

# NICHOLAS GUILAK, MFA

Los Angeles, California

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## TEACHING PROFILE

MFA-trained theatre educator with over 27 years of sustained college-level teaching experience within the California Community College system. Teaching appointments since 1998 at Antelope Valley College and since 2000 within the Los Angeles Community College District.

Delivering fully asynchronous online instruction since 2018 (two years prior to COVID), in addition to hybrid and in-person formats. Courses have been taught in 16-week, 8-week, honors, and accelerated summer structures.

Primary specialization in fully developed asynchronous online instruction in Introduction to Theatre, Introduction to Theatre Design, and Audition Techniques & Professional Practice in Acting. Active professional actor, director, writer, and producer with over 60 film and television credits. Instruction integrates current industry standards with academic rigor.

## PRIMARY ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS COURSES

### Introduction to Theatre

- Dramatic structure and performance theory
- Script analysis and play analysis methodologies
- Acting fundamentals and production literacy
- Scenic, lighting, costume, and sound design principles
- Performance-based midterm and final projects
- Structured discussion and scaffolded analytical writing

### Introduction to Theatre Design

- Scenic, lighting, costume, and sound design theory
- Script-based conceptual design projects
- Applied production research and visual analysis
- Peer critique and production evaluation

### Audition Techniques & Professional Practice in Acting

- Cold reading and script breakdown
- Self-tape methodology and on-camera adjustment
- Weekly performance submissions with critique
- Representation pathways and casting protocols
- Union structures and contract fundamentals
- Career strategy and professional branding

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Antelope Valley College — Professor of Theatre (1998–Present)**

- Introduction to Theatre (Online Asynchronous since 2018 & In-Person)
- Introduction to Theatre Design (Online & In-Person)
- History of World Theatre
- Fundamentals of Acting
- Intermediate & Advanced Scene Study
- Advanced Acting for the Camera
- Audition Techniques

### **Los Angeles Community College District (Pierce, West LA, Southwest) — Professor (2000–Present)**

- Introduction to Theatre (Online Asynchronous & Face-to-Face)
- Introduction to Theatre Design
- Acting Fundamentals
- Acting for the Camera
- One-Camera & Three-Camera Studio Performance
- Audition Techniques
- The Business of Acting
- Script / Play Analysis
- Performance Studies

## **LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Co-Founder & Artistic Director, Big Dog Little Dog Productions (1998–2010)**

- Directed 35+ stage productions
- Produced 45+ theatrical productions
- Recognized among Top 10 Nonprofit Theatre Companies in Los Angeles (2005)
- Oversaw fundraising, budgeting, programming, and community partnerships

### **Professional Creative Practice**

Active professional actor with 60+ film and television credits. Writer of 7 screenplays and 5 stage plays. Creator, writer, director, and lead actor of *The Last Draft*. Professional practice informs pedagogy through applied industry standards, audition frameworks, and real-world case studies.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Master of Fine Arts in Theatre — Cum Laude**

University of California, Los Angeles — 1997 (Lower Pell Scholarship Recipient)

### **Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Theatre & Film — Magna Cum Laude**

University of Southern California — 1994