

# CHANTRELL M. LEWIS, MFA

RESEARCHER

TEACHING- ARTIST

ARTS EDUCATION ADVOCATE

Seasoned performing arts educator and social-behavioral researcher with 10 years of professional performance and education experience with demonstrated student advancement. Dedicated to delivering arts and literacy education across diverse populations, with a commitment to supporting students who may be facing trauma, housing, or food insecurity.

[www.Chantrellewis.com](http://www.Chantrellewis.com)

Orange County, California

Contact@Chantrellewis.com

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## EDUCATION

Kent State University

Kent, Ohio

May 11, 2019 Bachelor of Fine Arts

Musical Theatre

University of California - Irvine

Irvine, California

June 11, 2022 Master of Fine Arts

Acting

University of California, Riverside

Riverside, California

Social-Emotional Learning Certification

October 2021

Career Technical Education (CTE)

*Clear Credential (Aug. 2024) - K - 12 Designated Subjects Credential*

California Commission on Teaching Credentialing

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

Conservatory Teacher - Orange County School of the Arts

Musical Theatre Conservatory Classes Taught - MT Acting Fundamentals, MT Intro to Music Theory

Santa Ana, California

August 2023 - May 2024

Plan, prepare and deliver lessons to all students in the class. • Teach according to the educational needs, abilities and achievement of the individual students and groups of students. • Expose students to lesson content while motivating each student to develop competencies, knowledge and skills in specified art discipline. • Develop syllabi, lesson plans and supplementary materials compatible with the conservatory curriculum and scope and sequence. • Identify and acquire needed instructional materials. • Know and implement accommodations or modifications for all students with IEP and 504 plans, as legally required. • Assign and evaluate student work, including submitted work, written assessments, oral presentations, etc.

Teaching Artist - Segerstrom Center for the Arts

*Disney Musicals in Schools*

Costa Mesa, California

August 2021 - Present

DMIS is a 17-week professional residency bringing the world of stage to Title 1 schools. Teaching Artists take on tasks of directing, music directing, and choreographing Disney Musicals provided through Disney Theatrical Group. Teaching Artists train faculty on how to produce musical theatre in a sustainable way.

Music Director/Director: *The Lion King Jr.*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Finding Nemo*

Undergraduate Course Instructor

University of California, Irvine

Irvine, California

August 2020- June 2022

Coaching and training undergraduate students in UCI's drama department.

- Building curriculum and lesson plans.
- Grading and evaluating assignments, quizzes, in-class workshoping and final performances.
- Teaching 2 hour courses in Acting and Voice.

Courses taught: 30A Intro to Acting, 30B Intermediate Acting - Scenes, 30C Monologue Workshop Course.

Lead Teaching Artist - Cleveland Public Theatre Education

Brick City and Cleveland ACT NOW!

Cleveland, Ohio

June 2019 - 2021

Teaching theatre through a Summer program improves academic skills, instills empathy and responsibility, builds character, and enhances creative thinking. Under the dedicated guidance of CPT Teaching Artists, children learn how to create and perform their own plays, choreography, poetry, music compositions, and visual art. These works are then crafted into original performances that are presented annually at CMHA community centers and arts festivals throughout Cleveland.

Music Director - Laguna Beach High School

Laguna Beach, California

December 2022 - Present

Works closely with other members of the show's creative team. Audition, cast and teach music for Laguna Beach High School's Spring productions.

Executive Assistant - Dance Arts Academy

Dance Arts Academy - Global Girl Inc.

Orange County, California

March - Present

- Scheduling; reviewing, prioritizing and responding to emails; answering and returning phone calls; organizing documents; maintaining records; taking notes at meetings and any other administrative tasks that help the executive perform their job.

Skills: Graphic, excel, google sheets, phone calls, emails, Eventbrite, calendar scheduling

Executive Director, Program Coordinator, and CEO - Jar of Sunshine Inc. [www.JarofSunshineInc.com](http://www.JarofSunshineInc.com)

Present

Jar of Sunshine is a 501c3 providing and supporting programs that increase accessibility to the arts, wellness, and literacy.

- Create a curriculum that meets professional standards in schools and local communities.
- Implements programs with an emphasis on art, culture and heritage that includes: Cultural Funding Programs, Management and Technical Assistance, Community Arts, Arts Education, Public Art, Cultural Tourism, Public Events, Arts in Economic Development and special initiatives.
- Provides oversight of management and development of cultural programs, fundraising assistance, solicitations and grants administration, acquisition negotiations, contracts, media relations, marketing, facilities operations and department services to the general public.

Teaching Artist - Segerstrom Center for the Arts

*ARTS TEACH Program*

Present

- Develop and present standards-based educational arts residencies to elementary-level students that synthesize and stimulate creative practices.
- Present arts and cultural programs in an authentic manner and have a thorough knowledge of their history, background, and context.
- Address the learning needs of diverse student populations.
  - Santa Ana Unified School District, Los Angeles Unified School District

Teaching Artist - Riverside Arts Council

*Arts and Minds Education Program*

- Thoughtfully designing and teaching programming and curriculum to emphasize literacy and other skills in alignment with the California Department of Education's Framework for the Visual and Performing Arts and Content Standards.
- Complete arts integration into K-8 curricula for Riverside County, CA schools.

Porthouse Theatre - Box Office Assistant Manager

May 2017 - 2018

- Supervising box office staff including Ticket Sellers and Assistants
- Providing excellent customer service to all attendees of a production
- Ensure staff members are properly trained to operate the ticket system and that they're familiar with the policies and procedures
- For each performance the Box Office Manager must deliver the house count (number of tickets sold) to the House Manager and keep a watchful eye to ensure the audience is not oversold.
- Responsible for counting both electronic and cash transactions
- Monitor and assign cash drawers to Ticket Sellers at the start of each work day and must ensure the box office takings correspond to the tickets sold

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

Applied Behavior Analysis Training Anaheim, California June 2022 - National Provider - 1336870047 (Behavioral Health & Social Service Provider)

Exploring Unconscious Bias with Verna Myers - Certification June 2022

Disney on Broadway Disney Musicals in Schools Teaching Artist Conference Seattle, Washington September 2022

Exploring Unconscious Bias with Verna Myers: Certified by The Verna Myers Company (TVMC) 2022

## VOLUNTEER WORK & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Howard County Public School System - Visiting Author Series - African American Literature Class (Teacher: Rhoyal Davis)

Pretend City Children's Museum - *Literacy month guest Author*

Altercare of Mayfield Village & Altercare of Mentor (Nursing & Rehabilitation Center) - *Provide entertainment to residents ; music and reading*

DML/Euclid School of Music - *Provide Summer camp opportunities for low income students within Cuyahoga county*

St. Augustine Church and Hunger Center - *Meal delivery to homes in Cleveland, Ohio during Christmas and Thanksgiving.*

King Kennedy Community Center - *Provide opportunities for students to engage in self - expression , social change and self empowerment activities through theatre and dance. Students engage in programming which allows them to express themselves, attend local community and regional theatre performances.*

Youth Christian Outreach Program - *4 week program - Volunteer based organization that provided outreach to women offering etiquette classes , acting classes and fashion; this program emphasizes women empowerment within the African American community.*

Thomas House Shelter - Garden Grove CA 2022 - Present  
*Organize and facilitate literacy and arts education programs for youth.*

## INVOLVEMENT AND AWARDS

### 2018- Golden Flash Award Recipient

*The Alumni Association's Alumni Awards are the university's most prestigious honors given to several alumni and **one student** each year. Alumni and one student will be honored for their exceptional contributions in their chosen field, in their communities and at Kent State University.*

### 2019 - BroadwayWorld Award Recipient - Best Actress in a Comedy or Drama - *Esther in Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage

*"Reminiscent of Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer in "The Help." Lewis truly gives a performance with incredible nuance that actually moved many audience members to laughter, anger and tears, myself included." Ashlynn, The Burr Magazine*

2023 Community Engagement Grantee - Santa Ana, CA <https://www.communityengagement.org/artists-creatives-grants>

2023 Orange County Arts Awards Honoree - Emerging Artist & Arts Leader <https://artsoc.org/events-and-programs/orange-county-arts-awards/>

University of California, Irvine Black Alumni Chapter - Vice President, Mentorship

FORBESBLK - Member

National Guild for Community Arts Education - Member

Named a 2024 Kickass Woman of Orange County by Orange Coast Magazine

2023 - 2024 - Fellowship Recipient Community Partners and California Creative Corps

## FEATURES & GUEST SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

UHURU Magazine 2019

Burr Magazine 2019

Voyage Ohio Magazine 2021

Kent State Magazine 2018-2019 Fall Winter

Voyage LA

CANVAS REBEL

UCI CONNECT Magazine Fall 2023

Orange Coast Magazine March 2024 Issue

Women in Theatre Conference - Kent State University Guest Speaker 2021

UC Merced Africana Studies Conference - Guest Speaker 2023

Kennedy Center American Theater Festival Region 7 - Representation, Equity and Diversity Keynote Presenter 2024

## PUBLICATIONS

Wading Documentary:

<https://youtu.be/UCVnqTEgYcI>

"Unbound: The Performing Arts and the Social - Emotional Development of Black Youth"

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7rg658fh>

"Addressing Bisexuality, Gender Non Conformance and Performativity through The Color Purple by Alice Walker"

<https://oaks.kent.edu/epar/vol6/iss1/addressing-bisexuality-gender-non-conformance-and-performativity-through-color>

*This paper won the Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research, Honorable Mention, 2018-19.*

**"House of Sage and Sun: The Short Book of Short Poems"**

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/house-of-sage-and-sun-chantrell-lewis/1142078216?ean=9798823110983>

**"There Was a Movement Yesterday"**

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/there-was-a-movement-yesterday-chantrell-lewis/1142168342>

**"Black Girl's Guide to Ladyhood"**

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/black-girls-guide-to-ladyhood-nick-adams/1139902267>

**"Dessert Dreams"**

<https://www.lulu.com/shop/chantrell-m-lewis-and-nick-exum/dessert-dreams/paperback/product-27gp4p.html?q=chantrell+lewis+dessert+dreams&page=1&pageSize=4>

**"Love Yourself Black Child" by Chantrell M. Lewis (Published in Silent Spark Press - Great Poetry October 2022)**

<https://silentsparkpress.com/products/great-poetry>

**"If I Should Think of Comfort"**

By Chantrell M. Lewis

[New Swan Shakespeare Magazine April 2023 ISSUE](#)