

# Sunam Ellis

[sunamellis.com](http://sunamellis.com)

## Education

- 2015 UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON — SEATTLE, WA  
MFA Professional Actors Training Program
- 2006 FRIEDRICH-SCHILLER-UNIVERSITÄT — JENA, GERMANY  
Studies in Social and Behavioral Sciences
- 2005–2007 PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY — STATE COLLEGE, PA  
Coursework toward PhD in Human Development and Family Studies
- 2004 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN — GREEN BAY  
BA in Human Development / Theatre Performance
- OTHER TRAINING
- 2014 A Guthrie Experience for Actors in Training, *Guthrie Theater*, Minneapolis
- 2003 Improvisational Comedy workshop, *Comedy City*, Green Bay

## Honors, Awards, & Certifications

- 2019 Seattle Theatre Writers Gypsy Rose Lee Awards  
Winner: Excellence in Performance of a Play as a Lead Actor (small theater) in *Sheathed*
- 2019 Theatre Puget Sound Gregory Awards  
Nominee: Outstanding Performance in a Play in *Sheathed*
- 2019 Seattle Theatre Writers Gypsy Rose Lee Awards  
Nominee: Excellence in Performance of a Play as a Supporting Actor (any — large theater) in *Uncle Vanya*
- 2019 Seattle Theatre Writers Gypsy Rose Lee Awards  
Nominee: Excellence in Performance of a Play as a Supporting Actor (any — small theater) in *The Christians*
- 2018 Theatre Puget Sound Gregory Awards  
Winner: Best Supporting Actress (Play) in *Hand to God*
- 2018 Seattle Theatre Writers Gypsy Rose Lee Awards  
Winner (tie): Excellence in Performance of a Play as a Lead Actor (female — small theater) in *Hand to God*
- 2017 Seattle Theatre Writers Gypsy Rose Lee Awards  
Nominee: Excellence in Performance of a Play as a Supporting Actor (female — large theater) in *The Realistic Joneses*
- 2015 SAFD Stage Combat: Basic Pass in Unarmed, Broadsword, and Rapier & Dagger
- 2004 UWGB Chancellor's Leadership Medallion
- 2002 ACTF Nominated Performances in *The Liar* and *Our Town*
- 2002 KC/ACTF Region III Irene Ryan Finalist
- 2001 ACTF Nominated Performances in *Twelfth Night* and *Aloha, Say the Pretty Girls*

## Publications & Talks

- 2006a Thulitha Wickrama, Chalandra Bryant, Sunam Ellis, *Community of Origin Influence on Depression and its Mediation by Partner Violence* NCFR 2006
- 2006b Sunam Ellis, Thulitha Wickrama, Chalandra Bryant, *Predictors of Intensity in Adolescent Romantic Relationships* IARR 2006

## Teaching & Assistantships

- 2021– UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON — SEATTLE, WA  
DRAMA 452 *Advanced Acting — Scene Work*
- 2020– PRATIDHWANI — SEATTLE, WA  
*From the Page to the Stage* Workshop  
*Full Play Rehearsal* Workshop

- 2020- SEATTLE UNIVERSITY — SEATTLE, WA  
 UCOR 1300 *Beginning Acting*  
 THTR 2500 *Acting I*  
 THTR 3100 *Voice*  
 THTR 3500 *Acting II*
- 2018-2019 FREEHOLD THEATRE LAB/STUDIO — SEATTLE, WA  
 Acting instructor
- 2017- JACK STRAW CULTURAL CENTER — SEATTLE, WA  
 Youth acting and vocal coach
- 2012-2014 UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON — SEATTLE, WA  
 DRAMA 251 *Acting*  
 DRAMA 252 *Acting*
- 2005-2008 PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY — STATE COLLEGE, PA  
 HDFS 301 *Values and Ethics in Health and Human Development Professions*  
 HDFS 312W *Empirical Inquiry in Human Development*  
 HDFS 415 *Program Development in Family Relationships*  
 HDFS 432 *Developmental Problems in Childhood and Adolescence*  
 HDFS 433 *Developmental Transition to Adulthood*

## Select On-Camera Experience

- 2015 Supporting Featured (Francine), *Two Pictures* directed by Eric Stone  
 2011 Co-host of Penn State World Campus online orientation  
 2002-2005 Series co-host, *Entertainment 411* on WACY-TV UPN-32, Green Bay  
 2002-2003 Series co-host, *Cultural Horizons* for Wisconsin Public Television (PBS), Green Bay

## Select Theatrical Experience

2023	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Mrs. Dashwood / Anne Steele	Village Theatre
2022	<i>Mr. Dickens and His Carol</i>	Catherine Dickens	Seattle Rep
2022	<i>Bonesetter's Daughter</i>	Ruth / Chang	Book-It Repertory Theatre
2022	<i>Mrs. Caliban</i>	Dorothy	Book-It Repertory Theatre
2020	<i>The Revolutionists</i>	Olympe de Gouges	ArtsWest Playhouse
2019, 2017	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Mrs. Cratchit / Elizabeth	ACT Theatre
2019	<i>The Christians</i>	Elizabeth	Pony World Theatre
2019	<i>As You Like It</i>	Celia	Seattle Shakespeare Company
2019	<i>Uncle Vanya</i>	Sonya	Seagull Project
2018	<i>Richard III</i>	Clarence / Ratcliffe	upstart crow collective
2018	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>	Paulina	Freehold Theatre Lab/Studio
2018	<i>Hand to God</i>	Margery	Seattle Public Theatre
2017	<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Portia / Ensemble	Seattle Shakespeare Company
2017	<i>Wellesley Girl</i>	Marie	Horse in Motion
2017	<i>Bring Down the House (Henry VI I-III)</i>	Eleanor / Ensemble	upstart crow collective
2017	<i>Hamlet</i>	Horatio	Freehold Theatre Lab/Studio
2017	<i>The Realistic Joneses</i>	Jennifer Jones	New Century Theatre Company
2016	<i>Henry V</i>	Katherine / Montjoy / Bates	Freehold Theatre Lab/Studio
2016	<i>The Brothers K</i>	Nancy Beal / Ensemble	Book-It Repertory Theatre
2015	<i>...And Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi</i>	Blanche Verse	Sound Theater Company
2015	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Malvolia	Leah Adcock-Starr, Dir.
2014	<i>Pulse</i>	Samantha Bynes	Guthrie Theater
2014	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i>	Martha	L. Zane Jones, Dir.
2014	<i>5th of July</i>	Gwen	Valerie Curtis-Newton, Dir.
2013	<i>Tennessee Williams One-Acts</i>	Mother / Bertha / Woman	University of Washington
2012	<i>Pentecost</i>	Yasmin	University of Washington
2010	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Katherina	Nittany Valley Shakespeare Festival
2010	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	Stella Kowalski	Charles Dumas, Dir.

## Select Directing Experience

2023	<i>The Wolves</i> , University of Washington, Seattle, WA
2023	<i>Julius Caesar (touring)</i> , Seattle Shakespeare, Seattle, WA
2022	<i>Two Minutes of Your Time</i> , Pratidhwani, Seattle, WA
2022	<i>Eurydice</i> , Seattle University, Seattle, WA
2021	<i>Silent Sky</i> , Pratidhwani, Seattle, WA
2019	<i>The Jubilee</i> , The Seagull Project, Seattle, WA
2019	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.</i> , Ridgecrest Elementary School, Shoreline, WA
2018	<i>IRL: Instagram — The Doorway</i> , The Horse in Motion, Seattle, WA
2004	<i>Same Time Next Year</i> , Green Bay Community Theater, Green Bay, WI
2003	<i>Jack and Jill</i> , University of Wisconsin Green Bay Alternate Theater, Green Bay, WI
2002	<i>Spinning Into Butter</i> , University of Wisconsin Green Bay Alternate Theater, Green Bay, WI

## Select Professional Experience

- 2015–2021 *Professional Coaching: Auditions*. One-on-one coaching with professional actors for audition prep. Guest auditor for audition classes.
- 2017–2019 *Creative Director* — *Seed Community Church*, Lynnwood, WA. Produced Good Friday and Christmas services; facilitated acting and public speaking workshops; trained Sunday readers and managed schedule of readers for services and special events; wrote original material for special events; directed annual Christmas play.
- 2017 *Consultant* — *Peers and Players Corporate Actors*, Seattle, WA. Professional consultant for corporate training; improvised role play; coaching on communication and conflict de-escalation.