

Curriculum Vitae
Justin Alexander Gordon

Education

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	M.Ed in Educational Entrepreneurship Graduate School of Education Edu Leadership Organization Entrepreneurship
National Theater Institute, Waterford, CT	Certificate of Completion for the Spring Semester Concentration in Acting
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (UM)	B.A in English Language and Literature Concentration in creative writing/poetry Graduated with honors
Oakland Community College, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan	A.A in Liberal Arts with honors

Professional Experience

Positions Held

- 2024- Professor for Georgetown University. Adjunct Lecturer for Georgetown Law School's Prisons and Justice Initiative. The class title is Expressive Communication through Performing Arts. Located in Washington, D.C.
- 2022- Teaching Artist for the Wooster Group, located in Soho, Manhattan. Since 2022 until the present, I have been performing and teaching with the Wooster group, working alongside contemporary guest artists and daily leaders from around the world and simultaneously working with teenage youth of New York City. Our three weeks together culminates in a show that we put on to highlight and support high school level theater in NYC.
- 2023- Teaching Artist for a program titled Fresh Start, produced by an NYC based organization called Oye Group. I work at two different facilities with two different demographics of young people. The workshops are centered around theatre and poetry with the goal of equipping the students with skills to find jobs/careers and to express themselves creatively. At Abrons Art Center, I work with young men 19-20 years old who have recently transitioned out of juvenile detention. At Brentwood Residential Center, I work with young women 12-17 years old who are currently in juvenile detention.

- 2023- Teaching Artist for George Jackson Academy in Manhattan, NY. I teach middle school students storytelling and creative expression techniques through theater and poetry exercises on a weekly basis.
- 2023- Teaching Artist for CUNY CAT NYC Student Shakespeare Festival. I work with four different NYC public school classrooms throughout the semester as a teaching artist to prepare them to produce a Shakespeare play at the end of the semester.
- 2023- Standardized Patient for Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY. I work as an actor/instructor by playing different roles as a patient that the medical school students may encounter and evaluating them on their performance from a patient's perspective.
- 2022- Created curriculum for Auguste Research Group in Oceanside, CA. I created hip hop based supplemental curriculum materials for a program that teaches young men of color how to fly planes and operate drones.
- 2022- Founded Company titled Most Turnt, LLC, trademarked "Most Turnt Nerd". This brand ignites the enthusiasm of learning into the minds of students by providing a bevy of educational services and products that serves a wide range of students from public school education to non-traditional educational settings.
- 2021- 2022 – Librarian at the Gutman Library at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. I was a student employee during my time as a graduate student, where I assumed the role of keeping the books of the library organized and helping students find resources.
- 2021 -- Reading and Writing Summer Enrichment Tutor for 3D Dance Academy Students at Marygrove College in Detroit, MI. Students K-8 grades learned the basic fundamentals of grammar, note taking, reading comprehension and sentence variety.
- 2019- 2022 -- Teacher/Tutor/Staff/ Community Center Program Coordinator at Peace Neighborhood Center in Ann Arbor, MI. I worked with K-12 grade students and the communities they hailed from in after school settings, community engagement practices, regular classroom settings, and summer enrichment settings.

2019-- Thespian for the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT) at UM, acting for both live staged audiences and filmed productions, located in Ann Arbor, MI. We used theater and film to create thought provoking and problem solving content on topics such as racial justice, classroom bias and gender based violence.

Academic Conferences and Symposia

June 5- 7, 2023 – Led, prepared and facilitated the 29th annual New York City Student Shakespeare Festival. I taught and coached five classes from four different boroughs that participated in the festival, as well as helped organize the festival itself.

September 23, 2021 – Participated and presented in a conference explaining race relations and the creation of a space for healing using the Quadrant Behavior Theory authored by Dr. Kathy Royal. Located in Cooperstown, NY.

January 18, 2021-- Created, wrote and performed a poetic commercial representing a group called The Guild, during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Virtual Symposium at the University of Michigan, located in Ann Arbor, MI

November 20, 2020—Presented as an actor in virtual live discussions on a prerecorded panel, entitled “*Prison Theatre and the Global Crisis of Incarceration: Author Ashley Lucas Interviews a Panel of Actors*” as part of the 4thInternational Shakespeare in Prisons Conference, hosted by Notre Dame University in South Bend, IN

January 20, 2020--Performed poetry as part of a group called the Guild, during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium at Hill Auditorium, to open up for keynote speaker Dr. Angela Davis, located in Ann Arbor, MI

October 3, 2018-- Presented information on a panel at a Symposium called What is the Carceral State? This was part of the Carceral State Project 2018-2019 Symposium Series. For more information, see <https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/dcc-project/programs/> , Ann Arbor, MI

November 16, 2016—Served as the master of ceremonies for a tribute to Reverend Jesse Jackson at Rackham Auditorium at UM

Workshops

Oct. 5, 2023- Gave a theater workshop to high school students in a theater class at Ossining High School in Westchester County, New York.

Feb. 23, 2023– Facilitated a virtual poetry workshop on behalf of the Oye! Group based out of Queens, NY.

Feb. 7, 2023– Facilitated a performing arts workshop at the DC Jail on behalf of Georgetown Law School’s Prisons and Justice Initiative in Washington, D.C

May 2, 2022 – Completed a course titled “Strategic Finance for non profit leaders”. The course was three months long and was intended to increase knowledge and skill of successful financing within a non profit organization. The class is taught by Professor James Honan in Cambridge, Ma.

March 23, 2022– Completed a workshop on “know your story, share your story.” This workshop was to help with crafting the story of your entrepreneurial venture. The workshop was led by Dr. Irvin Scott, in Cambridge, Mass.

October 27, 2021– Engaged in a workshop at the Harvard Graduate School of Education that simulated emergency safety situations at a school and how school leaders can go about solving issues, presented by Dr. Paul Reville. Located in Cambridge, Mass.

December 3, 2020-- Facilitated a virtual poetry workshop attended by middle and high school students organized by RacquetUp Detroit. Located in Detroit, MI

May 2019-- Conducted a total of three workshops on poetry writing, performance and confidence building for middle school students at MacDowell Preparatory Academy in Detroit, MI

October 2018-- Collaborated with artists and educators to work with students from elementary school to high school for poetry and expression enrichment in Southwest Detroit’s The Alley Project (TAP) Gallery

January 2018-- Facilitated a poetry writing and reading workshop for high school students at the

UM with The Guild poetry group

Performances of Music by the Most Turnt Nerd

Gordon published this collection of music at the conclusion of his graduate career from Harvard University. The themes in this music deal with delayed gratification, bought lessons, being a nerd against all odds, the joys of education, the urgency to learn our crafts, and the costs of freedom. The music in this collection was written and recorded in between the months of December 2021 and April 2022. For more information, see

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVcEHcVs8ng&list=OLAK5uy_mOxkuFDBxmhG7tT1a1XL2YdVy1IOQDHvs

Oct. 8, 2023 - Gave a passionate and powerful Most Turnt Nerd music performance at the 4th Annual Artoberfest in Westchester County, New York. Located at Bethany Arts Community.

Oct. 5, 2023 - Gave a performance of Most Turnt Nerd music for 350 5th grade students at Roosevelt School in Ossining, New York.

April 8-16, 2022 – Assistant Director of Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s (MIT) Music and Theatre Arts Spring 2022 production of “A Thanksgiving Play” directed by Professor Anna Kohler. Most Turnt Nerd’s music was used in the prelude of the production throughout the run of the show. I performed in the show as well.

August 13, 2022 – Performed “No Friends” and “Paid Off” at Freebody Entertainment Pool Party Presented by Oceania in Belleville, Michigan.

July 21, 2022 – Performed “Most Turnt Nerd” at Ashford and Simpson’s Sugar Bar in NYC

June 16, 2022 – Performed at a virtual event for the Lin Manuel Miranda Family Fellowship summer showcase

April 21, 2022 – Performed at Gutman Library located on Harvard’s campus in Cambridge, MA

April 11, 2022 – Performance hosted by Harvard Law School student in the Smith center in Cambridge, MA.

April 8, 2022 – Performed at the black policy conference at the Kennedy school on Harvard’s

campus in Cambridge, MA

March 29, 2022 – Performed for Dr. Henry Louis Gates class at the Hutchins Center in Cambridge, MA

March 25, 2022 – Performed for Professor Upchurch’s Hip hop in education class in Cambridge, MA

March 2, 2022 – Performed at Gutman library located on Harvard’s campus in Cambridge, MA

Performances of Music and Poetry from the Book *6 Mile Negus on the Honor Roll at Michigan*
Gordon self-published this book of poetry at the conclusion of his undergraduate career from the University of Michigan. The themes in this book deal with the prison industrial complex, romance, the pain of losing relationships with people you love, and the joy of gaining a relationship with self. The pieces in this book were written in between the years of 2015-2018. For more information, see <https://www.sixmilenegus.com/>

Oct. 8, 2023 – Performed a poem at an artist residency in front of a group of poets from all across the country. Located at Bethany Arts Community.

August 13, 2021-- Performed poetry during the United Gospel Explosion TV show hosted by WGPR 88.1 Located in Highland Park, MI

December 12, 2020-- Presented poetry during a virtual event hosted by members of the Baha’i Faith Group out of Washtenaw county. Located in Ann Arbor, MI

November 21, 2020-- Participated in an “artists during COVID” interview and performed a virtual reading of poetry from the book *6 Mile Negus on the Honor Roll at Michigan* for students and faculty at Carnegie Mellon University, located in Pittsburgh, PA

November 16, 2020-- Coordinated with poet Candace Jackson on a virtual poetry verses/versus event, where we read poems and had audience discussion throughout the readings and performances. She represented Southwest Detroit, while I represented Northwest Detroit.

October 14, 2020-- Poetry readings from the book along with a saxophone performance at The Hive in Detroit, MI

October 14, 2020-- Poetry readings from the book along with a saxophone performance at the Poetry in the Park Event hosted by I Rock Local Cafe in Highland Park, MI.

October 11, 2020-- *Out of Caution* Vol. 30, Hosted the virtual live show on Twitch and performed poetry as the opener. Show based out of Brooklyn, NY.

September 27, 2020-- *Out of Caution* Vol. 28, virtually performed excerpts from the book and saxophone and music on Twitch platform. Show based out of Brooklyn, NY.

July 20, 2020-- Played saxophone in a music protest against police brutality led by musician and master trombonist Jeff Bradshaw, located at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, D.C.

July 18, 2020-- Poetry readings from the book along with a saxophone performance at Market Square in Washington, D.C.

July 17, 2020-- Performed saxophone and read poetry from the book *6 Mile Negus* at Malcolm X Park in West Philadelphia, PA.

September 2018- May 2019-- Performed excerpts from published work during the Young Minds in Transition (YMIT) Tour for the 2018-2019 school year for middle and high school students across Southeast Michigan.

Acting Experience

June 2023 – Acted as the title character during the 400th year anniversary of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* with the Clementine Players at the Bernie Wohl Center in NYC.

December 2022 – Produced and acted in a staged reading of new work *Play Here* by Nadira Simone at the Gene Frankel Theatre in NYC.

September 2022 – Acted in “Immense Joy” located at The Tank in NYC.

July 2022 – Performed in the Wooster Group Summer Institute play. Located in NYC

February 1-14, 2020-- Completed a residency with Complicité Theatre, doing physical, mask clown acting, movement, voice, scene work, located in London, England.

August 2019-- Produced, wrote and acted in the first “made for Instagram” web series, titled “The Finesse Files Season 1” filmed in Detroit, MI. For more information, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZ4ScEY8eK0>

October 2018-- Performed as Oscar in the live stage play *JJ's Place* written by José Casas at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI.

October 2016-- Performed the title role in *Othello* in the Ann Arbor Civic Theater production at the Arthur Miller Theatre in Ann Arbor, MI.

June 2015-- Performed as Philostrate in the Shakespeare in the Arb production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at UM in Ann Arbor, MI.

Teaching Experience

June 2021- August 2021-- Tutored students from preschool through 8th grade in the subjects of reading and writing, splitting the students up into three age groups. The students learn the basic fundamentals of grammar, note taking, reading comprehension and sentence variety. Located at Marygrove College in Detroit, MI.

September 2020- June 2021-- Served as an in-person teacher in conjunction with Ann Arbor Public Schools and Peace Neighborhood Center through the “A2 Virtual” learning platform for two first graders, one third grader and one fourth grader, consisting of all four major subjects, including assessments, as an alternative solution to learning during the pandemic. Located in Ann Arbor, MI.

August 2018-- Directed a student produced film entitled *RIVALS* that capped off a reading and leadership summer program titled the Guild Summer Leadership Program sponsored by Optimize (UM) for high school students 9th and 10th grade located in Detroit, MI.

Fall 2017-- Taught a research methods class to first and second year undergraduates at UM through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), Ann Arbor, MI.

Winter 2017-- Served as a teaching assistant at UM under then director of the Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP) Dr. Ashley Lucas for her “Theatre and Incarceration” course

Fall 2016--Served as a teaching assistant at UM under then director of the Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP) Dr. Ashley Lucas for her “Atonement Project” course

Community Engagement

Oct. 5, 2023 - Gave a lecture followed by Q&A on the development of character in a theater/music class to high school students in Ossining High School. Located in Westchester County, New York.

June 24- 25, 2023 – Performed an historical hip hop theater piece to celebrate the 50th birthday of the musical genre known as Hip Hop at the 2023 Queens International Children's Festival. Located in Jamaica Queens, NYC.

February 24, 2023– Gave a micro performance and talk on race, performance, identity and theater at Georgetown University's Performing Arts Department

June 19th, 2021-- Performed music and poetry in commemoration of Juneteenth and engaged in discussion with the community on how to celebrate the victories that our ancestors afforded us while moving forward in this present revolution. Located at Dabls Mbad African Bead Gallery Museum, in Detroit, MI.

June 9th, 2020-- Participated in a panel discussion surrounding the “race problem” in the United States, particularly how it affects learning in the College of Literature, Sciences and the Arts (LSA) at UM, in Ann Arbor, MI.

August 9-16th, 2019-- Chaperoned and co-led a community field trip with eight middle and high school students all from Ann Arbor, MI through a Civil Rights tour which consisted of over 10 states in seven days. The culmination site of the trip was the Martin Luther King Memorial, Located in Atlanta, Ga.

October 18th, 2018-- Hosted the event and performed original music in a “Go Vote” rally to promote voting in Southeastern Michigan, in Ann Arbor, MI.

Honors/Awards

May 2023 – Best International Submission for Donald Falconer’s “The Pearl” during the Equity Library Theater of New York Spring 2023 Virtual Play Festival

March 2019-- Best Poet during a competition in Southwest Detroit, hosted by the Motor City Street Dance Academy (MCDSA)

April 2018-- Featured student speaker at the graduation ceremony for the English Language and Literature Department at UM

April 2017-- Lynda Buell Van Boven Scholarship from the Department of English Language and Literature at UM

Fellowships

2023 – Three month Artist Residency at Bethany Arts Community. One of three “ Young Artists in Residence” at a new organization in Westchester County. Besides making art full time and presenting/sharing with the surrounding community, responsibilities include maintenance of the grounds and teaching artist work for the summer camp for kids 13 and younger. During the residency, I worked with over 400 students between four different schools/institutions, including Theater O and Ossining High school. Projects include creating the music for a piece titled “Most Turnt Nerd, Volume II”.

2020-2022-- Lin Manuel Miranda Fellowship “A distinct 2-year fellowship from Lin-Manuel Miranda and the Miranda Family for emerging artists of color who have exhibited exceptional passion, drive, and unique points of view in various artistic mediums – including but not limited to theatre, dance, film, visual arts, and music – and are actively working to expand their professional development. The Fellowship is awarded through partner organizations that work with the Miranda Family to build the national pipeline for artists of color across the field.” Located in New York, New York

Summer 2014-- Community College Summer Fellowship Program (CCSFP), hosted by the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) at the University of Michigan. This fellowship gave community college students the opportunity to conduct research at a premier institution during the entire summer, and guides students through the transfer process of going from a junior college to a large institution. Located in Ann Arbor, Michigan