

AMY J. RESSLER, Ed.D. M.F.A.

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Educational Leadership

Focus: Leadership of Learning and Change

National College of Education, National Louis University, Chicago

Secondary Certification in English, Theatre and Middle Level

Master of Fine Arts - Theatre Education

Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

Bachelor of Arts - Drama

Clarke College, Dubuque, Iowa

BOOKS

Ressler, A. J. (2023). *Social Emotional Learning Through Drama: A Practical Guide to Immersive Devised Story Drama*. Healthy Learning Press, Monterey, CA.

Used in teacher preparation, drama education, and applied theatre contexts.

EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Theatre Education

August, 2018-present

California State University Bakersfield

** Recipient of the Millie Ablin Excellence in Teaching Award, 2023

Teach, direct and advise students for the department of Music & Theatre.

Teaching: Dramatic Activity for the Classroom, Dramatic Literature & Performance for Youth, Touring Theatre for Youth, Improvisation, Applied Drama Activity, Costume Construction Lab, Senior Project Research and Implementation.

Directing: Young Audiences touring productions: *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, *The Pickle Patch Bathtub*, *Thursday Stories Live!* (pandemic production, on Zoom), *Noodle Doodle Box*, *Tomato Plant Girl*, *Carmela Full of Wishes*, *Last Stop on Market Street*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*
Institutional Service: Interim Theatre Program Director, Theatre Scholarship Adjudicator. Drama

Club/alpha psi omega theatre honor society advisor. Committees: Faculty Professional Development, Theatre Program Recruitment, University Teacher Education Advisory Council, Arts & Humanities Curriculum, Music Education Faculty Search, Pandemic Research Council, Canvas Implementation Committee.

Professor and Director of Theatre & Dance

2007-2018

University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa

Wrote and implemented Fine & Performing Arts major, Theatre minor, Dance minor, Art minor. Taught, directed, recruited, and advised students for the Fine & Performing Arts Department.

- *Taught:* Acting Methods, Styles of Acting, Directing for the Stage, Great Plays Analysis, Singing for Actors/Acting for Singers, Applied Improvisation, Ensemble Theatre Company, Art in Culture, Theatre History, Theatre Appreciation, Musical Theatre Production, Production Techniques, Senior Seminar, World View I, World View II, Gospel Choir, Costume Design & Construction, Duct Tape/Hot Glue/Chicken Wire: Costume Design for non-sewers, Theatre for Young Audiences, Creative Drama, Art of Storytelling, Storytelling in Science, Art of Puppetry, Touring Theatre Production,
- *Institutional Service:* Committees: Tenure and Promotion, Faculty Advancement, Arts Development, Core Curriculum, Professional Development, Liberal Arts major, Cultural Advisory, Christmas at Heritage Center.
- *Advising:* Fine & Performing Arts majors, Theatre minors, Dance minors, Drama Club, Dance company, Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society, Gospel Choir, Black Student Union, Courage & Social Action Theatre Troupe.
- *Directing:* 26 productions listed under *Selected Directing Experience*.

Founder, Artistic & Managing Director

2003-present

Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Co./Little Bird Creativity Co., www.frogwarts.org

- Direct Frogwarts Camp -- a two week, sleep-away creativity and role-play summer camp, plan production seasons, direct productions, devise interactive theatre projects, teach workshops, recruit, train and oversee artistic associates, budgeting, program planning, grant writing, work with PR and Study Guide committees, advise the board of directors.

Creative Director

2008-2013

Healing Moments Alzheimer's Ministry

- Led Applied Improv Workshops, presentations, wrote and directed informational play *The Forgiving and The Forgetting*.

Academic Staff in Fine Arts – Theatre

2005-2006

University of Wisconsin at Platteville

- *Taught:* Introduction to Theatre, Acting I, Acting II, Recent & Contemporary Drama, Voice & Diction, Touring Theatre for Young Audiences
- *Directed* two shows in partnership with GMETC/Little Bird
- *Directed* The Wizard of Oz for the Heartland festival.

English and Language Arts Teacher

2003-2005

Shullsburg Schools, Shullsburg, Wisconsin

- *Taught:* AP English, British Literature, American Literature, Creative Writing, Speech, 8th grade Language Arts
- Directed theatre productions, served as accompanist for choral music, advisor for dance team

Lead StoryBus Literacy and Drama Educator/Curriculum Coordinator

2000-2003

Dolores Kohl Education Foundation

Kohl/Chicago Tribune *StoryBus*, Chicago, Illinois

- Storyteller, Drama teacher for PreK and K classes in Chicago
- Wrote and directed musical production promoting Pre-K literacy skills
- Teacher in-service, curriculum coordinator and educator

Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, tenured

1990-2002

National-Louis University

- *Directed:* 20 university main stage theatre productions.
- *Taught:* Directing for the Stage, Theatre History & Literature I and II, Dramatic Theory & Criticism, Women in Theatre, Senior Seminar, Production Techniques, Physical Theatre Symposium, Play reading Seminar, Acting for Musical Theatre, Audition Seminar, Acting I, Acting II, Costume Design & Construction, Voice & Diction, Comic and Applied Improvisation, Children's Theatre, Oral Interpretation, Puppetry, Creative Drama, Touring Production, Storytelling and Story Theatre, Teaching Methods of Movement & Drama.
- *Institutional Service:* Designed the Theatre Arts degree program, marketed performing arts productions and series, Drama Club advisor, teacher pre-service council, faculty senate, strategic planning committee, college of arts and sciences admissions council, scholarship adjudicator, student recruitment, created affiliation agreements with professional theatres for internships and classes, *Honor of Humanity* committee, recruitment director, commencement marshal, reader, and singer, university voice over.

Additional Related Teaching Experience

“NERDs” (Networking and Engagement for Redesign in STEM teaching) Higher Ed STEM Faculty Professional Development Camp, Regional Office of Education 28 (Illinois), Healing Moments Alzheimer's Ministry, Scott Community College, Bell Tower Theater Children's program, Multicultural Family Center of Dubuque, The Music Institute of Chicago, Northeast

Iowa Community College, Southwest Wisconsin Library Association, Niles West High School, Glencoe Summer School, North Park University (Chicago) Opera Program, Keystone Area Educational Services, Clarke College Summer Program, U.D. for Kids, The Child Care Center of Evanston, The Movement Center, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Theatre for Youth program, Manassas, Performing and Fine Arts Center, Arizona State University ~ Department of Theatre, Prince William County Park Authority, Phoenix, AZ Children's Theatre, Mesa, AZ Community Cultural Center.

Selected Directing Experience

- A Circus Tail, Little Bird Creativity Company, Shullsburg Wisconsin Fall 2025.
- Last Stop on Market Street, California State University Bakersfield, Spring 2024.
- Carmela Full of Wishes, California State University Bakersfield, Fall 2023.
- Tomato Plant Girl, California State University Bakersfield, Fall 2022.
- Noodle Doodle Box, California State University Bakersfield, Fall 2021.
- Thursday Stories Live! California State University Bakersfield, Fall 2020.
- The Pickle Patch Bathtub, California State University Bakersfield, Fall 2019.
- Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, California State University Bakersfield, Spring 2019.
- The Man Who Came To Dinner, Grand Opera House, Winter 2018.
- James and the Giant Peach, University of Dubuque, Spring 2017.
- A Doll's House, University of Dubuque, Spring 2017.
- To Kill a Mockingbird, Grand Opera House, Dubuque, Fall 2016.
- Bamboozled, (commedia tour show) University of Dubuque, Spring 2016.
- Memphis, University of Dubuque, Fall 2015.
- A Murder of Crows, University of Dubuque, Spring 2015.
- Pippin, University of Dubuque, Spring 2015.
- The Importance of Being Earnest, University of Dubuque, Winter 2015.
- Metamorphoses, University of Dubuque, Fall 2014.
- The Pirates of Penzance, University of Dubuque, Spring 2014.
- Sol and Paul, University of Dubuque, Spring 2014.
- Dr. Horrible's Sing-a-long Blog, University of Dubuque, Spring 2014.
- The Forgiving & The Forgetting, (original) University of Dubuque, Fall 2013.
- A Midsummer Night's Dream, University of Dubuque, Spring 2013.
- Flyin' West, University of Dubuque, Winter 2013.
- The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, University of Dubuque, Fall 2012.
- Dog Sees God, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Company, 2012.
- Go, Dog. Go! University of Dubuque and GMETC, Spring 2012.
- Little Shop of Horrors, the University of Dubuque, Fall 2011.
- Working, the University of Dubuque, Spring 2011.
- Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, The Grand Opera House, Dubuque, Winter 2011
- To Be Young, Gifted and Black, the University of Dubuque, Winter 2011.

- All in the Timing, The University of Dubuque, Fall, 2010.
- Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, the University of Dubuque, Spring 2010.
- Noodle Doodle Box, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Co., 2010.
- EDGAR, (original production) the University of Dubuque, Fall, 2009.
- The Amen Corner, The University of Dubuque, Spring 2009.
- Wiley and the Hairy Man, The University of Dubuque, Fall 2008.
- Snoopy!!! The musical, The University of Dubuque, Spring 2008.
- This is Not A Pipe Dream, The University of Dubuque, Fall 2007.
- Bus Stop, Shullsburg Community Theatre, Shullsburg, WI December, 2007.
- The Pickle Patch Bathtub, (original) Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Co., 2007.
- A Raisin in the Sun, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Co., Dubuque, Iowa, 2007.
- The Wizard of Oz, Heartland Festival, musical theatre, UW-Platteville, WI, 2006.
- Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible No Good Very Bad Day, UW-P/GMETC 2006.
- Of Mice and Men, UW-Platteville/GMETC., Platteville WI, 2006.
- The Miracle Worker, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Co., Platteville, WI, 2005.
- A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shullsburg High School, Shullsburg, WI, 2005.
- Veggie Tales Silly Songs Countdown, Grand Kids Theatre Camp, Dubuque, 2005.
- Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Shullsburg High School, WI 2003.
- The Diary of Anne Frank, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Co., Dubuque, 2004.
- The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe, Niles West HS, 2004.
- Imagine and Make It Real Grand Kids Theatre Camp, Dubuque, 2004.
- Clarissa's Closet, musical tour, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Co., 2004.
- To Kill A Mockingbird The Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Co., Dubuque, 2003.
- Schoolhouse Rock, Heartland Festival Production, Platteville, WI, 2003.
- Love, Sex, and the IRS, The Grand Opera House, Dubuque, Iowa, 2002.
- +20 mainstage productions at National-Louis University and 5 productions at the Irish American Heritage Theatre in Chicago, 1990-2002.

DEVISED DRAMA –

Frogwarts School of Wizardry Creativity & Role Play Camp

Devised and directed these one-week long Story Dramas for 100+ participants

- Stymphalian Menace, 2025.
- The Timepiece: the Crash of Zip Van Wrinkle, 2023.
- CackleMore and the Elusive Agrius, 2022.
- Challenges of the Forest Guardians, 2022.
- The Rift, 2021.
- The Oracle of the Orb, 2021.
- Frogwarts Ersatz Camp, 2020.
- A Psycho-Magical Infestation, 2019.

- Dr. Hoo Doo and the Disappearance of Sully, 2018.
- Dr. Drumble Tricks the Fairy King, 2018.
- The Prophecy of Frogwarts, 2018.
- Story Seekers and the Monstrous Spider, 2017.
- Melting from the Inside Out: Facing Our Fears, 2017.
- Involuntary Invisibility and the Noble Act of True Love, 2016.
- Spinning Gifts and the Curse of Empathy, 2015.
- The Weeping Angels of Protection, 2014.
- Tributes of the Hunger Olympians, 2013.
- A Werewolf Among Us, 2012.
- The Hollow Man, 2011.
- Defending the Night Sprites: Attack of the River Trolls, 2010.
- Code-breaking and the Glimminy, 2009.
- The Evil Orb, 2008.
- The Basilisk Bite, 2007.

Wrote and directed these theatre productions:

- The Forgiving & the Forgetting, 2013. Healing Moments Alzheimer's Ministry. Commissioned.
- The Pickle Patch Bathtub, 2006, 2020. Musical based on the book by Frances Kennedy. Commissioned.
- New Friends for the Big Bad Wolf, musical participation play for Kindergarten and Preschool, designed to teach literacy skills, including phonemic awareness, sound and letter recognition and substitution, prediction, more. Part of a school residency to help teach literacy concepts to PreK. 2002. Commissioned.
- Spreading the News, libretto for one-act opera based on the play by Lady Gregory. Music by Philip Seward. Premiere North Park Univ, Chicago, 1998. Commissioned.
- Imagine and Make It Real, musical theatre ensemble production, 2004, commissioned.
- The Safety Play, musical participation play, sponsored by Lowe's Heroes, to teach safety concepts to young children. Tour of Dubuque schools in 2003. Commissioned. *Winner of the Lowe's Hero's Safety Education award.*
- Saints & Poets, montage in story and song, based on philosophies of human rights. Music by J.B. Skye. Performed at National-Louis University in Spring of 1997.
- Pinocchio, based on the 17th century story by Carlo Collodi. Writing included lyrics and script for this original children's musical. Music by Kevin D. Wall. Production toured Midwest schools.

Representative Acting Roles

- Agatha Trunchbull, Matilda, The Empty Space theatre, Bakersfield, CA 2026.
- The Ring Mistress, A Circus Tail (*premiere*) by B.J. Koerperich, GMETC/Little Bird Creativity Company, Dubuque 2025.
- Dottie Diamond, A Deadly Dinner (*premiere*) Die Laughing Co., Dubuque, 2012-present.
- Liz, Ladyhouse Blues, (selected scenes) Clarke Alumni Showcase, Dubuque IA 2019.
- Mrs. Schaefer, Galena Cemetery Walk, Galena Illinois, 2018.
- Inspector Kemp, Young Frankenstein, Grand Opera House, Dubuque, Iowa 2017.
- M'Lynn Eatenton, Steel Magnolias, Platteville Community Theatre, 2017.
- Tayu/Narrator, A Murder of Crows, Bunraku Puppet theatre, Univ. of Dubuque, 2015.
- Nurse, A Streetcar Named Desire, Grand Opera House, Dubuque, Iowa, 2015.
- Julia Child, Famous Dead Artists Series, Dubuque Museum of Art, 2014.
- Kate Ryan, Dinner a la Morte, Die Laughing Co. Dubuque, 2012-present.
- Judy Shepard, etc., The Laramie Project: 10 Yrs later, the University of Dubuque, 2012.
- Grandma, Ensemble. 24/7 Theatre Project, American Players Theatre, WI 2011.
- Amanda Wingfield, The Glass Menagerie, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre, 2011.
- Louise Nevelson, Famous Dead Artists Series, Dubuque Museum of Art, 2008.
- Annie Ryan, City Hall charwoman, Architecture Alive! Dubuque Museum of Art, 2008.
- Mammy, Wiley and the Hairy Man, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre, 2006.
- Eulalie McKecknie Shinn, The Music Man, The Grand Opera House, Dubuque, 2003.
- Miss Reardon, Miss Reardon Drinks a Little, Fly By Night Theatre, Dubuque, 1999.
- Countess von Sidow, The Antigone in Warsaw, Dubuque Fine Arts Players, 1997.

Selected Storytelling Performances

- Mississippi River Fish & Wildlife Refuge Celebration, Dubuque 2024.
- Broad Ideas, Galena Center for the Arts, 2022.
- Dubuque Museum of Art: The Best Things in Life Aren't Things, Iowa December 2020.
- International Women's Day Celebrations, CSUB 2029, 2020, 2022.
- Family Literacy Night: Nichols Elementary, Bakersfield, CA, Feb 2020.
- International Women's Day Celebration, CSUB, 2019.
- Iowa Library Showcases: Carlisle and Muscatine, Iowa, 2019.
- Family Storytelling Festival, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque, Iowa, 2019.
- Firepit Speakers' Series, Original non-fiction solo performance, Dubuque, Iowa, 2019.
- International Women's Day celebration, California State University Bakersfield, 2019.
- Story with a New Point of View, Broad Ideas, Galena Center for the Arts, 2018.
- Canticle of Creation Center, Imagination Celebration, Mt. St. Francis, Dubuque, 2017.
- Autumn Tales for Families, Dubuque Museum of Art, 2017.
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Dubuque Museum of Art, Washington Park 2016.
- Tadpoles & Tales, Dbq Museum of Art, Carnegie Stout Library 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017.
- Storytelling at Wendy's – Community nights for GMETC, 2011-2013.

- “Monarch Moments” butterfly release service of remembrance, Alzheimer’s Assoc. 2010.
- Dubuquefest: StoryBubble event in Washington Park, Dubuque, IA 2010.
- Dubuque Area Congregations United (DACU) Coffee House Conversations 2014.
- Fabulous Friday Concerts, St. Luke’s UMC, Dubuque: 2008, 2009, 2010.
- Mid-autumn festival, Confucius Institute, 2009.
- Wendy’s on JFK, Dubuque, for Great Midwestern Educational Theatre 2014-2017.
- Voices Warehouse, Dubuque - 2008 exhibit.
- StoryBubble debut, Dubuque Museum of Art 2008.
- Musical Spooktacular, University of Dubuque 2008.
- Concert for the Spoken Word (UW Platteville) 2005.
- “LMnOP” concert series, 2 x each year, Northeast Iowa School of Music 2007-2017.
- Empower Dubuque Expos 2005, 06, 07 .
- Illinois Storytelling Festival 2001.
- Literacy through Stories and Drama project (GMETC) 2005.
- Chicago Botanic Gardens 2001.
- Chicago Humanities Festival 2001.
- Tales from the Heller Woods (Highland Park, IL) 2002.
- Ghost Story Gala (Evanston, IL) 2002.
- Colombian Festival (Chicago) 2002.
- Fiesta del Sol (Chicago) 2002.
- Quad Cities Botanical Center 2001.
- Opening of School Celebration (Chicago) 2000.
- Palmer College of Chiropractic (Davenport, IA) 2001.
- *and over 100 schools in the Chicago area.*

Design

- Set and Costumes, A Circus Tail, GMETC/Little Bird CC 2025.
- Props, The Pickle Patch Bathtub, California State University, spring 2019.
- Props, Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse, California State University, spring 2018.
- Costumes, Bamboozled, University of Dubuque, Spring 2016.
- Costumes, To Be Young, Gifted and Black, University of Dubuque, Winter, 2011.
- Set, Properties and Costumes, Noodle Doodle Box, UD / GMETC 2010.
- Set, Properties and Costumes, Snoopy!!! University of Dubuque, 2008.
- Set, Properties and Costumes, This Is Not A Pipe Dream, University of Dubuque, 2007.
- Costumes, facial hair, Amahl & the Night Visitors, UW-Platteville Music Theatre, 2005.
- Makeup and Wigs, Rigoletto, Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, 2006.
- Set and Properties, The Miracle Worker, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre, 2005.
- Properties, The Mikado, Light Opera Works, Evanston, Illinois, 2000.
- Costumes, A Lie of the Mind, National-Louis University, 2000.
- Properties, Wonderful Town, Light Opera Works, Evanston, Illinois, 1999.

- Costumes, Five Women Wearing the Same Dress, National-Louis University, 1997.
- Costumes, The Robber Bridegroom, National-Louis University, 1996.
- Costumes, The Devil Came from Dublin, Irish Heritage Theatre, 1996.
- Makeup and Wigs, Tartuffe, National-Louis University, 1996.

Selected Technical Production Service

- Producer, Co-director, Incite Insight, concert of improvised music and movement, 2016.
- Producer, Noises Off, University of Dubuque, 2016.
- Producer, Macbeth, University of Dubuque, 2016.
- Producer, The Gretel Project *Interactive Art Exploratory Experience*, UD 2015.
- Producer, The Laramie Project: 10 Yrs Later, The University of Dubuque, 2012.
- Stage Manager, Dubuque Symphony Orchestra at Five Flags Theatre. 2007-2012.
- Producer, The Giver, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Co., 2009.
- Wigs and Makeup, Rigoletto, Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, 2006.
- Dresser for Chenoweth, Wong, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, NSCPAS. 1999.
- Wardrobe, Klub Kokomo, North Shore Center for Perf Arts, Skokie. 2000.
- Wardrobe, The Merry Widow, Light Opera Works, Evanston, Illinois.

Representative Music Performances

- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque, service accompanist, 2005-present.
- Ressler Round Up, *Council Hill Station*, Council Hill Illinois, 2018.
- Narrator, *Something New* concert, Julian Chamber Winds, May 2017.
- Ressler Family Singers, *Originals Only*, Galena Center for the Arts, October 2016.
- Fiddler, Singer, *Moon Charmers*, Dubuque Catfish Festival, May 2013.
- Accompanist, *The Forgiving and the Forgetting*, University of Dubuque, 2013.
- Director, *University of Dubuque Gospel Choir*, 2008-2011.
- Accompanist, *Shullsburg School Music Department*, Shullsburg, WI. 2002-2005
- Piano performance, Faculty recital, National-Louis Univ., *5 Goldberg Variations*, 2002.
- Soloist, *Les Sept Paroles*, Faculty Presentation, National-Louis University, 2000.
- Vocal soloist, Faculty recital Spring Showcase, National-Louis University, 2000.
- Choir director, Epworth United Methodist Church, Epworth, Iowa. 1998-99.
- Ensemble, soloist, New Tuner's Workshop at The Music Institute of Chicago, 1997.
- Piano performance, Faculty recital, National-Louis Univ., (Beethoven.) 1996.

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

KC/ACTF Respondent, Central Valley Circuit, Region VIII. 2018-present.

Workshop leader (Viewpoints), Spotlight High School Theatre Festival, CSUB 2018-present.

Respondent, Kern high school Shakespeare festival, 2018 – present.

Education Committee, Kern Association of Nonprofits, Kern County, 2021-present.

Producer, Family Storytelling Festival, Dubuque, IA 2019.

Creative Director and Educator, Healing Moments Alzheimer's Ministry. 2009-2015.
Artistic & Managing Director, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Co., 2003-present.
Religious Education Director, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque, 2007-2009.
Revision Committee, Iowa State Standards for K-12 Drama & Theatre, 2009.
Americorps partner, offering drama for youth programs in Dubuque County, 2005-2015.
Awards Chair, American Alliance for Theatre & Education, 2007-2008.
Finance Committee, American Alliance for Theatre and Education, 2006-2008.
Conference Chair, D. Kohl Education Foundation Literacy Institutes, 2002-2004.
Co-producer, Betty Weeks Conference of Storytelling for Educators, February, 2000.
Conference Chair, Illinois Theatre Assoc. Children's Theatre/Creative Drama conference, 1998.
Stage Director, Irish American Heritage Theatre, Chicago, 1994-1998.

GRANTS AWARDED

NSF Grant for two NERDS camps (Networking and Engagement for ReDesign in STEM), California State University (Bakersfield, Fresno, Stanislaus), 2023, 2024.
HAVlife Foundation, for summer camp scholarships, 2019, 2021, 2023.
McDonough Foundation, for Storytelling Festival support, 2018.
McGraw Hill Education, for arts camp support, 2016.
Wendt Character Center, for compassion training workshops, 2016.
McGraw Hill Education, for video equipment for community projects, 2014.
Mediacom, for participatory story drama events for families and young children. 2013.
Mediacom, for production of original premiere play, *The Forgiving and the Forgetting*, Healing Moments Alzheimer's Education and Advocacy Ministry. 2012.
Alliant Energy Foundation for 2011 production of *The Glass Menagerie* for GMETC.
Dubuque Racing Association for theatrical drapes and staging equipment. (2010)
Wisconsin Arts Board, National Endowment for the Arts for production of *Bus Stop* in Shullsburg, Wisconsin. Southwestern Wisconsin Community Fund.
Dubuque Racing Association for 18' geodesic dome tent for storytelling performances. For trailer for touring productions. (2006). For wheel-chair accessible ramp for the Copeland Opera House in Shullsburg,, Wisconsin.
Diamond Jo Cares for Imagination Celebration event planning and support, GMETC.
Alliant Energy Foundation for Pickle Patch Bathtub production, (2007) Literacy Through Stories and Drama. (2005).
Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque for Literacy Through Stories and Drama, Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Company project. (2005). Support for production of, *A Raisin in the Sun* (2006)
Point of Beginning Heritage Area for store front millwork of historic building restoration project, the Copeland Opera House in Shullsburg, Wisconsin. (2004)
Illinois Arts Council for sponsored performances of *Mothers and Other Wild Women* storytelling production for Women's History month, Evanston, Illinois. (2002)

WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, *Loneliness Will Kill You*, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque, 2025.

Presenter, 2025 Applied Improvisation Network Global Conf. Safety Bay FL 2025. *Applied Improvisation for University STEM faculty.*

Poster Presenter, 2024 Science & Technology Education conference, Porto Portugal, 2024.

Presenter and Camp Director, NERDs camp (Networking & Engagement for ReDesign in STEM) California State University 2023, 2024.

Speaker, *Why You Need an Improvisational Mindset and How to Get It*, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque, August 5, 2024.

Presenter, *World Building Through Improv: Co-Creating Stories of Justice & Empowerment*, Applied Improvisational Network Global Conference, July 27-August 1, 2022, Avila, Spain.

Presenter, *Inquiry and Action Devising Improvised Drama with Youth*, American Alliance for Theatre & Education conference, 2020 (online).

Presenter *Creating Delicious Fear to Practice Courage*, Applied Improvisation Network Global Conference, online, October 16-21, 2021.

Invited Speaker, *Removing the Masks Beneath the Surface: Social Emotional Development for Growth Mindset*, Fountain of Youth, Partners in Change Community Poverty Initiative, 2020.

Workshop leader, *Building Connection and Community through Engagement and Storytelling Games*, Ideas Lab: CSUB/Fresno State/CSU-Stanislaus, 2020.

Presenter, *Practicing Delicious Fear for Anxiety Management*, Ignite and Poster sessions, American Camp Association National Research Conference, San Diego CA 2020.

Presenter, Viewpoints. Spotlight high school theatre festival, CSU Bakersfield, 2019-2024.

Presenter, *Applied Improvisation for Socio-Emotional Learning*, Plum Village Happy Mind Sangha, Fountain Valley CA, 2019.

Presenter, *Understanding Isotopes and Climate Change Through Improvisation*, Applied Improvisation Network conference, Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, at Stonybrook University, 2019.

Presenter, *Large Group Story Drama* – American Camping Association Midstates Conf 2018.

Faculty Workshop Leader, *Applied Improvisation for Life & Learning* – U of Dubuque, 2017.

Presenter, *A Story-making Experience: Large Group Improvised Process Drama* --Applied Improvisation Network Conference Workshop, Irvine CA, 2017.

Presenter, *Out on a Limb: Understanding and Experiencing The Cognitive and Practical Benefits of Improvisation* -- College Music Society Pre-Conference Workshop, St. Louis 2015.

Panelist, *Sol & Paul – Racing Past the Color Line*, University of Dubuque, 2014.

Presenter, Iowa Alzheimer's Association conference, *New Ways of Communication*, 2013.

Presenter, Iowa Thespian Festival, *Introduction to Viewpoints Physical Theatre*, 2013.

Presenter, IL Theatre Conf: *I Never Metaphor I Didn't Like: Meaning in Time and Space* 2014.

Speaker, Summary and Charge, National Black Student Union conf., 2012, Lincolnshire, IL.

Keynote Speaker, 16th Annual Memory Loss Conference, Alz. Assoc., SIU School of Medicine, IL Dept. on Aging. With J Angelica. *Meeting Alzheimer's – for Families: Caregiving and Hope*.
Presenter, *UU Prairie Star District conference*, Healing Moments Alzheimer's Ministry, 2010
Presenter, *National Council on Aging*, Healing Moments 2010.
Presenter, *Illinois Theatre Association Winter conference*, Storydrama in the classroom, 2010.
Presenter, *Map Through the Maze*, Interdisc. Conf for Alzheimer Care Professionals, 2009.
Presenter, *Mississippi Valley Early Childhood Education Conference*, Story drama, 2008, 2009.
Presenter, *Extended Drama Experience Project - Long form role-play*, American Alliance for Theatre & Education annual conference, Washington, D.C., 2006.
Presenter, *Storytelling Across the Curriculum*, IL Theatre Assoc. CT/CD Conference, 2005.
Guest Artist, *Storyteller*, Cultural Diversity Day, UW Platteville, Fall, 2004.
Presenter, *Storytelling & Story Drama*, Early Childhood Conf., UW-P 2003, 2004, 2008.
Presenter, *Kinesthetic Approaches to Literacy*, CAEYC conference, February 2003, Chicago.
Presenter, *Parents as Partners: Helping Your Child Learn to LOVE to Read*, Nielsen Ctr, 2003.
Guest Artist, *Ghost Story Gala*, National-Louis University, October 1999 and various .
Emcee, *Mom's the Word* by Milbre Burch, National-Louis University, February 2000.
Featured Guest Director, Illinois Theatre Association Conference, Evanston, Illinois. Production: *Wolf Child: The Correction of Joseph*. February 1998.

RESEARCH

- Primary Investigator (with M. Banuelos, L. Guzman, C. Jones, E. Walter, R. Romanoff, & X. Xu). Summer Family Camp: Building Community, Belonging, and Excellence in STEM Teaching. \$50,000 NSF grant for NERDs camp, Fall 2022, Spring 2024.
- *Dissertation*: A Program Evaluation -- Immersive Devised Story Drama: Process and Impacts at a Summer Creativity Camp.
- Social Emotional Learning in out-of-school contexts
- Iterative immersive devised theatre.
- Use of improvisational techniques teaching caregivers and family members of persons with Alzheimer's how to communicate in an improvisational reality. 2009.
- Archival Research Project: 1898 to 1957 Drama Curriculum at the Children's School and the National Kindergarten College.
- Pilot Study: Creative Drama as Methodology Applied to a Character Development Program.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Ideas Lab**, KnowInnovation, addressing Big Challenge in Science, 2020-2024.
- **Educational Leadership doctoral program**, National-Louis University, 2017-2020.
- **NerdCon: Stories**, Minneapolis, MN, July 2016.
- **Red Nose Mask Workshop**, Paola Coletto, Chicago 2015.
- **SITI Company, Physical Theatre Intensive**, Boise Idaho, August 2013.

- **Telling Native American Stories**, 2011 WISTGET conference, Debra Morningstar.
- **Improv Wisdom**, The Center for Living, Rock Island, IL, 2009.
- **Theatre Leadership Institute**, American Alliance for Theatre & Education, 2008.
- **Community Leadership Alliance**, certificate, Continuing Ed., UW-Platteville, 2007.
- **Curtains Up! Restoring Historic Theatres**, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Milwaukee, WI. 2007
- **Nonprofit Management Seminar Series**, Iowa State Extension, Northeast Iowa Community College. Coursework: Board Development, Marketing, Grant-writing.
- **Spaces of Creation**, American Alliance for Theatre & Education 2005 conference, Chicago, movement and writing workshop Suzan Zeder and Jim Hancock, instructors.
- **Teaching Advanced Placement English**, graduate course at Augsburg College. Teaching techniques for literary analysis and critique. L. Caruso, inst. 2004.
- **Collecting Oral History**. School of Storytelling, Northlands Storytelling Network. pre-conference, Stories for the New Tellennium, Susan Gilchrist, instructor. Spring 2000.
- **Teaching History Through Storytelling and The Power of Storytelling with Rex Ellis. From Teller to Teller, Margaret Read MacDonald. StoryLab and Shakespeare in the Woods, with Ed Stivender.** Florida Storytelling Camp, Eustis, FL. Spring 2000.
- **Visual Gesture Communication into ASL**, seven-week workshop series in American Sign Language, National-Louis University. Michael Stark, instructor. Spring 2000.
- **First Things First: Orality Into Literacy**. Making Sand Tray Stories. Milbre Burch and Carol Per Lee, instructors. The Betty Weeks Storytelling Conference for Educators, National-Louis University, February 2000.
- **Viewpoints: Physical Theatre**, Lookingglass Theatre Co., and the Actors' Gymnasium. Shade Murray, Alexandra Billings, instructors. 2000-2001.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Sabbatical Leave Award, California State University Bakersfield, Fall 2024.
- Millie Ablin Excellence in Teaching, California State University Bakersfield, 2022-23.
- Best Individual Impact, Dubuque 365 Community Impact Awards, 2015.
- National Interfaith Council, *Best Practices - National Council on Aging*, 2010.
- Ruby Sutton Humanitarian Award, Dubuque Chapter NAACP, 2008.
- Outstanding New Theatre Company, Artistic Director, AATE, 2006.
- Creative Drama Teaching Excellence Award, Illinois Theatre Association, 2005.
- Nominated by students for Excellence in Teaching Award, National-Louis Univ., 2001.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Alliance for Theatre and Education
 American Educational Research Association
 Applied Improvisation Network
 California Educational Theatre Association

California Faculty Association
NAACP – Dubuque Chapter
National Storytelling Network
National Trust for Historic Preservation
TYA/USA (International Theatre for Young Audiences Association)

REFERENCES:

Contact information available upon request

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Ms. Jasmin Cardenas
Chicago Actress, Activist,
Arts Educator, Storyteller