

Tony Vezner

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Current Position

2007- Professor, Department of Theatre, Concordia University, Irvine, CA

Serving in this three-person department that has forty majors and mounts a season of five productions in its black box space and 500-seat amphitheater. Promoted to the rank of full professor in 2015.

Curriculum and Instruction responsibilities have included:

ENG 392: Epic Literature
GCS 301: Foundations of Language (team taught)
GCS 399: Service Learning Practicum (team taught)
THR 101: Experiences in Theatre (general education – 1.5 units)
THR 111: Experiences in Theatre (general education – 3 units)
THR 251: Introduction to Theatre (general education)
THR 310: Acting II (Realism)
THR 341: Advanced Script Analysis
THR 351: Directing I
THR 371: Acting III (Shakespeare, Commedia, Farce, Beckett, Pinter, Mamet)
THR 390: Theatre Practicum
THR 443: Contemporary Theatre and Culture (dramatic literature/history)
THR 451: Directing II (styles)
THR 471: Acting IV: Acting for the Camera
THR 490: Theatre Internship (overseeing interns for Looseleaf Theatre Co. – see below)
THR 498: Theatre Showcase (mentoring student directors on full productions or, for playwrights, a writing process that culminates in a staged reading)
WRT 337: Writing for the Stage and Screen

- Developing new courses for the curriculum – THR 443, THR 341 and THR 471 revision
- Presenting guest lectures in other university courses - THR 261, ENG 387, ENG 466, THR 441

Travel Teaching and Service

- Visiting Professor of Acting, Huace Film Academy at Zhejiang University of Media and Communications, Hangzhou, China - November, 2018
- Professor, Concordia University Around-the-World Semester. Collaborated with two professors on a study-service trip for 30 students to 10 countries that lasted 20 weeks. Cooperatively planned itinerary and site-specific curriculum, selected students, and taught - August-December, 2016.
- Visiting Professor, Concordia University Around-the-World Semester in Brazil, August, 2014
- Team leader for 8 CUI graduates sent to Shenzhen, China to teach at BCIS International School for 3 weeks. Selected the team, oversaw lesson planning, and coordinated with the school – July 2012.

Director of Theatre Activities (2011-)

- Producing the department's season: overseeing production budgets, securing rights, and facilitating the work of the technical staff.
- Contracting all guest directors and designers, choreographers, music directors, vocal coaches.
- Supervising marketing: an annual full-color brochure, posters, postcards, website, and social media
- Overseeing the dance company (2011-2019) - hiring the artistic director and overseeing the work.
- Producing off-campus productions: *Footloose* (2013) at University High School in Irvine.
- Facilitating departmental participation in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Produced invited productions: *The Cover of Life* (2012), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (2015) *For Those Who Can't Speak for Themselves: Silence* (2017), *I and You* (2019), and *Xanadu* (2020).
- Supervising the work of guest directors and designers

Current Position – Concordia University (cont.)

Producing Artistic Director – Looseleaf Theatre Company (2011-19)

Co-founder of this professional theatre company (Equity - Guest Artist) housed in Concordia's 500 seat amphitheater. Looseleaf attracted over 1800 audience members per production. Specific duties include:

- Administering the university's internship program for students in acting and technical areas.
- Hiring instructors for intern acting classes and guest directors and designers
- Script selection, casting, and contract negotiation for all actors (including Equity) and design staff
- Budgeting for all areas including payroll, marketing, and concessions
- Managing marketing including logo development, direct mail, newspaper and electronic marketing.
- Overseeing front of house operations including gift and concessions sales
- Directing for the season (see "Creative Accomplishments – Directing" below)

Committee Appointments and Other University Service

- Judge, President's Academic Showcase: Tier 2 (2018), Poster Session (2015), Overall (2009).
- Mentor, Honors Individual Investigation, 2019, 2023
- Mentor, Great Commission Showcase, 2018
- Mentor, President's Academic Showcase, 2016, 2024
- Mentor, WINGS program – 2013, 2014-15
- Around-the-World Semester Committee, 2017-2018
- Search Committee for faculty position in the Theatre Department – 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15
- Committee on Student Retention – 2013-2017
- Convocations and Academic Environment Committee – 2012-2016
- Academic Research and Development Subcommittee – 2011-12
- Space Utilization and Usage Subcommittee – 2011-12
- Search Committee for Faculty position in the Art Department – 2011-12
- Faculty sponsor, Silver Screen Society – a student film producing club – 2019-
- Faculty sponsor, Improv-ceivable – student-run improv group performing 5-6 times per year- 2011-19

Departmental duties & Accomplishments

- Directing 1-2 productions annually (Creative Accomplishments – Directing below)
- Overseeing recruitment – since 2011 the program has grown from 15 majors to 42.
- Overseeing the department's scholarships, which range from \$1000 to 80% of tuition cost.
- Serving as an academic advisor for theatre majors
- Preparing students for the Irene Ryan acting competition
- Serving as a respondent for Region 8 of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.
- Directing 2 drama ministry teams called ACTS ("Acclaiming Christ in Theatre & Service") – 2007-08
- Managing the department's presence on the university website and social media.
- Collaborating on the development of the dept.'s emphasis in Film & Digital Media Production - 2021

Education

1992 M.F.A. - Directing, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

1989 B.A. - English and Theatre Arts, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky

Other Studies

2018- Meisner Technique (not complete) – Ruskin School of Acting

2018 On Camera Acting – Paul Barry

2011 Colloquy, Concordia University, Irvine

1987 University of Birmingham at Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Centre, Stratford-on-Avon, England

Employment History

2004-2006 Producing Artistic Director, New American Theater, Rockford, IL

This Equity (SPT 7) theatre had a \$1.1 million budget, a full-time staff of 10, and produced a 5-show season. Selected the season, did all casting and contracts, represented the theater to the public, and worked with the board to secure donor support. Created a summer season in partnership with Northern Illinois University.

1998-2004 Artistic Director, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL

This community theatre near Chicago produces a 7-play season. During my time TWS was honored (*Distinctions* below) and profiled by Chicago Public Radio, Chicago Tribune, and Reader Arts Magazine. Oversaw guest artists and represented the theatre to the public. Achievements included:

- Co-founded a lecture series featuring professionals like Steppenwolf dramaturg Michelle Volansky, Chicago Tribune critic Richard Christiansen, and Defiant Theatre puppeteers.
- Created a workshop series taught by professionals including Second City instructors, experts in mime, stage combat, Feldenkreis movement, and dialect work.
- Formed a play-development workshop: playwrights Hurt MacDermott, and Gretchen Smith of SMU.
- Taught 6-week acting courses: Realism, Moliere, Shakespearean Verse, Physical work, and Beckett. Taught directing seminars: Blocking, Actor Coaching, Advanced Work.

1998-2000 Co-Artistic Director, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL

This non-Equity professional theatre near Chicago had 2 spaces and produced a 7-show season. Duties included: supervising guest artists, directing, and financial management. From 1998-2000, Circle won 6 Joseph Jefferson Awards, established its first board of directors, and expanded the facility by one third.

1992-98 Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Communications & Theatre, Concordia Univ. River Forest, IL

Courses Taught

CTH 4420 Acting and Directing Studio (team-taught)

CTH 4428 Contemporary Theatre (Dramatic Literature of the past 20 years)

CTH 110 Speech Communication

- Director (1992-1994) of Concordia's drama ministry team, Players INC. ("In the Name of Christ").

1994-96 Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Theatre, Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, IL

Courses Taught

THR 105 Introduction to Theatre

1990-92 Associate Instructor, Dept. of Theatre and Drama, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Courses Taught

T121 Acting One

Distinctions

- 2017 Devised piece For Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves: Silence invited to KCACTF Region 8
- 2013 Scene from Beau Jest invited to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 8.
- 2011 Excellence in Education Award, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 8.
- 2011 Scene from Hamlet invited to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 8.

Distinctions (cont.)

- 2010 Nomination, Garland Award for Excellence in Direction. The Seagull, Chance Theater, Anaheim, CA
- 2003 Illinois Theatre Assoc. Award, Theatre of West. Sp., Outstanding Contribution to Community Theatre
- 2000 Joseph Jefferson Recommendation, American Buffalo at Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL.
- 1997 Joseph Jefferson Recommendation, Principia Scriptoria at Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL.
- 1989 Boyd Martin Award for "Outstanding Contribution to the Theatre program, University of Louisville".
- 1989 Cum Laude graduate, University of Louisville
- 1987 English-Speaking Union Overseas Scholarship, University of Birmingham, Stratford-on-Avon, U.K.
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Creative Accomplishments – Directing - University

- 3/25 Wings Arthur Kopit, Concordia University, Irvine, CA (in progress)
- 1/25 Over the River and Through the Woods Joe DiPietro, Concordia University, Irvine, CA (in progress)
- 3/24 Under the Bed Brendan Murray, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 9/23 All's Well That Ends Well William Shakespeare, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 9/22 A Doll's House – Part 2 Lucas Hnath, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 1/22 Endgame Samuel Beckett, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 9/21 Every Brilliant Thing Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donohoe, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 5/21 Life is a Game devised piece (one act), Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 1/20 The Christians Lucas Hnath, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 9/19 A Midsummer Night's Dream William Shakespeare, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 3/19 Antigone Sophocles, translated by Don Taylor, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 3/18 Ten Days in a Madhouse Nellie Bly adapted by Tony Vezner, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 10/16 For Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves: Silence devised piece (one act), CUI ATW
- 8/16 Poof! devised piece (one act), CUI ATW
- 1/16 Pride and Prejudice Jane Austin adapted by Christina Calvit, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 1/15 Reckless Craig Lucas, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 9/13 The Brothers Menaechmus Plautus translated by Erich Segal, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 9/12 Beau Jest James Sherman, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 3/11 The Arsonists Max Frisch translated by Alistair Beaton, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 9/10 Hamlet William Shakespeare, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 3/10 The House of Blue Leaves John Guare, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 1/09 Metamorphoses Mary Zimmerman from Ovid, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 2/08 Dancing at Lughnasa Brian Friel, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 8/07 Coffeehouse on Broadway musical revue (co-director), Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 10/93 A Midsummer Night's Dream William Shakespeare, Concordia University River Forest, IL
- 3/93 The World on the Street Wm. Shakespeare, ad. Tony Vezner Concordia University, River Forest, IL
- 4/92 Blood Relations Jaci Stephen, adapt. Tony Vezner (one act), Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Creative Accomplishments – Directing – University (cont.)

- 10/91 Ghosts Henrik Ibsen, translated by Rolf Fjelde, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
2/91 The Marriage of Bette and Boo Christopher Durang, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
4/90 Real Estate Louise Page, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
2/90 Light Up the Sky (asst. director under Ken Costigan) Moss Hart, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
2/89 The Good Doctor Neil Simon, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
10/88 3 Bears in Search of an Author Dan Greenberg (one act), ad. Tony Vezner, University of Louisville
10/87 Punishment Without Crime Ray Bradbury (one act) adapt. Tony Vezner, University of Louisville
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Creative Accomplishments – Directing – Professional and Community

- 5/17 Two Gentlemen of Verona William Shakespeare, Looseleaf Theatre Company, Irvine, CA
5/16 Romeo and Juliet William Shakespeare, Looseleaf Theatre Company, Irvine, CA
5/15 The Merchant of Venice William Shakespeare, Looseleaf Theatre Company, Irvine, CA
5/14 The Comedy of Errors William Shakespeare, Looseleaf Theatre Company, Irvine, CA
5/13 As You Like It William Shakespeare, Looseleaf Theatre Company, Irvine, CA
5/12 Twelfth Night William Shakespeare, Looseleaf Theatre Company, Irvine, CA
11/11 Sad Tales of G.I. Joe John Bolen (one act), New Voices at Stages Theater, Fullerton, CA
9/09 The Seagull Anton Chekhov, adapt. Richard Nelson, Chance Theater, Anaheim, CA
11/08 Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol Tom Mula, Chance Theater, Anaheim, CA
10/06 Sherlock's Last Case Charles Marowitz, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
9/06 Bad Dates Theresa Rebeck, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
6/06 A Place Called Home Don Moore, multimedia reading, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
4/06 The Who's Tommy Des McAnuff and Pete Townshend, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
1/06 A Midsummer Night's Dream William Shakespeare, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
11/05 Alice in Wonderland Lewis Carroll, adapted by Tony Vezner, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
9/05 Over the Tavern Tom Dudzick, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
4/05 The Taffetas Rik Lewis, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
3/05 Five Women Wearing the Same Dress Alan Ball, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
1/05 Around the World in 80 Days Jules Verne, adapt. J. Hildreth, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
12/04 A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens, adapt. J. Mortimer, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
9/04 The Guys Anne Nelson, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
6/04 Ten Little Indians Agatha Christie, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
4/04 Anna Karenina Tolstoy, ad. Helen Edmundson, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
2/04 The Laramie Project Moises Kaufman, etc., Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
10/03 Around the World in 80 Days J. Verne, ad. J. Hildreth, Theatre of Western Sp., Western Springs, IL
9/03 On Golden Pond Ernest Thompson, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
6/03 Grace and Glorie Tom Ziegler, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL

Creative Accomplishments – Directing – Professional and Community (cont.)

- 4/03 The General from America Richard Nelson, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 2/03 Five Women Wearing the Same Dress Alan Ball, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 10/02 The Tempest William Shakespeare, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 9/02 Charley's Aunt Brandon Thomas, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 5/02 Dearly Departed David Bottrell and Jesse Jones, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 4/02 The Importance of Being Earnest Oscar Wilde, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 2/02 Tartuffe Moliere, translated by Richard Wilbur, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 10/01 As Bees in Honey Drown Douglas Carter Beane, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 9/01 The Last Night of Ballyhoo Alfred Uhry, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 5/01 Pride's Crossing Tina Howe, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 4/01 Kindertransport Diane Samuels, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 2/01 The Winter's Tale William Shakespeare, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 10/00 Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen, ad. Christina Calvit, Theatre of Western Sp., Western Springs, IL
- 9/00 The Nerd Larry Shue, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 6/00 American Buffalo David Mamet, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
- 4/00 A Life in the Theatre David Mamet, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 3/00 Showstoppers of the Century Musical Revue, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 2/00 Endgame Samuel Beckett, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 10/99 The Seagull by Anton Chekhov, adapt. Tom Stoppard, Theatre of Western Sp., Western Springs, IL
- 9/99 The Visit Friedrich Durrenmatt, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 6/99 Wait Until Dark Frederick Knott, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 4/99 S'Marvelous - The Work of George & Ira Gershwin Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 2/99 Inspecting Carol Daniel Sullivan, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
- 1/99 The Cover of Life R.T. Robinson, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 10/98 An Inspector Calls J.B. Priestley, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 5/98 I Hate Hamlet Paul Rudnick, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 9/97 Principia Scriptoriae Richard Nelson, Chicago Area Premiere, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
- 1/97 Rumors Neil Simon, Stage Right Dinner Theatre, Wood Dale, IL
- 10/96 All in the Timing David Ives, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
- 8/96 An Evening of One Acts: The Duck Variations, David Mamet, The Stronger, August Strindberg, English Made Simple David Ives, 2 Guys and a Bench Prod., River Forest, IL
- 4/96 The Lost Weekend (Co-Director) adapted from the movie, WNEP Theatre, Chicago, IL
- 10/95 Standing On My Knees by John Olive, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 11/94 The Ping-Pong Players (one act) William Saroyan, Bailiwick Director's Festival, Chicago, IL
- 1/94 The Innocents Henry James, adapt. William Archibald, Oak Park Village Players, Oak Park, IL
- 12/89 There Is No Present Barbara Blumenthal, Bloomington Playwright's Project, Bloomington, IN

Creative Accomplishments – Directing – Professional and Community (cont.)

6/88 Amazing Grace (asst. dir. under David McManus) Bob Blue, New Stage Repertory, Louisville, KY

Creative Accomplishments – Adaptations

3/18 Ten Days in a Madhouse adapted from Nellie Bly, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
11/05 Alice in Wonderland adapted from Lewis Carroll, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
3/93 The World on the Street adapted from Shakespeare, Concordia University, River Forest, IL
4/92 Blood Relations adapted from Jaci Stephen (one act), Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
10/88 3 Bears in Search of an Author adapted from Dan Greenberg (one act) Univ. of Louisville.
4/88 Punishment Without Crime adapted from Ray Bradbury (one act), University of Louisville.

Creative Accomplishments – Design

5/17 Properties Design, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Looseleaf Theatre Co, Irvine, CA
5/15 Properties Design, The Merchant of Venice, Looseleaf Theatre Co., Irvine, CA
5/14 Sound Design, The Comedy of Errors, Looseleaf Theatre Co., Irvine, CA
3/11 Projections Co-Design, The Arsonists, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
10/10 Sound Design, A Year With Frog and Toad, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
5/10 Projections Design, The American Dream, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
10/03 Scenic Design, Around the World in 80 Days, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
10/02 Scenic Design, The Tempest, Wm. Shakespeare, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
10/01 Scenic Design, As Bees in Honey Drown, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
10/96 Scenic Design, All in the Timing, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
10/93 Scenic Design, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Concordia University, River Forest, IL
3/93 Scenic Design, The World on the Street, Concordia University, River Forest, IL

Creative Accomplishments – Directing – Staged Readings

4/14 Operation Procrastination by Nick Scutti, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
4/08 Supporting Cast by Chad Biar, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
2/02 Lily by Gretchen Smith, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
1/98 The Hostage by Steven Danzis, Chicago Writers Bloc at the Theater Building, Chicago, IL
10/97 The Hostage by Steven Danzis, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
7/92 Yellow Violets by Madge Dishman, Phoenix Theater, Indianapolis, IN
11/89 Lily by Gretchen Smith, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Related Experience

2018-22, 24 Panel Member – *Varisty Artists of the Year - Theatre* – Orange County Register Newspaper

2011-17 Theatre Advisor, EverWitt Productions, LLC

Related Experience (cont.)

- 2004 Consultant Member, Doctoral Committee, Joan E. Kole, Union Institute & University
 - 2001 Member, Thesis Evaluation Committee, Janel Horvath, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
 - 1997 Member, Regranting Review Committee, Hinsdale Center for the Arts and Illinois Arts Council
 - 97-00 Company Member, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
 - 95-98 Member, Board of Directors, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Oak Park, IL
 - 89-90 Media Liaison, Dept. of Theatre and Drama, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
 - 1989 Stage Management Intern, Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Louisville, KY
 - 88-89 Board Member, University of Louisville Studio Theatre, Louisville, KY
 - 85-86 Company Member, Louisville Experimental Theater Co., Louisville, KY
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Workshops and Speaking Engagements

- 9/22 "To Understand a Human, Build One Yourself – The Pedagogy of the Human in an Acting Studio" – Association of Lutheran College Faculties Conference, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
 - 11/18 "Finding Truth in Acting – East and West" – Huace Film Academy at Zhejiang University of Media and Communications, Hangzhou, China
 - 4/18 "Shakespeare's Stage Magic – the Wonder of Words, Imagination, and Embodiment" – Long Beach Shakespeare Speaker Series, Long Beach, CA
 - 6/08 "Building a Character's Body - Character Physicality", C.I.T.A. National Conf., Azusa Pacific Univ.
 - 10/00 "The Art of Collaboration: Director/Designer Process", Theatre of Western Sp., Western Springs, IL
 - 7/00 Director's Roundtable, Bailiwick Director's Festival, Bailiwick Theatre, Chicago, IL
 - 6/00 Producer's Panel Discussion, Director's Forum, The Theatre Building, Chicago, IL
 - 11/99 "Arts Accessibility in the Western Suburbs" – Committee of 100, Hinsdale, IL
 - 6/99 Advanced Acting Workshop, C.I.T.A. Midwest Conference, Milwaukee, WI
 - 6/99 "All the World's A Stage" - Panel Discussion, C.I.T.A. Midwest Conference, Milwaukee, WI
 - 4/97 "Getting Actors into Action", C.I.T.A. Midwest Conference, Bethel College, South Bend, IN
 - 10/95 "*Standing On My Knees* - A Panel Discussion", Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
 - 9/94 "Audition Techniques", Concordia University, River Forest, IL
 - 4/92 "Auditioning for the Stage" Black Culture Center, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN
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Memberships

- 2017- Associate Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
- 2009- Theatre Communications Group
- 2008- Association of Theatre in Higher Education
- 2008- Christians in Theatre Arts national networking organization
- 97-04 Chicago Director's Forum, Chicago, IL
- 1988 Mortar Board National Honor Society
- 1987 English-Speaking Union