

Melissa Ordaz, Theatre Artist

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Former students have gone on to professional work** Off-Broadway, in regional theatre, in popular digital media, and for the Walt Disney Company
- **Experienced acting teacher**, drawing largely from Uta Hagen and Michael Chekhov Technique
- Teaching is **heavily-infused with voice & movement techniques** inspired by Patsy Rodenburg, Anne Bogart, and Scott Graham
- **Seasoned musical theatre director and instructor**, helming 20+ fully-realized musicals and musical revues
- **Award-winning director** with over 20 years of experience in a wide array of performance genres including plays, musicals, comedy, drama, farce, and devised theatre
- **Extensive background in theatre curriculum development** for all ages and levels; partnering with academic institutions to create a brand new theatre program, revitalize a stagnant one, as well as self-starting multiple theatre companies with strong instructional offerings
- **Proficient in end-to-end theatre program management**, including program planning, producing theatrical productions and events, and operational execution
- Currently, a co-founder for AVRA creative, which provides both **continued professional work opportunities** as well as **internship/job opportunities for my students**
- Above all, interested in **Biblical student mentorship** and presenting performance art as a practical means to commune with and glorify God

TEACHING EXPERIENCE credits includes:

Audition Workshop	Avra Creative	Nov. 2025
Acting Workshop, Guest Teacher	Heights Christian Junior High	Oct. 2024
Various Acting and Theatre Classes	Empty Space Artistry	2022-2023
Advanced Scene Study	Empty Space Artistry	Summer 2021
The Life of a Show: Introduction to Theatre	Empty Space Artistry	Summer 2021
Guest Speaker, Theatre Department	Life Pacific University	April 2020
Musical Theatre Performance & Audition Technique	Whittier Christian High School	2015-2018
Theatre 3/4: Styles & Scene Work	Whittier Christian High School	2015-2018
Theatre 2: Acting Technique	Whittier Christian High School	2014-2018
Theatre 1: Introduction to Theatre	Whittier Christian High School	2014-2018
Various theatre classes including:	Heights Christian Junior High	2012-2015
Playwriting, Voice & Movement, Technical Theatre, Acting/Scene Study, and Introduction to Theatre		

PERFORMANCE credits include:

MAIN STREET ELECTRICAL PARADE	Drizella	Disneyland Resort	June 2019
CHRISTMAS FANTASY PARADE	Anastasia	Disneyland Resort	Dec. 2018
PAINT THE NIGHT PARADE	Mrs. Incredible	Disneyland Resort	June 2018
CHRISTMAS FANTASY PARADE	Drizella	Disneyland Resort	Dec. 2006

DIRECTING - STAGE credits include:

GODSPELL (Currently in Pre-production)		Avra Creative	Nov. 2026
WRITTEN BY... (Recorded for YouTube)	by Melissa Ordaz	Empty Space Artistry	April 2023
THE UNNATURALS SOCIETY (Developmental Staged Reading)	by Hannah Jepsen	Empty Space Artistry	Oct. 2022
SEUSSICAL JR.		Empty Space Artistry	June 2022
ALL TOGETHER NOW!		Empty Space Artistry	Nov. 2021
SILENT JOY, A NEW PLAY	based on the graphic novel by Zach Beckert, Adapted by Melissa Ordaz	Studio/Stage, Los Angeles, CA	June 2019
INTO THE WOODS		Whittier Christian High School	April 2018
LITTLE WOMEN, THE MUSICAL		Whittier Christian High School	Nov. 2017
STORIES FROM SPOON RIVER	by Edgar Lee Masters Adapted by Matthew & Melissa Ordaz	Whittier Christian High School	Oct. 2017
THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK	by Goodrich & Hackett Adapted by Wendy Kesselman	Whittier Christian High School	March 2017
THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE		Whittier Christian High School	Feb. 2017
CHEMICAL IMBALANCE	by Lauren Wilson	Whittier Christian High School	Nov. 2016
GODSPELL		Whittier Christian High School	Oct. 2016
CINDERELLA		Whittier Christian High School	April 2016
ALMOST, MAINE	by John Cariani	Whittier Christian High School	Nov. 2015
THE WIZARD OF OZ		Whittier Christian High School	Feb. 2015
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN		Heights Christian Jr. High	Dec. 2013
UNDISCOVERED PLACES (new work)	by Melissa Ordaz	The Hawk Theatre	Oct. 2013

THE BENCH (new work)	by Vanessa Espino	California State University, Fullerton	May 2012
TREASURE ISLAND	by Jules Eckert Goodman, Dramatized from the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson	La Habra Depot Theatre	April 2012
TRANSIENT (new work)	by Payden Ackerman	California State University, Fullerton	Oct. 2011

ASSISTANT DIRECTING - STAGE credits:

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE	by Sarah Ruhl	Hallberg Theatre, Fullerton, CA	Directed by Marya Mazor
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EDUCATION/TRAINING:

Monologue Teacher Training	Karen Kohlhaas	May 2020
Drama Educator Workshop	American Academy of Dramatic Arts	2016
Adult Acting Class	South Coast Repertory	2016
Playwriting	South Coast Repertory	2016
B.A. Theatre Arts, Directing Emphasis	California State University, Fullerton	Class of 2012
Stage Combat: Level 1 Certification- Broad & Small Sword, Quaterstaff	Dueling Arts International	2011
Dance Training: jazz, tap, ballet	CSUF	2008-2010
Vocal Coach	Jan Payne	2006-2010
Dance Training: jazz, tap, ballet	Catch the Vision Dance Studio	2003-2008

AWARDS:

Winner: The Encore! Producers' Award	Silent Joy, A New Play	2019 Hollywood Fringe
Nominee: The Conversation Creation Award	Silent Joy, A New Play	2019 Hollywood Fringe
Winner: Magical Journey Award	Into the Woods	2018 Spirit of the MACYs

REELS/TESTIMONIALS/WORK SAMPLES:

Can be found at melissaordaz.com