

Benjamin Curns

Curriculum Vitae

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Education & Training

MFA University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC Candidate 2017

- Professional Actor Training Program employing world class instructors and guest artists such as Faye Simpson, Scott Miller, Jed Diamond, and Zachary Michael Fine. Graduate work includes company membership in PlayMakers Repertory Company, an on-campus Equity level theatre producing new plays, Classics, and musicals under the artistic direction of Joe Haj and presently under Vivienne Benesch.

Core Training

- Ray Dooley: Classical Acting: Shakespeare & Restoration
- Julia Gibson: Acting: Meisner Technique, Contemporary Classics
- Craig Turner: Movement: Mask Work, Tai Chi, Juggling, Animal Study
- John Patrick: Voice & Speech: Miller Voice Method, Michael Chekov Technique, On-Camera Acting
- Maria Enriquez: Movement: Suzuki & View Points
- Tracy Bersley: Movement: Devised Pieces, Period Styles
- Zachary Michael Fine: Clown

Master Classes

- Erica Arvold: Acting and Auditioning for Camera
- Faye Simpson: "The Lucid Body" Workshop
- Scott Miller: Miller Voice Technique
- Tommy Noonan: Impulsive Movement Workshop
- Jed Diamond: Alexander Technique Workshop

BA State University of New York at Cortland, Cortland, NY 12/24/1999

- Double major in History & Secondary Social Studies with Theatre Minor
- Successfully completed teacher training and student teaching practicum
- Member & Chapter President of Alpha Psi Omega, the National Dramatics Honor Society and on-campus production company. Under my leadership, the organization grew its budget to where it was possible to produce two plays per season as well as introducing the production of children's plays in an effort to serve the off campus community.
- James Palmer: Classical Acting
- Paul LeDoux: Contemporary Acting Styles
- Tom Hischak: Directing, Theatre History

Society of American Fight Directors, various instructors & locations 6/05-Present

- Examining the physicality and psychology of effective representations of violence for the stage. Currently a certified Actor/Combatant in:
 - Quarterstaff (Jeff A.R. Jones, Present)
 - Unarmed (Richard Raether: (2016), Bob Aronson: (2015), JP Schiedler: (2012)
 - Single Sword (Colleen Kelly: 2007, 2010), JP Schiedler: (2013)
 - Knife (Michael Johnson: 2005, Colleen Kelly: 2008, 2011, JP Schiedler: 2013, Jason Tate: 2016),
 - Rapier/Dagger (Dale Diggard: 2016, Denise Hurd: 2005)
 - Broadsword (David Brimmer: 2016).

American Freestyle Karate Staunton, VA 6/12-6/15

- Self-Defense, open hand & weapons katas, Fighting Combinations, Grab techniques, sparring, participation in local tournaments. Black Belt.

American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY Summer 1998

- Certificate received for completion of six-week actor-training program.
- Kent Paul: Meisner Technique Acting
- Liz Shipman: Movement
- Paige Clements: Voice & Speech
- Dramatic Singing: John Bayliss

TEACHING

2014-Present

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Chapel Hill, NC

- **Instructor: (DRA 135)** Instructor for Acting for Non-Majors. Subjects explored include Stage Combat, Scene Analysis, introduction to Shakespeare and study of heightened language. Students are evaluated based on class performances, written assignments (i.e. reviewing professional theatre productions, character history analysis, etc), vocabulary quizzes, and oral presentations.

In my second semester teaching the class, I created and implemented a production model whereby the class is reimagined as a production ensemble creating an edited version of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. This model engages students not only in scene work, but in production elements such as sound, deck crew, and stage combat so that a greater understanding of the theatrical process is achieved.

The final exam every semester is an oral presentation wherein students explore and discuss how topics covered in class, rehearsal, and performance can be useful in their chosen majors or career paths.

- **Teaching Assistant (DRA 116)** for two sections of introductory theatre arts lecture classes. Proctoring exams, advising and grading both theatrical reviews and cooperative group projects centered on theatrical production. Grades and feedback entered through the online Sakai program.

2001-2014 American Shakespeare Center Staunton, VA

- **Education Coordinator** on three national tours: conceiving and teaching various workshops on Shakespeare's plays, language, staging conditions for students from high school to University level (including Yale, Georgetown, Duke, University of Ottawa). I co-conceived a workshop program for elementary level students that had students physicalize the language of Shakespeare's *Henry V* as well as a university level workshop where students categorized and performed different genres of comedy employed by Oscar Wilde in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
- **Tour Guide** for Blackfriars Playhouse, the world's only re-creation of Shakespeare's indoor theatre. Knowledge of Renaissance theatre history, public speaking, and customer service.
- **Federal Executive Institute** participated and/or led workshops on "Leadership in Shakespeare" for Federal employees. Program was divided into lecture/demo portion, then a second half with audience participation and performance.
- **Young Company Theatre Camp**. Stage combat instructor: Led workshops where young actors explore stage violence, safe partnering, telling a story through combat, Shakespearean text. Subsequent lecture demos have been taught on verse & text, using the First Folio, and music in production context.

GUEST TEACHING ARTIST

Brave Spirits Theatre Company, Alexandria, VA 6/2016

- I was invited by the company Artistic Director to lead company members in a workshop I designed aimed at exploring audience contact during performance of early-modern plays: concepts were introduced, demonstrated, and then participants were given time to incorporate these ideas into their own performances.

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, various 9/09-6/13

- Visited English classes concentrating on Shakespeare to give performance perspective and how performance influences the writing and how writing can influence performance choices. These visits have alternated between a general overview of Shakespeare and more play-specific lecture demos such as discussions on my youth production of *The Winter's Tale* or my professional production of *Dr. Faustus*.

Fishersville Governor's School Fishersville, VA Fall 2009-2014

- Led 2-6 week workshops in which high school students were coached on the understanding and performance of monologues and scenes from Shakespeare. I designed lessons on poetic meter, projection, rhetorical devices, working with a partner, elementary acting skills.

Actors' Shakespeare Company Will in Neighborhood Schools (WINS!) Jersey City, NJ 2/05, 2/06

- Leading workshops and lecture/demonstrations with two other actors to help students analyze *Romeo & Juliet's* language, issues of violence, Renaissance costuming and staging

CONSULTANCIES

2015:

Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, VA

- Served as consultant for thesis exploring acting with live animals on the early modern and contemporary stage. Having performed in two full productions of Shakespeare's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, I was

interviewed about the successes or failures in the use of a live dog in performance and how the experiences differed between the two productions. I also submitted my own personal production journal from when I played Launce to be used as a source. My experiences were then compared and contrasted with other productions from both the contemporary and early-modern eras.

2012:

Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, VA

- Served as advisor for graduate directed inquiry which culminated in a production of Beaumont and Fletcher's *The Maid's Tragedy*; conducted regular meetings to discuss progress and challenges and provided fight choreography for the production. My program credit was "production advisor" and "fight director". Special attention was given to pacing and the political nature of gender roles in the production.
- Served on discussion panel regarding graduate production of *The Intiatiat Countess* by John Marston. Offered critiques and constructive criticism in tandem with department heads and thesis advisors on issues including theatricality, casting, anti-Semitism, and preparing audiences for lesser known material. I attended the production and shared my notes with the cast, production team, and their faculty.

2009:

Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, VA

- Served as reader for Graduate thesis role/presentation on Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*. Duties included reading the actor's personal production journal and offering advice on which entries provided good fodder for further exploration as well as identifying which entries were less useful. I also asked questions, probed for further specificity, and suggested re-writes at the student's defense.

The Shakespeare Forum, New York, NY

- Participant and coach for working Shakespeare monologues and scenes with young actors. This was not for a full length production, but rather the Forum was set up as a low-cost "gym" where New York actors could re-examine and improve on existing audition material, experiment with new pieces, or even just explore dream roles in an environment which offered constructive criticism as well as a live audience.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

2013

American Shakespeare Center Blackfriars Conference, Staunton, VA

Presented original article *Richard: Portrait of a Serial Killer* which discussed the common traits between Shakespeare's drawing of Richard III and the modern American serial killer.

2012

Globe Theatre, London, UK

A colleague and I were invited to speak to several staff members at The Globe, many of whom worked in the Education Department, about our experience performing in the recreated Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, VA. Since The Globe was on the eve of opening their own indoor playing space, we shared stories of past productions: the successes and failures, what we have found to be useful in our indoor space, opinions about which plays seem to work best in such spaces, and how contact with the visible audience and the observing of other Elizabethan and Jacobean staging conditions is essential in such spaces.

Marlowe Society of America, Blackfriars Playhouse, Staunton, VA

Attendee for screening of Grandfather Film's *The Jew of Malta*, and participant in post screening discussion.

2011

American Shakespeare Center Blackfriars Conference, Staunton, VA

Participated in a “Hamlet Symposium”, a gathering of several actors whom had all played Hamlet to discuss similarities and differences in approach, understanding, actions, and results.

2007

American Shakespeare Center Blackfriars Conference, Staunton, VA

Presented original article *‘Tis Pity We Open in Ten Days* which explored actor-generated fight choreography.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Free To Be Under Three New York, NY 2/05-2/08

- Lead teacher for acclaimed “Mommy & Me” program. Areas covered include language building, socialization, live music, storytelling, and art & science projects.
- Assisted other lead teachers: preparing teaching materials and other supplies, set up and breakdown of various projects, etc

Rock-a-Baby New York, NY 4/08-6/09

- Associate Teacher/Musician for “Mommy & Me” program. Live performance of standard children’s songs, modern pop music, stories, operating puppets with character voices.
- Featured character on the debut album *It’s a Musical World*. (see “Publications”)

Partners With Parents Tutoring New York, NY 9/08-6/09

- Served as one on one tutor for middle school student. Test prep, organization, reading comprehension, communication with parents regarding progress.
- Created and used practice tests and various memorization drills.

Sylvan Learning Center New York, NY 6/04-6/09

- Personal Tutor for students aged 6-18 in reading, remedial math, beginning reading, and personalized programs for non-traditional and at-risk students including Regents exam prep
- Updated daily lesson plans and activities based on student progress for the entire UWS branch. Reported to education director regarding students’ successes and difficulties

Windsor High School (Windsor, NY) 1/99-6/99

- Long Term Substitute for two 11th grade classes & two 9th grade Social Studies classes. Regents exam preparation, daily lesson plans and student activities, research papers, group projects, giving exams, working in tandem with other dept. teachers on more “hands-on” projects. Special attention was given to non-Western cultural contributions and advances.

Maine-Endwell High School (Endwell, NY) (9/99-12/99)

- Student Teacher for two 11th grade and two 9th grade Social Studies classes. Working with cooperating teacher on lesson plans & lectures, group activities, Regents preparation, etc

ACTING

STAGE

2016

Geva Theatre Center, Rochester, NY

Disgraced, (staged reading), by Ayad Akhtar

Director: Shishir Kurup,

PlayMakers Repertory Company, Chapel Hill, NC

The Crucible, by Arthur Miller

Role: Thomas Putnam

Director: Desdemona Chiang

Sweeney Todd, by Stephen Sondheim & Hugh Wheeler

Role: The Bird Seller, Ensemble

Director: Jen Wineman

Starring: Annie Golden, David St. Louis

Three Sisters by, Anton Chekov, adapted by Libby Appel

Role: Andrei Sergeyich Prozorov

Director: Vivienne Benesch

Starring: Ray Dooley

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC Professional Acting Training Program

Chrysilia, by Emma Gutt (Reading sponsored by Classics Department; Winner of Samuel Seldon Playwriting Award)

Role: Calias

Directed by the Playwright

Mr. Messiah, by Dana Coen (Reading sponsored by the UNC Process Series)

Role: Ted Feely

Directed by the Playwright

The Pavilion, by Craig Wright

Role: Peter Mollberg

Director: Dana Marks

2015

PlayMakers Repertory Company, Chapel Hill, NC

Peter & The Star Catcher, by Rick Elise with Music by Wayne Barker

Role: Mrs. Bumbrake, Teacher

Director: Brendon Fox

Starring: Evan Johnson and Mitch Jarvis

Disgraced, by Ayad Akhtar

Role: Issac

Director: Shishir Kurup

Enemy of the People, by Arthur Miller based on the play by Henrik Ibsen

Role: Hovstad

Director: Tom Quaintance

Starring: Michael French

Trouble In Mind, by Alice Childress

Role: (Al Manners Understudy)

Director: Jade King Carroll

Starring: Roger Robinson

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC Professional Acting Training Program

The Kritik, by Brenda Withers (World Premiere)

Role: Stanislav

Director: Brenda Withers

2014

PlayMakers Repertory Company, Chapel Hill, NC

Into the Woods, by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine

Role: Steward, (Baker Understudy)

Director: Joseph Haj

Starring: Lisa Brecia

A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare

Role: Francis Flute, Fairy, and Oberon Understudy

Director: Shana Cooper

2013

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Romeo & Juliet, by William Shakespeare

Role: Chorus, Montague, Nurse

Director: Jim Warren

Starring: Dylan Paul and Tracie Thomason

Return to the Forbidden Planet, by Bob Carlton

Role: Bosun, Principal Musician: bass, guitar, drum kit

Director: Jim Warren

All's Well That Ends Well, by William Shakespeare

Role: Parolles (Nominated: Best Supporting Actor, Falstaff Awards)

Director: Ralph Alan Cohen

Troilus & Cressida, by William Shakespeare

Role: Chorus, Achilles

Director: Jim Warren

She Stoops to Conquer, by Oliver Goldsmith

Role: Mr. Hardcastle

Director: Jim Warren

Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare

Role: Julius Caesar, Soldier #2

Directed by the Ensemble

The Country Wife, by William Wycherly

Role: Harry Horner

Directed by the Ensemble

Henry VIII, by William Shakespeare

Role: Henry VIII

Directed by the Ensemble

The Custom of the Country, by John Fletcher and Phillip Massinger

Role: Rutillio

Directed by the Ensemble

Two Noble Kinsmen, by William Shakespeare and John Fletcher

Role: Hymen, Varius, Jailer's Brother

Directed by the Ensemble

2012

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

King John, by William Shakespeare

Role: The Bastard (winner: Best Actor Award, Shaltz Shakespeare Reviews)

Director: Jim Warren

Two Gentlemen of Verona, by William Shakespeare

Role: Launce

Director: Ralph Alan Cohen

Cymbeline, by William Shakespeare

Role: Iachimo

Director: Jim Warren

The Lion in Winter, by James Goldman

Role: Richard

Director: Jim Warren

The Merchant of Venice, by William Shakespeare

Role: Gratiano

Director: Jim Warren

Much Ado About Nothing, by William Shakespeare

Role: Benedick

Directed by the Ensemble

Richard III, by William Shakespeare

Role: Richard

Directed by the Ensemble

Philaster, by Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher

Role: Claremont

Directed by the Ensemble

A Mad World, My Masters, by Thomas Middleton

Role: Ensign Hoboy

Directed by the Ensemble

Dido, Queen of Carthage, by Christopher Marlowe

Role: Jupiter

Directed by the Ensemble

2011

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Tamburlaine the Great, by Christopher Marlowe

Role: Mycetes, Basso, Governor

Director: Jim Warren

Henry V, by William Shakespeare

Role: Pistol, Grandpre

Director: Ralph Alan Cohen

Hamlet, by William Shakespeare

Role: Polonius, Fortinbras, 1st Gravedigger

Director: Jim Warren

The Importance of Being Earnest, by Oscar Wilde

Role: Algernon Moncrieff

Director: Jim Warren

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare

Role: Caliban

Director: Jim Warren

A Trick To Catch the Old One, by Thomas Middleton

Role: Walkadine Hoard

Directed by the Ensemble

Henry VI Part 3, by William Shakespeare

Role: Richard Gloucester

Directed by the Ensemble

Look About You, by Anonymous

Role: Gloucester

Directed by the Ensemble

The Malcontent, by John Marston

Role: Malevole

Directed by the Ensemble

Comedy of Errors, by William Shakespeare

Role: Egeon

Directed by the Ensemble

2010

Cherry Lane Theatre, New York NY

Macbeth II: The Seed of Banquo (Staged Reading), by Noah Lukeman

Role: Malcolm

Director: Noah Lukeman

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Othello, by William Shakespeare

Role: Iago

Director: Jim Warren

Taming of the Shrew, by William Shakespeare

Role: Petruchio

Director: Jim Warren

Wild Oats, by John O'Keefe

Role: Farmer Gammon

Director: Jim Warren

Henry IV part 2 by William Shakespeare

Role: Pistol, Archbishop of York

Director: Ralph Alan Cohen

Fair Maid of the West, by Thomas Heywood

Role: Forset

Director: Jim Warren

Twelfth Night, by William Shakespeare

Role: Sir Toby Belch

Directed by the Ensemble

Doctor Faustus, by Christopher Marlowe

Role: Mephistopheles

Directed by the Ensemble

The Alchemist, by Ben Jonson

Role: Face

Directed by the Ensemble

Henry VI part 2, by William Shakespeare

Role: Gloucester, Whitmore, Richard

Directed by the Ensemble

The Roman Actor, by Phillip Massinger
Role: Parthenius
Directed by the Ensemble

2009

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare
Role: Puck, Starveling
Directed by the Ensemble

The Revenger's Tragedy, by Thomas Middleton
Role: Vindice
Directed by the Ensemble

Henry VI part one, by William Shakespeare
Role: Humphrey of Gloucester
Directed by the Ensemble

The Changeling, by Thomas Middleton and William Rowley
Role: DeFlores
Directed by the Ensemble

The Blind Beggar of Alexandria, by George Chapman
Role: Ptolomey
Directed by the Ensemble

Shakespeare On Ice, by Paul Menzer (World Premiere at Blackfriars Conference)
Role: Shaxper
Directed by Benjamin Curns

2008

American Globe Theatre, New York, NY

Henry V (staged reading), by William Shakespeare
Role: Pistol
Director: John Basil

Henry IV part 2 (staged reading), by William Shakespeare
Role: Falstaff
Director: Vince Masterpaul

SHAKESPEARE/NYC, New York, NY

Henry IV parts 1&2, by William Shakespeare
Role: Falstaff
Director: Beverly Bullock

Theatre-Studio Inc. New York, NY

The Frogs, by Aristophanes

Role: Son

Director: Joann Sacco

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Macbeth, by William Shakespeare

Role: Macbeth

Directed by the Ensemble

Volpone, by Ben Jonson

Role: Mosca

Directed by the Ensemble

Cymbeline, by William Shakespeare

Role: Cloten

Directed by the Ensemble

The Jew of Malta, by Christopher Marlowe

Role: Machiavelli, Pilia-Borza

Directed by the Ensemble

The Witch, by Thomas Middleton

Role: Gaspero

Directed by the Ensemble

2007

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Antony & Cleopatra, by William Shakespeare

Role: Enobarbus

Director: Jim Warren

Love's Labour's Lost, by William Shakespeare

Role: Costard

Director: Jaq Bessel

Romeo & Juliet, by William Shakespeare

Role: Mercutio, Gregory

Director: Jim Warren

Starring: Susan Heyward

The Winter's Tale, by William Shakespeare

Role: Archidamus, Autolycus

Director: Kate Powers

Hamlet Q1, by William Shakespeare

Role: Hamlet

Directed by the Ensemble

The Duchess of Malfi, by John Webster

Role: The Cardinal

Directed by the Ensemble

Pericles, by William Shakespeare

Role: Antiochus

Directed by the Ensemble

The Brats of Clarence, by Paul Menzer

Role: The Nancy, Cleave-Gag

Directed by the Ensemble

The Devil is an Ass, by Ben Jonson

Role: Everill, Trains

Directed by the Ensemble

2006

SHAKESPEARE/NYC New York, NY

Taming of the Shrew, by William Shakespeare

Role: Christopher Sly, Nathaniel, and Vincentio

Director: Beverly Bullock

Actors's Shakespeare Company, Jersey City, NJ

Twelfth Night, by William Shakespeare

Role: Sir Toby Belch

Directors: Ron Sanborn & Mia Borrelli

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Romeo & Juliet, by William Shakespeare

Role: Mercutio, Montague

Directed by the Ensemble

'Tis Pity She's a Whore, by John Ford

Role: Vasques

Directed by the Ensemble

Eastward Ho!, by Ben Jonson, George Chapman, John Marston

Role: Captain Seagull

Directed by the Ensemble

The Brats of Clarence, by Paul Menzer (World Premiere)

Role: The Nancy

Directed by the Ensemble

2005

The Loft Theatre, Dowling College, Oakdale, NY

Twelfth Night, by William Shakespeare
Role: Feste (Guest Artist)
Director: Stephen Wisker

Actors' Shakespeare Company, Jersey City, NJ

Cymbeline (staged reading), by William Shakespeare
Role: Cloten
Director: Michael Hajek

Theatre-Studio Inc., New York, NY

Peter Pan's Complexion, by Michael Burdick (World Premiere)
Role: Charlie
Director: Synge Maher

IRIS Productions/Producer's Club New York, NY

'Diggers, by Michael Burdick
Role: Gravedigger #1
Director: Michael Burdick

WOODEN O Productions/Producer's Club, New York, NY

The Merchant of Venice, by William Shakespeare
Role: Launcelot Gobbo
Director: Tim Martin

American Globe Theatre, New York, NY

A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare
Role: Bottom
Director: John Basil

2004

Mad Prophet/Clemente Soto Velez, New York, NY

Richard III, by William Shakespeare
Role: Clarence, Lord Mayor
Director: Adam Drayer

The Fall Collection Festival, New York, NY

All the Little People, by Paul Cohen
Role: The Composer
Director: Devin Burnam

Strawberry Festival of New One-Act Plays, New York, NY

'Diggers, by Michael Burdick
Role: Gravedigger #1
Director: Michael Providence

NYC Playwrights, New York, NY

To the Orangerie by Nancy McClaren

Role: Nazi Trooper

Director: Synge Maher

Blunt Theatre Company, New York, NY

Measure for Measure, by William Shakespeare

Role: Pompey

Director: Jamie Taylor

2003

Shenandoah Shakespeare (now American Shakespeare Center) Staunton, VA

Henry IV part one, by William Shakespeare

Role: Falstaff

Directors: Joyce Peiffer, Jim Warren

Two Gentlemen of Verona, by William Shakespeare

Role: Speed, Outlaw

Director: Fred Nelson

A Christmas Carol, by Jim Warren based on story by Charles Dickens

Role: Narrator

Director: Dennis Henry

Hampstead Players (now HAMPSTEAD STAGE COMPANY)

Shakespeare for Kids III, by Michael Phillips adapted from Shakespeare

Role: Shakspeare, Macbeth, Shylock, Malvolio

Director: Synge Maher

Alice in Wonderland, by Michael Phillips based on the story by Lewis Carrol

Role: Red Queen, White Rabbit, Mad Hatter

Director: Joy Blythe

2002

Live Arts, Charlottesville, VA

Wake Up and Smell the Coffee, by Eric Bogosian

Role: Solo Performance

Director: Amanda McRaven

Shenandoah Shakespeare, Staunton, VA

Henry V, by William Shakespeare

Role: Pistol, French King

Director: Betsy Tucker

Comedy of Errors, by William Shakespeare

Role: Dromio of Ephesus

Director: Jeff Cleavenger

Saint Joan, by George Bernard Shaw

Role: Jack Dunois

Director: John Manness

2001

New Millenium Actors Network New Play Festival, New York, NY

New Hope, by Bob Quinn

Role: The Stranger

Director: Dennis Gleason

Theatre-Studio Inc. New York, NY

The Unemployed Killers, by Benjamin Curns

Role: The Emsemble

Directed by the Ensemble

The Killer's Killer, by Benjamin Curns

Role: Man

Directed: Benjamin Curns

2000

Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre, Wytheville, VA

Home for the Holidays, a review by Jason Paffort

Role: Various

Director: Michael Stanek

Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber

Role: Pharoah

Director: Michael Stanek

Romeo & Juliet, By William Shakespeare

Role: Mercutio, Prince, Chorus

Director: James Lyle

Lend Me a Tenor, by Ken Ludwig

Role: Harry Saunders

Director: Jeffrey Tangeman

A Funny Thing...Way to the Forum, by Stephen Sondheim w/ Burt Shevelove & Larry Gelbart

Role: Pseudolus

Director: Kerby Thompson

Grease! by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

Role: Kenikie

Director: Christina Tate

1999

Cortland Repertory Theatre, Cortland, NY

The Mikado, by W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan

Role: Chorus

Director: John Carmichael

The Man of La Mancha by Dale Wasserman, Joe Darion, and Mitch Lee

Role: Inquisition Captain, Muleteer

Director: Kathy EB Ellis

FILM:

2014:

University of Nebraska, Lincoln NE, MFA THESIS FILM

Berenice, by Dennis Henry based on the story by Edgar Alan Poe

Role: Aegeus

Director: Dennis Henry

2012

Grandfather Films, New York, NY

The Jew of Malta, screenplay by Douglas Morse based on the play by Christopher Marlowe

Role: Machiavelli

Director: Douglas Morse

Starring: Seth Duerr

2006

Grandfather Films, New York, NY

The Summoning of Everyman, screenplay by Douglas Morse based on the Anonymous play

Role: The Prologue (Messenger)

Director: Douglas Morse

1999

IRIS Productions, Rochester, NY

Sins of the Afterlife, by Michael Burdick

Role: Bum

Director: D. Bryan Rice

DIRECTING

Professional Productions:

2016 American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Romeo & Juliet, by William Shakespeare

PlayMakers Repertory Company, Chapel Hill, NC

King Lear (Staged Reading), by William Shakespeare

2015 American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp, Staunton, VA

Cymbeline, by William Shakespeare

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare

2014 American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp Staunton, VA

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Much Ado About Nothing, by William Shakespeare

Stuart Hall Boarding School, Staunton, VA

Antony & Cleopatra, by William Shakespeare

2011 Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Philadelphia, PA

The Boy, by Daniel Kennedy

American Shakespeare Center Blackfriars Conference, Staunton, VA

'Diggers by Michael Burdick

2009 American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp, Staunton, VA

The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare

Shakespeare Showcase, conceived and directed by Benjamin Curns

Romeo & Juliet, William Shakespeare; a production for the "Midsummer Day Camp", a group of pre-teen actors. Production co-directed by Sarah Bowles.

American Shakespeare Center Blackfriars Conference, Staunton, VA

Shakespeare on Ice, by Paul Menzer (World Premiere)

2006

Excellent Motion Shakespeare Company, San Diego, CA

Macbeth, by William Shakespeare

American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp, Staunton, VA

Henry IV part 2, by William Shakespeare

2003

American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp, Staunton, VA

All's Well That Ends Well, by William Shakespeare

2002

American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp, Staunton, VA

Othello, by William Shakespeare

Black T-Shirt Theatre Company./JCC, Rochester, NY

Macbeth, by William Shakespeare

2001

Theatre-Studio Inc. New York, NY

Anticipation, by Benjamin Curns

The Unemployed Killers, by Benjamin Curns

The Killer's Killer by Benjamin Curns

2000

Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre, Wytheville, VA

Arsenic & Old Lace, by Joseph Kesselring

ASSISTANT DIRECTING

2004

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

The Importance of Being Earnest, by Oscar Wilde

Director: Nick Hutchison

2002

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Served as replacement Tour Manager and Education Coordinator for 2002 "Beguile the Rich" national tour. Duties included making weekly schedules for the cast, recording expenses, giving notes after each performance, coordinating with venue contacts about arrival times, meal arrangements, facilities, set-up, etc. Tour culminated in a two week residency of Love's Labour's Lost at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington DC.

Macbeth, by William Shakespeare

Directors: Jim Warren & David Doersh

The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare

Director: Fred Nelson

Love's Labour's Lost by William Shakespeare

Director: Nick Hutchison

FIGHT DIRECTING

Professional Productions

2016

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Romeo & Juliet, by William Shakespeare

Director: Benjamin Curns

2015

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare
Director: Benjamin Curns

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

As You Like It, by William Shakespeare
Director: Hope Alexander

The Will of Bernard Boynton, by Mark Perry
Directors: Mark Perry and Kathryn Hunter-Williams

PlayMakers Repertory Company, Chapel Hill, NC

Enemy of the People, by Arthur Miller
Director: Tom Quaintance
*Also served as production Fight Captain

Disgraced, by Ayad Akhtar
Director: Shishir Kurrup
*Also served as production Fight Captain

Peter & The Starcatcher, by Rick Elise with Music by Wayne Barker
Director: Brendon Fox
*Also Served as Production Fight Captain

2014

PlayMakers Repertory Company, Chapel Hill, NC

Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare
Director: Shana Cooper
*Also served as production Fight Captain

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Macbeth, by William Shakespeare
Director: Jim Warren

Cyrano deBergerac, by Edmund Rostand, adapted by Anthony Burgess
Director: Jim Warren

Comedy of Errors, by William Shakespeare
Director: Ralph Alan Cohen

Hamlet, by William Shakespeare
Director: Jim Warren

2013

Mary Baldwin College MFA Program, Staunton, VA

Margaret: A Tyger's Heart by Michael Sexton, adapted from Shakespeare
Director: Kelly Elliot

The Maid's Tragedy, by Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher
Director: Asae Dean

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Romeo & Juliet, by William Shakespeare
Director: Jim Warren
*also served as production Fight Captain

Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare
Directed by the Ensemble

The Custom of the Country, by John Fletcher & Phillip Massinger
Directed by the Ensemble

Two Noble Kinsmen, by William Shakespeare & John Fletcher
Directed by the Ensemble

2012

Mary Baldwin College MFA Program, Staunton, VA

Hamlet, by William Shakespeare
Director: Zach Brown

Stonewall Jackson High School, Manassas, VA

Romeo & Juliet, by William Shakespeare
Director: Kate Quinlan

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Cymbeline, by William Shakespeare
Director: Jim Warren
*Also Served as production Fight Captain

2011

Greenbrier Valley Theatre Youth Education Productions, Lewisburg, WV

Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare
Director: Laurie Riffe

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare
Director: Laurie Riffe

Live Arts, Charlottesville, VA

Superior Donuts, by Tracy Letts
Collaboration with Jeremy L. West
Director: Chris Baumer

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Henry VI part 3, by William Shakespeare
Collaboration with Jeremy L. West
Directed by the Ensemble

Mary Baldwin College MFA Program, Staunton, VA

King John, by William Shakespeare
Director: Jemma Levy

The Spanish Tragedy by Thomas Kyd
Director: Asae Dean

2010

Live Arts, Charlottesville, VA

Henry IV parts 1&2, by William Shakespeare, adapted by Sara Holdren
Director: Sara Holdren

2009

Mary Baldwin College MFA Program, Staunton, VA

Pericles, by William Shakespeare
Director: Tina Packer

St. Ann's-Belfield Academy, Charlottesville, VA

Romeo & Juliet, by William Shakespeare
Director: Dorene Fischer

American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp, Staunton, VA

Macbeth, by William Shakespeare
Director: Matt Sincell

2008

Roust Theatre Company, New York, NY

Macbeth, by William Shakespeare
Director: James Phillip Gates

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

The Jew of Malta, by Christopher Marlowe
Served as Production Fight Captain

2007

American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp, Staunton, VA

Titus Andronicus, by William Shakespeare
Director: Sybille Bruun

2006

ShakespeareNYC, New York, NY

The Taming of the Shrew, by William Shakespeare
Director: Beverly Bullock
Choreographer: Al Foote III
*Served as Production Fight Captain

Excellent Motion Shakespeare Company, San Diego, CA

Macbeth, by William Shakespeare
Director: Benjamin Curns

American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp, Staunton, VA

Henry IV part 2, by William Shakespeare
Director: Benjamin Curns

2005 Fire Island Shakespeare Festival, Fire Island, NY

I Hate Hamlet, by Paul Rudnick
Director: David Godbey

MUSICIAN

2001-2013

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA Principal musician for resident house band on tour and of the Blackfriars Playhouse. Responsibilities included preparing musical entertainments to be played prior to the start of the performance and during the intervals. In addition to arranging the ensemble, singing, and playing guitar, drums, bass, mandolin, djembe, and tubular bells, I also regularly composed music for use in the performance itself, i.e. the Weird Sisters' "Black Spirits" song from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

2010-2014

Squintibus, rock band, Staunton, VA Lead vocalist, lyricist, and guitarist for rock band incorporating elements of punk, bluegrass, and gypsy music. Used both acoustic and electric guitars while playing live performances and recording two full-length albums.

2008-2009

Rock-a-Baby, New York, NY Rhythm guitarist and vocalist for infant to toddler music program. Songs alternated from standard children's fare to pop music to original compositions. Also voiced the puppet character "Rhythm" (see Recordings/Publications)

WRITING

2001-2013

American Shakespeare Center, Staunton, VA

Frequent writer of comedic pre-performance sketches designed to give audience information about the theatre space, the company, and the show itself. Often these included other members of the ensemble and elements of music, poetry, and comedy.

2000

Theatre-Studio Inc. New York, NY

Writer of three ten-minute plays chosen by Theatre-Studio Inc. for production: *Anticipation*, *The Killer's Killer* and *The Unemployed Killers*, which was selected to be part of TSI's "best of the year".

Publications/Recordings

- Refereed Article: *Instant Prince of Cats*, The Fight Master Fall/Winter 2014 pp.27-29
- Music Recording: *Almost Everybody Missed It*, Squintibus Live CD, Summer 2014
- Refereed Article: *Determined To Prove a Villain*, The Playhouse Insider Fall 2014
- Music Recording: *Give Up The Ghost*, Squintibus Debut CD, Summer 2013
- Voice Recording: *Shakespeare Teaching Guide (Hamlet)*, K12 Inc Summer 2009
- Music Recording: *It's A Musical World*, Rock-a Baby Debut CD Spring 2009
- Refereed Article: *'Tis Pity We Open in Ten Days*, The Fight Master Fall/Winter 2007 pp.25-27

Grants/Awards

- University of North Carolina Chapel Hill grants for extra-university study of stage combat June 2016, September 2016
- Best Scene: 2016 SAFD National Stage Combat Workshop (NSCW)
- David L. Boushey Founder's Award for Excellence in Unarmed Combat 2016 (NSCW)
- Intern's Award for Dynamic Acting Choices 2016 (NSCW)
- Best Actor Award: 2012 Shaltz Shakespeare Reviews
- Best Supporting Actor Nomination: 2013 Falstaff Awards

Professional Association Affiliations

- Actors Equity Association
- Society of American Fight Directors
- Alpha Psi Omega; The National Dramatics Honor Society

Professional References for Teaching

- Ray Dooley, Professor, and Head of MFA Acting
rdooley@email.unc.edu
919-962-8272
- Dr. Paul Menzer, Professor & Director, Mary Baldwin University Shakespeare & Performance Program
paulmenzer@gmail.com
540-887-7058
- Dr. Ralph Alan Cohen, Co-Founder and Director of Mission, American Shakespeare Center/Co-Founder & Professor Emeritus Mary Baldwin University Shakespeare & Performance MFA Program

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(540) 885-5588
- Sarah Enloe, Director of Education, American Shakespeare Center

sarahe@americanshakespearecenter.com
(540) 292-3395
- Doreen Bechtol, Assistant Professor & Director of Training Mary Baldwin University Shakespeare & Performance MFA Program

dbechtol@marybaldwin.edu
(540) 849-8571
- Jeremy L. West, Director of Theatre Programs, Stuart Hall

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(570) 238-2522