

# Ashley Elizabeth White

director, arts leader, educator

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## PROFILE SUMMARY

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Innovative and engaging director, intimacy director, arts administrator, and educator. Adept at building strong relationships within the workplace. Specialize in creating spaces that foster a strong sense of community founded on collaboration and inclusion. Leadership style grounded in the concept of collective intelligence, valuing every voice in a supportive space. Excellent verbal and written communication skills. Ability to lead and manage multiple projects. Utmost professional understanding of the importance of discretion. Actively champion an anti-racist, trauma-informed, and consent-based rehearsal space and workplace. Extremely organized with an attention to detail, motivated, flexible, sense of humor, and positive outlook. Lead with empathy, kindness, and a collaborative spirit.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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**MASTER OF FINE ARTS THEATRE, DIRECTING** | The University of Alabama

**MASTER OF ARTS, EDUCATION** | University of California, Davis

**BACHELOR OF ARTS, THEATRE – Specializations: Theatre Management, Design & Technology** | William Jessup University | Rocklin, CA

**BACHELOR OF ARTS, ENGLISH** | California State University, Sacramento

**SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE EDUCATOR RESIDENCY** | Shakespeare's Globe / University of California, Davis | London, UK / Davis, CA

**FITZMAURICE VOICEWORK INTENSIVE** | Fitzmaurice Voice Institute | NYC

**INTIMACY DIRECTING TRAINING** | 182 total hours

## CERTIFICATIONS

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**MICHAEL CHEKHOV TRAINING INTENSIVE – In Progress**

Teaching Certification Candidate | National Michael Chekhov Association | Las Cruces, NM

**INTIMACY DIRECTOR FOR THEATRE/LIVE PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATION – In Progress**

Currently in Level 4 | Intimacy Directors and Coordinators

**CONSENT FORWARD ARTIST** | Intimacy Directors and Coordinators | NYC

**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID** | National Council for Mental Wellbeing

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE WORKPLACE** | University of South Florida, Muma College of Business

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF DIRECTING

University of North Carolina, Greensboro | College of Visual and Performing Arts | Greensboro, NC | 2024 - Present

- Taught two sections of Directing I and Experiential Project Theatre alongside the Playwriting Professor. In Spring 2025, teaching graduate-level Advanced Directing, Directing II, three Practicum courses, and two Practice courses.
- Directed *Everybody* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins as part of the department's Full Subscription Season and directed a new play development staged reading.
- Provide mentorship to Stage Management students, advising on academic development, time management, goal setting, career planning, and networking.
- Foster a collaborative, explorative, and inclusive pedagogical approach emphasizing academic and artistic excellence, preparing students to be informed theatre practitioners with a commitment to creativity, innovation, and the advancement of the art form.
- Incorporate innovative teaching methods utilizing engaging and inspiring exercises, assignments, and projects.
- Prioritize DEIA and mental health ensuring safe, inclusive, and consent-forward classroom and rehearsals spaces.
- Participate in School of Theatre and Performance Area Departmental Meetings. and serve on three committees: Curriculum, Production, and Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Acting. Also, a member of UNCG's School of Theatre Pedagogy Circle.

## WORK EXPERIENCE - continued

**ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

American Stage Theatre Company | St. Petersburg, FL | 2023-2024

- Directed, intimacy directed, and provided mental health support on productions when needed.
- Provided artistic guidance and feedback to creative teams during rehearsals, and production meetings.
- Helmed casting efforts for mainstage shows, Lift Every Voice New Play Festival, Beyond the Stage Series, Fresh Ink Series, and additional staged readings. Organized and held online nationwide auditions. Negotiated with agents. Wrote union and non-union offer letters and assisted in contracts.
- Collaborated with Artistic Director in curating the artistic vision and programming, including season selection, and assembling creative teams.
- Lead producer for the non-subscription programming, including Lift Every Voice New Play Festival, Fresh Ink New Play Reading Series, Beyond the Stage Series, and ancillary events. Managed budgets, schedules, and resources in collaboration with production staff. Partnered with local museums, cultural centers, and art studios for outside productions.
- Associate producer for mainstage productions and annual musical in the park production (up to 16,000 attend this annual outdoor theatrical event).
- Booked, coordinated, and managed musical entertainment for the Unplugged Concert Series, pre-show opening and closing nights, and various fundraising and development events.
- Researched and read scripts for potential productions and staged readings for the Lift Every Voice New Play Festival, Beyond the Stage Series, and Fresh Ink Series.
- Developed community engagement programs and initiatives. Built and maintained community partnerships with local businesses, community members, visual artists, musicians, arts organizations, and nature organizations. Wrote, tracked, and organized partnership agreements, MOUs, and contracts with community partners.
- Represented American Stage at public events to raise awareness and support.
- IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) Council Member. Attended meetings and assisted in coordination of advancing recommended findings.
- Led post-show talkbacks, community conversation forums, and pre-show announcements/introductions.
- Collaborated with the development team to cultivate donor relationships
- Private coaching sessions for the education department.

**MFA DIRECTING CANDIDATE | GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP**

The University of Alabama | Department of Theatre and Dance | 2020-2023

- Directed and intimacy directed fully staged productions with MFA, BFA, and BA theatre and musical theatre students, created complex rehearsal calendars, promoted productions with local TV and print interviews, participated in post-show talkbacks.
- Taught Beginning Directing, Teaching Theatre: Performance (2 sections), History of Theatre I and History of Theatre II undergraduate courses as an Instructor-on-Record. Created syllabi. Developed course outline for Beginning Directing and Teaching Theatre: Performance.
- Provided dramaturgical resource material to the cast and creative team for the productions of *Pipeline*, *Baskerville*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, and *Murder Ballad*.
- Interviewed potential MFA Directing candidates consulting with faculty on selection.
- Collaborated with faculty creating The New Voices Play Festival, a festival for diverse playwrights. Co-wrote three grants to secure funding. Emailed 100+ colleges resulting in 350+ submissions. Created marketing for social media. Member of the Play Reading and Selection Committee.
- Advisor to Crimson Stage, the undergraduate-led theatre organization. Advised on meeting agendas, attended auditions, casting sessions, rehearsals, and performances. Advisor position elected by theatre students.

**THEATRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR | BOX OFFICE MANAGER**

William Jessup University | Theatre Department | Rocklin, CA | 2018-2020

- Monitored production budgets and created reports.
- Wrote show descriptions, created events online, and managed ticket sales account in Vendini ticketing system with three categories of ticket prices and fourteen group discount structures. Communicated by email, phone and in-person to patrons for advance ticket sales.
- Submitted applications for Kennedy Center American College Theatre National Awards and the Sacramento Regional Alliance Awards.
- Prioritized scheduling and oversaw calendar for Theatre Chair, managed correspondence, assisted with special projects.
- Prepared cash box and reconciled ticket sales. Recruited and trained box office volunteers.

## WORK EXPERIENCE - continued

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### COMPANY MANAGER OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

New York Stage & Film's Powerhouse Theater | Poughkeepsie, NY | Summer Season 2019

- Maintained company budget for the training program.
- Supervised Assistant Company Manager
- Coordinated weekly and special events.
- Oversaw day-to-day needs of 50+ actors, directors, and playwrights.
- Coordinated housing for participants and staff.
- Coordinated arrival and departure for participants and staff.

### THEATRE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, THEATRE ARTS EDUCATOR, ENGLISH EDUCATOR, THEATER COORDINATOR

Roseville High School | Roseville, CA | 2015-2018

- In three years, built an award-winning program receiving 25+ regional nominations and outstanding achievement awards.
- Responsible for program's fiscal management, including budgeting and providing financial reports to Performing Arts Department Chair.
- Directed, designed, and cast nine fully staged productions.
- Promoted productions with local businesses through playbill advertising, sponsorships, live local TV segments, and community interaction.
- Managed calendar for mainstage and black box theaters for school use and outside group rentals.
- Recruited and trained theater technicians for mainstage and black box theater usage.
- Taught Acting, Improv, and Musical Theatre courses. Taught 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade English courses.
- Developed course outlines and syllabi.
- Tripled the number of students registered for Theatre courses in the second year.
- Submitted 100-page outline for Musical Theatre course obtaining approval as a University of California High School A-G Performing Arts course.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Stage Directors and Choreographers, Associate Member

Women & Theatre Program

American Theatre and Drama Society

Theatre Communications Group

Southeastern Theatre Conference

## RECOGNITION

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**BEST ALLEN BALES SHOW - *Murder Ballad*** | The University of Alabama | Theatre and Dance Department | 2023

Awarded by Alpha Psi Omega

**PHI KAPPA PHI HONOR SOCIETY** | The University of Alabama | 2022 - Present

**ALPHA PSI OMEGA NATIONAL THEATRE HONOR SOCIETY** | The University of Alabama | Theatre and Dance Department | 2022

Inducted as an "Honorary APO Member" for my extensive support of the APO undergraduate theatre students.

**ALLEN BALES AWARD** | The University of Alabama | Theatre and Dance Department | 2021-2022

Awarded annually by the theatre faculty to one theatre student for demonstrating excellence in artistry, collaboration, and leadership.

**FULL GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP** | The University of Alabama | Theatre and Dance Department | 2020-2023

**SACRAMENTO AREA REGIONAL THEATRE ALLIANCE AWARDS** | Sacramento, CA | 2015-2018

Received nominations and Outstanding Achievement Awards, including two for Overall Production and two for Directing.

## PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS TAUGHT/RELATED EXPERIENCE

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**CO-PRESENTER** | SETC Convention | Upcoming March 2025

Presenting workshop "Collaborative Strategies for Projection Designers and Directors" with Projection Designer Teresa Gawrych.

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## WORKSHOPS TAUGHT/RELATED EXPERIENCE - continued

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**GUEST SPEAKER** | University of Arizona | School of Theatre | 2024

Provided virtual hour-long workshop on Consent Forward Practices for Directors.

**FREELANCE ACTING COACH** | 2023-Current

Hourly sessions providing audition prep, role prep, and mentorship.

**ADULT AUDITION COACH** | American Stage Theatre Company | 2024

Provided tools to navigate the audition process and elevated auditioning technique. Included personalized coaching.

**ACTING COACH** | The University of Alabama | Department of Theatre and Dance | 2020-2023

Provided scene, monologue, and audition prep coaching sessions.

**DIRECTING MENTOR** | The University of Alabama | Department of Theatre and Dance | 2020-2023

Provided directing mentoring sessions for student scene work and short plays.

**MONOLOGUE AND DUO SCENE ADJUDICATOR** | Lenaea High School Theatre Festival | Folsom, CA | 2019, 2018

**MULTI-DAY GUEST ARTIST** | Woodcreek High School | Roseville, CA | 2017

Monologue and Scene Study Preparation and Performance workshops

**WORKSHOP PRESENTER** | Roseville Joint High School District | Roseville, CA | 2016

Presented multiple "*Mindfulness, Relaxation & Play for a Balanced Life*" workshops to educators across the district.

## COMMITTEE SERVICE

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**SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ACTING** | University of North Carolina Greensboro | School of Theatre

**PRODUCTION COMMITTEE** | University of North Carolina Greensboro | School of Theatre

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE** | University of North Carolina Greensboro | School of Theatre

**PEDAGOGY CIRCLE** | University of North Carolina Greensboro | School of Theatre

**INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY COUNCIL MEMBER** | American Stage Theatre Company

**PLAY READING AND SELECTION COMMITTEE** | Lift Every Voice New Play Festival | American Stage Theatre Company

**CO-FOUNDER AND PLAY READING AND SELECTION COMMITTEE** | The New Voices Theatre Festival | The University of Alabama | Department of Theatre and Dance

**DEI FORUM COMMITTEE** | The University of Alabama | Department of Theatre and Dance

**ACCREDITATION GRADUATE STUDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE** | The University of Alabama | Department of Theatre and Dance

**SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL SECRETARY** | Roseville High School | Roseville, CA

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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### ANTI- RACISM / DEI

2023 **Designing and Building Institutional Anti-Racist Spaces** (15 hrs) | Wesleyan University

2022 **Assessing Culturally Competent Spaces & Self-Advocacy** (3 hrs) | Intimacy Directors and Coordinators

2022 **Anti-Racism Training** (7 hrs) | Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso

2022 **Understanding the Impact of Bias** (2 hrs) | Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso

2022 **Colorism and its Origins** (2 hrs) | Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso

2022 **Implicit Bias Training** (2 hrs) | Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity

### GENDER IDENTITY

2023 **Working with Trans and Non-Binary Artists** (3 hrs) | Theatrical Intimacy Education

2023 **Staging Intimacy Beyond the Binary** (3 hrs) | Theatrical Intimacy Education

2022 **The Social Construct of Gender Binary** (2 hrs) | Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING - continued

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### GENDER IDENTITY - CONTINUED

2022 **Intersectional Identities and Inclusive Practices** (2 hrs) | Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso

### ALLYSHIP AND ADVOCACY

2022 **LGBTQ+ Allyship and You** (7 hrs) | Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso

### BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

2020 **Advocacy and Activism for Theatre Artists Panel** (1 hr) | TodayTix

2023 **Bystander Intervention to Support the LGBTQIA+ Community** (1 hr) | Right To Be

2023 **Bystander Intervention to Stop Anti-Asian/American and Xenophobic Harassment** (1 hr) | Right To Be

2023 **Bystander Intervention: Conflict De-Escalation Training** (1 hr) | Right To Be

### MENTAL HEALTH

2023 **Psychological First Aid** (6 hrs) | John Hopkins University

2023 **Foundations of Mental Health Coordination** (18 hrs) | Association of Mental Health Coordinators

2023 **Care & Culture Policy** (4 hrs) | Association of Mental Health Coordinators

2023 **Building Safety in Creative Spaces** (4 hrs) | Association of Mental Health Coordinators

2023 **Windows of Tolerance** (1 hr) | Heartland Intimacy Design & Training

2023 **Suicide Prevention** (5 hrs) | Wesleyan University

2022 **Compassion Fatigue and Stress Management** (2 hrs) | Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso

### TRAUMA STEWARDSHIP

2023 **Trauma-Informed Practices** (3 hrs) | Intimacy Directors and Coordinators

2023 **Introduction to Trauma-Informed Communication** (3 hrs) | Intimacy Directors and Coordinators

2023 **Trauma-Informed Performance** (1 hr) | Heartland Intimacy Design & Training

2023 **Trauma-Informed Facilitation** (1½ hrs) | Heartland Intimacy Design & Training

### DIRECTING

2023 **Directing Classics with Shana Cooper, Joseph Haj, & Robert O'Hara** (1 hr) | Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation

2022 **Shaping Relationships: Forming Narratives in Choreography** (1 ½ hrs) | Intimacy Directors and Coordinator in partnership with Momentum Stage

2020 **Storytelling in Directing with Michael Arden** (1 hr) | TodayTix

2020 **Michael Chekhov Introduction** (2 hrs) | Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium

2017 **Directing Intensive, Broadway Teachers Workshop** | NYC

2017 **Broadway Teachers Workshop** | NYC

2016 **Broadway Teachers Workshop** | NYC

### ARTS ADMINISTRATION

2023 **Inspiring and Motivating Arts and Culture Teams** (15 hrs) | University of Michigan in collaboration with National Arts Strategies

2023 **Producing 101** (3 hrs) | The Business of Broadway

2023 **Producing 201: Creative Development** (2 hrs) | The Business of Broadway

2023 **Producing 203: Assessing and Transacting and Investment** (2 hrs) | The Business of Broadway