



# Melissa J. Denzer

## Professional Goals/Summary

Professional with over 8 years experience in program management and development, education, outreach programming, and professional theatre projects. Recognized for excellence in collaboration, organization, and time management skills. Ability to organize multiple tasks on a daily basis. Aims to obtain an engaging position as a director, playwright, dramaturg, and/or writer where opportunities arise. Aspires to create an educational and professional environment to influence audiences and make a community impact.

### LITERARY AND ARTISTIC CREDITS

#### Teaching Artist | YMCA | January 2022-March 2022

- Worked closely with the YMCA in Illinois to engage with art-based curriculum teaching methods as a teaching artist curating original curriculum and material in puppetry, playwriting, and acting practices.
- Provided original research and curriculum-based education programming in playwriting, English, and theatre performance studies to collaborate with and paired alongside teaching principals and teaching methods for a Puppet Theatre class 8 week session at the YMCA
- Created choreography, story, and crafted puppets and set pieces while mentoring, teaching, and adapting lessons for creative learning opportunities for students in attendance

#### Teaching Artist | STAGES Academy outreach programming | Sept 2021-October 2021

- Worked closely with school districts in the Missouri and Illinois regions to engage with art-based curriculum teaching methods as a resident artist in residency by curating original curriculum and musical theatre, playwriting, and acting practices.
- Provided original research and curriculum-based education programming in playwriting, English, and theatre performance studies to collaborate with and paired alongside teaching principals and teaching methods at a variety of schools k-12 by assisting STAGES with new programming.
- Created choreography, story, and music while mentoring, teaching, and adapting lessons for creative learning opportunities for students in the outreach program

#### Young Liars Training Festival July 2021

- Participated in an intensive actors training in July 2021 with approximately 40+ other professionals in neutral mask, clowning, yoga, and Suzuki training methods for a 8 day training

#### Teaching Artist | Stage Play Learning Children's Theatre | March 2021-November 2021

- Implemented studies closely with K-12th grade aged-children to engage with performing arts curriculum teaching methods to various age groups and experience levels for Comedy Sports camp, Barbie camp, Jedi camp, Harry Potter camp, Playwriting, and Advanced acting summer camps
- Provided original research and curriculum-based education programming to assist with specific playwriting programming for Stage Play Learning
- Worked on mentoring, teaching, and adapting lessons for students, preparing a small performance at the end of each camp, and engaging social skills as well as development of performative studies to over 40 students through theatre summer camp programming

#### Teaching Artist | Springboard to Learning Nonprofit | August 2020- June 2021

- Worked closely with school districts in the Missouri and Illinois regions to engage with art-based curriculum teaching methods virtually through Zoom and associated programming as a resident artist in residency by curating original curriculum.
- Provided original research and curriculum-based education programming in playwriting, english, and theatre performance studies to collaborate with and paired alongside teaching principals and teaching methods at a variety of schools k-12 by assisting Springboard to Learning with new programming.
- Created virtual teaching methods in order to further work with young students as young as 5 years of age through 5th grade, mentoring, teaching, and adapting lessons for creative learning opportunities after the Covid 19 pandemic has subsided.

#### Editor | The Theatre Times | Online | May 2020-Present

- Worked closely with global and international authors to copy edit, post, repost, and write articles for global editors and their associated publications.
- Provided research and editorial skills to assist the websites international audiences needs for news and theatre related content.
- Edited and created several published articles which converse with theatres and artists all around the globe through interviews, reviews, and other relevant content for audience viewership

#### Co-Playwright of Jagoff! Pittsburg CLO, Celebrating Musical Theatre. Google Doc Musical, May 2020

- Worked co-collaboratively to create the script for an original musical with Pittsburg company and staff for their first unique online creation of a community-made production, during the pandemic of 2020 using a google doc format on google drive systems.

#### Reader for Campfire Theatre Festival December 2019

- Assisted the Idaho Theatre's Campfire Theatre Festival by providing review of new play selections as a reader for the festival's submissions. Participation was rendered through membership with the LMMA, or Literary Managers of Americas. Readers of the festival made selection decisions by reading multiple plays, taking notes, and scoring the plays to submit to the festival team for final review.

#### Bell at the Back of Her Throat, March 2019-May 2019

- Assisted the collection and collaboration of props for the New Play Festival at the University of Iowa's production of Bell at the Back of Her Throat, making selection decisions, finding items, and archiving items for the final production

#### MFA Event, Contemporary Dance Biorhythm, April 2019-May 2019

- Collaborated artistically on costume, props, music, and choreography decisions for the end of the year MFA Event with the Dance Department at the University of Iowa, working with MFA graduate student and Dance Choreographer, Angelica DeLashmette

#### Editor, University of Iowa's Her Campus Chapter, October 2017-April 2019

- Wrote over 28 articles, as editor, for the Her Campus chapter at Iowa, an online student magazine on campus at the University of Iowa

#### Prarie Lights Nonfiction Recognition Night, December 2016

- Wrote and presented, a ten-page nonfiction prose piece for creative writing for the Nonfiction Recognition Night for undergraduate writers after nomination from Professor Anya Ventura

#### Feminaal, October 2015

- Participated as stage left crew technical assistant of props and quick changes for the play Feminaal written by Nina Morrison and directed by Sam Collier

## Contact

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## Academic History

Master of Arts in Theatre Arts |  
Fontbonne University | St. Louis, MO

August 2019- December 2020

•Major: Theatre Arts  
•Cumulative: GPA: 4.0

Bachelor of Arts | University of Iowa |  
Iowa City, IA

August 2015-July 2019

•Major: Honors English and Creative  
Writing  
•Minor: Theatre Arts  
•Certificate: Fundraising and  
Philanthropy  
•Cumulative GPA: 3.7

## Specializations

- Social Media Management
- Tutor instruction
- Digital Marketing
- Public Speaking
- Communication skills
- Creative and editorial Writing
- Leadership Development
- Community Development
- Research/Thesis Experience
- Mediated conflicts/conflict resolution.
- Intrapersonal skills and Leadership
- Organizational skills
- Decision Making and Critical Thinking
- Social Justice/Diversity Advocacy
- Event Planning skills
- Form/Report Development
- Project Leadership
- Administrative Experience



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### DRAMATURGY PROJECTS

#### Feast, Tesseract Theatre co. May 2021-June 2021

- Cultivated a dramaturgy packet complete with extensive research for context for the cast, as well as a production notebook program detailing all artistic and administrative decisions in the production process
- Developed extensive research for rehearsal meetings and notes for the director and actor in addition to additional cast and crew
- Created a dramaturgy page on the playbill complete with context for the production related to research on Beowulf for the show, as well as wrote a dramaturgy note for audiences

#### Sheltered (online production) Fontbonne University Theatre Department, August 2020-November 2020

- Managed the theater assistant director notes in rehearsals and facilitated rehearsal collaboration amongst the director, stage manager, and cast as an additional assistant director assisting with virtual performing technique as well as technical design decisions
- Cultivated a dramaturgy packet complete with extensive research for context for the cast, as well as a production notebook program detailing all artistic and administrative decisions in the production process
- Assisted in the online design and safety precautions of production via Zoom and created programs and marketing materials for the show in addition to playing a small role as reporter in the epilogue

#### The Yellow Boat, Fontbonne University Theatre Department

##### January 2020-August 2020

- Managed the theater assistant director notes in rehearsals and facilitated rehearsal collaboration amongst the director, stage manager, and cast as an additional assistant director assisting with blocking and acting technique as well as technical design decisions
- Cultivated a dramaturgy packet complete with extensive research for context for the cast, as well as a production notebook program detailing all artistic and administrative decisions in the production process
- Assisted in the set design and build of the production and created programs for the show

#### Spitfire Grill, Fontbonne University Theatre Department

##### August 2019-October 2019

- Prepared extensive research for production meetings for the director and team with the theater department at Fontbonne University
- Aided in the audition process, and helped select cast members for the casting process and selection
- Created sides for auditions, helped coordinate feedback for the script blocking, managed the theater assistant director notes in rehearsals and facilitated rehearsal collaboration amongst the director, stage manager, and stage manager assistant
- Cultivated a dramaturgy packet complete with context for the production and cast, as well as a production notebook program detailing all artistic and administrative decisions in the production process

#### Companion Animals, University of Iowa Theater Department

##### July 2018-February 2019

- Developed extensive research for production meetings for the director and production team with the theater department at the University of Iowa
- Created a cast list, aided in the audition process, and help select cast members for the doubling casting process and selection
- Developed sides for auditions, helped coordinate feedback for the script, managed the theater website, and facilitated rehearsal collaboration amongst the assistant director, director, stage manager, and stage manager assistant
- Cultivated a dramaturgy packet complete with context for the production and cast, as well as a historical lobby display, the production poster, production program, and the creation of all the paper produced props for the production

#### A Labyrinth Dark, University of Iowa Theater Department

##### January 2017

- Organized and presented research material for A Labyrinth Dark, with the theater department at the University of Iowa, as one of the three dramaturgical researchers for the production
- Collected and analyzed the script for context, and cultivated a presentation to display research for the cast, specifically regarding the productions' campus content within the play

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Tutor instruction  
Digital Marketing  
Public Speaking  
Communication skills  
Creative and editorial Writing  
Leadership Development  
Community Development  
Research/Thesis Experience  
Mediated conflicts/conflict resolution.  
Intrapersonal skills and Leadership  
Organizational skills  
Decision Making and Critical Thinking  
Social Justice/Diversity Advocacy  
Event Planning skills  
Form/Report Development  
Project Leadership  
Administrative Experience

## Melissa J. Denzer

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### REFERENCES

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