

# BEKI BAKER

Curriculum Vitae

Educator/Director/Producer

## CONTACT

Lipscomb University  
One University Park Drive  
Nashville, TN 37215

Email: beki.baker@lipscomb.edu  
Phone: 615-966-5728  
Web: www.bekibaker.com

## EDUCATION

**M.F.A. in Directing**, Baylor University, 2009

Thesis: *A Director's Approach to Steve Martin's Picasso at the Lapin Agile*  
Awards: Full Teaching/Research Assistantship, Baylor Plus Salute  
Service: Theatre Department Graduate Student Advisory Board member,  
Creator/performer of *iGrad* graduate school orientation production

**B.F.A. in Performance**, Baylor University, 2004

Awards: Presidential Scholarship (4 years), Dean's List (4 years), *Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities* (2004)  
Service: Theatre Department Student Advisory Board  
International: Summer Abroad in Madrid, Spain

**Teaching Certification:** Theatre K-12, Tennessee Certified, 2006

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Freelance Professional Director**, 2010-present

**Education Director**, Nashville Shakespeare Festival, 2010-2012

**Co-Producer** with Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Spotlight Awards, 2014-present

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

### LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

Chair, Associate Professor (2020-present); Assistant Professor (2014-2020); Adjunct Professor (2010-2014)

## **COURSES**

### **Beginning Directing (TH 2113) [3 hr.]**

Led student through contemporary play directing projects focused on both organic and highly structured directing styles. Worked in collaboration with the Beginning Acting course.

### **Advanced Directing (TH 4203) [3 hr.]**

Mentored students in directing period style scenes and plays in collaboration with the Advanced Acting class. Showcases have included Greek, Shakespeare, Early Realism, Absurdism and American Classics.

### **Advanced Acting: Shakespeare (TH 4013) [3 hr.]**

Taught students how to approach, analyze, and explore Shakespearean monologues and scenes. Students also researched and presented on Shakespeare's plays and attended regional Shakespeare productions.

### **Improvational Acting (TH 3043) [3 hr.]**

Trained students in the art of improvisation, both short form and long form. Course led to a student-formed improvisation group on campus that still produces shows today.

### **Shakespeare and Leadership (LULT 2143) [3 hr.]**

Co-taught Honors College course with College of Business Dean exploring the intersection of Shakespeare's texts and leadership styles, including ideas of power, business as theatre, and leadership ethics. Have taught in-person and online asynchronous.

### **Contemporary Plays (TH 2011) [1 hr.]**

Led students in semester of reading, analyzing, and discussing plays written since 2000. Focused on historical context, themes, and relevance to contemporary audiences.

### **Dramaturgy (TH 3093) [3 hr.]**

Taught directing students the fundamentals of dramaturgy including research, analysis, theory and working with directors and production teams. Worked on actual productions.

### **Senior Seminar I (TH 4102) [2 hr.]**

Taught senior capstone course for all acting, directing, and design majors preparing to enter graduate school, teaching, and/or the professional industry. Course focused on both practical strategies and artistic development.

**Senior Seminar II (TH 4112) [2 hr.]**

Taught senior capstone course for all acting, directing, and design majors preparing to enter graduate school, teaching, and/or the professional industry. Course culminated in a showcase performance for acting students and design portfolio presentation for design students.

**Movement for the Stage (TH 2143) [3 hr.]**

Trained students to develop a sustained physical process in order to enhance acting impulses and character development. Used a variety of movement disciplines including Viewpoints Theory and Laban Effort Actions.

**Theatre History II (TH 4112) [3 hr.]**

Taught students theatre history from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This was a hybrid course.

**Theatre History II: Global Learning Trip to London (TH 4112) [3 hr.]**

Taught students theatre history in 10-day course in London. Trip included museums, walking tours, backstage tours, a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, and production experiences at the West End, The National Theatre, and The Globe Theatre.

**Special Topics: The Canon (TH 423V) [3 hr.]**

Led students through a play-reading class focused on analyzing important classical works. Helped students understand texts while developing their artistic point of view. Served as an introduction to dramaturgy.

**Voice and Diction (TH 2123) [3 hr.]**

Taught Lessac technique including proper breathing, posture, and vocal support. Emphasized the voice as a conduit to unlocking characterization and achieving acting objectives. Course explored both physical and vocal work in monologues and scenes.

**BAYLOR UNIVERSITY**

Teacher of Record (2007-2009)

Served as graduate research assistant, box office employee, and teacher of record during tenure. Received full-paid tuition. Directed two main-stage shows and assistant directed another. Completed a 120-page thesis exploring Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, which I also directed. Created and performed graduate school orientation play.

## **COURSES**

### **Theatre Appreciation (THEA 1206)**

Taught lecture-style class for enrollment of 200 students. Introduced students to basic theatre terms as well as history and literature.

### **Acting for Non-Majors (THEA 1314)**

Taught basic acting approaches to non-theatre students, focusing on how to apply training to non-theatre activities and careers.

## **FRANKLIN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS**

Instructor (2010)

## **COURSES**

### **Creative Dramatics, Acting Level I**

Taught acting classes to students at the level one.

### **Creative Dramatics, Acting Level II**

Taught acting classes to students at the level two.

## **REICHER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Teacher (2004-2006)

## **COURSES**

### **Introduction to Theatre**

Taught basic theatre acting exercises, techniques, theatre history, and more to students grades 9-12. Put on full productions of *Steel Magnolias* and *A Christmas Carol*.

### **Spanish I, II, III, and IV AP**

Taught multiple levels of Spanish to high school students. Worked with local elementary program to have students serve once a week. Led student trip to Spain.

## **PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS**

Panel. Strategies to Point Marginalized Students Towards Success. Southeastern Theatre Conference, March 2021.

Workshop. Improvisation for Actors. Nashville Children's Theatre, May 2021.

Performance Review. "Tomás and the Library Lady." *Texas Theatre Journal*, Volume 16 Issue 1, 2019.

Panel. "Mothers in Academia." Women in Theatre Festival Conference, July 2019.

Panel. "Faith, Theatre, & Academia: A Conversation." Southeastern Theatre Conference, March 2018.

Presentation: "Shakespeare and Leadership." Christian Scholar's Conference, June 2016.

Interview. "Digging Up Texas Roots: An Interview with Playwright Robert Askins." *Texas Theatre Journal*, Volume 10, Issue 1, 2014.

Performance Review. "Once." *Texas Theatre Journal*, Volume 9 Issue 1, 2013.

Paper. "Seeking the Light: Perceptions of Truth and Faith in Shanley's *Doubt*, *A Parable* and Guirgis's *Jesus Hopped the A Train*." Christian Scholars Conference, June 2010.

Paper. "The Pursuit of Keeping on Breathing: a Journey through Foote's Adaptation of Faulkner's *Tomorrow*." Horton Foote American Playwrights Festival, November 2009.

Literary Manager, Horton Foote American Playwrights Festival, March 2009.

## **DIRECTING EXPERIENCE**

### **PROFESSIONAL**

Director        ***Steel Magnolias***: Studio Tenn, Nashville, TN.

Director        ***A Christmas Carol***: Nashville Repertory Theatre.

Director        ***Julius Caesar***: Nashville Shakespeare Festival. Featuring Eddie George.

Director        ***Shakespeare's Case***: Nashville Shakespeare Festival.

Asst. Dir.      ***Love's Labor's Lost***: Nashville Shakespeare Festival.

Director        ***Together We are Making a Poem in Honor of Life***: Reading, Ingram New Works Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre.

Director        ***Showing***: Reading, Ingram New Works Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre.

Director        ***Pattern Seeking Animals***: Reading, Ingram New Works Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre.

Director      ***The Very Last Wishes of Grandpa Joe***: Reading, Ingram New Works Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre.

Director      ***The Second Avenue Subway***: Reading, Ingram New Works Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre.

#### **SEMI-PROFESSIONAL**

Co-Dir.      ***Tomorrow***: Tablerock Repertory Theatre, Salado, TX. Featuring Elizabeth A. Davis.

Director      ***Tarzan in Concert***: Disney Theatricals/Nat'l Assoc. for Music Education, Nashville, TN. Featuring Eden Espinosa.

Director      ***Stand***: Tour with Writer's Stage, Nashville, TN.

Director      ***Man and Superman***: Blackbird Theater Company, Nashville, TN.

Director      ***The Crucible***: Blackbird Theater Company/Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

#### **ACADEMIC**

Director      ***Bright Star***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director      ***Silent Sky***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director      ***She Loves Me***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director      ***Dancing at Lughnasa***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director      ***The Pajama Game***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director      ***Pride's Crossing***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director      ***The Glass Menagerie***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director      ***Much Ado about Nothing***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director      ***Picasso at the Lapin Agile***: Baylor University, Waco, TX.

Director      ***An Infinite Ache***: Baylor University, Waco, TX.

Asst. Dir.      ***The Importance of Being Earnest***: Baylor University, Waco, TX.

## OTHER

Director      **Love, Loss and What I Wore:** Reading, First Night Productions, Nashville, TN.

Director      **Hotel + Bar:** Reading, Pipeline Collective, Nashville, TN.

Director      **Black and Blue:** Reading, Tennessee Playwrights Festival, Nashville, TN.

## PRODUCING EXPERIENCE (LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY)

2020-2021      *As You Like It, Songs for a New World, Elevate* (all filmed)

2019-2020      *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, Bright Star, Kindertransport, Elevate: A Heavenly View*

2018-2019      *Tartuffe, Godspell, Silent Sky, Elevate: Higher Ground, Blood Wedding*

2017-2018      *The Miracle Worker, She Loves Me, Elevate: This is the Moment, On The Verge, Inherit the Wind* (w/ Nashville Repertory Theatre)

2016-2017      *The 39 Steps, Beauty and the Beast, Peter and the Starcatcher, Elevate: Still I Rise, Richard II* (w/ Nashville Shakespeare Festival)

2015-2016      *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged), Into the Woods, Elevate, The Crucible* (w/ Blackbird Theater Company), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

2014-2015      *Dancing at Lughnasa, Seussical, Reflections, West Side Story, Medea*

## ACTING EXPERIENCE

Anita              **The Coffee Trees:** Reading, Ensemble Studio Theatre, New York, NY.

Ensemble        **She Loves Me:** Dorset Theatre Festival, Dorset, VT.

Betty/Waitress   **All in the Timing:** Dorset Theatre Festival, Dorset, VT.

Narrator        **Lovers: Winners and Losers:** Dorset Theatre Festival, Dorset, VT.

Northumberland **Richard II:** Lipscomb/Nashville Shakespeare Festival.

Jester/Merlin    **Jester's Dead:** Reading, Nashville Shakespeare Festival.

Sister James     ***Doubt, A Parable***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.  
Monica           ***By the Bog of Cats***: Baylor University, Waco, TX.  
Good Angel       ***Doctor Faustus***: Baylor University, Waco, TX.  
Holly             ***Anton in Show Business***: Baylor University, Waco, TX.  
Aniko             ***The Caucasian Chalk Circle***: Baylor University, Waco, TX.  
Augusta Ada      ***Childe Byron***: Baylor University, Waco, TX.  
Hannah Jarvis   ***Arcadia***: Baylor University, Waco, TX.  
Masha            ***Three Sisters***: Baylor University, Waco, TX.  
Ensemble         ***The Oresteia***: Baylor University, Waco, TX.

## **IMPROVISATION EXPERIENCE**

Guerrilla Improv Comedy Troupe, 2001-2004, 2007-2009  
B.U.G.S. Theatre in Action Graduate Orientation, 2008-2009

## **MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE (STUDENT ASST. DIRECTORS)**

*Steel Magnolias*, Studio Tenn, Nashville, TN.  
*A Christmas Carol*, Nashville Repertory Theatre.  
*Bright Star*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.  
*Silent Sky*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.  
*The Crucible*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.  
*Dancing at Lughnasa*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.  
*Medea*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.  
*Exposure*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.



## **ORGANIZATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS**

Parent Artist Advocacy League (2019-present)  
Women in Theatre (2018-present)  
Christians in Theatre Arts (2018-present)  
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (2018-present)  
League of Professional Women in Theatre (2016-present)  
Southeastern Theatre Conference (2014-present)  
Theatre Communications Group (2004-present)

## **RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS**

2021 Received: Dean's Award of Excellence, Lipscomb University  
2020 Received: Outstanding Director of a Musical for *Bright Star*, Nashville First Night Awards  
2017 Received: Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, *Excellence in Direction for The Crucible*  
2017 Nominated: Outstanding Professor, Lipscomb University  
2016 Nominated: Outstanding Director of a Play, Nashville First Night Awards  
2016 Received: Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, *Excellence in Direction for Dancing at Lughnasa*  
2016 Inducted: Connect Leadership Class, Lipscomb University  
2015 Nominated: Nashville's Outstanding Director of a Play, Nashville First Night Awards  
2015 Nominated: Outstanding Professor, Lipscomb University  
2014 Nominated: Outstanding Professor, Lipscomb University  
2013 Received: First Night Star Award: Important Nashville Theatre Contemporary  
2012 Nominated: Nashville's Best Director, BroadwayWorld, *Julius Caesar* and *Pride's Crossing*

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

CITA, 2018  
Humana Festival, 2015  
Lessac Technique with Arthur Lessac  
Playwriting with Horton Foote, Romulus Linney, Tina Howe, Doug Wright, Donald Margulies, Nate Eppler

Shakespeare with LAMDA's Rodney Cottier  
 Song Interpretation with Marin Mazzie, Eden Espinosa  
 Spolin Technique with JeanMarie Collins  
 Audition Technique with Kevin Kennison

## **SERVICE/COMMITTEE WORK**

### **LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY**

2020-present	Member, Respect Leads: Council on Diversity and Inclusion
2020-2021	Student Teaching Faculty Mentor
2019-2021	New Faculty Mentor
2020-2021	Stephen Lee Marsh Award Selection Committee
2018	College of Education Camp Volunteer
2018	Honors College Move-In Volunteer
2016-Present	Member: Academic Curriculum Team
2016-Present	Member: Executive Leadership Team, College of Entertainment and the Arts
2016-2017	New Faculty Mentor
2015-Present	Member: Academic Leadership Team, College of Entertainment and the Arts
2015-Present	Member: Honors Advisory Board
2015-2017	Member: General Education Council
2015-2016	Chair: Vision and Mission Committee, College of Entertainment and the Arts
2015-2016	Member: Academic Advisory Board, Faculty Senate
2014-Present	Family Fund contributor
2013-2015	Provost Breakfast Server
2013-2014	Lipscomb Missions

### **ADDITIONAL SERVICE**

2020	<i>Color of Compromise</i> Group Leader, Church of the Redeemer
2020	Second Harvest Food Bank Donor
2020	Nashville Tornado Fund Donor
2018-2020	Safe Haven Drive Donor
2018	Second Harvest Food Bank Donor
2018	Neverthirst Donor
2018	Salvation Army Volunteer, Houston, TX
2016	GoFundMe Lead Fundraiser for Ethiopia Alemu

2015-Present	Compassion International Sponsor
2015	Woodmont Hills Church of Christ, Live Wires Teacher, ages 2-4
2015	Stop Hunger Now
2014-Present	Women's Bible Study Co-Leader, Westminster Presbyterian Church
2012-2013	Theatre Critic Panelist, Circle Players
2012	Habitat for Humanity
2010-Present	Room in the Inn Volunteer
2010	Red Cross Volunteer, Nashville Flood
2009	Relay for Life
2008-2009	Adult English Class Teacher
2006	Hurricane Katrina Charity Concert Performer
2004-Present	Goodwill Donor
2000-2012	Church Nursery Worker

## **REFERENCES**

References available upon request