

# Darrell Johnston Esq., MFA, AEA

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## EDUCATION

JD Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 2022

MFA University of South Carolina, 2019

BA Graceland University, 2010

## BAR ADMISSION

State of Minnesota

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

### **Contract Attorney, *Cooper Law LLC***

September 2023 – Current

- Acted as the head attorney for Family Law cases including divorce and custody issues.
- Did substantial work with Social Security Insurance and Disability claims.
- Attended weekly meetings.
- Drafted motions, proposed orders, and other legal documents.

### **In-House Counsel, *Denali Film Festival***

February 2023 – Current

- Regular communication with the partners of Denali National Park to ensure the film festival abides by all federal, state, and local regulations.
- Oversee negotiations with distributors and filmmakers.
- Negotiated a growing partnership with Holland America Cruise Line.
- Attend all Executive meetings to coordinate strategic season plans.
- Collaborated with stakeholders, including clients, attorneys, and business partners, to ensure contracts reflect their intentions and protected interests.
- Maintained confidentiality and handled sensitive information appropriately.

### **Legal Assistant, *Viner Disability Law***

August 2021 – December 2022

- Aided in drafting and preparing briefs and other legal documents.
- Stayed updated on changes to disability laws and regulations.
- Wrote and maintained the firm's primary public communication.

## ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

### **Artistic Director, *Denali Film Festival***

2019-2024 Seasons

- Curated and planned festival seasons in coordination with management staff.
- Developed and maintained all annual artistic budgets for year-over-year growth.
- Attended all Executive meetings to coordinate a strategic season plan.
- Increased funds by 15% and raised \$50,000 in four months.
- Managed all employees and volunteers as an Artistic Leader.

- Actively fostered and implemented EDI initiatives.
- Maintained and generated relationships between individuals and businesses.
- Implemented an organization-wide land acknowledgment.
- Organized fundraisers and events.

**Off-Broadway Producer, *MTC Studio***

2021-2022

- Cast actors from a nationwide search.
- Demonstrated comprehensive knowledge of the national artistic community.
- Negotiated and wrote actor and crew contracts.
- Worked within union requirements.

**Artistic Director Shadowing, *The Ordway***

March 2019

- Hands-on training with the Ordway's Producing Artistic Director, Rod Kaats.
- Participated in contract negotiation and union collective bargaining agreements.
- Audition room etiquette.

**Marketing Director, *Festival Theatre***

2014-2015

- Developed multi-platform campaigns and communicated strategy to staff.
- Curated strategic season planning and communicated to the board.
- Fostered and maintained relationships with Minneapolis-based media outlets.
- Remained under budget for commercial shoots ranging from \$300-\$5,000.
- Increased revenue by 15%.

**Producer for National Tour, *Holland America Cruise Line***

2013-2015

- Scheduled and facilitated the *On-Stage Alaska* national tour.
- Organized multiple projects with conflicting priorities.
- Communicated tour information to the artistic and administrative teams.
- Was the point of contact for all venues.
- Ensured all technical requirements.

**Film Producer, *Highway Walkers Media***

- Led fundraising and casting for films with budgets ranging from \$1,000-\$140,000.
- Communicated with sponsors, local businesses, clients, boards, and creative teams.
- Films purchased by Oscar and Emmy-affiliated outlets.
- Interviewed and maintain relationships with politicians, celebrities, and adventurers.
- Invited to speak at the National Governor's Conference about films in policy.

**COLLEGIATE TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Visiting Assistant Professor, *Graceland University***

Sept. 2022 - 2023

- Taught Acting I and II to undergraduate majors in a variety of philosophies.
- Instructed Dramatic Literature with emphasis on women and playwrights of color.

- Taught Theatre and Society with a focus on social justice through an anti-racist lens.
- Directed *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Eurydice*, and *Twelfth Night*.

**Adjunct Professor, Mitchell Hamline School of Law**

February 2023 – April 2023

- Was asked to instruct 1L classes immediately after my graduation in Jan. 2023.
- Provided substantial feedback for oral arguments.
- Worked with the Professors of record in both LARC and Advocacy classes.

**Movement for the Actor, Guthrie Theatre**

Sept. 2019-2022

- This physical training was founded by Shogo Ohta and was perfected by Robyn Hunt and Steve Pearson of P3/East. Slow Tempo takes a “nearly microscopic look at the human condition” (P3/East).
- Slow Tempo requires actors to; experience each moment in its simplicity, control breath, maintain focus, increase endurance, and reveals nearly imperceptible discoveries by living moment to moment.

**Voice and Breath, California Institute of the Arts**

April 2020

- Taught Voice to undergraduate stage managers.
- Used the teachings of Roy Hart and Cicely Berry.
- Taught the importance of breath control.
- Prioritized support over volume.

**Guest Lecturer, UCLA**

Oct. 2018

- Prioritized *action* through improvisation, viewpoints, yoga, and Suzuki training. After experiencing how *action* improves communication, the fifteen playwriting students were challenged to incorporate it into their writing.

**Workshop, Concordia University**

Nov. 2018

- Taught Ki training as instructed by the Pacific Performance Project/east. Developed by Steve Pearson, Ki training brings immediate results by focusing on the body's vital energy and allowing the actor body control.

**Professor of Record, University of South Carolina**

2016 - 2018

- Taught Fundamentals of Acting for four semesters. Classes ranged from twelve to fifteen students.
- Taught P3/East, Suzuki, improvisation, yoga, Grotowski training, Alexander technique, and Roy Hart vocal technique based on the teaching of Stan Brown.
- Created lesson plans and learning goals.
- Received excellent reviews from students and professors.

## REGIONAL THEATRE ACTING

### Off-Broadway

<i>And A Guitar</i>	(Guitarist)	2022	MTC St., NYC
<i>State Song</i>	Harold	2022	MTC St., NYC
<i>Dick Doesn't Live Here</i>	Dick	2022	MTC St., NYC

### Regional (select)

<i>Fortune Cookies</i>	David	2020-21	Remember, MN
<i>Pump Boys and Dinettes</i>	Jackson/Guitarist	2019-20	SAC Theatre, CA
<i>Ever After</i>	Reader	2019	The Ordway, MN
<i>Nell Gwynn</i>	King Charles/Hart (u/s)	2019	Folger, DC
<i>Macbeth</i>	Duncan/Banquo/Seyton (u/s)	2019	Folger, DC
<i>Country Gentleman</i>	Sir Richard	2019	Folger, DC
<i>Smoky Mountain Chstms</i>	Fred/Young Scrooge	2018	The Ordway, MN
<i>Elephant's Graveyard</i>	Multiple Characters	2018	Festival, MN
<i>Leading Ladies</i>	Jack	2018	Festival, MN
<i>The Fantasticks</i>	Mortimer	2018	Festival, MN
<i>The Crucible</i>	John Proctor	2018	Longstreet, SC
<i>Hamlet</i>	Hamlet	2018	CPE, SC
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Orsino	2017	Longstreet, SC
<i>The Seagull</i>	Dorn	2017	CPE, SC
<i>Million Dollar Quartet</i>	Fluke/drums	2017	Maples Rep, MO
<i>Mr. Burns</i>	Mr. Burns/Gibson	2016	Longstreet, SC
<i>Keep on the Sunny Side</i>	Ralph Peer/guitarist	2015	Barter, VA
<i>Noises Off</i>	Lloyd	2014	Festival, MN
<i>Unnecessary Farce</i>	Eric	2013	Barter, VA
<i>Ring of Fire</i>	Multiple roles/drums	2012	Great Plains, KS
<i>Red, White, and Tuna</i>	Multiple Roles (lead)	2010	Festival Thtr, WI

## DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

### Off-Broadway

<i>And A Guitar</i> , MTC Studio	2022
<i>State Song</i> , MTC Studio	2022
<i>Care and Feeding of Small Animals</i> , MTC Studio	2022

### Regional (select)

<i>Twelfth Night</i> , Graceland University	Feb. 2023
<i>Eurydice</i> , Graceland University	Nov. 2022
<i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i> , Graceland University	Sep. 2022
<i>Full Moon</i> , Gustavus Adolphus College	Mar. 2022
<i>Men On Boats</i> , Graceland University	Feb. 2021
<i>Snaps On 3!</i> , Web Series	Nov. 2020

<i>And A Guitar</i> , Graceland University	Jan. 2019
<i>Elephant's Graveyard</i> , Festival Theatre	Aug. 2018
<i>Sand-Point</i> , Theatre South Carolina	Feb. 2018
<i>Less Traveled</i> , Highway Walkers Media	June 2016
<i>All in the Timing</i> , Festival Theatre	Sept. 2015

## **PUBLISHED WORK**

<i>Words are Known by Their Neighbors</i>	Feb. 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A collection of poems inspired by legal concepts.</li> </ul>	
<i>Full Moon</i>	Feb. 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comedy that explores the pressures of extreme wealth, poverty, and Christmas.</li> <li>• Currently being workshopped.</li> </ul>	
<i>State Song</i>	May 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1910 three musicians are commissioned to write the state song of Iowa.</li> <li>• Original musical focuses on the history, Native populations, women, and rural Iowa.</li> </ul>	
<i>And A Guitar</i>	Jan. 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jukebox musical using the music of Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, and others.</li> <li>• A luthier is being forced out of his community.</li> </ul>	
<i>Sand Point</i>	Feb. 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A historical look at faith and family through a yogic lens.</li> <li>• Produced at Theatre South Carolina.</li> </ul>	
<i>The Lengths I Go to Touch My Toes</i>	Mar. 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A novel-length book about studying yoga in Rishikesh, India</li> </ul>	
<i>A Mountain for a Finish Line</i>	Mar. 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A novel-length book about a hitchhiking adventure from Iowa to Oregon.</li> </ul>	

## **TRAINING / MASTERCLASSES**

Live Cinema	Francis Ford Coppola
Contracts	Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Copyright	Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Property	Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Negotiation	Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Artist Director Shadowing	Rod Kaats, The Ordway
Vocal Technique	Louis Sacco, The Ordway
Teaching & Working with Veterans	University of South Carolina
Title IX	University of South Carolina
EDI Training	University of South Carolina
Sexual Assault Prevention Training	University of South Carolina
Acting the Song	Lynne Rothrock
Armed Stage Combat	Becky Foster
Musical Theatre Dance	Chuck Adamson
Vocal Training	Stan Brown
Movement	Robyn Hunt
Experimental Performance	Melissa Thompson

Short and Long Form Improv  
Yoga Teaching Certification

Sew Good Improv  
Yogvit Yogshala

**FILM (SELECT)**

*Museum of Extinction*

*The Filmmakers*

*Honeywell*

*Investor Relations*

*Eau Claire Tourism*

*Arvig Internet Commercial*

*Jack's Backdoor Café*

*Anything Can Happen in Alaska*

*They Came to Alaska*

*How to Energy*

*Less Traveled: From Pine to Palm*

*The Highway Walkers*

*Buffalo*

*Osceola Train*

ND Dept. Health

Curvism Studios

Honeywell

Hormel

POOLHOUSE

Arvig Internet

Valley Access TV

Shattered Clock Prod

Shattered Clock Prod

Channel Z

Highway Walkers

Highway Walkers

Highway Walkers

Wisconsin Tourism

**PRINT (SELECT)**

*Amazon*

Model

Coolibar Clothing

*Publishers Clearing House*

Model

Publishers Clearing

*3D Printing*

Model

Infinite Materials

*Common Ground*

Model

Common Ground

*Post-it Notes*

Model

3M

*Babysitting Basics*

Model

Capstone Press

**AWARDS AND ACHEIVEMENTS**

Minnesota Bar Association/Passed on first attempt, 2023

Graduated Law School in 2.5 years

Alaska Magazine Featured Story, 2021

Helen Hayes nomination (Outstanding Ensemble in a Play, *Folger Theatre*), 2020

Oscar and Emmy-affiliated purchased films, 2017

Featured Speaker at National Governors' Conference, 2016

Best Iowa Film (The Highway Walkers), 2016

Irene Ryan Nomination, 2009

Ava Carmichael Award, 2009

Karen Thompson Award, 2008