



[JAKEAUSTINROBERTSON.COM](http://JAKEAUSTINROBERTSON.COM)

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My years of experience as a professional theatermaker, historian and teacher have taught me that history is full of untold stories that can help us understand our shared human experience. I believe the performing arts have the potential to transform research and teaching into creative experiences that inspire and educate far beyond the classroom.

## EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. in Medieval & Modern Languages**, University of Oxford - 2025
  - Dissertation: "Stages of Captivity: Creativity & Colonization in the Professional Gulag Theaters of Vorkuta and Magadan"
- **M.A. in Acting**, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland - 2016
- **B.A. in Slavic Languages & Literatures**, Princeton University - 2015

## RESEARCH & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Adjunct Faculty** (Theatre Studies, Tisch Drama, New York University, 2025)

- "Soviet Stages: Theatre as Revolution, Repression & Resistance in the USSR"
- A multidisciplinary undergraduate elective I created as an Adjunct in Theatre Studies for NYU's Tisch Drama.
- Combines lecture, discussion groups and embodied exploration through performance. Syllabus and Student Feedback available upon request.

**Russian Language Tutor** (Carnegie Prep, 2021-Present)

**Teaching Fellow in Russian History** (Dept. of History, Warwick University, 2024-25)

- "Socialist Bodies: Dreams and Realities of the Physical in Soviet Russia"

**Language Instructor in Russian & English** (ABC Languages, 2018-2022)

**Undergraduate Lecturer** (Modern Langs. Faculty, Oxford Jan 2024)

- "Gulag Worlds: New Discoveries in Life & Culture Behind & Beyond the Barbed Wire"

**Summer Course Instructor**, Worldview Scholar Programme (2023)

- "Russia from the Outside In: A Decolonial History of Repression, Expression & Empire"

**Asst. Instructor to Prof. S. Morrison** (Princeton Global Seminar Moscow 2019)

## PUBLISHED WORK

**Jake A. Robertson**, Review of Boris Wolfson's *Travesty Actors: Self & Theatre in Stalinist Culture* (Upcoming - *Modern Drama*, 2026)

**Jake A. Robertson**, "Teaching an Embodied History of Soviet Theatre: Reflections & Revelations from 'Soviet Stages' at Tisch Drama," Chapter in *Stanislavsky and Research Methods* (Upcoming - Routledge, 2027)

**Jake A. Robertson**, "Tragedies & Triumphs: Culture and Power in the Gulag Operas of Vorkuta and Magadan" Chapter in *Precarious Identities: Theatre of Refuge and Risk in Russia and East Central Europe* (Upcoming - Iowa University Press, 2026)

**J. A. Robertson and D. T. Kozlova**. "Khudozhestvennaya kul'tura GULAGa kak fenomen v amerikanskoi i rossiiskoi istoriografii". *Sotsial'no-kul'turnye protsessy na territorii Komi kraia: Iстория и современность* (Anthology) (Syktyvkar, 2014)

## ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

**Narrating the Gulag** Workshop (Organizer/Presenter/Performer | Oxford 2025)

**Na stsenu! From the Footnotes to the Footlights** (Founder/Producer/Artist | ASEES Convention, 2024-Present)

- The first live theater event in the conference's history, 'Na stsenu!' is a showcase of research-based creative projects by an international cohort of scholar-artists.

**Rethinking Soviet & Post-Soviet Research Project** (Organizer | Oxford 2023)

- Decolonizing and Decentering Slavonic Studies at Oxford and beyond.
- Research Center for the Humanities Critical-Thinking Communities Grant Winner

**Oxford Reimagining Performance Network** (Convenor 2022-2023)

**Kruzhok: Slavonic Work-in-Progress Group** (Founder/Convenor 2022-2024)

- Interdisciplinary, interdepartmental group for academic and mental health support

## CREATIVE PROJECTS

**Saundra Lezzenbaum** (Drag Icon | Chicago, NYC, Chicago 2019-present)

- *Love in Concert!*: A One-Woman Drag Spectacular straddling cabaret, stand-up comedy, improv and group therapy. Monthly Residency at Sid Gold's Request Room in Chelsea.
- *Heart Problems*: Saundra's upcoming podcast chock-full of love lezzons.
- *Saturday Night Love*: A curated performance/singles mixer. Monthly Residency at Sanger Hall in Sunnyside, Queens.

**Songbird** (Writer/Performer | In Development 2024-25)

- A new play centering the life and music of queer Soviet cabaret icon and Gulag theater star Vadim Kozin in the context of anti-LGBT campaigns in Russia today.

## SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Clarendon Fund Scholarship of Oxford University & University College (2021-2025)

### Oxford Research Grants:

- University College Grants: Old Members' Trust (2022, 2023), Keasbey (2023, 2024)
- Modern Langs. Grants: Ilchester Grant (2022, 2023), Graduate Travel (2022)

BASEES Postgraduate Research & Development Grant (2024)

Title VIII Research Grant (U.S. Dept. of State, 2022)

St. Andrew's Society of New York Scholarship (2015-2016)

Princeton Institute for International & Regional Studies Fellowship (2014)

## HONORS & AWARDS

Best Emerging Artist (For *MADMAN*, United Solo Festival NYC 2018)

Moses Taylor Pyne Prize (2015)

- Princeton's highest undergraduate distinction, two conferred yearly

Phi Beta Kappa Member Class of 2015

Nicholas Bachko Jr. Scholarship Prize in Slavic Langs. & Literatures (2014)

Montgomery Raiser 1992 Thesis Prize (2015)

Lewis Center for the Arts Award in Theater (2013 & 2014)

Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence (2012 & 2013)

## LANGUAGES & SKILLS

### Russian - Advanced

- Princeton in Petersburg Language Intensive (2012)
- American Councils Russian Language & Area Studies Program (2013)

### Georgian - Intermediate

- Oxford School of Global & Area Studies Georgian Programme (2021-2023)

### Other Relevant Skills:

- Theatremaking: Professional Actor (Off-Broadway, The Globe, Regional US & UK)
- Public Speaking, Workshop and Group Event Facilitation, Improv Performance, Drag Performance, Comedy/Sketch/Lyric Writing & Performance, Clowning

## REFERENCES

Available upon request.