, New York & LA:
- |                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Six Degrees Of Separation</i> | <i>Charles Dickens' Hard Times</i>    |
| <i>Beyond Therapy</i>            | <i>Charley's Aunt</i>                 |
| <i>The Lion In Winter</i>        | <i>Steel Magnolias</i>                |
| <i>Miss Firecracker Contest</i>  | <i>The Day They Shot John Lennon</i>  |
| <i>Move Over, Mrs. Markham</i>   | <i>Little Moon Of Alban</i>           |
| <i>Stags &amp; Hens</i>          | <i>The Right Honourable Gentleman</i> |

1979-1984 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY – Evanston, IL  
Wrote and directed original adaptations of the following:

***The Trojan Women***  
***Life Is A Dream***

***The Lady From Maxim's***  
***Hippolytus***

**PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – REGIONAL THEATRE:**

1994-95 Long Beach Civic Light Opera, Long Beach, CA. Produced & directed full season of musicals in 3,000 seat convention center on WCLO (AEA) and all other applicable union contracts. Annual budget of \$4 million. Hired all creative staff, generated contracts, handled union negotiations, produced special events, liaison with Hollywood/ Broadway stars and agents. Member, National Alliance of Musical Theatre (NAMT).

***The King & I***  
with Lee Meriwether & George Chakiris

***Nite Club Confidential***  
with Barbara Eden & Gary Sandy

***Man Of La Mancha***  
with John McCook & Jana Robbins

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – REGIONAL THEATRE:**

1990-1992 Struthers Library Theatre, Warren, Pennsylvania - three seasons. Hired all staff & cast, set budgets and directed all productions. 1,000-seat opera house operating on summer stock LOA contract:

***A Little Night Music***  
***State Fair***  
***Gigi***  
***Lend Me A Tenor***  
with David Canary

***Hello, Dolly***  
***Annie***  
***Gypsy***  
***Private Lives***  
with David Canary

**DIRECTOR - OFF BROADWAY:**

2000 ***High Infidelity*** - Promenade Theatre – (Off Broadway)- with John Davidson & Morgan Fairchild (world premiere).

1990 ***The Cherry Orchard*** - The York Theatre Company – with Cynthia Nixon, Penny Fuller, Merle Louise & Paul Hecht.

**DIRECTOR - REGIONAL THEATRE (Representative):**

2015 ***Private Lives*** - Theatreworks, Colorado Springs & International City Theatre Long Beach, CA.

2011 ***The Jesus Hickey*** - Skylight Theatre, Los Angeles - with Harry Hamlin (world premiere – also playwright).

2006 ***Proof*** - Long Beach Playhouse, Long Beach, CA.

- 2000 ***It's Only A Play*** - Royal Poinciana Playhouse Palm Beach, FL – with John Davidson & Jane White.
- 1997 ***Love Letters*** - Sacramento Theatre Co. - with Gov. Pete Wilson, Edward Asner, Sally Struthers, Troy Donohue, John Rubinstein & Joanna Gleason.
- 1996 ***Waiting For Godot*** - Coconut Grove Playhouse, Miami, FL - 40th Anniversary production.
- 1994 ***Oleanna*** - Coconut Grove Playhouse (Southeastern premiere).
- 1992- 95 ***Sweeney Todd, The King & I and La Cage Aux Folles*** – Albuquerque Civic Light Opera (Performed in 2,000 seat house).
- 1990 ***The Apple Tree*** – Seaside Music Theatre, Daytona Beach, FL.
- 1990 ***Driving Miss Daisy*** - Coconut Grove Playhouse- with Eileen Heckart.
- 1989 ***Cyrano De Bergerac*** - National Theatre for the Performing Arts, New York. Bi-lingual tour (French & English).
- 1988 ***Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*** – Sterling Barn Theatre, Stamford, CT.
- 1987 ***The Road To Mecca*** – Fairfield Arts Council, Westport, CT.

**CREATOR & HOST - LECTURE SERIES:**

- 2009-2010 ***Conversations On Craft*** – Created four-part celebrity seminar series at Stella Adler Studios (Los Angeles) with proceeds going to Autism Speaks, The Actor's Fund, Broadway Cares, The Fyera Foundation (for Nicaraguan children) and The American Cancer Society. 70 minute celebrity interviews included: Edward Asner, Michael Learned, Mark Rydell, Marc Cherry, Harriet Harris & David Lee (DVDs available upon request).
- 1999 ***Barbara Eden: Still Dreaming*** – Holland America Cruise lines - series of interviews with Ms. Eden about her career. Also created DVD retrospective.
- 1997 ***EH on Film*** - Holland America & Crystal Cruise lines - series of interviews with Oscar, Emmy & Tony winning actress Eileen Heckart about her career. Also created DVD retrospective.

**DIRECTOR/PRODUCER – SPECIAL EVENTS (Representative):**

- 2012-15 ***The Actors Fund Tony Awards Gala*** – Skirball Center, Beverly Hills, CA - Awards show and live Tony telecast featuring presentation of Julie Harris Lifetime Achievement Award and live performances. Honorees: Barbara Cook, Alfred Molina, Tim Curry, June Lockhart, Joe Morton, Theodore Bikel, Millicent Martin & Jason Alexander. Hosts & presenters: Sean Penn, Martin Sheen, Bryan Cranston, Tommy Tune, Florence Henderson, Scott Bakula Annie Potts & Kate Burton (Four years as writer, director and producer).

- 2012-2014 **Intuit, Inc.** – Producer for three years for annual employee “think tank” meeting broadcast via satellite to seven locations on three continents. Speakers included CEOs of Adobe & eBay.
- 2007-2014 **Mattel Toys, Inc.** - El Segundo, CA. Seven years as freelance producer/director & project coordinator on International Toy Fairs, Domestic Sales Meetings and Global Line Reviews. Supervised all elements of production, including graphics (Powerpoint presentations), video, talent, etc. Liaison between marketing and other departments for all brands. On-site producer for Toy Fairs in Hollywood, Tucson, Orlando, Buffalo and Palm Springs.
- 1997 **ILFC 25th Anniversary Celebration** - Shubert Theatre, Los Angeles - with Barry Manilow, Robert Guillaume & Cirque – Dick Clark Corporate Productions (Director).
- 1996 **Honda's 50th Anniversary Celebration** - Radio City Music Hall, New York - with Dick Clark & The Rockettes (Director).
- 1996 **Lexus Product Launch** - Palace of Fine Arts, San Francisco – with Quincy Jones, Patti Austin & James Ingram (Director).
- 1995-98 **Theatre LA Ovation Awards Ceremony** - Shubert Theatre Los Angeles - with Nathan Lane, Bill Pullman, Carol Burnett, Noah Wyle, Annette Bening & Stephen Sondheim (Director for 4 years).
- 1989 **Spoletto Gala For Hurricane Relief** - Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center - with Lynn Redgrave, Jerome Robbins, Rosemary Harris & Darci Kistler (Director).

#### **CASTING DIRECTOR:**

- 2003-2009 **The Big Spin** - Jonathan Goodson Productions - Six years as casting director and talent coordinator for on-air “Hero in Education” Award presented monthly, sponsored by California Lottery. Presenters included: Betty White, Marcia Cross, Corbin Bernsen, Michael Gross, Lindsay Wagner, Sharon Lawrence, Phyllis Diller, Erik Estrada, Bruce Jenner, Ed McMahon, Robin Leach & Doris Roberts.
- 1993-94 **The Voicecaster** – Burbank, CA - two years as freelance casting director for voice-overs for television commercials.
- 1987 **Great Lakes Theatre Festival** – Cleveland, OH – Assistant casting director for repertory season including: *The Show Off, Macbeth & The Lady From Maxim's*.

#### **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - BROADWAY:**

- 1989 **The Circle** - Ambassador Theatre, Broadway - with Rex Harrison, Glynis Johns & Stewart Granger. Assistant to Brian Murray.
- 1986 **Brigadoon** - New York City Opera, Lincoln Center - with Tony Roberts. Assistant to Gerald Freedman & production dialect coach.

1985            **Grind** - Mark Hellinger Theatre, Broadway - with Ben Vereen.  
Assistant to Harold Prince.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – REGIONAL THEATRE:**

1987            **Light Up The Sky** - Ahmanson Theatre, Los Angeles - with Peter Falk,  
Fritz Weaver & Nancy Marchand. Assistant to Ellis Rabb. Re-staged Robert  
Morse in leading role.

1986            **An Unexpected Evening With June Havoc** - Mahawie Theatre,  
Great Barrington, MA. Assistant to Ms. Havoc.

**PRODUCTION COORDINATOR - SPECIAL EVENTS:**

1991            **Carpenter Performing Arts Center Gala Opening** –  
Long Beach, CA with Richard Carpenter, Herb Alpert, Peggy Lee & Freida Payne.

1988            **The Tony Awards** Minskoff Theatre, Broadway - coordinator for "Anything  
Goes" segment with Patti Lu Pone & Broadway cast.

**SPEECH & DIALECT COACH (Over 30 productions –Representative):**

2013            **Helen** – Getty Villa, Malibu, CA – with Maxwell Caulfield.  
2013            **A Christmas Memory** – Laguna Playhouse, Laguna, CA.  
1990            **Driving Miss Daisy** – Coconut Grove Playhouse, Miami –  
with Eileen Heckart.  
1988            **Real Estate** – Theatre at St. Peter’s (Off-Broadway) – with Sada Thompson.  
1986            **Brigadoon** – New York City Opera, Lincoln Center – with Tony Roberts.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

2006            **Just Outside The Spotlight: Growing Up With Eileen Heckart** -  
Random House. 320 pages, hardcover. Foreword by Mary Tyler Moore.

2014            **The Last Lifeboat** – Dramatists Play Service.

2007            **A Place At Forest Lawn** –Dramatists Play Service.

**PRODUCED PLAYS:**

2010            **The Jesus Hickey** - Skylight Theatre, Los Angeles - starring Harry Hamlin.  
Winner, TRU Voices Award and Joel & Phyllis Ehrlich Award, given for “a  
socially relevant, commercially viable new work of theatre.” Winner of New  
Works Festivals at The Phoenix Theatre and Long Beach Playhouse.

2005-2015    **Diva Dish!** – (various tours for past ten years)  
One-man show about the golden age of Broadway and Hollywood. Produced at  
regional theatres and on more than 25 cruises worldwide for Holland America,  
Royal Caribbean, Crystal, Celebrity, Princess, etc. (Writer & actor).

### UNPRODUCED TV PILOTS:

- 2014 ***Egos & Cocktails***
- 2013 ***Takin' It To The Streets***
- 2011 ***The Star Maker***

### UNPRODUCED SCREENPLAYS:

- 2011 ***The Last Lifeboat*** (Screen adaptation of play)  
Grand Prize – Scriptvamp Attention Grabber Screenwriting Competition.  
One of ten scripts chosen for DreamAgo International Screenwriting workshop in Sierre, Switzerland.
- 2010 ***The Jesus Hickey*** (Screen adaptation of play).
- 2007 ***The Things I Never Said***  
(Screen adaptation of play, “A Place at Forest Lawn”).

### UNPRODUCED TELEVISION SPEC SCRIPTS:

- 2014 ***Episodes: “Episode 4.5”***  
Finalist in Nickelodeon TV Writer’s Fellowship.
- 2013 ***Royal Pains: “Little Miss Conception”***  
Placed in top 5% of Warner Bros. Writers workshop – out of over 1,750 submissions. Top Five Finalist in Acclaim TV Writing contest.
- 2012 ***Nurse Jackie: “Anita Vicodin”***  
Grand Prize Winner – Scriptwriters Network Television Outreach Project.
- 2011 ***Brothers & Sisters: “Alabaster Shards”***  
First Place Winner – Best Hour-long TV Drama Spec Script.

### ACTING – THEATRE (Representative):

- 2004-2015 ***Diva Dish! & Diva Dish: The Second Helping*** - Creator/Storyteller, New York, L.A., San Francisco, various tours, 25 international cruises – one man shows about the golden age of Broadway & Hollywood.
- 2000 ***The Cocktail Hour*** - John - A.R. Gurney Tribute – William Inge Theatre Festival - with Holland Taylor & George Grizzard.
- 1981 ***The Greeks*** - Greek soldier, u/s Orestes - Williamstown Theatre Festival - with Christopher Reeve, Blythe Danner, Tony Goldwyn & Gwyneth Paltrow (American Premiere).
- 1983 ***The Barretts Of Wimpole Street*** - Octavius - Caldwell Theatre Company, Boca Raton, FL.
- 1978-80 ***As You Like It*** - Oliver; ***King Lear*** – Oswald; ***Street Scene*** - Dick McGann - Juilliard Theatre Center.

- 1975        ***Our Town*** - Joe Crowell - American Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford, CT - with Kate Mulgrew, Fred Gwynne, Lee Richardson & Geraldine Fitzgerald.
- 1974        ***The Dream Watcher*** - Albert Scully (lead) - White Barn Theatre, Westport, CT - with Eva LeGallienne.

**ACTING – FILM:**

- 1981        ***Ragtime*** - Times Photographer - with Elizabeth McGovern – Paramount Pictures.
- 1974        ***The Hiding Place*** – Bert - with Julie Harris – World Wide Pictures.

**ACTING – VOICE-OVERS (Representative):**

- 1990        ***Metro Beat*** – Corey Troupe (lead) – 24 episodes of syndicated radio serial – Bandwith Productions, Inc.
- 1974        ***The Yearling*** – Jody/ Fodder Wing – Caedmon Records – with David Wayne.
- 1974-78     ***Titan Productions, Inc.*** – Dubbed the English for seven foreign films for television, including ***1900*** (Bernardo Bertolucci), ***Survive*** & ***Black & White In Color*** (Oscar winner, Best Foreign Film).

**NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD:**

- 2011        ***Jerome Lawrence Award*** for outstanding service to William Inge Theatre Festival (14 years on advisory board) and in recognition of a significant body of work in the American Theatre.

**AWARDS – WRITING:**

- 2013        Scriptwriter’s Network Television Outreach Project – Grand Prize winner for TV spec script, ***Nurse Jackie: Anita Vicodin.***
- 2011        Scriptapalooza winner – Best hour-long TV drama spec script – ***Brothers & Sisters: Alabaster Shards.***
- 2007        TRU Voices Award for play, ***The Jesus Hickey.***
- 2007        Joel & Phyllis Ehrlich Award given for “a socially relevant, commercially viable new work of theatre” for ***The Jesus Hickey.***
- 2006        Daieda Prize – Best Nonfiction Book – ***Just Outside the Spotlight: Growing Up with Eileen Heckart.***
- 2005        New Noises Award for play, ***A Place at Forest Lawn.***



## AWARDS – DIRECTING:

- 2011 Three LA Stage Scene Awards for Noel Coward’s ***Private Lives*** – International City Theatre: Outstanding Direction of a Comedy, Outstanding Production of a Comedy & Outstanding Ensemble.
- 1994 Carbonell nomination – Best Direction of a Play for ***Oleanna*** – Coconut Grove Playhouse.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PARTICIPATION:

- 1998-2015 WILLIAM INGE THEATRE FESTIVAL - Independence, KS - Advisory board member , director of special events, workshop leader & panelist for 17 years. Presented workshops and served on panels with: Stephen Sondheim, Neil Simon, Terrence McNally, John Guare, Christopher Durang, John Kander, A.R. Gurney, Arthur Laurents, Scott Ellis, Theresa Rebeck, Joe Di Pietro, Marsha Norman, Lanford Wilson, Marshall Mason & David Henry Hwang
- 2012 DREAMAGO SCREENWRITER’S WORKSHOP – One of ten screenwriters chosen internationally for ten day workshop in Sierre, Switzerland with Oscar-winning screenwriter mentors.
- 2002 PRESIDENTIAL BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE – chosen by U.S. Department of Drug and Alcohol Awareness as a consultant to create a touring theatre program to schools and colleges on drug and alcohol abuse – Washington, D.C.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- 2007 UGANDA MISSION CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE – in conjunction with Mattel Children’s Foundation, facilitated providing toys to children in Ugandan orphanages.
- 2006-2011 LIBRARY BOOK SIGNINGS & LECTURES: JUST OUTSIDE THE SPOTLIGHT - Signal Hill Library, Seal Beach Library, Los Angeles County Library, New Canaan Library.
- 2005 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF CLALLAM COUNTY – performed benefit of one-man show, *Diva Dish*, raising over \$10,000 to help build homes for underprivileged families in Washington state.
- 2004-2008 LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE SENIOR STUDIES PROGRAM – presented recurring classes, workshops and lectures to senior citizens.
- 2004-2010 BENEFIT PERFORMANCES OF “DIVA DISH” (ONE-MAN SHOW) - Maine State Music Theatre, Orange County Gay & Lesbian Center, Women’s Club of Los Angeles, Long Beach Rotary Club.
- 1994-95: CLASS ACT – sponsored free performances at The Long Beach Civic Light Opera for elementary school students to attend a performance and behind-the scenes tour of a musical. More than 2,000 children attended each of four performances per year.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS:**

Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (since 2010)  
The Dramatists Guild (since 2007)  
Los Angeles Writer's Collective (since 2000)  
Stage Directors & Choreographers (since 1990)  
Screen Actors Guild/AFTRA (since 1977)  
Actors' Equity Association (since 1975)

**COMPLETE RESUMES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

Director/Producer on and off Broadway and at regional theatres across the U.S.  
Guest Director and/or adjunct faculty at colleges and universities throughout the country  
Award-winning author, playwright, film and television writer.  
Producer/Coordinator of corporate events, awards shows, several lecture series,  
trade shows and sales presentations.  
Speech and dialect coach for over 40 stage productions.  
Voiceover and dubbing artist for numerous film and television projects.  
Casting director for many television and stage productions.  
Actor & host for theatre, film and television.

**REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**