Where Are Our Alumni?

AU Theatre Graduates Accomplish the Extraordinary Year After Year and Make an Impact
as designers, actors, educators and administrators - in the classroom and on stage - from New York to California. See where they are and where they have been in the brief descriptions below

“People out here in NYC love students from Ohio. I think being required to work shop hours in different areas really rounded us as theatre technicians. A lot of other schools don't require their students to do that. When we get to NYC, where everything is so focused on everyone having specific roles, they are surprised when we have the desire to help others or be generous. The Midwest mentality is very well received.”

--Sean Smith ‘11

Eric Schussler (‘73) Freelance Announcer/Actor/Singer, New York, NY

Judith Palladino (‘77) Theatre Professor, Oklahoma City University

Rita Weirich (‘80) Professional Vocalist/DJ, TampabayDJ.com

Dwier Brown (‘81) Actor and Author, Best known for playing Kevin Costner’s father in “Field of Dreams” Recently wrote the critically acclaimed book "If You Build It..." a book about Fathers, Fate and Field of Dreams to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the movie

William Payne (‘82) Dean, School of Fine Arts/Prof. Directing/Acting, University of Minnesota-Duluth

Shirley Stary (‘84) Vice President of Programming, Lakeside Chautauqua MA, Arts Administration, University of Akron

Jeff Shearer (‘88) Costume Shop Manager/Designer, Northern Kentucky University

Mark Stringer (‘89) Senior Minister, First Unitarian Church of Des Moines Former actor with Nebraska Theatre Caravan and various theatre companies in Chicago MA, Theatre, Bowling Green State University; Master of Divinity, Meadville Lombard Theological School

Lisa Wiley (‘90) Voice-Over/Stage Actor, Designer

Aretta (Casebolt) Baumgartner (‘91) Education Director/Performer, Center for Puppetry Arts MA in Communication Arts, University of Cincinnati

Keri Walters (‘91) Assistant Dean, School of Fine & Performing Arts, Columbia College-Chicago

Patrick Bynane (‘93) Assoc. Prof of Drama/Equity Actor (Dallas/Ft. Worth), Texas Woman’s University Ph.D. in Theatre History and Criticism, Louisiana State University; MA in Drama, Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University)

Greta Rothman (‘94) Director of Special Events, Western Reserve Academy Former Director of Special Events, The Drama League (NYC); Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator/Event Manager, McCarter Theatre

Maria Swinehart Getz (‘97) Drama Teacher/Director, Convent of the Sacred Heart School (NYC); Former Chair, Performing Arts Department/Drama Teacher, York Preparatory MA in Theatre/M.Ed. in Curriculum and Teaching, Bowling Green State University
Jeff Price ('97) Program Manager, The New York Academy of Medicine
Former Company Manager/Business Office Assistant, McCarter Theatre; Company Manager, The Opera Festival of New Jersey

Charlene Gross ('97) Resident costume designer, Ohio Light Opera, College of Wooster

Maggie Roth-Bruno ('97) Elementary Teacher, Brockport Central School District
Masters from Niagara University

Heather Sheldon ('97) MA in Organizational Psychology, The Chicago School
Former Wig Mistress, McCarter Theatre; Wardrobe/Wig Supervisor, Barter Theatre

Laura Poje ('98) English/Theatre Teacher, Riverside Local Schools

Kirk Domer ('99) Chairperson, Dept. of Theatre/Assoc. Prof. of Scene Design, Michigan State University
MFA in Scene Design, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Natalie (Loomis) Huya ('99) Assistant Prof. of Theatre, Kent State University

Rebecca Lustig ('99) Acting Teacher, Cam-Plex Multi-Event Facility (WY)
Former Residence Manager, Young Artist Program, Glimmerglass Festival
Masters in Directing, Miami University and Theatre Management, Wayne State University

James Savage, Jr. ('00) Professional Actor; Adjunct Acting Professor, Queensborough Community College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, New York Film Academy, and Kean University. Founding member, Duel Theatre (Off Off Broadway). MFA in Acting, Penn State University; Certified Chekhov Teacher

Michael Beyer ('01) Lighting Designer/Production Manager, Hillsdale College
MFA in lighting design, Wayne State University

Erin Ashley Sullivan ('01) Creative Executive in Film/TV, WME Entertainment

Erin (Haggerty) Wallace ('02) Managing Director/Freelance Stage Manager, Invisible Theatre

Whitney Locher ('02) Resident Costume Designer, Fiasco Theater and Partial Comfort Productions
Freelance designer, Ohio Northern University, The Drama League and NYU Gallatin
MFA in Costume Design and Technology, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Sarah Kaplan ('04) Drama Director/English Teacher, Kent City Schools
Masters in Curriculum and Instruction, Kent State University

Jason Parrish ('05) Associate Director/Ensemble Member, Florida Repertory Theatre
Most recent appearances include “Clybourne Park” (March 2014), as Dr. Watson in a zany adaptation of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (Feb. 2014), and in January of 2014 his work in Florida Rep’s nationally acclaimed production of “Arsenic and Old Lace” which was singled out for comedic excellence by The Wall Street Journal. Recently directed the world Premiere production of “Journey to Oz” by Christopher T. Parks

Lauren Whitt Akers ('06) Drama Teacher, Columbus City Schools; Pursuing M.Ed., Ohio State University

Melissa Cooke ('06) Research Assistant, Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Laryngeal Surgery and Voice Rehabilitation (MGH Voice Center); Speech Language Pathologist/Singing Health Specialist
MS in Speech Language Pathology, concentration in voice disorders

Stephen E. Dreikorn ('06) U. S. Department of State Employee
Masters from Institute of World Politics Statecraft and National Security Affairs
Megan Woodward ('06) Theatre Instructor, The Dougherty Arts Center
Kelly Strand ('07) Actor, Barter Players of Barter Theatre; Former Actor at CATCO, Columbus
Dusten Welch ('07) Administrative Director, Fairmount Performing Arts Conservatory; Award-winning Fight Choreographer and Advanced Combatant, Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD), Choreographed violence for more than 50 theatrical productions
Carrie Balchak ('08) Friends Membership Coordinator, Playhouse Square
Katie Doll ('08) Entertainment Admin, Palms Casino Resort, Las Vegas
Shane O’Neill ('08) Professional Actor, Master of Music, NYU
Martin Thoman ('08) Staff Carpenter, Studio Theatre, Washington DC
Jon West ('08) Technical Director, University of Pittsburgh; Master Carpenter, Arden Theatre Co., Philadelphia
Mary Allison ('09) Actor/Musician, Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre
Thea Grabiec ('09) Independent Sound Technician, Extra and Production Assistant in LA
Daniel Justin Bilewicz ('09) Costume Designer
G. Maxin IV ('09) Freelance Designer/Resident Production Designer; Head of Design, Actors Training Center; Resident Lighting Designer for La Musica Lirica; MFA in Theatre Design, Michigan State University
Antoinette Kula ('10) Guest Account and Donor Representative, PlayhouseSquare Foundation; Drama Director/Choreographer/Tech Director, Normandy High School; Freelance Actor/Singer
Taylor Hale ('11) Pursuing MFA in Acting, University of North Carolina
Former Education Associate/Director, Florida Rep Theatre Conservatory
Mark Maruschak ('11) Pursuing MFA in Lighting Design, Illinois State University
Sarah Saddler ('11) Pursuing PhD at University of Minnesota, MA from Miami University
Brittany Hartman ('12) Assistant Hair/Wig Designer, Tony Award winning "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" Hartman Stage then to Broadway production; Former Hair/Make-up Artisan, Utah Shakespeare Festival
Cassandra Lersch ('12) Studying Film Production, Full Sail University
Eddie Carney ('13) Elementary Vocal Music Teacher, Loudonville-Perrysville Exempted Village Schools
Nate Sayatovich ('13) Education Assistant, Cleveland Playhouse
Kimberly Lennox ('14) Wardrobe/Stitcher, Off-Broadway’s iLuminate
Rebecca Ribley ('14) Weekend Anchor/Journalist, WAOW TV
Emily Jeppesen ('14) Front of House Staff, Second Stage Theatre (NYC)
Brandon Wurgess ('14) House Manager, Dorset Theatre Festival (Vermont); Marketing Assistant, Weston Playhouse Theatre Company (Vermont)