Chris Donovan (He/Him/His)

Actor/Director/Educator

SAG-AFTRA, AEA (Must Join)
www.chrisdonovan-nyc.com
IG: @chrisdonovan.nyc
chrisdonovan.nyc@gmail.com

Areas of Expertise

Stanislavski, M. Chekhov, Meisner, Viewpoints, Lecoq, Yakim Physical Approach, Theatrical Intimacy, Fight Direction & Stage Combat, Devised Theatre & collaborative Creation, Acting the Song, Audition technique

Education & Training

MFA - Acting: City University of New York, Brooklyn College, 2014
MA - Directing: Chicago College of the Performing Arts, Roosevelt University, 2023
BA - Theatre Performance: Western Connecticut State University, 2010
Musical Theatre Conservatory: Circle in the Square Theater School, 2001
Lecoq Technique: Physical Theater Institute: Movement Theater Studio, NYC, 2013
Arts Education for the Classroom: Circle in the Square Theater School, 2016

Academic Teaching Experience

Long Island University Post, 2023 - Present
Adjunct Professor, Department of Theater, Dance, & Arts Management
- THE 280 Contemporary Musical Theatre Practices II
- THE 227 The Meisner Technique
- THE 223 Intermediate Acting I - Modern American Realism/Viewpoints
- THE 224 Intermediate Acting II - Chekhov, Ibsen, & Strindberg/Viewpoints
- THE 221 Basic Acting I - Stanislavski, M.Chekhov/Improv
- THE 222 Basic Acting II - Stanislavski, M.Chekhov/Scene Study
- Director - *Peter and the Starcatcher* by Rick Elice, Post Theatre Company 2024

Manhattanville University, 2025 - Present
Adjunct Professor, Department of Fine and Performing Arts
- MUA 4228 Acting the Song III

Western Connecticut State University, 2017 - 2021
Adjunct Professor, Department of Theater
- THR 402: The Meisner Technique
- THR 387: Devised Theater Workshop
- THR 201: Playmaking for Children (In person & Online Synchronous)
- THR 181: Acting I - Character Study/Stanislavski, M.Chekhov (In person, Online & Synchronous)
- THR 180: Introduction to Theater Arts

SUNY Westchester Community College, 2023 - 2025
Adjunct Professor, Department of Theater
- THEAT 111 Acting I/Stanislavski, M.Chekhov
- THEAT 101 Introduction to the Theatre
- Director - *Passage* by Christopher Chen MainStage Production 2023
- Director - *A Complete History of America Abridged* By Reduced Shakespeare, MainStage Production 2025

CUNY Macaulay Honors College/The City College of New York, 2016 - 2025
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Theater
- THTR 13100 (Honors): Introduction to Theater Arts (In person, Online Synchronous & Asynchronous)
- Faculty Directing Advisor: *Fires in The Mirror* by Anna Deavere Smith, MainStage Production 2018

CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College, 2015 - 2024
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Speech, Communication and Theater
THE 100 Introduction to Theater Arts (In person, Online Synchronous & Asynchronous)

Guilford Technical Community College, 2021
Adjunct Professor, Department of Theater
DRA 211: Theater History I

Pedagogical Lineage

Acting Technique:
Terese Hayden, Jacqueline Brookes, Phillip Seymour Hoffmann, Mary Beth Easley, Mark Blum, Barbara Zahora
Scene Study & Text Analysis:
Edward Berkeley, Alan Langdon, Andrew Wade, John Stix, Maria Tucci
Directing:
Damon Kiely, Michael Burke, Rose Burnett-Bonczek
Physical Theatre:
Moni Yakim, Mina Yakim, Norman Taylor, Richard Crawford, Virginia Scott, Heather Corwin
Movement:
Albert Stephenson, Larry Crabtree. Laura Smith, Daniel Singer
Voice, Speech & Dialects:
Lucille S. Rubin, PhD, Andrea Haring, Judylee Vivier, Leigh Dillon, K.C. Ligon, Charlotte Fleck
Stage Combat:
B.H. Barry, Michael G. Chin, Neil Massey
Theatrical Intimacy Education:
Chelsea Pace, Laura Rikard, Kim Shively, Gregory Geffrard
Audition Technique & Professional Practice:
Heidi Griffiths, Rob Decina, Brian O'Neil, Mary Beth Easley

Stage Experience

National Tours:
The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas - Mayor/Senator (u/s Melvin Thorpe) - North American Tour, Dir. Jeffery B. Moss

Off Broadway:
*Marilyn Monroe Exposed** - JFK & Others - The Actor's Temple Theatre, Dir. CB Murray
*Shakespeare in Space** - Joseph Stalin - The Mint Theatre, Dir. Annie Ward

International Theatre:
*MacBeth 2000: A Rock Opera** - Banquo (u/s MacBeth/MacDuff) - South Side Comedia, Edinburg. Fringe, Dir. Sal Trapani
*Kaleidoscope** - Ring Master - Roman Eagle Lodge, Edinburgh Fringe, Dir. Sal Trapani

Regional Theatre:
*A Midnight Clear** - Elias Tompkins - The Riverside Theatre, Dir. Allen D. Cornell
Come From Away - Oz and others (u/s Claude) - The Engeman Theatre, Dir. Scott Weinstein
Dear Evan Hansen - Ensemble (u/s Larry Murphy) - The Engeman Theatre, Dir. Scott Weinstein
Beautiful: The Carole King Musical - Don Kirshner - The Argyle Theatre, Dir. Banji Aborisade
The Music Man - Charlie Cowell (u/s Harold Hill) - The Argyle Theatre, Dir. Evan Pappas
Fiddler on the Roof - Constable - The Argyle Theatre, Dir. Evan Pappas
Newsies - Seitz/Snyder (u/s Pulitzer - perf.) - The Argyle Theatre, Dir. Tommy Ranieri
Finding Neverland - Mr. Cromer - White Plains Performing Arts Center, Dir. Marc Tuminelli
Hairspray - Male Authority Figure (u/s Edna, Wilbur) - White Plains Performing Arts, Dir. Frank Portanova
Damn Yankees - Dell/Ensemble (u/s Joe/Applegate) - The Ivoryton Playhouse, Dir. Jenn Thompson
A Flea in Her Ear - Hotel Guest (u/s Chandabise, Poche, Finache) - The Ivoryton Playhouse, Dir. Owen Thompson
Lost in Yonkers - u/s Eddie, Louie - The Ivoryton Playhouse, Dir. Evan Thompson
Bus Stop - u/s Bo Decker, Will Masters - The Ivoryton Playhouse, Dir. Julia Kiely
Art - u/s Marc, Serge, Ivan - The Ivoryton Playhouse, Dir. Warren Kelley
Annie and Bill - Frank Butler - The Ivoryton Playhouse, Dir. Joan Shepard
Jersey Boys - Tommy DeVito - Winnipesaukee Playhouse, Dir. Teisha Duncan
Mamma Mia! - Harry Bright - Plaza Theatrical, Dir. Kevin Harrington
Sweat - Stan - The Sprinkle Theatre, UNC Greensboro (Guest Artist)

The American Girls Review - Uncle Gard/Jiggy Nye - The American Girls Place, NYC, Dir. Mea Hack

OFF-OFF BROADWAY:
*Macbeth 2000: A Rock Opera** - Banquo (/u/s MacBeth, MacDuff) - Judith Anderson Theatre, Dir. Sal Trapani
*Pride and Prejudice: A New Musical** - Mr. Bingley - Theatre for a New City, Dir. Lissa Moira
*Delilah: A New Musical** - David/Ya'ir - Midtown Festival/The Chain, Dir. Seth Duerr
Twelfth Night - Toby Belch - TODO Con Nada, Dir. Mick Mellamphy
Cymbeline - Belarius - The Brick Theatre, Dir. Jeannie-Marie Brown
Assassins - Leon Czolgosz - The Gallery Players, Dir. Noel McDuffie
The Seagull - Shamryev - Columbia University (Guest Artist)
*Will of Love** - Benedict - The Shell Theatre, Dir. Pam McDaniel
The Cherry Orchard - Lopahin - The Raw Space, Dir. Sal Trapani
*The Man Who Hated Shakespeare** - Bone Crusher - The Producers Club, Dir. Sam Kellerman
King John - The Bastard of Falconbrigde - The Producers Club II, Dir. Emily Whittaker

UNIVERSITY THEATRE:
Into The Woods - Rapunzel's Prince (u/s Baker) - Circle In The Square Theatre School, Dir. Theodore Mann
The Children s Hour - Dr. Joseph Cardin - Circle In The Square Theatre School, Dir. Stephen Porter
The Velveteen Rabbit - Narrator - Circle In the Square Theatre School, Dir. Larry Crabtree
Clybourne Park - Russ/Dan - CUNY Brooklyn College
The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek - Chas Weaver - CUNY Brooklyn College
The Rimers of Eldrich - Judge/Preacher - CUNY Brooklyn College
City of Angels - Stine - Western Connecticut State University
Fiddler on the Roof - Constable (u/s Tevye, Lazar) - Western Connecticut State University
A Midsummer's Night Dream - Theseus - Western Connecticut State University
A Flea in Her Ear - Dr. Finache - Western Connecticut State University
Shakespeares Villains - Various - Western Connecticut State University
Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory - Mr. Salt - Western Connecticut State University
James and the Giant Peach - Mysterious Man - Western Connecticut State University

** WORLD PREMIERE*

FILM/TV EXPERIENCE

PRINCIPAL FILM & TV:
Under New Management - Nick Falcone/Stunts - TMC, Dir. Joe Otting
Phil Spector - News Camera Operator - HBO, Dir. David Mamet
New York, I Love You (DVD Special Features) - Featured/Animal Handler - Vivendi-Intrepid, Dir. Andrey Zvyagintsev
How We Look - Doctor - Reelabilities Festival NYC & Superfest SF '26, Dir. Sofiya Cheyanne
The Iceman and the Psychiatrist - Various Murder Victims - HBO, Dir. Arthur Ginsberg
Rescue Me - Video Store Creep - FX, Dir. Peter Tolan
Law and Order: Criminal Intent - College Football Player/Stunts - NBC, Dir. Tom DiCillo
Law and Order: SVU - Professional Football Player/Stunts - NBC, Dir. Jean de Segonzac
30 Rock - High School Football Player/Stunts - NBC, Dir. Michael Engle

COMMERCIALS/INDUSTRIALS:
Migration - Reebok NFL - Independent Media, Dir. Janusz Kaminski
The Making of Migration - Reebok NFL - Independent Media, Dir. Janusz Kaminski
Tips From Former Smokers - Public Service Announcement - CDC's Office on Smoking and Health

PHOTO DOUBLE/STAND IN/BACKGROUND:
TELEVISION: *30 Rock, All My Children, Cupid, Entourage, Fort Pit, Forty, Fringe, Gossip Girl, Law & Order, Law & Order - Criminal Intent, Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, Lipstick Jungle, Love Monkey, Mildred Pierce, Naked Brothers Band, New Amsterdam, Nurse Jackie, Rescue Me, Rubicon, Running Wilde, Smash, The Flight of the Concords, The Good Wife, The Job, The Unusuals, The Naked Brothers Band, Ugly Betty, White Collar*

FILM: *A Place In Hell, Arthur, Bride Wars, Brooklyn to Manhattan, Cadillac Records, Confessions of a Shopaholic, Englishman in New York, Finchley Dreams, Get Him to the Greek, Going the Distance, I Don't Know How She Does It, Men In Black 3, Morning Glory, Mr. Popper's Penguins, Multiple Sarcasm, My Idiot Brother, NY I Love You, Phil Spector, Premium Rush, Rebound, Road to Perdition, Salt, Solitary Man. Someday This Pain Will Be…, Something Borrowed, Sorcerers Apprentice, Stay, Step Up 3D, Synecdoche NY, Thanks for Sharin, The Baster, The Bourne Ultimatum, The Diplomat, The Happening, The*

International, The Taking of Pelham One Two Three, The Wrestler, Tower Heist, What Happened in Vega, When in Rome, You Don't Mess With the Zohan

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

REGIONAL THEATRE:

The Music Man - Assistant Director - The Argyle Theatre, 2025

NEW YORK THEATRE:

Gi60: One Minute Play Festival - Director/Assoc. Prod. - The Tank, NYC 2025
Gi60: One Minute Play Festival - Director/Assoc. Prod. - The Tank, NYC 2024
Gi60: One Minute Play Festival - Director/Assoc. Prod. - New Workshop Theatre, Brooklyn 2018
Child Playwrights: A One Act Festival - Director - Circle in the Square Theater, 2016
Twelfth Night - Artistic Director/Producer - Todo 45 NYC, 2004
King John - Artistic Director/Producer - The Producers Club II NYC, 2003

UNIVERSITY THEATRE:

The Complete History of America Abridged - Director/Designer - SUNY WCC Hankin Arts Center, 2025
Peter and the Starcatcher - Director/Designer - LIU Post Theatre Company, 2024
Passage - Director/Designer - SUNY WCC Hankin Arts Center, 2023
Sweat - Fight Director - UNCG Sprinkle Theater, 2022
New York Actor - Fight Director - University of Mount Saint Vincent, 2025
The Devils's Mischief: A Devised Project - Director/Playwright - WCSU Studio A Theater, 2019
Cleo - Director/Assoc. Prod. - WCSU Rich Reimold Theater, 2002
Extremities - Assistant Director - WCSU Rich Reimold Theater, 2002
A Stye of the Eye - Director - WCSU Rich Reimold Theater, 1998]

CRITICAL RECEPTION

***BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL* (THE ARGYLE THEATRE):** SAM DESMOND (BROADWAY WORLD)
"Chris Donovan as father-figure Don Kirshner had a charming combination of shrewd music executive and indulgent uncle. His presence on stage always commanded attention all the while elevating the other performers in the scene with his generous chemistry."

***COME FROM AWAY* (JOHN W. ENGEMAN THEATRE):** RITA J. EGAN (TBR NEWS MEDIA):
"Chris Donovan as Oz, the local police constable, and John Scherer as Claude, the mayor, deliver commanding performances from the start, ensuring the audience that they will be in good hands"

***COME FROM AWAY* (JOHN W. ENGEMAN THEATRE):** CINDI SANSONE-BRAFF (LONG ISLAND PATCH)
"Chris Donovan was likable as Oz, the easygoing constable in the two-person Gander police force...Engeman's well-honed 12-member cast, with their exhilarating onstage chemistry, delivered perfectly!….The production functioned as a true ensemble piece without a single star, reminding us that we are all capable of extraordinary kindness."

***DEAR EVAN HANSEN* (JOHN W. ENGEMAN THEATRE):** CINDI SANSONE-BRAFF (LONG ISLAND PATCH)
"Act I closed on a high note with "You Will Be Found," which begins as a soft solo backed by a piano ballad and builds into a big production number featuring the entire cast, including the talented ensemble Zac Decker, Chris Donovan, Lily Grubert, Alex Kidder, and Jordan Radis."

***DELILAH: THE MUSICAL* (MIDTOWN INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL):** DAN BACALZO (THEATERMANIA.COM)
"Chris Donovan makes a strong impression as an enslaved Israelite, David, in the show's opening number..."

HONORS & AWARDS

BEST SUPPORTING PERFORMER IN A MUSICAL NOMINEE: BROADWAY WORLD AWARDS, LONG ISLAND (2026)
DON KIRSHNER - *BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL,* THE ARGYLE THEATRE
BEST ENSEMBLE NOMINEE: BROADWAY WORLD AWARDS, LONG ISLAND (2026)
DEAR EVAN HANSEN, JOHN W. ENGEMAN THEATRE
OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD: WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY (2019)
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD NOMINEE: CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (2020)
SEMI-FINALIST: KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATRE FESTIVAL REGION 1 (2010)

Guest Artist & Residencies

University of Mount St. Vincent, 2025
Guest Artist, Department of Theater
Fight Director - *New York Actor* by John Guare Cahill Theatre 2025
Instructor: Unarmed Combat Workshops

University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2022
Guest Artist, Department of Theater
Fight Director/Role of Stan: *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage, Sprinkle Theatre 2022
Instructor: Meisner Technique Workshops, Unarmed Combat Workshops

Classical Singer Magazine - CS Music Panel Auditions, 2025
Musical Theatre Adjudicator

Align Actors Studio, 2021
Meisner Intensive
Business of Acting Seminar

The City College of New York - CUNY Theater Festival, 2017 - 2019
Physical Acting Workshop
Business of Acting Seminar

Community Engagement & Youth Theatre Residencies

WCSU Academy for International Studies, Danbury CT
Playmaking with Children: Master Teacher 2017-2019, 3rd Grade

The City College of New York - CUNY Explorers Workshops, 2017 - 2019
Acting Workshop: Master Teacher 2016-2019, 7th Grade

Mill Ridge Primary School, Danbury CT
Playmaking with Children: Master Teacher 2017-2019, 2nd Grade

MainStages/Camp Twelve Trails
Acting/Improvisation: Teaching Artist 2017, K-6th Grade

Circle in The Square Theater School at PS 11Chelsea NYC
Playmaking with Children with Daniel Judah Sklar: Residency Assistant: 2016, 3rd Grade

Summer On Stage - Musicals at Richter, Danbury, CT
Acting/Improvisation: 1997-2000, K-6th Grade

Professional Development

Staging:
Building Inclusive Rehearsals: Artists Breaking Limits & Expectations, 2023
Storytelling Practices: Maggie Andersen, 2023
Blocking and Staging Ensembles: Timothy Ortmann, 2022
Actor Coaching Pedagogy: Barbara Zahora, 2023
Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process: Nathan King, 2023
Improv/Ensemble Building Techniques: Scott Shallenbarger, 2021

Classroom Management:
Ways to "Reset" Your Post-Pandemic Theatre Program: Andy Sinclair, 2022
Storytelling and Puppetry for Children: Spellbound Theater, 2017
Theater Games That Stick: Paul Brewster & Renata Townsend, 2017
Musical Theater: Young Performer Efficient Auditions: Disney Theatrical Group 2017
Pre and Post-Show Engagement: WT McRae, 2017
Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder: Rita Gendelman, 2017
Collaboration and Team Teaching: Renata Townsend, 2017
Student Assessment: Gail Winar, 2016
Classroom Management: Leese Walker, 2016

Inclusivity:
Controversy/Censorship in Schools: Kristen Mackie, 2023
Multiculturalism Meets Polyculturalism: Jamil Khoury, 2021

Academic Service

Roosevelt University - Chicago, IL
Graduate Assistant to Program Coordinator 2023-2024
Brooklyn College, CUNY - Brooklyn, NY
Assistant Artistic Director 2012-2014
Assistant Producer: MFA Industry Showcase, 2012-2014
BFA Audition Panel, 2015
Circle in the Square Theater School, NYC
Administrative Assistant, 1999-2001
Western Connecticut State University - Danbury, CT
Student Center Building Manager/Venue Coordinator: Black Box Theater, 1998-1999
Graduate Theater Organization - Brooklyn College, CUNY
Graduate Liaison, 2012-2013
Center Stage, Western Connecticut State University
Vice-President/Festival Producer, 2001-2002
Sargent at Arms, 1997-1998

Related Experience

HR Artist Management - NYC
Talent Scout (Showcases, Audition Panels, Theatre Productions) 2024-Present
G160: International One-Minute Play Festival - Brooklyn, & NYC
Associate Producer/Director/Actor 2013-Present
Owtava Hat Ensemble - NYC
Artistic Director/Producer. 2003-2005
The River Rep - Ivoryton, CT
Acting/Technical Intern, 2001

Portfolio & Supplementary Materials

Teaching Philosophy
Diversity Statement
Performance Projects
Directing Projects
Thesis Documentation
Sample Syllabi
Courses of Study
Recommendation Letters/Observation Reports
Transcripts

References

Valerie Clayman-Pye - Long Island University at Post - Department of Theatre
Professor/Chair of Theatre Department
valerie.pye@liu.edu or (516) 299-2114

Evan Pappas - The Argyle Theatre - Babylon, NY
Artistic Director/Director at The Argyle Theatre
Former Broadway & National Touring Performer
evan@argyletheatre.com or (844) 631-5483

Rose Burnett Bonczek - Brooklyn College - Department of Theatre
Professor Emerita/Former BFA Program Head in Acting
roseburnettbonczek@gmail.com
Sal Trapani - Western Connecticut State University - Department of Theater
Former Professor & Department Chair
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JUDYLEE VIVIER - BROOKLYN COLLEGE - DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
FORMER PROFESSOR/MFA PROGRAM HEAD IN ACTING
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