

Curriculum Vitae
Kira Gaudynski

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Education

M.F.A. (*distinction*) Rose Bruford College, London, UK – Fall 2021 – Fall 2023

International Theatre Practice and Performance

Including: *National Theatre Institute (Acting) @ The Eugene O'Neill, CT – Fall 2022*
Advanced Directing Institute @ The Eugene O'Neill, CT – Spring 2023

B.S.S. Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa - 2015

Bachelor of Special Studies in Theatre and Vocal Performance - Cum Laude

Training

GRADUATE TRAINING

- **Dramaturgy for the Director** with Carol Ann Tan
Analysis, dramaturgy in artistic leadership, new work dramaturgy.
- **Directing** with Tatyana Marie-Carlo
Developing manifesto, director's play analysis, navigating the current American Theatre landscape.
- **Directing: Creating A Character** with Victor Cervantes Jr.
Theory and craft of the director & Identifying and cultivating persona as an artistic leader.
- **Directing: Crafting A Concept** with Will Detlefsen
Developing director's voice, formulating concept in essence and design.
- **Acting Intensive** [20 weeks] with Kathryn Pogson
Stanislavski developing character, and preparation into rehearsal process.
- **Shakespeare** with Andy Hinds
Text preparation, clarity of thought, and verse techniques.
- **Viewpoints** with Jay Paul Skelton
Fundamentals of Viewpoints, composition, and rehearsal techniques.
- **Devising** with Annabel Arden of Complicité
Cultivating presence, embodying the Space, and collaborative theatremaking.
- **Collaborative Writing & Devising Workshop** with Georgia Murphy
Material generation, story creation, and devising process techniques.
- **Dramaturgy Toolkit** with Lin Coghlan
Character driven drama, character creation, and play structure.
- **Contact Improv** with Sarah Dowling of Punchdrunk
Fundamentals, introduction to weight sharing, devising and collaborating through contact.

- **Directing Intensive with Sue Dunderdale**
Script preparation, active analysis, rehearsal techniques.
- **Anitafrika Method with D.Bi Young -Anitafrika**
Decolonial frameworks, self-knowledge development, performative autoethnography.
- **Leading and Facilitating Intensive with Lucia Walker**

OTHER TRAINING

- **Nicolai Demidov Technique Workshop with Andrei Biziorek, 2024**
The Demidov Studio London
- **Advanced Scene Study, Shakespeare, & Acting with Sarah Lucht, Michael Mendelson & Beth Harper, 2021**
The Actors Conservatory at Artists Rep, Portland, OR
- **Scene Study with Jaclyn Biskup, August 2020 & October 2020**
Difficult Women + Studio, NYC [virtual]
- **Writing & Performing the 2 Min Play with Leah Urzendowski & Dan Kerr-Hobert, 2020**
The Neo Futurists, Chicago
- **Broadsword/Longsword Combat Masterclass with Eli Lynn, Oct 2019**
Cast Workshop Series at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire
- **Commedia Dell'arte Masterclass with Jules Kaila, Sept 2019**
Cast Workshop Series at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire
- **Solo Puppetry Performance with Mike Oleon & Claire Saxe, 2018**
Rough House Theatre, Chicago
- **Young Company with John Maclay, Todd Denning, & Matt Daniels, 2008-2011**
First Stage Children's Theatre Academy, Milwaukee, WI

UNDERGRADUATE TRAINING

- **Voice & Movement, Stanislavski, & Mesiner with Jim VanValen**
- **Directing & Devised Theatre with Janeve West**
- **Voice Lessons with Jacqueline Lang & Dr. Jonathon Thull**
- **Puppetry Performance, Design & Construction with the Puppet Kitchen NYC**

Coaching, Facilitating

- **Acting Coach - Coach With Kira, private studio 2020 – Current**
 - Offering bespoke coaching and curriculum to professionals and students both virtually and in person.
 - Co-creates with clients self-sustaining creative practices focused on character preparation, personal artistry development, and the re-invigoration of audition repertoire.
 - My techniques are influenced by the theories of Stanislavski, Laban, Nicolai Demidov, Viewpoints, and the long lineage of teachers who've made up my training. However, I strive to adapt to whatever the client may need.

Manifesto:

Within my studio I seek to inspire individuals to believe in and value their own authentic creative power. As a mentor, I aim to cultivate a sense of agency and personal artistry within my collaborators' by providing them with the tools and the empowerment necessary to create self-sustaining artistic practices that provide creative fulfilment and attract the opportunities aligned with their goals.

Assistant Facilitator/Pastoral Support –Lewisham Youth Theatre, London – July 2022

Jr. Youth Theatre 2 Production of *Parched Lands*

- Lead the group in daily check in and warm ups.
- Designed and facilitate games and exercises to support the group in their objective of putting up a new original show.
- Offered individual and group support to participants throughout tech, dress, and final performances of their project.

Facilitator/Adventure Guide - *Forts!* Filament Theatre, Chicago - 2018/19, 2019/20

- Modeled imaginative play during installation while monitoring the safety and well being of every guest.
- Facilitated event and maintained the spaces operational duties while cultivating a welcoming playful environment for participants of all ages.

- **Young Performer Coordinator** - Pius XI High School - 2016

The Wizard Of Oz, dir- Kevin Schwartz @ The Pabst Theatre, Milwaukee, WI

- Programmed activities and exercises for young performers both in rehearsal and in the down time during the production.
- Supervised and guided young performers throughout rehearsals, backstage and dressing areas of the professional theatre venue.

- **Lead Teacher** - Weeklong Improv Camp [ages 9 to 12] - 2012

Pius XI High School Summer Theatre Academy

- Created full day lesson plans that covered the basics of improv ranging from focus games to short form scenes.
- Adapted curriculum throughout the course to address the strengths and weaknesses revealed in the students responses to the material.

Leadership

- **Alumni Ambassador** for Cornell College, *National Thespian Festival* - 2015

- Discussed theatre program and personal experiences with prospective students at display table.
- Organized and managed auditions/interviews at conference with program recruitment representative.

- **General Director**, *Student Theatre Council: Cornell College* - 2014-2015

- Oversaw theatrical season planning and artistic direction of organization.
- Facilitated weekly meetings and delegated tasks among the executive board.
- Created master document outlining the practices and policies of the Student Theatre Council Executive Board.

- **Managing Director**, *Student Theatre Council: Cornell College* - 2013-2014

- Overhauled position duties to shift responsibilities to a Production Manager model.
- Advocated as a liaison between current production teams and the E-Board, as well as anticipated and managed the needs of future productions within the producing year.

- **Co-Founder/Managing Director**, *The World's Stage Theatre*, Milwaukee, WI - 2009-2011

- Co-conceived, developed, and implemented company mission from the ground up, while balancing high school and other extra-curricular theatre activities.
- Collaborated with a small board of administrators to oversee operations, and to source talent and materials for productions within an upstart storefront theatre budget over a two year period.

Direction

DIRECTOR

Mud by Marie Irene Fornes [*selection*]

National Theatre Institute @ The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, CT 2023

Our Town by Thornton Wilder [*selection*]

National Theatre Institute @ The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, CT 2023

Everybody by Brandon Jacob Jenkins [*selection*]

National Theatre Institute @ The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, CT 2023

The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekov

National Theatre Institute @ The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, CT 2023

I Forgot To Tell You by Sarah Einspanier [*selection*]

National Theatre Institute @ The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, CT 2022

The Moon Is Cheese by Maggie Seymour [*staged reading*]

National Theatre Institute @ The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, CT 2022

Threads of Expectation by Haley Sliker [*staged reading*]

National Theatre Institute @ The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, CT 2022 & 2023

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Birth Witches by Jennifer Fawcett [*world premier*] dir- Leda Hoffman

Riverside Theatre, IA 2013

Performance

SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Bacchanalian Cast Member**, Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire - 2019
 - Improvised in character with other performers as well as with patrons among crowds as large as 14,000 people.
 - Tackled ever-changing situations- in all kinds of weather- with enthusiasm and ease, both in and out of character.
 - Performed in 14 unique stage shows both scripted and improvised for over 300 performances, including collaboratively writing and devising over 10 shows.
- **Understudy/Swing**, The Walls of Harrow House, Rough House Theatre, Chicago - 2018
 - Learned eight ensemble tracks that moved through multiple rooms of the house simultaneously and included four different types of puppetry in just two weeks of rehearsal.
 - Created and maintained tracking documents for each role outlining their specific timelines, dialogue, props and puppet tracking.
 - Performed in the ensemble with a small ear (found object puppet) for multiple immersive shows per day, and covered one understudy track for a full weekend of shows.
- **Cast/Co-Tour Manager**, Calculus The Musical Tour, Know Theatre of Cincinnati - 2016
 - Did more than 30 performances in schools and communities across the US (excluding the west coast) in six and a half weeks.

- Adapted both the technical elements and the performance to meet the demands of each venue varying from a small classroom to a professional sports arena.
- Managed keeping contact with each tour location ahead of our arrival, as well as booking and budgeting for all our own lodging and driving arrangements.

PROFESSIONAL STAGE CREDITS

Holidays At Mt. Hope, Peggy Harnell - Mt. Hope Productions, PA - 2019
Improv Track, Stella Hopfield - Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, PA - 2019
Small World, Becca [Understudy] - The New Colony, IL - 2019
Mukbang, [Reading] Maya - The New Colony, IL - 2018
The Walls of Harrow House, Understudy/Swing Ensemble, Rough House, IL - 2018
Incriminate [Reading,] Barbara Boxcutter - Alliance of Latinx Theatre Artists, IL - 2018
Bewildered: The Musical, Magic Stage Hand - Hell In A Handbag, IL - 2017
Improvised Shakespeare, Ensemble - Part Dog Improv, IL - 2017
Psychonaut Librarians, Moonbear - The New Colony, IL - 2017
Calculus: The Musical [tour,] Isaac Newton - Know Theatre, OH – 2016
Charming Princes, Witch - Maples Repertory Theatre, MO - 2014
A Little More Than Kin, Kat - The World's Stage Theatre, WI – 2009

EDUCATIONAL STAGE CREDITS

Welcome To The Island (devised) creator/ensemble/clown – National Theatre Institute, Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center – 2023
The Maids, (selection) Solange – National Theatre Institute, Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center – 2023
Pocket Of The Universe (devised) creator/ensemble– National Theatre Institute, Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center – 2022
Uncle Vanya (selection) Vanya – National Theatre Institute, Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center – 2022
Hadestown (selection) Hermes – National Theatre Institute, Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center – 2022
Working (devised/verbatim) Babe Secoli – NTI, Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center – 2022
Café Le Monde (selection) Ensemble/Clown – NTI, Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center – 2022
Top Girls, (Act I) Isabella Bird – Rose Bruford, London - 2021
The Seagull, (selected scenes) Nina – Rose Bruford, London - 2021
A Feast Of Stephens, Sweeney Todd/Ensemble - UW Waukesha, WI - 2016
Avenue Q, Girl Bad Idea Bear - UW Waukesha, WI – 2015
Machinal, Adding Clerk/Lawyer - Cornell College, IA - 2015
The Last Five Years, Cathy - Cornell College, IA - 2014
The Flies, Clytemnestra - Cornell College, IA - 2013
The Diviners, Goldie - Cornell College, IA - 2013
(m)other/Medea, Kreon/Chorus - Cornell College, IA - 2012
The Tempest, Gonzalo - site-specific independent production, WI - 2012
Little Women: The Musical, Amy March - First Stage Young Company, WI - 2011
The Crucible, Rebecca Nurse - Pius XI High School @ The Edinburgh Fringe - 2011
Carnival! Rosalie - First Stage Academy Company Class, WI - 2010
A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Egeus - First Stage Young Company, WI - 2009

Stage Management & Backstage

- Roosevelt Conservatory Of Music, Chicago, IL - March 2020
Purcell’s King Arthur (opera) - **Assistant Stage Manager**,

- SM- Rachel Campoli, stage dir- Susan Payne O'Brien
- Filament Theatre, Chicago, IL - Nov/Dec 2018
The Snow Queen - **Assistant Stage Manager**,
SM- Monica Brown, dir- Allegra Libonati
 - The New Coordinates (formerly The New Colony) Chicago, IL - Sept/Oct 2016,
Jan/Feb 2017
Merge by Spencer Davis - **Assistant Stage Manager**,
SM- Zoe Benditt, dir- Andrew Hobgood
Psychonaut Librarians by Sean Kelly - **ASM/Puppet Wrangler**,
SM- Monica Brown, dir- Krissy Vanderwalker & Michael Cotey
 - The Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, IA - April/June 2015
The Matchmaker - **ASM & Props Dept. Head**,
SM- Briana Maxwell, dir- Sean McCall
 - Maples Repertory Theatre, Macon, MO - Summer Season 2014
Big River - **Assistant Stage Manager**,
SM- Toni Mc Dowell, dir- Brandon McShaffery
Boys Next Door - **Assistant Stage Manager**,
SM- Toni Mc Dowell, dir- Peter Reynolds
Forever Plaid - **Assistant Stage Manager**,
SM- Toni Mc Dowell, dir- Dallas Street
 - Cornell College Department of Theatre, Mt. Vernon, Iowa - 2011-2015
The Elephant Man - **Wardrobe Crew Chief**,
dir- Jim VanValen
Avenue Q - **Puppet Wrangler & Props Master**,
dir- Jim VanValen
Romeo & Juliet - **Hair & Makeup Crew Chief**,
dir- Ron Clark
Company - **Assistant Stage Manager**,
SM- DJ Dorrington, dir- Jim VanValen

References - *contact details upon request*

Niamh Dowling - Program Director @ Rose Bruford College
Current: Principal of RADA

Forrest McClendon - Mentor & Teacher
Tony Award Nominee, Lunt-Fontanne Fellow, Barrymore Award Winner
Teacher & Scholar @ The National Theatre Institute

Kathryn Pogson - Senior Acting Tutor @ Rose Bruford College

Jim VanValen - Former Advisor & Acting Teacher @ Cornell College, IA
Current Professor of Theatre @ Muhlenberg College