

**OLUCHI C. NWOKOCHA**  
**Lecturer**, Actor, Director  
Department of Theatre, Film, and Dance  
San Jose State University  
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## EMPLOYMENT

- 2026- Present **Institutional Programs Manager**, Red Ladder Theatre Company
- 2025- Present **Lecturer**, Department of Film, Theatre, and Dance, San Jose State University
- 2021- 2025 **Assistant Professor of Theatre**, The Department of Theatre, Miami University at Oxford, OH
- 2016- 2025 **Lead Facilitator**, Arts in Corrections, Red Ladder Theatre Company
- 2020- 2021 **Lecturer**, Department of Film and Theatre, San Jose State University
- 2021 **Lecturer**, Dramatic Arts, Contra Costa College

## EDUCATION

- 2015 **Master of Fine Arts Theatre (Acting)**, The University of Florida  
Thesis Title: "Performing the Role Francine/Lena in the Play Clybourne Park by Bruce Norris"  
  
Thesis Committee Members: Mikell Pinkey (Co- Chair) and Yanci Bukovec (Co- Chair)
- 2012 **Bachelor of Arts**, San Jose State University  
Theatre Arts, Minor: African-American Studies

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Miami University

Principles of Acting  
Acting for the Camera  
Acting Studio: Foundations  
Drama and Script Analysis  
Auditions  
Acting for Musical Stage  
Acting Studio: Integrating Text  
Independent Studies: Directing, Shakespeare  
Production and Performance: Acting and Directing

### Contra Costa College

Acting I

### **San Jose State University**

Beginning Acting  
Theatre Appreciation  
Practical Acting and Directing

### **Red Ladder Theatre Company**

Salinas Valley State Prison  
Correctional Training Facility  
Folsom Women's Facility  
Folsom State Prison  
California State Prison of Sacramento  
Central California Women's Facility  
California Health Care Facility  
Deuel Vocational Institute  
Pleasant Valley State Prison  
Valley State Prison

### **University of Florida**

Acting for Non-Majors  
Oral Interpretation of Literature  
Theatre Appreciation

### **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

- 2026 **Global Conference on Women's Studies:** Presentation: "Chain, Chain, Chain": Unbreaking the Chains of Incarceration through improvisation, devised theatre, and storytelling. Oxford, United Kingdom. March 26<sup>th</sup> – March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 2025 **Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA):** Presentation: *Unlocking a Good Voice: An exploration of Lessac Vocal NRG's through a performance of The Hairpiece, a scene from The Colored Museum by George C. Wolfe.* New Orleans, Louisiana. October 2<sup>nd</sup> – October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 2024 **Association of Theatre for Higher Education (ATHE):** Joint Poster Session: Theatre History; Latinx, Indigenous, and the Americas, and Dramaturgy focus Group. *Theatrical Intimacy Education Poster.* Atlanta, Georgia. August 1 – August 4
- Association of Theatre for Higher Education (ATHE):** Games We Play. *Creative Process via Improvisation and Devised Theatre.* Atlanta, Georgia. August 1 – August 4.
- Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC): Panel:** Applied Theatre Exercise Exchange. Mobile, Alabama. March 13 – March 17.

- 2023 **Southeastern Theatre Conference: Presentation (SETC):** *Creativity in Carceral Setting*. Lexington, Kentucky. March 1-March 5 2023.
- Invited Guest Lecture.** Entrepreneurship: Startups and Presentations. Farmer's School of Business. Professor Robert Miller. Miami University of Ohio. Oxford. Ohio. April 26, 2023
- Invited Guest Lecture.** Acting for Non-Majors. Department of Theatre. Nikki Ferry. Miami University of Ohio. Oxford. Ohio. April 10, 2023
- 2022 **Invited Guest Lecture.** Race, Social Justice and Acting: Performance within a Prison Industrial Complex. Professor Julia Guichard. Miami University of Ohio. Oxford, Ohio. March 18, 2022.
- 2020 **Invited Guest Lecture.** Acting in the Industry. Professor Kathleen Normington. San Jose State University. San Jose, California. February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- 2019 **"Arts in Corrections."** Presentation. California Lawyer for the Arts. Santa Clara University. Santa Clara, California. June 24-28, 2019.
- 2017 **"Arts in Education."** Presentation. One Theatre World. Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Berkeley, California. May 5-7, 2017.

## RECRUITMENT

- 2024 **Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC).** Mobile, Alabama. March 13- 17, 2024
- 2023 **Ohio Thespians.** Fall of Thespians Festival. Hillard, OH. November 4, 2023
- Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC).** Lexington, Kentucky, March 1-5, 2023
- 2022 **Michigan Thespians.** Lansing, Michigan, December 8-10, 2022
- Illinois High School Theatre Festival.** Bloomington, IL, January 6-8, 2022.
- 2021 **Ohio Unified Auditions.** Fall of Thespians Festival. Westerville, OH, November 6, 2021.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2021 – present **Arts in Corrections**, in conjunction with Red Ladder Theatre Company, I am working to secure funding through a book contract to highlight the lives of the men and women that we work with who are experiencing incarceration. This book will showcase in their own words how improvisation, and devised theatre is changing their lives from the inside out.
- 2019 **Research Assistant for Africana Studies Department**, Investigation of published findings in academic and professional journals, and other credible sources. Evaluation and analysis of data using Excel and Word. Supervisor. Dr. Eziaku Nwokocha, University of Pennsylvania, March -May 2019

2013 **Research Assistant for The School of Theater and Dance**, Solicited and acquired new plays from playwrights and agencies to be suggested for the upcoming season. Created curriculum for the undergraduate acting and voice and speech courses.  
Supervisor. Dr. David Young, University of Florida. August – December 2013

## SERVICE

**National:** Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC): Chair of Applied Theatre

### Miami University

2024 **Recruitment Committee.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. August 2024 – present

**Awards and Recognition Committee.** Associate Dean: Julia Guichard. College of Creative Arts. August 2024 - present

**Season Selection Committee.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. Chair: Matt Omasta. September 2024-present

**Faculty Advisor and Mentor.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. August 2024 – present

2023 **Dance Search Committee.** University Service. May 2023 – July 2023

**Provost Faculty Advisory Council.** Dean: Elizabeth Mullinex. University Service. January 2023 – May 2023

**Awards and Recognition.** Associate Dean: Julia Guichard. College of Creative Arts. October 2023 – May 2024

**Recruitment Committee.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. August 2023 – present.

**Faculty Advisor and Mentor.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. August 2023 - present

**Season Selection Committee.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. January 2023 – May 2023

**Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival.** Adjudicator. Bowling Green State University. “Venus.” October 2023

2022 **Provost Faculty Advisory Council.** Interim Provost: Elizabeth Mullinex. September 2022 – May 2023

**Dean Advisory Board.** Dean: John Weigand. College of Creative Arts. Miami University. September 2022 – May 2023

**Faculty Advisor/Mentor.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. September 2022 – May 2023 (8 students)

**Recruitment Committee.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. September 2022 – May 2023

**Curriculum Committee.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. September 2022 – May 2023

**Season Selection Committee.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. September 2022 – December 2022

2021

**Dean Advisory Board.** Dean: Elizabeth Mullinex. College of Creative Arts. Miami University. September 2021-May 2022

**Faculty Advisor/Mentor.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. September 2021 -May 2022 (3 students)

**Academic Appeals Committee.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. September 2021- May 2022

**Season Selection Committee.** Department of Theatre. Miami University. September 2021-December 2021

**Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.** Irene Ryan Nominated Actor(s). - Coaching monologues/scenes. December 2021.

### **San Jose State University**

2020 **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.** Land Acknowledgement: Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. Department of Film and Theatre. San Jose State University. August 2020

**Voice and Movement Specialist.** Live stream production of *The Living* and Radio Play *Betty's Garage*. Department of Film and Theatre. San Jose State University. September 2020- November 2020

### **University of Florida**

2013 **Graduate Fellow and Mentor.** School of Theatre and Dance, University of Florida. August 2013 – May 2015.

2013 **Season Planning Committee.** School of Theatre and Dance, University of Florida. January -December 2013.

2012 **Graduate Student Council,** The Graduate School, Graduate Student Organization for Graduates in The University of Florida. August 2012- May 2013

2012 **Artist in Residence,** School of Theatre and Dance at The University of Florida. August 2012- May 2015

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

2024 **Theatrical Intimacy Education.** Laura Rikard. Atlanta, George. April 26<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>

2023 **Lessac Training and Research Institute.** Nancy Krebs. Annapolis, Maryland. August 25 – August 27

**Moving Frame Film Acting Intensive.** Welker White, Damian Young. New York City. August 14 – August 18

**South Africa Lessac Intensive.** Lessac Training and Research Institute. University of Pretoria. Pretoria, South Africa. January 8- January 28.

2022 **Artistic Engagement Committee.** Human Race Theatre. Artistic Director: Emily N. Wells. Dayton, Ohio. September 8 – Present.

**U.S. Summer Lessac Intensive.** Lessac Training and Research Institute. Depauw University. Greencastle, Indiana. June 17-July 17.

2021 **Fornès Playwriting Workshop:** Fornès Institute/Latinx Theatre Commons. Instructors: Migdalia Cruz/Anne Garcia-Romero. Cincinnati, Ohio. October 21 – October 25.

## DIRECTING

2024 **Principles of Acting Showcase.** Miami University of Ohio. May 2024

*Antigone, Presented by the Girls of St. Catherine's.* Miami University of Ohio. January 2024 – March 2024

2022 **Acting for Musical Stage: Showcase.** Miami University of Ohio. December 2022

2021 *Alone Together.* San Jose State University. January 2021 – April 2021

## MENTORSHIP

2024 Joseph Sheridan. Commonwealth Theatre Apprenticeship. Lanesboro, Minnesota.

Jonathan Erwin. Guest. Major Insight Podcast. Miami University of Ohio

2023 Andrew Dellafave. Featured Extra. *Bike Riders.* Cincinnati, OH. Austin Butler, Norman Reedus, Tom Hardy

Jonathan Erwin. Featured Extra. *Interstate 35.* Northern Kentucky, Kentucky. Alfie Allen

Emerson Adams. Graduate School. Oklahoma City University – Los Angeles Campus. MFA Acting

Hannah Jones-Beyene. Student Orientation Undergraduate Leader. SOUL. January – May 2023

Caroline Miller. Performing Arts Project. Acting/Musical Theatre Winston Salem, North Carolina. July 8 – July 28

2022 Tamara Sanow. Three Arts Scholarship. Women in Cincinnati. December 2022

Jack Troiano. Performing Arts Series. Assistant to Director. August 2022 – May 2023

## CERTIFICATIONS

2024 **Lessac Kinesensics:** Teacher Candidate. August 2024

2021 **Center for Faculty Development, E campus, and Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** San Jose State University. Teach Online Winter Certificate Program. January 2021.

2020 **Center for Faculty Development, E campus, and Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** San Jose State University. Teach Online Summer Certificate Program. August 2020

## AWARDS

2022 **College of Creative Arts, Travel Grant.** Pretoria, South Africa. Miami University, OH.

- 2021 **Pandemic Pandemonium Initiative**, College of Humanities and the Arts, San Jose State University  
A campus wide initiative to create intellectual, artistic, and creative community among our students.
- 2012-2015 **Graduate Teaching Fellowship (\$30,000)**, School of Theatre and Dance, University of Florida
- 2012 **Irene Ryan Nomination**, Best Actress, "Ajax in Iraq." School of Theatre and Dance, University of Florida
- 2012 **Kennedy Center Nomination**, Best Actress, "Ajax in Iraq." School of Theatre and Dance, University of Florida
- 2011 **Diversity and Outreach Award**, Department of Film and Theatre, San Jose State University
- 2010 **Campus Movie Fest**, Best Comedy, "I want to be in a movie." Film and Theatre, San Jose State University
- 2009 **Campus Movie Fest**, Best Comedy, "FunScare." Film and Theatre, San Jose State University

### **MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Lessac Training and Research Institute  
Southeastern Theatre Conference  
Voice and Speech Trainers Association  
Association for Theatre in Higher Education

## ACTING CREDITS

Oluchi Nwokocha  
Equity Eligible

[Oluchi.nwokocha@sjsu.edu](mailto:Oluchi.nwokocha@sjsu.edu)

916.271.0808

**Range:** Alto

### Regional Theatre

Barbecue	Black Barbara	Human Race Theatre   Eboni Bell Darcy
Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play	Colleen/Marge	The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio   Leda Hoffman
Under Milk Wood	Voice, et al	Pear Theatre   Sinjin Jones
The Claim	B	Shotgun Players   Rebecca Novick
The Lady Scribblers	Delia	Custom Made Theatre c/o Those Women Productions   Tracy Ward
Midsummer Night's Dream	Fairy	Marin Shakespeare Comp.   Lesley S. Currier
Macbeth	Ross, et al	African-American Shakespeare   L. Peter Callender
Arts in Correction	Company Member	Red Ladder Theatre   Karen Altree Piemme
We Are Proud to Present	Actor 6/Black Woman	San Jose Stage   L. Peter Callender
Clybourne Park	Francine/Lena	Hippodrome Theatre   Ralf Remshardt

### Reading & Workshop

**Sappho	Sappho	Cutting Ball Theatre   Maya Herbsman
**Slaughter City	Roach	Performers Under Stress Theatre   Valerie Fachman
Rendering Cycle	Dialect Coach	Playground SF   Margo Hall
**The Claim	B	Shotgun Players   Rebecca Novick
**The Drowning Pool	Victoria	Bagwell Consulting c/o African-American Shakespeare   Kimberly Ridgeway
The Lady Scribblers	Delia	Those Women Productions c/o Custom Made Theatre   Tracy Ward

### University Theatre (MFA Acting)

Vera Stark	Vera	University of Florida   Tim Altmeyer
Tribes	Ruth	University of Florida   David Young
Miss Witherspoon	Black Woman	University of Florida   Kevin Marshall
Ajax in Iraq	Sickles/Chorus	University of Florida   David Young

### Film

Somewhere Beyond	Camra	Short Film   James Babanikos
L'Homme D'Affairs	Anne	Short Film   Gabrielle Garner

### Training

University of Florida MFA Theatre (Acting)  
San Jose State University B.A. Theatre Arts, **Minor:** African-American Studies

**Acting:** Tim Altmeyer | Kevin Marshall | Michael Francis Toomey | Allyn Burrows | Abigail Esmena

**Film Acting:** Welker White | Damian Young | Cody Dorkin

**Voice/Speech:** Yanci Bukovec | Crystal Robbins | Mornè Steryn | Marth Monroe | Nancy Krebs

**Movement:** Kathy Sarra | Tiza Garland

### Special Skills

Rapier, Dagger and Unarmed (SAFD, BASSC-passed)

Tennis, Volleyball, Driver's License, Rollerblading, Ice Skating, Track & Field, Soccer, Lifting, Improvisation technique, Macy Gray impersonation

**Languages:** Conversational French (beginner), Igbo (beginner)

**Dialects:** West African (Nigerian), RP

\*Upcoming. \*\* Virtual Reading