

Michael DeWhatley

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Education

Master of Arts, Performances as Public Practice University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Anticipated May 2022

Oscar G. Brockett Endowed Graduate Fellowship in Theatre History and Criticism - 2020
Marietta Moody Brooks Endowed Scholar - 2020

Bachelor of Arts, Theatre, *magna cum laude* with Departmental Honors Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

May 2011

Honors Project: Historical Lighting Techniques and Their Effect on Lighting Moliere's *The Imaginary Cuckold (or Sganarelle)*
Dyeann and Henry Jordan Theatre Scholar
William Poteat Scholar
William Colburn Scholar
Egbert L. Davis, Jr. Scholar

Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistantships, University of Texas at Austin

2020-Present

- Theatre History Since the 18th Century Anticipated Spring 2021
 - Primary Instructor - Yunina Barbour-Payne
 - One section of 30 students
- Dramaturgy Anticipated Spring 2021
 - P.I. - Madge Darlington
 - One section of 30 students
- Performance as Public Practice Fall 2020
 - P.I. - Madge Darlington
 - Two sections of 23 students.
- TA Primary duties include
 - Graded and provided feedback on different research and participation assignments throughout the semester, attendance tracking.
 - Helped facilitate online engagement with the course during COVID-19 remote learning.

Staff Mentor for the Professional Training Company

2013 - 2019

In residence at Actors Theatre of Louisville

- Curated and led a series of seminars, panels, and workshops for the Professional Training Company and interested staff on a variety of theatrical subjects.
- Representative sessions include: Equity Diversity and Inclusion at the Intersection of Design and Production; How to Get Hired: Cover Letters, Resumes, Portfolios, and Job Postings; The Hungry Beast and the Ugly Baby (Production and Artistic Timelines); Found Spaces, Site-Specific and Immersive Theatre; Guest Designer Panels.
- Served as direct mentor for the Production Management Apprentices (one per season), guiding them on their production management assignments and developing their education plan in conjunction with their personal goals.

Guest Panelist for Playwriting M.F.A. Students

May 2019

Spalding University, Louisville, KY

Panel topic: Producing new plays for the Humana Festival of New American Plays

Guest Lecturer for Road Scholar Educational Adventures **March 2019**

Hosted by Elderhostel, Inc.

Lecture topic: Designing and producing the Humana Festival of New American Plays.

Guest Lecturer for Road Scholar Educational Adventures **March 2018**

Hosted by Elderhostel, Inc.

Lecture topic: Designing and producing the Humana Festival of New American Plays.

Guest Lecturer for *The Enjoyment of Theatre* **December 2017**

Invited Speaker, Instructor: William Flood

Spalding University, Louisville, KY

Lecture topic: Design and production process, dramaturgy, theatrical careers.

Guest Lecturer for *Topics in Theatre and Drama* **October 2016**

Invited Speaker, Instructor: Zan Sawyer-Dailey

University of Indiana Southeast, New Albany, IN

Lecture topic: Board relations and responsibilities, design and production process.

Mentor, USITT Gateway Program **2015-2016**

During and after the Spring USITT conference, helped offer career guidance and mentorship to Kensey Coleman from the 2015 and Jessica Drayton from the 2016 Gateway programs. The USITT Gateway program is a scholarship and networking opportunity for early career technical theatre students and professionals from underrepresented communities.

Professional Experience

Culture and Arts Education Specialist, Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin Parks and

Recreation Department **2019 - 2020**

- Planned, developed, implemented, and evaluated all cultural and arts related programming and activities for the garden.
- Curated, installed and executed all exhibits and interpretation for Zilker Botanical Garden, and serves as the leader for the development of online educational materials for the Garden, including virtual tours, activity guides
- Led guided explorations for students kindergarten through 5th grade on Zilker Botanical Garden using one of two programs: Project Learning Tree®, a program designed to highlight sensory observation with an emphasis on tree knowledge, or a custom program designed to explore habitats with a hands-on activity of planting a garden inside a soft-sided terrarium.
- Recruited, trained and supervised volunteers and serves as their main point of contact for cultural programming and activities.
- In the wake of COVID-19, developed an Online Programming strategy that combined Gardening Guide videos, Activity Guide documents for at-home gardening activities with kids, Moments of Peace videos, and the creation, editing and publication of 360° Virtual Tours of the Hartman Prehistoric Garden and the Taniguchi Japanese Garden.
- Designed and planned an interpretive trail along the Butterfly Garden that consisted of 30 low-no touch panels outlining information necessary to planting a pollinator garden and caring for butterflies, bees and other pollinators.
- Maintained and supported the public-private partnership between the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy.

Venue and Logistics Coordinator, Austin Film Festival **2019**

- Executed the logistical components of all signage and other related rentals at conference and screening venues.
- Secured and managed a team of interns and volunteers across multiple departments to prepare and break down red carpets setups, post-screening talkbacks, panels, and other Festival events.
- Secured the downtown operational center of AFF as well as coordinating and supervising the move-in, maintenance, and move out of that center.
- Developed an inventory of current signage and coordinates any signage printing and installation for the Festival.
- Acted as an interdepartmental linchpin and facilitates communication between Conference, Film, Marketing, *On Story*TM, and Executive departments to ensure that all venues are set up in time for panels to begin.

Associate Production Manager, Actors Theatre of Louisville

2016 - 2019

- Acted as a key collaborator in the design to production process, translating design concepts and artistic goals into technical specifics, budgeted costs, and detailed schedules with defined expectations.
- Drafted and negotiated designer contracts, responsible for designer travel, housing and payment monitoring.
- Developed and revised drafts of the season calendar.
- Worked with the Front of House Manager on accessibility programming, including the setup of touch tours, sensory friendly, open captioned and audio described performances and open house events.
- Communicated with Marketing in the copy-editing of promotional and literary materials.
- Helped coordinate lobby enrichment activities, displays, and other connectivity programs.
- Continued all responsibilities from the Assistant Production Manager position (*see below*).

Assistant Production Manager, Actors Theatre of Louisville

2013 - 2016

- Assisted with the management of six technical departments, approximately 50-65 staff members and salary and materials budgets of \$2 million dollars.
- Coordinated regular production meetings and promotes open communication in the design and production process.
- Monitored and helped develop production budgets and assisted in the timely reporting of production expenses.
- Managed Actors Theatre's safety program and lead multiple safety orientation sessions with staff.

Production Manager, Kentucky Shakespeare

Summer 2013

- Led and managed six production departments with 20 staff members, designers and interns.
- Summer season included one outdoor Equity production of *Twelfth Night* and one student production of *Taming of the Shrew*.
- Developed and executed plans for the setup of the Ramey Amphitheatre in Louisville's Central Park as well as the installation of production trailers, front of house inventory and supplies, auditorium seating, and septic equipment.
- Attained advanced financial and managerial responsibilities during management transition. Additional duties involved communications with Actors Equity Association, Louisville Metro Parks, and several outside vendors and volunteer organizations.

House Manager, Actors Theatre of Louisville

2012-2014

- Worked with volunteer teams ranging from 2-20 people to safely and successfully welcome audiences into the theatre.
- Helped develop a remote office for the Front of House at Lincoln Performing Arts School during the Humana Festival.
- Effectively handled difficult patrons situations and maintained operational standards.

General Technician, Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre

Summer 2009

- Assisted in set and lighting construction for four large musical productions.

- Ran shows as a followspot operator, fly rail operator, and grip.

Professional Apprenticeships

Producing Apprentice, Actors Theatre of Louisville

2012-2013

- Reported to the Directors of the Professional Training Company and helped develop and maintain educational plans for 22 Acting Apprentices and 22 Professional Interns.
- Produced all Professional Training Company shows, including an evening of fully produced ten-minute plays, the Solo Mios, a 22-part solo performance series, the New Voices Playwrights Festival, which was an evening of ten-minute plays written by middle and high school students from the Kentucky area.
- Coordinated 2,400 auditions for the 2013-2014 Acting Apprentice Company nationwide, including New York and Chicago auditions.

Production Management Apprentice, Actors Theatre of Louisville

2011-2012

- Reported to the Production Manager and Assistant Production Manager and helped with all of the season's shows, scheduling meetings, booking designer travel, managing production schedules and the theatre's safety program.
- Served as the Production Manager for all Professional Training Company shows including the 2012 Humana Festival premiere of *Oh, Gastronomy!*, directed by Amy Attaway.

General Management Intern, Berkshire Theatre Group

Summer 2011

- Reported to the General Manager but worked in various administrative departments for the theatre, including Company Management, Box Office, House Management, Development, and Education.

Production Intern, Lexington Children's Theatre

Summer 2010

- Worked in a scene shop of five people constructing sets and designing the lighting for an off-site summer production and a large community musical.

Publications

- Article. "Making the Most of Media." Edited by Eileen Curry. *Theatre Design & Technology*, Spring 2020.
- Article. "Sensory Friendly Performances - 5 Things to Know." Edited by Anna Robb. *TheatreArtLife.com*, 2018.
- Article. "Building Better Theatres: Success and Debriefs in America." Edited by Lynette D'Amico. *HowlRound Theatre Commons* 2017.
- Article. "More Than Booth." Edited by Lynette D'Amico. *HowlRound Theatre Commons* 2017.
- Article. "Revolution in Theatre, Evolution in Staff." Edited by Ramona Ostrowski. *HowlRound Theatre Commons* 2016.

Conference Presentations

- "Who Calls Go?" Panel Discussion, Moderator. Humana Festival College Days Weekend, Actors Theatre of Louisville, March 2019.

- "Everyone's Welcome - How to Produce Shows for Patrons with Sensory Sensitivities," USITT Panel member, March 2019.
- "Production and Design at Actors Theatre." Appalachian State University Tour and Visit, September 2018.
- "Careers in Design and Production for Theatre," Kentucky Shakespeare, June 2018.
- "Sensory Friendly Performances - Why/What/How." Louisville Cultural Accessibility Association, May 2018.
- "Production and Design at Actors Theatre." Appalachian State University Tour and Visit, September 2017.
- "Actors Theatre Production Tour." University of Louisville Tour and Visit, September 2017.
- "Lighting and the Production Experience." Cultural Pass - Fund for the Arts, Louisville, July 2017.
- "What does a Production Manager Do?" Kentucky Shakespeare, May 2017.
- "Fleekness of Meekness - The Importance of Entry-Level Voices in Theatres." Oral presentation delivered as part of the Hot Topics series of the Humana Festival College Days Weekend, Actors Theatre of Louisville, March 2017.
- "Climbing the Backstage Ladder." Panel discussion, moderator, Humana Festival College Days Weekend, Actors Theatre of Louisville, March 2015.
- "Dracula: Inside the Coffin." Backstage Tour for perennial production of Dracula, 2013-2017.

Professional Service Organizational Affiliations

Actors Theatre of Louisville - Service

- **Search Committee - Artistic Director - November 2017 - March 2019**
- **New Voices Playwrights Festival Submission Adjudicator** - 2012 - present. Read and evaluate some of the 800+ submissions from students all over the Kentucky and southern Indiana area, while providing feedback for student writers on the successes and growth areas of their plays.
- **Tens Selection Committee** - 2012-2017. Read and evaluated 40+ new plays to help make the final selection of eight plays for *The Tens*, part of the PTC season.
- **Hiring Committee - Artistic Coordinator for the Professional Training Company**
- **Hiring Committee - Education Associate**
- **Hiring Committee - Costume Director**
- **Hiring Committee - Director, Professional Training Company**
- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Cohort** - Part of the first team of Actors Theatre staff, apprentices and interns to begin developing deeper awareness for and strategies to engage equity, diversity and inclusion issues, such as Actors Theatre's bathroom gender policies.
- **Intern Support Team 2013-2016** - Help directly mentor, guide and otherwise support four to five interns in various departments throughout the theatre.

Theatre [502], Board of Trustees, 2017 to 2020. On a board of seven trustees, help implement and fundraise for a \$30,000 annual budget and produce a season of 3-5 plays, all of which were world or regional premieres. Develop strategic planning for an artistic leadership re-visioning, run box office at select performances, and volunteer for special events.

CenterStage at the Jewish Community Center, CenterStage Board, 2016 to 2018. On a board of 30+ community members, served as an advocate and fundraiser for CenterStage, especially during the Light Up CenterStage and Best of CenterStage auction and gala. Served on Front of House subcommittee. Served on the CenterStage Performance and Visual Arts Director Search Committee.

Kentucky Shakespeare, Volunteer Consultant, 2013 to 2019. Provide ongoing technical guidance and feedback during artistic leadership transition. Helped construct new forestage and assisted with the deconstruction of a 30-year old stock stage house in Central Park. Provided information on updated Lavalier microphone system and a renovation to the new grid and truss. Provided backstage support for changeovers during the annual Bard-a-thon performances.

Organizational Affiliations

- Production Managers Forum, 2013 to present
- Theatre Communications Group, 2011 to present.
- United States Institute of Theatre Technology, 2007 to present.

Grants, Awards, and Scholarships

- Conference Scholarship, Theatre Communications Group National Conference, 2017. \$650.
- Harold C. Tedford Award, Wake Forest University Theatre Department, 2010.
- Student Design Award, Wake Forest University, 2010 & 2011.
- Excellence in Technical Theatre Award, Wake Forest University, 2009, 2010, & 2011
- Marie R. Bagby Service Award, Wake Forest University, 2009, 2010, & 2011

Creative Work

Complete resume available upon request. Recent representative works include:

Producer

- Executive Producer, Creator and Writer, *One Thousand Words: a podcast dedicated to examining the world art has made*. This series of 10-15 minute episodes uses creative storytelling to look differently at moments in history that were driven by or defined by artistic achievements.
www.onekeywords.podbean.com. 2020 - Present.
- Producing Director, *Car Plays: Automatic Proposals and Manual Engagements*, a site-specific, independent project of three ten-minute plays performed simultaneously in parked cars, 2014.
- Producing Director, *The Car Plays*, a site-specific, small-audience independent project of five ten-minute plays performed in parked cars all over Louisville, KY over the course of six weeks, 2012.
- Producer, *Voices Inside*, a monthly reading series of ten-minute plays by Kentucky prison inmates, Actors Theatre of Louisville, 2012-2013.
- Assistant Producer, *The Tens*, evening of ten-minute world premiere plays, Actors Theatre of Louisville PTC 2013.

- Assistant Producer, New Voices Playwrights Festival, evening of ten-minute world premiere plays by students in middle and high school, Actors Theatre of Louisville 2013.
- Assistant Producer, Friday Series, a weekly new play reading series, Berkshire Theatre Group, 2012.

Director/Dramaturg

- Director, *The Mark of Cain*, Actors Theatre of Louisville PTC, 2017.
- Director, *Behind Closed Doors*, New Voices Playwrights Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville 2017.
- Director, *You Are the Lion, I am the Paper*, Actors Theatre of Louisville PTC 2016.
- Director, *Peanut Butter Fudge* (staged reading), Voices Inside, 2016.
- Director, *The Forgetting Pill*, Actors Theatre of Louisville PTC, 2015.
- Director, *Because I Knew You*, New Voices Playwrights Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, 2014.
- Director, *The Swan Song of the Karaoke Queen*, Actors Theatre of Louisville PTC, 2014.
- Director, *Strangely Ever After*, New Voices Playwrights Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, 2013.
- Director, *An Average Man* by Stephanie Alison Walker, Actors Theatre of Louisville PTC world premiere, 2013.
- Director, *The Cat and the Canary*, by John Willard, staged reading, Berkshire Theatre Group, 2012.
- Director, *Zuccola*, Actors Theatre of Louisville PTC, 2012.
- Director, *Conor the Polar Bear*, Actors Theatre of Louisville PTC, 2012.
- Director, *Independence* by Lee Blessing, Anthony Aston Players, 2011.
- Director, *The Man Who Couldn't Dance*, by Jason Katims, Wake Forest Theatre Department, 2010.
- Dramaturg, *Misunderstandings*, New Voices Playwrights Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, 2016.
- Dramaturg, *The Torpedo Room*, New Voices Playwrights Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, 2015.
- Assistant Director, *Cry Old Kingdom* by Jeff Augustin, dir. Tom Dugdale, Humana Festival World Premiere, 2013.
- Assistant Director, *Eat Your Heart Out*, by Courtney Baron, dir. Adam Greenfield, Humana Festival World Premiere, 2012.
- Assistant Director, *Eurydice*, Wake Forest University Theatre, 2010.
- Assistant Director, *The Puppetmaster of Lodz*, dir. Brian Roff, Berkshire Theatre Group, 2012.

Actor

- Actor, *The Ghost of Yankee Doodle* by Sidney Howard, Berkshire Theatre Group, 2012.
- Actor, *The Threepenny Opera*, Wake Forest University Theatre, 2010.
- Actor, *Doubt*, Wake Forest University Theatre, 2009.
- Actor, *Intimate Apparel*, Wake Forest University Theatre, 2008.
- Actor, *The Gondoliers*, Wake Forest University Theatre, 2008.

Designer/Technician

- Lighting Designer, *Here to Become Forever*, Archie Ammons Symposium, 2010
- Lighting Designer, *The Imaginary Cuckold*, Wake Forest University Theatre, 2010.
- Lighting Designer, *Mistakes Madeline Made*, Anthony Aston Players, 2010.
- Lighting Designer, *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*, School for Creative and Performing Arts, Lexington KY, 2010.
- Lighting Designer, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, Independent Production, 2010.
- Lighting Designer, *Trifles* and *Wish Fulfillment*, (in repertory), student production, 2010.
- Lighting Designer, *North of Providence*, *The Tiny Closet*, and *Post-its*, (in repertory), student production, 2009.
- Lighting Designer, *The Siren Song...Gould*, *2B (Or Not 2B)*, and *Dispatches from Hell*, (in repertory), student production, 2009.
- Assistant Lighting Designer/Master Electrician, *Snow White*, Lexington Children's Theatre, 2010.
- Assistant Lighting Designer/Master Electrician, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, Lexington Children's Theatre, 2010.
- Assistant Lighting Designer, *Moonchildren*, Wake Forest University Theatre, 2010.
- Assistant Lighting Designer, *Death and the Maiden*, Anthony Aston Players, 2009.
- Master Electrician, *Grapes of Wrath*, Wake Forest University Theatre, 2010.
- Master Electrician, *Sonnets for an Old Century*, Wake Forest University Theatre, 2009.
- Electrician, Fall 2010 Faculty Dance Concert, Wake Forest University Theatre, 2010.
- Electrician, *King Lear*, Wake Forest University Theatre, 2009.
- General Technician, *River Rat and Cat*, Lexington Children's Theatre, 2010.
- General Technician, *I Dedicate...Isaac Murphy*, Lexington Children's Theatre, 2010.

- General Technician, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, Lexington Children's Theatre, 2010.
- General Technician/Followspot Operator, *Hairspray*, Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, 2009.
- General Technician/Grip, *Joseph and the...Dreamcoat*, Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, 2009.
- General Technician/Grip, *West Side Story*, Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, 2009.
- General Technician/Fly Rail Operator, *Beauty and the Beast*, Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, 2009.

References

Available upon request.