

Ashley Elizabeth White

educator, director, arts leader
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PROFILE SUMMARY

Innovative and engaging educator, director, producer, and arts administrator. Proficient in a broad range of practical theatrical techniques. Provide a positive, student-centered pedagogy approach. Specialize in creating spaces that foster a strong sense of community founded on collaboration and inclusion. Adept at curriculum development. Strong talent for mentorship and advising. Leadership style grounded in the concept of collective intelligence, valuing every voice in a supportive space. Cultivate an environment of exploration, creativity, and experimentation. Adaptable, motivated, and a sense of humor, with a compassionate, calm, and collaborative spirit.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

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

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

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

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

FITZMAURICE VOICEWORK INTENSIVE | Fitzmaurice Voice Institute, NYC

CERTIFICATIONS

MICHAEL CHEKHOV TRAINING INTENSIVE – In Progress | National Michael Chekhov Association
Teaching Certification Candidate | New Mexico State University | Las Cruces, NM

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Associate Member

Association for Theatre in Higher Education

Association of Theatre Movement Educators

Women & Theatre Program

American Theatre and Drama Society

Southeastern Theatre Conference

Theatre Communications Group

WORK EXPERIENCE

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF DIRECTING

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

- In Fall 2024, taught two sections of Directing I and co-taught Experiential Project Theatre alongside the Playwriting Professor. In Spring 2025, teaching Directing II, graduate-level Advanced Directing, three Practicum courses, and two Practice courses.

WORK EXPERIENCE - continued

- Directing *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.
- Serve as Faculty Advisor for students performing, directing, and competing in the KCACTF Region IV American College Theatre Festival Devised Theatre Initiative, SDC Directing Fellowship Program, and the 10-Minute Play Festival.
- Advisor for Theatrics, a student-run university-sponsored theatre organization providing the opportunity for students to collaborate together producing work for the community.
- Participate in School of Theatre and Performance Area Departmental Meetings. 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.

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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

- Helmed casting efforts for mainstage shows, Lift Every Voice New Play Festival, Beyond the Stage Series, Fresh Ink Series, Unplugged Concert 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.
- Provided artistic guidance and feedback to creative teams during rehearsals, workshops, and production meetings.
- Lead producer for the Beyond the Stage Series, Fresh Ink Series, Lift Every Voice New Play Festival, and Unplugged Concert Series. Managed budgets, schedules, and resources in collaboration with production staff.
- Associate producer for mainstage productions and annual musical in the park production (up to 16,000 attend this annual theatrical event).
- Produced ancillary events including staged readings, workshops, community engagement and special events.
- Planned opening and closing night events. Assisted with ASL performances, and supplemental Behind the Scenes community events.
- 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.
- Led post-show talkbacks and community conversations for patrons.
- IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) Council Member. Attended meetings and assisted in coordination of recommended findings.
- In collaboration with the General Manager, ensured organization followed all guidelines set in place by theatrical unions.
- Collaborated with the marketing team to promote productions and ensure accuracy in all artistic information.

MFA DIRECTING CANDIDATE | GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

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

- 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 talk backs.
- Taught undergraduate classes and created syllabi. Developed course outline for Beginning Directing and Teaching Theatre: Performance.
- Provided dramaturgical resource material to the cast and artistic 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. Member of the Play Reading and Selection Committee

WORK EXPERIENCE - continued

- Posted on social media. Emailed 100+ colleges resulting in 350+ submissions.
- Advisor for Crimson Stage, the undergraduate-led theatre organization. Advised on meeting agendas, attended auditions, casting sessions, and performances. Position elected by students.

THEATRE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATE | BOX OFFICE MANAGER

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

- Prioritized scheduling and oversaw calendar for Theatre Chair, managed correspondence, assisted with special projects.
- Created reports including weekly sales breakdown, production budget transactions, and monitored production budgets.
- Submitted applications for Kennedy Center American College Theatre National Awards and the Sacramento Regional Alliance Awards.
- 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.
- Prepared cash box and reconciled ticket sales. Recruited and trained box office volunteers.

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, LANGUAGE ARTS 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.
- Managed theatre program financials, increased net income by 180%.
- Directed, designed, and cast nine fully staged productions.
- Provided dramaturgical resource material to the student cast and artistic team.
- Promoted productions with local businesses through playbill advertising, sponsorships, live local TV segments, and through 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 9th and 10th 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.

RECOGNITION

BEST ALLEN BALES SHOW – *Murder Ballad* | The University of Alabama | Department of Theatre and Dance | 2023
Awarded by Alpha Psi Omega

RECOGNITION - continued

PHI KAPPA PHI HONOR SOCIETY | The University of Alabama | 2022 – Present

ALPHA PSI OMEGA NATIONAL THEATRE HONOR SOCIETY | The University of Alabama | Department of Theatre and Dance | 2022 | Inducted as an “Honorary APO Member” for my extensive support of the APO undergraduate theatre students.

ALLEN BALES AWARD | The University of Alabama | Department of Theatre and Dance | 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 | Department of Theatre and Dance | 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.

COURSES TAUGHT

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, GREENSBORO | School of Theatre

THR 410 Directing I (Fall 2024: two sections)

Upper-division writing intensive course studying the fundamental principles and techniques of directing for the theatre through activities, exercises, readings, discussions, working with actors, directing scenes, and analyzing performances. Includes specific consideration of the major elements of the director’s work: play analysis, stage composition, visualization and blocking, rehearsal techniques, and the nature of collaboration.

THR 291 Experiential Theatre Project (Fall 2024)

Examines the basic principles of new work development for the stage. Students engage in a theatre laboratory environment as actors, dramaturgs, and as part of a creative team in a collaborative workshop development process.

THR 611 Advanced Play Directing 3 (Spring 2025)

School of Theatre graduate level course. Problems of play directing emphasizing the use of modified proscenium, arena, thrust, and experimental forms of stages.

THR 411 Directing II (Spring 2025)

An intermediate directing course that involves the student in the theory and practice of contemporary plays.

THR 294 Intern Production Practicum (Spring 2025)

Intermediate-level production work in stage management.

THR 394 Journeyman Production Practicum (Spring 2025)

Advanced-level production work in stage management.

THR 490 Advanced Theatre Practice – Performance (Spring 2025)

Departmental auditions open to all students, credit given to those cast.

THR 494 Advanced Theatre Practice – Production (Spring 2025)

Open to non-design and technical production students interested in participating in the technical phases of production.

THR 498 Capstone Production Practicum (Spring 2025)

Capstone experience for BFA Drama major students.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA | Department of Theatre and Dance

TH 361 Beginning Directing

Study of the principles and techniques of the art and craft of directing for the theatre through hands-on activities, exercises, readings, discussions, working with actors, directing scenes, and analyzing performances. Includes specific consideration of the major elements of the director’s work: play analysis, stage composition, visualization and blocking, rehearsal techniques, and the nature of collaboration.

COURSES TAUGHT - continued

TH 451 History of the Theatre I

Senior level writing intensive course examining the social, philosophical, and artistic conditions in which theatre and performance practices emerge, take shape, and change up to the 17th century. Course covers the study of theatre's origins, Greek tragedy, Dramatic Theory, Theatre and Religion, Neoclassicism, and Theatre, Entertainment, and State.

TH 452 History of the Theatre II

Senior level writing intensive course covering the period in western theatre from late 18th century Romanticism to the current 21st century theatre.

TH 245 Teaching Theatre: Performance (taught 2 Sections)

Survey of the practical and theoretical knowledge necessary to teach theatre. Topics include acting, directing, choosing plays for production, and rehearsal techniques.

ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL | Roseville Joint Union School District | Roseville, CA

Beginning Drama

Study of theatre from historical and technical perspectives, including theatre appreciation, history, and terminology. Students develop acting skills through exploration in improvisation, character development, interpretation, pantomime, and scene work, culminating with a final showcase.

Intermediate Drama (Improv Comedy)

Study of the basic skills of improvisation, stand up, and sketch comedy. Students write comedy, and train in characterization and movement work, culminating with a final "comedy night" showcase. Created this class for the Roseville Joint Union High School District.

Advanced Drama

Workshop course studying advanced acting methods, including Stanislavski, Meisner, and Commedia Dell'arte, complex character development, challenging scene work, culminating with a final showcase.

Musical Theatre

Study through the viewing and discussion of American musical theatre, history and repertoire. Students prepare and present performances as soloists, small groups and larger ensembles, culminating in a final cabaret-style showcase. Created this class for the Roseville Joint Union High School District.

Film and Literature

Examination of philosophical, moral, and social issues and how they are expressed through prominent works of film and literature. Study of the development of character, theme, and narrative through various literary and cinematic techniques.

College Prep English 10

Emphasizes essay development through analysis, persuasion, and reflection. Usage and mechanics writing conventions covered in conjunction with the study of literature and writing.

College Prep English 9

Emphasizes critical thinking, critical reading, and analytical writing skills. Study of literature, non-fiction, poetry, Short stories, and novels. Emphasis placed on essay development. Analytical, reflective, expository, and compare/contrast writing modes covered.

PRESENTATIONS/WORKHOPS/RELATED EXPERIENCE

CO-PRESENTER | SETC Convention | Upcoming March 2025

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

PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS/RELATED EXPERIENCE - continued

GUEST SPEAKER | University of Arizona | School of Theatre, Film & Television | 2024
Provided virtual hour-long workshop on Intimacy Direction to Directing students.

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

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

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

PRODUCTION 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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ANTI- RACISM / DEI
2024 Diversity Equity Inclusion Training (1 hr) | National OSHA Foundation

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - continued

- 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
- 2023 **Working with Trans and Non-Binary Artists** (3 hrs) | Theatrical Intimacy Education
- 2022 **The Social Construct of Gender Binary** (2 hrs) | Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso
- 2022 **Intersectional Identities and Inclusive Practices** (2 hrs) | Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso
- 2022 **LGBTQ+ Allyship and You** (7 hrs) | Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso
- 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

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 an Investment** (2 hrs) | The Business of Broadway