

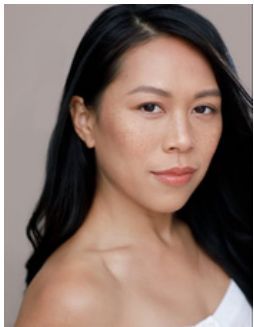


## Summer 2025 - Faculty



**Aubrey Saverino (*The Comedy of Errors* Director)** is a professional actor, director, and theater professor with an MFA from The Old Globe/USD and a BA from Occidental College. She currently teaches theater courses at Fullerton College, Moorpark College, and Mt. San Antonio College. Her directing credits include *Men on Boats* at Mt. San Antonio College, *Almost Maine* at Ventura College; Epic Theatre Ensemble's *A Midsummer Night's Dream REMIX* at The National Black Theater; and *Romeo & Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar* and *Antony & Cleopatra* for A Noise Within's Summer with Shakespeare program. As an actor, Aubrey has performed on screen and in professional Off-Broadway and regional theaters productions around the country including The Old Globe; Independent Shakespeare Company; Orlando Shakespeare Theater; Capital Repertory Theatre; San Diego Repertory Theatre; Chance Theater. [Aubreysaverino.com](http://Aubreysaverino.com)

**Riley Shanahan (*As You Like It* Director)** is happy to be directing for the Summer Shakespeare Program. Riley is a theater artist and filmmaker with over sixteen years of experience acting, directing, writing, producing, and teaching. At A Noise Within, he played Mason/John in *Jane Eyre*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as Johnny in *Misalliance*. As a teaching artist, he has taught at nearly every level and in many different subjects including environmental science, theater, english, and more. Riley is passionate about theater education, specifically, because it allows kids to express themselves and helps them learn how to work as a team.



**Nicole Javier (*Movement*)** is an actor, professor, and Resident Artist at A Noise Within. Previous shows at ANW include: *The Book of Will*; *A Christmas Carol*, *Animal Farm*, *Metamorphoses* and *All's Well That Ends Well*. She has also worked with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego Repertory, South Coast Repertory, Provincetown Playhouse, Shakespeare Orange County, Aurora Theatre Company, Crowded Fire Theatre, and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, where she originated the role of Luna in the 2024 American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award-winning play, *The Heart Sellers*. Nicole currently teaches at Pasadena City College. She received her BFA from Chapman University and MFA from UC San Diego.

Described as a "...versatile singer, whose voice is at once regal and affectionate..." (LA Times), **Amber Liekhus (*Musical*)** has had an exciting career as a performer and teacher and holds a BA in Liberal Arts and Music from Pepperdine University. Some of Amber's favorite credits include: *Jelly's Last Jam* at Pasadena Playhouse, *Beggar Woman* in ANW's *Sweeney Todd*, *Ruby U/S* in ANW's *King Hedley II*, *Annie* at The Hollywood Bowl, *Blues in the Night* at The Wallis, *Ain't Misbehavin'* with McCoy Rigby, *Porgy and Bess* at LA Opera, and *Suor Angelica* at Opera di Roma. Voice teacher for over 15 years, Amber's students are now pursuing careers in theatre, opera, television and film. IG: @Amberliekhusvocalstudio





## Summer 2025 - Faculty



**Michael Bauer (Commedia & Clowning)** is an actor, writer and producer fascinated by all things funny. After earning his MFA in Acting from UCLA, Michael went on to create and produce the AmazonPrime/YippeeTV series “Space Lightning.” He also produces and directs for such kids TV shows as “Maggies Market” and “The Really Big Science Show.” Michael’s background is in clown and physical comedy, having studied with masters from Ringling Bros, and Cirque Du Soliel, and touring Italy with his one man show “Tabula Rasa” as part of the Art Monastery artistic residency. Today Michael is a published playwright and teaches acting, improv, and clown at UCLA.



**Katharine Lerner (Scene Study)** is an Actor and Teacher in Los Angeles. Katharine has taught with Youth Academy of Dramatic Arts, Treasure Trunk Theatre, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Camp Arena Stage and Camp Acting Manitou. Katharine trained at the Upright Citizens Brigade, Maggie Flanigan Studio, received her BFA from Marymount Manhattan College, and studied at the British American Drama Academy. Katharine loves teaching children and opening their imagination to all the possibilities of creation and joy!



**Ken Merckx (Combat)** has choreographed fights and taught actors combat for film and television, theatres, and universities all across the country. He is presently a faculty member at AMDA, UC, Santa Barbara, and Cal State, Fullerton. Ken is the resident fight choreographer the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theater Festival (Cleveland) and A Noise Within (Los Angeles). Mr. Merckx received his MFA, in Acting, from University of Illinois and his BA, in theatre studies, from the University of Washington.



**Julian Smith (Improv)** is a Los Angeles-based actor, writer and singer. He is originally from Daytona Beach, Florida, and has developed his résumé working in film, television, community, regional and educational theatre. After receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, he moved to Los Angeles to make an impact in the entertainment industry. When Julian is not performing, he is a resident teaching artist in the Los Angeles area, where he shares his knowledge, experience, and passion for theatre with children and young adults.



**Anthony Adu (Text Analysis)** AT A NOISE WITHIN: Ensemble, *The Skin of Our Teeth*; Ghost of Christmas Present / Ensemble, *A Christmas Carol*; Understudy Joey Percival, *Misalliance*. ELSEWHERE: *backstroke boys*, Faultline Theatre (Off-Broadway); *The Cherry Orchard*, South Pasadena Theatre Workshop; *Voices from a Pandemic*, Notch Theatre Company; *Pick Me Last*, La Jolla Playhouse; *Love’s Labour’s Lost*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Colorado Shakespeare Festival; *DragON*, *The Christians*, Denver Center; EDUCATION: MFA in Acting from UC San Diego; Chautauqua Theatre Summer Conservatory.



## Summer 2025 - Faculty



**Shoshi Brustin (he/they) (Costume Design)** is a costume designer and stylist based in Los Angeles. They received their B.A. in Costume Design for Theater, Film, and Television at the University of California, Los Angeles. Shoshi has worked in the costume departments of TV shows including *Paradise* (Hulu), *Quantum Leap* (NBC), and *American Crime Story: Impeachment* (FX Network). On stage, Shoshi has worked with the Long Beach Opera, LA Opera, Theatre Aspen, and Theatre of Note in various capacities as a costumer. Whether designing for the stage or screen, Shoshi is committed to the art of costumes and authentic storytelling through clothing.

**Gerald C. Rivers (Drums)** has been playing Djembe for over 30 years. He is a Master West African Drummer who has performed across the country and around the world and works with young people on a regular basis teaching African Djembe Drumming as an elective at several local Charter Schools and churches as well as to adults and kids with special needs for almost 20 years. But more importantly, uses the drum to teach essential life and spiritual lessons of patience, listening, cooperation and creative expression. He most recently appeared ANW's productions of *The Piano Lesson* and *King Hedley II*. He is also known for his voiceover work in cartoons and animated internet series feature films, as well as several internationally popular video games.



**Ken Booth (Lighting Design)** ANW Resident Artist. Since 1998, Ken has worked on at least 70 productions at A Noise Within. Included in these are: *Jane Eyre*; *The Skin of Our Teeth*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Sweeney Todd*; *Misalliance*; *The Book of Will*; *Much Ado About Nothing*; *Animal Farm*; *Metamorphoses*; *An Iliad*; *Alice in Wonderland*; *The Winter's Tale*; *Argonautika*; *Henry V*; *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*; *Julius Cesar*; *The Three Penny Opera*; *Great Expectations*; and the holiday annual *A Christmas Carol*. He began his career at Stages Theater and has worked at The Fountain Theater, Deaf West Theater Company, Pacific Resident Theater, and The Tiffany Theaters (among others). He graduated from UCLA in 1982.