

# Matthew Ryan Pest

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## EDUCATION

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**California State University, Los Angeles** | Los Angeles, CA | 2015

**MFA**, *summa cum laude*, Television, Film, & Theatre Performance

Thesis: "Beyond Hearing: An Actor's Process in Preparing the Role of Bobby from *American Buffalo*"

Honors: Irene Ryan Nomination for Acting, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

**The University of Alabama in Huntsville** | Huntsville, AL | 2009

**BA**, *magna cum laude*, Music – Classical Vocal Performance

Minor: Theatre Arts

Honors: Alpha Psi Omega

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**California State University, Los Angeles** | Los Angeles, CA | 2012 – 2015

**Adjunct Faculty**, Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance

Acting Fundamentals: Games & Exercises (Fall 2014)

Acting Fundamentals: Character Study (Winter 2015)

Acting Fundamentals: Scene Study Through Comedy (Spring 2015)

**Teaching Assistant** (Prof. Tanya Kane-Parry), Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance

Acting Fundamentals: Games and Exercises (Fall 2013)

Acting Fundamentals: Character Study (Winter 2014)

Acting Fundamentals: Scene Study Through Comedy (Spring 2014)

**Private Studio** | Various Locations | 2009 – Present

**Voice Teacher**, Home Studio, School of Rock (CA), and Colors Fine Arts Center (AL)

**Acting Teacher**, Home Studio

**GOALS Academy** | Anaheim, CA | 2015 – 2016

**Substitute Teacher**, Music Practicum K – 6

## RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**The Circle Squared Collective** | Los Angeles, CA | 2013 – Present

*Ensemble-based acting company specializing in devised theatre created through Moment Work*

**Founding Company Member**

**Education Director** (2017)

**Champaign Central High School** | Champaign, IL | 2019 – 2020

*Assistant Choral Director in charge of music direction for all theatre program musical productions*

**Music Director**, *The Addams Family* (2019)

**Music Director/Accompanist**, *Central's Thespian Holiday Cabaret* (2019)

**Music Director**, *Legally Blonde* (2020)

**Class Act** | Champaign, IL | 2019 – 2020

*Music Director and Co-teacher for performing-arts-training studio's groups Double Trouble, beginning elementary and middle school students, and Showstoppers, advanced middle school students*

**Music Director**, *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical, JV* (2020)

**Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School** | Montebello, CA | 2017 – 2019

*Drama Department Music Director for all musical productions and Children's Summer Stage, a K – 8 musical theatre summer camp held by the high school*

**Music Director**, *Once on This Island* (2019)

**Music Director**, *Beauty and the Beast JR.* (2018)

**Music Director**, *Beauty and the Beast* (2018)

**Music Director**, *Into the Woods JR.* (2017)

**Music Director**, *Into the Woods* (2017)

**LA Follies** | Los Angeles, CA | 2014 – 2019

*World-class performance group of dancers, specialty artists, and choreographers*

**Music Advisor/Arranger** (2014 – 2019)

**Singer / Host** (2013, 2014)

**Music Director**, *West Side Story, Abridged* (2014)

**Deaf West Theatre** | Los Angeles, CA | 2015, 2017

*The nation's premier theater company creating performances inspired by Deaf culture and ASL*

**Actor**, *American Buffalo* (Revival), Columbus, OH (2017)

**Actor**, *American Buffalo* (MFA Thesis Project), Los Angeles, CA (2015)

**Musical Theatre Playground** | Irvine, CA | 2016

*K – 4 afterschool program producing abridged versions of well-known musicals*

**Director / Music Director**

**Up Hill Entertainment** | Los Angeles, CA | 2015

*Graduate student-based company producing short, limited web series*

**Lead Actor**, "Buffington"

**Chris Isaacson Presents at the Catalina Jazz Club** | Hollywood, CA | 2014

*Nationally recognized producer's Broadway cabaret at the renowned Catalina Jazz Club*

**Singer**, *A Broadway Christmas*

**Opera del Espacio** | Los Angeles, CA | 2014

*Performing-artist collective using Viewpoints to devise site-specific work*

**Actor**, *THE WALL: A Musical Misdeed* (world premiere opera)

\*Full acting/singing resume available upon request

**PUBLICATIONS**

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"Beyond hearing: An actor's process in preparing the role of Bobby from *American Buffalo*." ProQuest-CSA LLC, Oct 2015.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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<b>Music Together</b> , Early-childhood music and movement program certified teacher	2018
<b>SAG-AFTRA-e</b> , American artist labor union eligible	2015

## HONORS / AWARDS

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<b>Suma Cum Laude</b> , California State University, Los Angeles	2015
<b>Irene Ryan Nomination for Acting</b> , Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival	2013
<b>Magna Cum Laude</b> , The University of Alabama in Huntsville	2009
<b>Alpha Psi Omega</b> , National Theatre Honor Society	2007

## FURTHER EDUCATION

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**Moment Work Workshop** | Los Angeles, CA | 2013

*Devised theatre technique (created by Tectonic Theatre Project) workshop led by certified Tectonic teaching artist and Circle Squared Collective founder/artistic director, Ricky Pak*

## OTHER SKILLS / INTERESTS

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Choral Music  
Classically Trained Singer  
Conducting (Music)  
Experimental Theatre  
Film Editing  
Graphic Design  
Musical Theatre Dance  
Music Composition/Arranging/Editing  
Photography  
Production Design  
Proficient in Sight Reading Music  
Proficient in Piano  
Puppetry  
Set Design/Construction