

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ADJUNCT FACULTY

Theresa Robbins Dudeck, Ph.D.



THERESA ROBBINS DUDECK, PH.D. teaches Improvisation I, II, and Introduction to Acting; facilitates workshops for the Office of Academic Innovation; co-directs the Equity Theater Project (a new STEM/Theater initiative supported by a Howard Hughes Sustaining Excellence Science Education Grant); and facilitates Applied Improvisation for Communication workshops as part of a collaborative project with faculty and students from Applied Linguistics, Speech and Hearing Sciences, and World Languages and Literature.

Dudeck earned a Ph.D. in Theater Arts from the University of Oregon and is an international theatre scholar-practitioner with expertise in improvisation and applied improvisation. In both academic and corporate settings, she is frequently invited to present talks and facilitate applied improvisation workshops that focus on changing the way people and organizations lead, innovate, and collaborate. Dudeck is 2019–2020 Fulbright Scholar, which took her to Brazil to teach and direct, and is considered one of the foremost teachers of Keith Johnstone’s impro system of training. She is the co-founder of the Global Improvisation Initiative, an international symposium focused on theatrical improvisation, and co-director/executive producer of the YouTube docuseries “On Keith: Artists Speaks on Johnstone & Impro.”

Dudeck wrote *Keith Johnstone: A Critical Biography* (Bloomsbury 2013) and is co-editor of two books on applied improvisation published by Methuen Drama: *Applied Improvisation: Leading, Collaborating, and Creating Beyond the Theatre* (2018) and *The Applied Improvisation Mindset: Tools for Transforming Organizations and Communities* (2021). Her published research has been translated into Portuguese, Swedish, and Japanese and is required reading in many theatre, business and STEM courses.

Dudeck worked as a professional Los Angeles-based performer before going to graduate school. She has directed dozens of theatre productions, including several new plays in development. This year she directed *Quality of Death*, a new play by Ruth Jenkins (a PSU graduate) about end-of-life decisions for Portland’s Fertile Ground Festival. Dudeck is also on the faculty of The Actors Conservatory.

The Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award for Instruction recognizes and honors the outstanding contributions of Portland State University adjunct faculty and their excellence as instructors.