

CURRICULUM VITAE
AMANDA PETEFISH-SCHRAG
Master of Fine Arts

www.petefish-schrag.com
Department of Music and Theatre
Iowa State University
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EDUCATION

M.F.A., Directing

Minnesota State University, Mankato — 2003

B.A., Theatre Arts

University of Minnesota, Morris — 1999

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Department of Music and Theatre, Iowa State University — Ames, IA

Associate Professor of Theatre — 2020–Current

Current responsibilities include:

Teach

- Script Analysis (Theatre 2630) — one–two sections yearly
- History of Theatre I (Theatre 4650) — yearly
- History of Theatre II (Theatre 4660) — yearly
- Puppetry Design and Performance (Theatre 3520) — every other year
- Acting Period Styles (Theatre 4510) — every other year
- Applied Storytelling (Theatre 3710) — co-teach every other year
- Advanced Directing (Theatre 4560) — co-teach every other year

Direct at least one ISU Theatre production each year

Mentor performance majors and minors; student directors, dramaturgs, actors, puppeteers, & puppet designers

Coordinate and supervise the Puppet Lab

Coordinate the department Acting Program

Engage in professional activity/scholarship in the fields of puppetry, playwriting, & performance,

Provide service and outreach for the university and department, including department recruiting

Assistant Professor of Theatre — 2014–2020

Responsibilities included:

Teach

Actor's Voice (Theatre 151) — one–two sections yearly

Teach Acting II (Theatre 351) — two sections yearly

Teach Acting III (Theatre 451) — yearly

Teach History of Theatre I (Theatre 465) — yearly

Teach History of Theatre II (Theatre 466) — yearly

Direct two ISU Theatre productions each year

Coordinate the department Acting Program

Mentor student actors, directors, & dramaturgs

Engage in professional activity/scholarship in the fields of playwriting, performance, and puppetry

Provide service and outreach for the university and department, including department recruiting

Department of Fine and Performing Arts, Northwest Missouri State University — Maryville, MO

Associate Professor — 2012–2014

Assistant Professor — 2006–2012

Responsibilities included:

Teach

Theatre Appreciation (Theatre 110) — yearly

Acting (Theatre 230) — yearly

Theatre Voice and Movement (Theatre 235) — alternating years

Playwriting (Theatre 316) — alternating years

Advanced Acting (Theatre 330) — alternating years

Acting Period Styles (Theatre 335) — alternating years

History of Theatre I (Theatre 407) — yearly

History of Theatre II (Theatre 408) — yearly

Theatre Capstone (Theatre 497) — yearly

Theatre Special Topics: Puppetry (Theatre 401) — alternating years (summer)

Direct two Northwest productions each year

Serve as Theatre Program Director (production and academic programs)

Mentor student actors, playwrights, and directors

Coordinate publicity and front-of-house/box office operations

Engage in professional activity/scholarship in the fields of playwriting, performance, and puppetry

Provide Service and outreach for the university and department, including department recruiting

Department of Communication/Theatre, Dakota Wesleyan University — Mitchell, SD

Assistant Professor — 2003–2006

Responsibilities included:

Teach

- Introduction to Theatre — yearly
- Acting I — yearly
- Acting II — yearly
- Theatre History and Literature — yearly
- Theatre Movement — alternating years
- Theatre of Social Change — alternating years
- Fundamentals of Design — yearly

Direct two–three Dakota Wesleyan productions each year

Design two–three Dakota Wesleyan productions each year

Serve as Theatre Program Director (production & academic programs)

Manage facilities for campus theatre performances & shop spaces

Mentor student actors, playwrights, designers, & directors

Coordinate publicity and front-of-house/box office operations

Engage in professional activity/scholarship in the fields of performance and puppetry

Provide service and outreach for the university and department, including department recruiting

Petefish Puppeteers — Alexandria, MN

Puppeteer — 1981–2001

Responsibilities included:

- Design and fabricate puppets
- Perform in repertory and new puppet productions
- Write and develop puppet scripts
- Provide puppet care and maintenance
- Coordinate load-in/load-out for selected touring productions

Faith United Methodist Church — St. Anthony, MN

Director of Children's Ministry (1999–2001)

Responsibilities included:

- Develop and maintain programs for children and families
 - Supervise staff and volunteers in Children's Ministry program area
 - Recruit and hire paid staff and volunteers
 - Manage and oversee budgets in program area
 - Participate in worship leadership one-two Sundays per month
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CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Juried/Peer Reviewed Performances, Exhibitions, & Shows (Puppetry)

A Christmas Carol — Puppet Designer, Fabricator & Coach
Iowa State University, Department of Music and Theatre — *Current*

“Embodied Ecology: Puppetry and Citizen Science in the Iowa DNR Deer Project” — Puppet Designer & Fabricator
Puppet Power International Applied Puppetry Exhibit, Ames, IA — 2025

“Cultivating Wonder Through the Interplay of Art and Science: The Iowa Insect Pageant” —Puppet Designer & Fabricator
Puppet Power International Applied Puppetry Exhibit, Ames, IA — 2025

Fairytales for the Anthropocene — Lead Puppet Designer, Fabricator & Coach
Iowa State University, Department of Music and Theatre — 2024

The Velveteen Rabbit — Puppet Designer, Fabricator & Coach
Iowa State University, Department of Music and Theatre — 2023

Head Over Heels — Puppet Designer & Fabricator
Iowa State University, Department of Music and Theatre — 2023

She Kills Monsters — Puppet Designer, Fabricator & Coach
Iowa State University, Department of Music and Theatre — 2023

Iowa Insect Pageant — Puppet Designer, Fabricator & Coach
Iowa State University, Department of Music and Theatre — 2022

Of the Deep — Lead Puppet Designer & Fabricator
Iowa State University, Department of Music and Theatre — 2020

“Clytemnaestra” (from *Iphigenia*) — Puppet Designer & Fabricator
Puppeteers of America National Puppetry Festival (Exhibit), Minneapolis, MN — 2019

Rhapsody in Plastic — Puppet Designer & Fabricator; Lead Puppeteer
Iowa State University, Department of Music and Theatre — 2018

Iphigenia — Puppet Designer & Fabricator
Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2018

“Simpson’s Piranha Puppet” and “Dodo Bird” — Puppet Designer & Fabricator
Puppeteers of America National Puppetry Festival (Exhibit), St. Paul, MN — 2017

The Tempest — Shadow Puppet Designer
Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2017

Mr. Burns — Piranha Puppet (Rod Puppet) Designer
Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2016

The Birds — Puppet Designer
Iowa State University, Department of Music and Theatre — 2016

Everybody Rains (Music Video) — Lead Puppeteer (Mouth Puppet)
Produced by Christopher the Conquered, Des Moines, IA — 2015

Avenue Q — Puppetry Coach
Stage West Theatre Company, Des Moines, IA — 2014

The Nutcracker — Lead Designer (Shadow, Hand, and Bunraku-Style Puppets)
Northwest Missouri State University Theatre — 2013

A Christmas Carol — Puppet Designer; Ghost of Christmas Future (Large-Scale Rod Puppet)
Northwest Missouri State University Theatre — 2010

The World Entire — Designer (Large-Scale Rod Puppets)
McGovern Conference, Mitchell, SD — 2005

Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates — Swan Puppet Designer (Large-Scale Marionette)
Stages Theatre Company, Hopkins, MN — 2000

(Over 100 designs collaboratively completed, and roles performed as a member of Petefish Puppeteers, 1981–2001)

Juried/Peer Reviewed Exhibitions, Shows, & Performances (Directing)

A Christmas Carol — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — *Current*

Fairytales for the Anthropocene — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2024

The Velveteen Rabbit — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2023

Iowa Insect Pageant — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2022

Of the Deep — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2020

Invited Production, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), Region 5 — *Online, 2021*

Iowa Odyssey, or How We Got to Here (Devising Facilitator) — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2019
Invited Production, KCACTF Region 5 — *Sioux Falls, SD, 2020*

This Is Not a Pipe Dream — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2018

Iphigenia — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2018
Invited Production, KCACTF Region 5 — Sioux Falls, SD, 2019

Out of the Fire: The Banned Books Monologues — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2017

The Tempest — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2017

Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2016

The Birds — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2016

Love and Information — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2015

On the Verge — Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2015

A Christmas Carol — Repertory Theatre of Iowa, Des Moines, IA — 2014

Urinetown — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2014

The Nutcracker — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2013

Death Comes for Jesse James — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2013

Wiley and the Hairy Man — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2012

Fuddy Meers — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2012

Man of Steel — Kansas City Fringe Festival, Kansas City, MO — 2011

The Tempest — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2011

A Christmas Carol — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2010

Eurydice (Ruhl) — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2010

Tartuffe (Molière) — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2010

Supergirls! Tales of Life, Love, and Captain Nebraska — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2009

The Birds (Aristophanes) — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2008

The Ash Girl — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2007

The Glass Menagerie — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2007

Godspell — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO — 2006

The World Entire — McGovern Conference, Mitchell, SD — 2005

The Imaginary Invalid: A Dramatical Primer — Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival, Iowa City, IA — 2005

The Taming of the Shrew: Who's Taming Who? — Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival, Iowa City, IA — 2005

The Nightingale — Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD — 2005

Out of Our Father's House — Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD — 2005

A Fable — Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD — 2004

This Is Not a Pipe Dream — Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD — 2004

Twelfth Night — Riverside Theatre Young People's Company, Iowa City, IA — 2003

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Children's Production) — Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival, Iowa City, IA — 2003

RTSF Green Show — Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival, Iowa City, IA — 2003

Dancing at Lughnasa — Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD — 2003

On the Verge — Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN — 2002

To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday — Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN — 2002

Nightingale — Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN — 2001

A Midsummer Night's Dream — North Branch Area Theatre, North Branch, MN — 2001

Our Town — North Branch Area Theatre, North Branch, MN — 2000

Oklahoma! — North Branch Area Theatre, North Branch, MN — 2000

The Wishing Stone — University of Minnesota, Morris, MN — 1999

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers — Old Operahouse Theatre, Dell Rapids, SD — 1998

Oliver! — Prairie Wind Players, Barrett, MN — 1998

Juried/Peer Reviewed Exhibitions, Shows, & Performances (Playwriting)

Full-Length Plays

A Christmas Carol (co-adapted with Ben Schrag) from Charles Dickens
Co-authorship responsibilities: Dramaturgical research; structural development; dialogue and stage directions.
Estimated contribution: 50%
Iowa State University Theatre — Upcoming Nov. 2026

The Velveteen Rabbit (co-adapted with Ben Schrag) from Charles Dickens
Co-authorship responsibilities: Dramaturgical research; structural development; dialogue and stage directions.
Estimated contribution: 50%
Iowa State University Theatre — 2023

The Endurance of Light

Acacia Theatre Company, Milwaukee, WI — 2019

Athena Plays in Progress Series, Denver, CO (Workshop Production) — 2019

Renaissance Theaterworks' *Br!nk New Play Festival*, Milwaukee, WI (Workshop & Readings) — 2017

Iphigenia (co-adapted with Ben Schrag) — from Euripides

Co-authorship responsibilities: Historical research; structural development; dialogue and stage directions.

Estimated contribution: 50%

Invited Production, Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Sioux Falls, SD — 2019

Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2018

The Birds (co-adapted with Ben Schrag) — from Aristophanes

Co-authorship responsibilities: Historical research; structural development; co-authored dialogue and stage directions.

Estimated contribution: 50%

New Village Arts, Carlsbad, CA — 2018

Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2016

Supergirls! Tales of Life, Love, and Captain Nebraska

Ames Public Library, Ames, IA — 2018

Freeman Performing Arts Series, Freeman, SD — 2011

Bethel College, Newton, KS — 2010

Northwest Missouri State University Theatre — 2009

Shakespeare on the Green (co-written with Ben Schrag)

Co-authorship responsibilities: Project initiation; historical research; structure and early drafts; co-authored dialogue and stage directions.

Estimated contribution: 50%

Selected Productions:

The Kingswood Arts Center, Wolfboro, NH — 2026

Seaside High School, Seaside OR — 2023

Lawton-Bronson High School, Lawson IA — 2022

Cedaredge High School, Cedaredge, CO — 2022

Old Colony Drama Club, Rochester, MA — 2021

The Little Theatre of Alexandria, Alexandria, VA — 2020

Heston College, Heston, KS — 2019

Nyack College, Nyack, NY — 2019

Alliance International Academy, Quito, Ecuador — 2019

Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, PA — 2018

Concordia University, Seward, NE — 2018

Toronto Catholic District School Board Staff Arts, Toronto, ON, Canada — 2018
TASIS School Theatre, Surrey, UK — 2017
Spokane International Academy, Spokane, WA — 2017
The Snarks Limited, Triangle Theatre, New York, NY (Reading) — 2016
Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy, KS — 2016
Pomperaug High School Theatre, Southbury, CT — 2016
Center High School Theatre, Kansas City, MO — 2016
Northeast Academy, Kingwood, TX — 2015
Cabrini College, Radnor, PA — 2014
Carroll County High School, Hillsville, VA — 2014
Shade Tree Players, Bismarck, ND — 2013
Green Mountain Union High School, Chester, VT — 2013
Aberdeen Community Theatre, Aberdeen, SD — 2012
Penn's Grove School, Oxford, PA — 2012
South Georgia College, Douglas, GA — 2011
Todd Wehr Theatre, Milwaukee, WI — 2011
Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival, Iowa City, IA (premiered in installments) — 2004–2007

Total: 78 productions (172 performances)

Death Comes for Jesse James (musical) — Book and Lyrics
(co-written with Ben Schrag; music by Michael Trosvig)

Co-authorship responsibilities: Project initiation; historical research; co-written dialogue; lyric development support.

Estimated contribution: 35%

Northwest Missouri State University Theatre, Maryville, MO — 2013

The World Entire

McGovern Conference, Mitchell, SD — 2005

The Nightingale

Dakota Wesleyan University Theatre, Mitchell, SD — 2005

Short Plays and One-Acts

“Bus Stop Revolutions”

In Our Backyard: A New Eco-Play Festival, Ames EcoTheatre Lab — 2026

“The Fall”

Fairytales for the Anthropocene, Iowa State University Theatre, Ames, IA — 2024

Slingshot: Storybook, Seattle, WA (Reading) — 2015

“The Coat Room”

AIE Charter School, Miami Springs, FL — 2023

Woodside Priory School, Portola Valley, CA — 2021

Howmet Playhouse Summer Shorts, Whitehall, MI — 2019

“Finding Amelia”

Tiny Shorts Festival, Union Theatre, London, UK — 2018

AlphaNYC Women’s Eight-udes, New York, NY — 2017

AlphaNYC Thalia Festival, New York, NY — 2016

(Originally titled “Ella Finds Amelia”)* Indie Boots Theatre Festival, Chicago, IL — 2015

The Break-In

EU Presents: Evening of Monologues and Shorts, New York, NY — 2016

Acme New Works Festival, Maynard, MA — 2016

“The Imaginary Invalid: A Dramatical Primer” (co-written with Ben Schrag)

Co-authorship responsibilities: Historical research; first draft; co-development of revisions.

Estimated contribution: 60%

International High School, San Francisco CA — 2023

Shenandoah High School, Treynor, IA — 2018

Actors Workshop of Ithaca, Ithaca, NY — 2016

Bishop Hendricken High School, Warwick, RI — 2016

Rappahannock High School Theatre, VA — 2012

Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival, Iowa City, IA — 2005

“Rebecca’s Roommate”

Theatre Westminster’s 10-Minute New Play Festival, New Wilmington, PA — 2015

Acme New Works Festival, Maynard, MA — 2014

Indie Boots Theatre Festival, Chicago, IL — 2013

“The Wisdom of Pirates”

10 × 10 in the Triangle, ArtsCenter's International New Play Festival, Carrboro, NC — 2014

“Sunday in the Park with Carla”

GirlShorts, Minneapolis, MN — 2014

Barn Players 6 × 10 Theatre Festival, Kansas City, KS — 2012

31 Plays in 31 Days Podcast (Reading) — 2012

“Physics”

VisionFest 5: *Johnny 5 Alive*, LiveWire Chicago, IL — 2013

“The Christmas Unicorn”

New American Theatre Festival of New One-Act Plays, Los Angeles, CA — 2013

“Fairy Tale”

Newburgh Free Academy New Play Festival, Newburgh, NY — 2013

Monologues

“Art Nouveau”

Freshwater Theatre, *The Recollection Collection*, Minneapolis, MN — 2015

“The Suitcase”

Riverside Theatre, *Walking the Wire: Confidential*, Iowa City, IA — 2015

“Contrition”

Riverside Theatre, *Walking the Wire: Merge*, Iowa City, IA — 2014

“Lost in the Flood”

Riverside Theatre, *Walking the Wire: This Will Never Work*, Iowa City, IA — 2012

“Memo from My Father”

Forward Theatre Company, *The Love That Changed My Life*, Madison, WI — 2011

“The God of Animal Planet”

Riverside Theatre, *Walking the Wire: OMG*, Iowa City, IA — 2011

Honors and Competitive Recognition (*Juried national and international competitions*)

The Endurance of Light (full-length)

Acadiana Repertory Theatre, Lafayette, LA — Season Finalist (Top 1%) — 2018

Hive Collaborative, Provo, UT — Quarterfinalist (Top 10%) — 2018

Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company *Generations Competition*, Boulder, CO — Semifinalist (Top 20%) — 2016

“The Big Game” (one-act)

Lakeshore Players New Play Festival, White Bear Lake, MN — Semifinalist (Top 12%) — 2016

“The Fall” (one-act)

Blue Elephant Theatre, Camberwell, UK — Finalist (Top 15%) — 2016

Juried / Refereed Conference Presentations (Puppetry)

“Puppetry’s Transformative Potential in Actor Development” (Co-presented with Dr. Jennifer Lale)
Mid-American Theatre Conference — 2024

“Puppetry for a Plague Year” Canadian Association for Theatre Research — 2023

“Puppetry for a Plague Year: A Syllabus?” Mid-American Theatre Conference — 2023

“Iowa Insect Pageant: A Tale of Insects, Giant Puppets, and Some Saxophones” (Co-presented with Mike Giles and Dr. Matt O’Neal), Reiman Gardens’ Day of Insects — 2022

“Puppetry as Sympathetic Magic: Building the World We Want From the Materials We Don’t”
Puppet Power 2020, Calgary Conference on Applied Puppetry (Canada) — 2020

“The Puppeteer as Scientist-Shaman: Interrogating the Ecology and Ethics of Material”
Puppeteers of America National Puppetry Festival, Critical Exchange — 2019

“Talking Trash: Examining the Narrative Potential of Discarded Materials in Puppetry”
Puppeteers of America National Puppetry Festival, Critical Exchange — 2017

“Staging and Interrogating Materialities Through Junk Objects: Expanding Female Narratives in Puppetry”
Mid-America Theatre Conference — 2016

“Inspired by Trash: Finding a New Path to Tradition, Ethics, and Sustainability in Puppetry”
Mid-American Theatre Conference — 2015

Juried / Refereed Conference Presentations (Other)

“Season Planning and Wellness: An ‘Impossible’ Marriage?” (co-presented with Tiffany Antone)
Mid-American Theatre Conference — 2022

“Creating Character in New Work: A Playwright, a Dramaturg, and a Director in Discussion”
(co-presented with Drs. Penelope Cole and Bethany Wood), Mid-American Theatre Conference — 2020

“Navigating the Higher Education Job Search” Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival
— 2017

“Training the Actor-Collaborator” Mid-American Theatre Conference — 2011

“Developing the ‘X-Factor’: Fostering Professionalism and Character through Internship and Practical Experiences” 4th Annual Conference on Applied Learning in Higher Education — 2009

“Taming the Diva Personality: Strategies for Developing Professionalism and Character in Student Actors”
Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival — 2009

“Co-Directing with a Purpose” (co-presented with Dr. Theo Ross), Region V Kennedy Center American
College Theatre Festival — 2008

“From the Classroom to the Stage” (co-presented with Margaret Whedon), Region V Kennedy Center
American College Theatre Festival — 2008

“The Gilded Destroyer: The Mongol Influence on Chinese Opera” National Communication Association —
1999

Invited Performances, Presentations, and Masterclasses (Puppetry)

International / National / Regional

“Animating Ideas: Puppetry Techniques as Storytelling Tools”

(Co-presented with Dr. Jen Shook)

Puppet Power Applied Puppetry Conference — Ames, IA, and Calgary, AB, Canada — 2025

“Puppets as Sympathetic Magic”

WP Puppet Theater, *Puppet Provocations* (on-demand learning series for high school fine arts and language
teachers throughout Canada), Calgary, AB, Canada — 2023

“Cultivating Wonder Through the Interplay of Art and Science: The Iowa Insect Pageant”

Entomological Society of America Joint Annual Meeting — Vancouver, BC, Canada — 2022

“Power to the Puppet: Puppetry as a Tool of Social Change” — Design Intensive

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 5 — 2017, 2018

“Performing Puppets” — Master Class

Southwest Minnesota State University — 2015

“Found Object Puppetry” — Design Intensive

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 5 — 2014–2016

State and Local

In Our Backyard: A New Eco-Play Festival — Puppet Designer, Fabricator & Coach

EcoTheatre Lab, in partnership with the Ames Climate Action Team, Ames, IA — 2026

“Deer Puppets” — Extension Presentations, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Chronic Wasting
Disease Education Unit, *Role*: Puppet Designer & Fabricator — 2025–Present

“Puppets in History” — University of Iowa Art History Club — 2026

“Ames Puppet Power Community Workshop” — Ames Public Library, Ames, IA — 2025

Ancient Stories for Modern Times — Ames Chamber Artists, *Role*: Puppet Designer, Lead Puppeteer — 2025

“Building Audience Relationships: Lessons from the World of Puppetry” — *Business of Art Conference*, Octagon Art Center, Ames, IA — 2023

“Learning About Insects: The Iowa Insect Pageant” — Ames Public Library, Ames, IA — 2022

“Political Puppets (Literally!): Puppetry as an Agent of Social Change” — Iowa State University Honors Program Salon — 2017

Invited Performances, Presentations, and Masterclasses (Other)

International, National, and Regional

“The Power of One: Creating the One-Person Show” — Playwriting Panel, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region V — 2019

“A Career in Theatre While Parenting” — Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region V

“Becoming a Supergirl: The Process of Developing a One-Woman Show” Convocation Address, Bethel College, Newton, KS — 2010

State and Local

“Improv and Interviewing” *Business Week Speaker Series*, ISU College of Business — 2016

Preparing Future Faculty Panel: “Choices—Coming Back to Academia” — Iowa State University Graduate College — 2015

“After the Flood” & “Giants” (Monologue Presentation) — *Women in the Arts Showcase*, Northwest Missouri State University — 2013

“An Education Worth Selling” *College of Arts and Sciences Academic Showcase*, Northwest Missouri State University — 2011

“Living ‘On the Verge’” — Keynote Address, Celebration of Quality Symposium, Northwest Missouri State University — 2010

“Forging Our Armor” — Keynote Address, *Women’s Herstory Month*, Northwest Missouri State University — 2010

Non-Juried Performances, Presentations, Exhibitions & Shows (Puppetry)

“Working with Shadow Puppets”
Ames High School Drama Students — 2025

“Learning About Insects: The Iowa Insect Pageant”
Ames Public Library — 2022

“Puppetry as Problem Solving”
Snapshot Stories in the Arts & Sciences Ignite Innovation Showcase, Iowa State University — 2022

“Pollinator Puppets” (Exhibit), Puppet Designer and Fabricator
Pollinator Fest, Reiman Gardens — 2022

“Pollinator Puppets” (Exhibit), Puppet Designer and Fabricator
ISU Extension Pollinator Garden Kick-Off — 2022

“Puppets and Plastics” (Exhibit), Puppet Designer and Fabricator
Grand Opening, ISU Student Innovation Center — 2021

Creation (Puppet Performance Series), Puppet Designer; Lead Puppeteer
Ames United Church of Christ — 2020

“The Puppeteer as Scientist-Shaman”
Iowa State University Research Day — 2019

“Puppet Design and Construction for ISU’s *Iphigenia*” (Exhibit)
Iowa State University Research Day — 2019

Ruth (Puppet Performance Series) — Puppet Designer; Lead Puppeteer
Ames United Church of Christ — 2018

“Talking Trash: Reinvigorating Puppetry Tradition Through Discarded Material Use” (Exhibit)
Iowa State University Research Day — 2018

“Puppet Performance in Practice”
Iowa Thespian Festival — 2018

“Talking Trash: Using Discarded Materials to Achieve the Puppeteer’s Role of Citizen-Shaman”
Iowa State University Research Day — 2017

“Political Puppets (Literally!): Puppetry as an Agent of Social Change”
Iowa State University Honors Program Salon — 2017

“First, Do No Harm: Sustaining Tradition, Aesthetics, and Ethics in Puppet Design and Construction”
ISU Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities, Research Summit — 2014

Non-Juried Performances, Exhibitions, & Shows (Other)

“Reality’ Television: Historical Roots and Contexts”
Iowa State University Honors 1210 Class Guest Presenter— 2024

“Tackling the Taboo: Why Write a Play about Miscarriage?”
Iowa State University Research Day — 2018

“Developing Leadership and Collaboration through Improvisational Theatre”
Iowa 4-H Youth Conference — 2017

“Making Friends with Fear”
Missouri Thespian Festival — 2007

PUBLICATIONS

Puppetry-Related

“Talking Trash: Discarded Material as Invitation in Puppetry Practice and Performance.”

New Paths in Ecodramaturgies, edited by Heather J. Denyer. Routledge — Forthcoming

“Untangling ‘Wicked Problems’: WP Puppet Theater.”

Web article, WP Puppet Theater — 2025

<https://www.wppuppet.com/articles>

“Expanding Puppetry’s Reach: Defining Applied Puppetry.”

Web article, WP Puppet Theater — 2025

<https://www.wppuppet.com/articles>

“Puppetry for a Plague Year: A Syllabus?”

International Journal of Education & the Arts, Volume 25, Special Issue 2: Issues in Teaching Theatre Design — 2024

“Inspired by Trash: Finding a New Path to Tradition, Ethics, and Sustainability in Puppetry.”

Theatre/Practice: The Online Journal of the Practice/Production Symposium of the Mid-America Theatre Conference, Volume 5 — 2016

Playwriting

Alice in Quarantine: A Drive-Through Adventure (co-authored with Tiffany Antone, Jennie Webb, Allie Costa, Mildred Lewis, Taylor Sklenar, Charissa Menefee, Micki Shelton, Sharon Goldner, and Cynthia Wands; (Co-authorship responsibilities: Dramaturgical research; structural development; dialogue and stage directions for select portions of the play *Estimated contribution: 10%*).

Next Stage Press — 2021

“Supergirls! Tales of Life, Love, and Captain Nebraska: Harrier Monologue”

Best Monologues of 2019, pp. 100–101. Smith & Kraus — 2019

“The Coat Room”

105 Five-Minute Plays, pp. 126–131. Smith & Kraus — 2017

“Rebecca’s Roommate”

Jenny Magazine, Issue 011. Youngstown, OH — 2016

“Art Nouveau”

The Recollection Collection: A New Play Anthology, pp. 36–38. Freshwater Press — 2015

“Wisdom of Pirates”

Far Off Places, Issue V: *Sartorial*, pp. 27–35. Edinburgh, UK — 2014

“The Imaginary Invalid: A Dramatical Primer” (co-authored with Ben Schrag)

Great Short Plays, Vol. 8, pp. 51–62. Playscripts, Inc. — 2010

Shakespeare on the Green: Fun, Frantic and Slightly Fractured Introductions to Shakespeare Plays (coauthored with Ben Schrag), Playscripts, Inc. — 2009

HONORS & AWARDS

National and Regional Honors

Commendation for Achievement in Puppet Design and Fabrication – *The Velveteen Rabbit*
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), Region V — 2024

Commendation for Achievement in Puppet Ensemble – *The Velveteen Rabbit*
KCACTF, Region V — 2024

Commendation for Achievement in Puppet Design – *Head Over Heels*
KCACTF, Region V — 2024

Commendation for Achievement in Puppet Design and Coaching – *She Kills Monsters*
KCACTF, Region V — 2024

Commendation for Achievement in Puppet Ensemble – *She Kills Monsters*
KCACTF, Region V — 2024

Special Achievement in Puppet Design – *Of the Deep*
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), National Awards Committee — 2021

Special Achievement in Directing – *Of the Deep*
KCACTF National Awards Committee — 2021

Special Achievement in Company-Generated Work – *Of the Deep*
KCACTF National Awards Committee — 2021

Citizen Artist Award – *Iowa Odyssey*
KCACTF National Awards Committee — 2020

Distinguished Devised Production – *Iowa Odyssey*
KCACTF National Awards Committee — 2020

Distinguished Achievement in Adaptation of a Classic – *Iphigenia*
KCACTF National Awards Committee — 2019

Distinguished Achievement in Puppet Design – *Iphigenia*
KCACTF National Awards Committee — 2019

Distinguished Achievement in Directing – *Iphigenia*
KCACTF National Awards Committee — 2019

Invited Production – *Iphigenia*

KCACTF Region V — 2019

Meritorious Achievement in Puppet Design – *Iphigenia*

KCACTF Region V — 2019

Meritorious Achievement in Ensemble Acting – *Iphigenia* (Cast)

KCACTF Region V — 2019

Invited Scene Showcase – *Out of the Fire*

KCACTF Region V — 2018

Meritorious Achievement in Monologue Development – *Out of the Fire*

KCACTF Region V — 2018

Meritorious Achievement in Playwriting – *The Birds*

KCACTF Region V — 2017

Meritorious Achievement in Playwriting – *Death Comes for Jesse James*

KCACTF Region V — 2013

Institutional, State, and Professional Awards

Cassling Innovation Award

Iowa State University, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences — 2023

Mid-Career Faculty Research Award

Iowa State University, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences — 2020

ATHE Innovative Teaching Award

Association for Theatre in Higher Education & KCACTF Region V — 2020

Arts Educator Award

Ames Community Arts Council — 2020

Renaissance Theaterworks Br!nk Resident Playwright — 2017

Missouri Governor's Award for Excellence in Education — 2010

Northwest Missouri State Tower Service Award: Outstanding Advisor — 2010

Kennedy Center National Teaching Artist Grant — 2009

College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Teaching — 2009

Region V National Teaching Artist in Actor Training – KCACTF — 2008

Road Warrior Award for Excellence in Production Response – KCACTF Region V — 2008

Theatre Gold Star (Faculty)

Northwest Missouri State University, Alpha Psi Omega — 2006–07, 2008–09

Clarke Award for Teaching Excellence

Dakota Wesleyan University — 2005

Meritorious Achievement in Costume and Make-Up Design – *The Nightingale*
KCACTF Region V — 2005

Meritorious Achievement in Directing – *The Fable*
KCACTF Region V — 2004

SERVICE

National and International Service

Puppet Power, Festival of Ideas (Calgary, CA & Ames, IA), Iowa Conference Site Coordinator — 2025

Puppet Power, Festival of Ideas (Calgary, CA), Planning Committee — 2023–Present

Puppeteers of America, Board of Directors — 2017–2020

Regional Service

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region V

Production Respondent — 2006–2017

Runaways, Drake University, Des Moines, IA — 2017

Wit, Graceland University, Lamoni, IA — 2017

Quilters, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, IA — 2016

Make Believe, Grand View University, Des Moines, IA — 2016

James and the Giant Peach, Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN — 2015

Rabbit Hole, Central College, Pella, IA — 2014

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress, Park University, Parkville, MO — 2012

Rabbit, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO — 2011

Something Slavic, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS — 2011

Little Women, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO — 2009

Through the Looking Glass, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS — 2009

Into the Woods, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO — 2009

Back Story, Simpson College, Indianola, IA — 2009

Lone Star, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS — 2009

Laundry and Bourbon, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS — 2009
Are We There Yet?, State Fair Community College, Sedalia, MO — 2009
Necessary Targets, Simpson College, Indianola, IA — 2008
Chicago, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD — 2007
Approaching Zanzibar, Rockhurst University, Kansas City, MO — 2007
Little Shop of Horrors, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS — 2007
Festival of New American Plays, Simpson College, Indianola, IA — 2007
Suburbia, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Lincoln, NE — 2007
Hamlet, University of Nebraska–Omaha, Omaha, NE — 2006

Volunteer Coordinator — 2016–2018

Coordinator, Professional Auditions & Interviews — 2012–2016

Co-Coordinator, Professional Auditions & Interviews — 2008–2011

Selection Committee Member — 2009, 2011

Associate Coordinator, Summer Stock Auditions — 2007–2008

Irene Ryan Preliminary Judge — 2007

External Peer Evaluator

A Galaxy of Things: the Power of Puppets and Masks in Star Wars and Beyond by Collette Searls (Associate Professor, UMBC Department of Theatre), Manuscript Review Committee, University of Maryland Baltimore City's Center for Innovation, Research, and Creative Achievement in the Arts — 2023

Southwest Minnesota State University, Theatre Program External Evaluator — 2019

Into the Woods, University of Central Missouri, Faculty Production Personnel External Evaluator — 2009

Little Shop of Horrors, Emporia State University, Faculty Production Personnel External Evaluator — 2007

South Dakota High School One-Act Play Festival, Judge — 2004

Local Service

Iowa State University

LAS Associate Dean for Student Success & Engagement Search Committee — 2026

History Department *History Night Live!* Guest Judge — 2026

Music and Theatre Chair Reappointment Committee — 2025

Assistant Teaching Professor (Performance) Search Committee — 2025

LAS Representative Assembly — 2017–2024

LAS Representative Assembly Executive Committee — 2022–2024; 2017–2020

Theatre Assessment Committee — 2023–Present

Music and Theatre Tenure & Promotion Committee — 2021–Present

Theatre Season Advisory Committee (Chair) — 2021–Present

Music & Theatre Department Chair Search Committee — 2016, 2021

Theatre Outcomes Committee (ad hoc) — 2021

Theatre Recruitment and Retention Committee (Head) — 2016–2020

LAS Term Faculty Committee — 2019

LAS Honors Committee — 2017–2018

Multiple faculty search committees (Music & Theatre) — 2016–2018

“Solitude” Exhibition Committee, University Museums — 2015

Theatre Northwest

Artistic Director — 2009–2014

Box Office / Front of House Coordinator — 2006–2014

Publicity Coordinator — 2006–2014

KCACTF Participation Coordinator — 2006–2014

Northwest Missouri State University

Faculty Welfare Committee (Chair 2009–10) — 2009–2014

Student Engagement Committee — 2012–2013

Faculty Senate — 2008–2010

Faculty Senate Constitutional Review Subcommittee — 2009

Multiculturalism Committee — 2007–2009

Theatre Team; Advisor, University Players — 2006–2014

Black Box Planning Team — 2006–2008

Department Chair Search Committee — 2006

Dakota Wesleyan University

Education Policies & Curriculum Committee — 2004–2006

Technology and Use Committee — 2003–2004

Theatre/Puppetry Consultant, Mitchell YWCA After-School Programs — 2004

RESEARCH MENTORING AND ADVISING

Graduate Students

Hope Bass, M.F.A. (Integrated Visual Arts) — External Thesis Committee Member — 2024

Thesis: Metamorphosis of Hope: A Ceramic Journey through Imagination and Wonder

Vivian Cook, M.S. (Community Development) — 2022

Thesis: Citizen Artistry Model for Community Change

April Tan, M.A. (TESL / Applied Linguistics) — 2020

Thesis: Spillover of Suprasegmental Improvements into Segmental Accuracy in Prosody-Only Training

Graduate Independent Study: *Dialect Study – Sociolinguistic Assessment Practices*, April-Melody-Hui-En Tan — 2019

Undergraduate Students

Independent Study: *Puppet Fabrication Techniques* — Rylee Foreman, Mia Nollett — 2026

Independent Study: *Puppet Costume and Mechanisms* — Lillyan Leinen-Harjes — 2026

Independent Study: *Puppet Dramaturgy in Design* — Nicole Friess-Schilling — 2024

Honors Project: *Puppets as Fashion Communication* — Caroline Wallace — 2022

Honors Project / Undergraduate Research Grant (\$2,400): *Of the Deep: Shadow Puppet Design and Development* — Lena Menefee-Cook — 2019–2020

Independent Study: *Iowa Odyssey Development Advance Team* — Rob Delgado, Bethamari Marquez-Barreto, Erica Walling — 2018–2019

Independent Study: *Stage Management of Puppet Productions* — Rachel Henderson — 2018

Honors Project: *Climate Change Theatre Action* — Vivian Cook — 2017

KCACTF Region V Dramaturgy: *The Tempest* — Vivian Cook — 2018

KCACTF Region V Stage Management: *Out of the Fire* — Rachel Henderson — 2018

KCACTF Region V Dramaturgy: *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (LMDA/KCACTF 1st Place) — Hannah Rublaitus — 2017

Independent Studies: *Advanced Acting Techniques* — Noel VanDenBosch (2016); Taylor Sklenar (2015)

Independent Study: *Advanced Period Styles Techniques* — Christopher Priebe — 2015

UNIVERSITY GRANTS

Iowa State University

ISU Design College IDRO Networking Award — “*Making and Materiality: From Rags to Riches*” — 2025
Collaborators: Raluca Iancu (Art & Visual Culture), Amanda Petefish-Schrag (Theatre), Rachel Eike (Fashion Design & Merchandising)

Funding supports interdisciplinary research exploring the repurposing of recycled textiles into sculptural art and functional materials. Project integrates sustainable material practices with puppetry design, resulting in material and puppet prototypes for Iowa State University Theatre’s Fall 2026 production of *A Christmas Carol*.

Center for the Arts and Humanities Symposium Grant — 2025

Funding to support the Iowa State University branch of *Puppet Power 2025*, an International Applied Puppetry Conference.

Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Research Grant — 2019

Funding to write and develop a new original puppet production. (*Award amount: \$5,000*)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Travel Grant — 2019

Travel support to present scholarly work at the National Puppetry Festival. (*Award amount: \$937*)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Small Grant — 2017

Travel support to present at the National Puppetry Festival. (*Award amount: \$457*)

Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Research Grant — 2016

Funding to write and develop a new play examining miscarriage and reproductive loss. (*Award amount: \$5,000*)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Small Grant — 2016

Travel support to present at the Mid-America Theatre Conference. (*Award amount: \$563*)

Northwest Missouri State University

Academic Initiatives Grant — 2012

Funding to support a master class in playwriting. (*Award amount: \$3,000*)

Improvement of Teaching and Learning Grant — 2012

Funding for a month-long Working Group Theatre artist residency. (*Award amount: \$5,000*)

Faculty Research Committee Research Grant — 2011

Funding for travel and research to develop the musical *Death Comes for Jesse James*. (*Award amount: \$1,068*)

Improvement of Teaching and Learning Grant — 2010

Funding for faculty in-service programming on devised theatre pedagogy. (*Award amount: \$1,500*)

Academic Initiatives Grant — 2010

Funding for a guest artist residency in devised theatre practice. (*Award amount: \$4,000*)

Improvement of Teaching and Learning Grant — 2008

Funding for a guest artist master class on theatre management and start-up models. (*Award amount: \$1,400*)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Dramatists Guild of America

Union Internationale de la Marionnette (UNIMA)

Puppeteers of America