

# BEKI BAKER, M.F.A.

C.V.

## EDUCATION

**M.F.A. in Directing**, Baylor University, 2009

Awards: Full Teaching/Research Assistantship, Baylor Plus Salute

**B.F.A. in Performance**, Baylor University, 2004

Awards: Presidential Scholarship, Dean's List

**Teaching Certification**: Theatre K-12, Tennessee Certified, 2006

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Professional Freelance Director**, 2010-present

**Education Director**, Nashville Shakespeare Festival, 2010-2012

**Spotlight Awards Co-Producer**, Tennessee Performing Arts Center, 2014-2022

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

### LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

**Director of the School of Theatre & Cinematic Arts** (2025-2026)

- Oversee the vision and mission of the Department of Theatre, Department of Film, and Department of Animation (250+ students)
- Work with other Directors on the Academic Leadership Team of the College of Entertainment and the Arts
- Support the administration, faculty, staff, and students of each department
- Increase collaboration between the departments within the school through shared interactions, education, and events
- Supervise budget management for the school
- Work with Dean of the College of Entertainment and the Arts on all school assessments, ventures, and output
- Serve on search committees for the College of Entertainment and the Arts
- Develop this new role while continuing as Chair of Theatre

**Chair of Theatre** (2014-2026)

- Oversee the mission, vision, goals, and outcomes for the Department of Theatre
- Create and execute culture of community and collaboration within the department
- Recruit, develop, assess, and review the faculty and staff of the department (eight full-time faculty and one staff member)
- Manage faculty loads and yearly curricular offerings
- Align all curricular goals and oversee student learning outcomes and assessments for four degrees, including three B.F.A.s and one B.A. (80+ students)

- Oversee NAST accreditation alignment and development
- Work with the Office of Admissions on all recruiting efforts, including on-campus activities and program offers via the Slate system
- Oversee B.F.A. sophomore reviews and other student assessments
- Advise and mentor 15-20 theatre students each year
- Attend and lead all on-campus theatre auditions and interviews
- Develop and manage operating, adjunct, and production budgets for 5+ productions per year
- Serve as Producer and Artistic Director on all mainstage productions
- Direct one production each year for the department's mainstage
- Mentor student directors and assistant directors
- Build professional alliances with theatres in Nashville, creating avenues for students and alumni internships and opportunities
- Create and manage all recruitment advertising and department marketing, both physical and digital
- Teach 18 hours of theatre courses each year
- Attain professional creative and intellectual activities each year
- Oversee development of department handbook
- Lead departmental communications with students via weekly newsletters, surveys, etc.

#### **College Director of Faculty and Staff Development (2023-2025)**

- Oversaw faculty and staff development opportunities including on-campus trainings, Provost and Presidential initiatives, etc.
- Led new faculty and staff assessment management initiated by the university
- Communicated weekly trainings and news via a college newsletter
- Served on Executive Leadership Committee for college
- Worked with Dean on development opportunities for faculty and staff within college
- Oversaw the development of a new arts course for the general education program

#### **College Director of Curriculum (2020-2023)**

- Oversaw development of curriculum for the College of Entertainment and the Arts
- Served as a committee member on the Undergraduate Academic Council

#### **Rank/Tenure Experience**

Tenured (2022)

Associate Professor (2020-2026)

Assistant Professor (2014-2020)

Adjunct Professor (2010-2014)

#### **COURSES**

##### **Beginning Directing (TH 2113)**

Led student through contemporary play directing projects. Worked in collaboration with the Acting I course.

##### **Advanced Directing (TH 4203)**

Mentored students in directing period style scenes and plays in collaboration with the Period Styles Acting class. Showcases have included Greek, Shakespeare, Early Realism, Absurdism and American Classics.

**Acting III: Improvisational Acting (TH 3043)**

Trained students in the art of improvisation, both short form and long form. Course led to a student-formed improvisation group on campus that produces shows today.

**Acting V: Shakespeare (TH 4013)**

Taught students how to approach, analyze, and explore Shakespearean monologues and scenes. Students also researched and presented on Shakespeare's plays and attended regional Shakespeare productions.

**Shakespeare and Leadership (LULT 2143)**

Co-taught Honors College course with business professor exploring the intersection of Shakespeare's texts and leadership styles, including ideas of power, business as theatre, and leadership ethics. Taught in-person and online asynchronous.

**Contemporary Plays (TH 2011)**

Led students through semester of reading, analyzing, and discussing contemporary plays. Focused on historical context, themes, structure, and relevance to contemporary audiences.

**Dramaturgy (TH 3093)**

Taught directing students the fundamentals of dramaturgy including research, analysis, theory, and working with directors. Created dramaturgical packets.

**Senior Seminar (TH 4112)**

Taught senior capstone course for all acting, directing, and design majors preparing to enter graduate school, teaching, and/or the professional industry.

**Movement for the Stage (TH 2143)**

Trained students to develop a sustained physical process in order to enhance acting impulses and character development. Used a variety of movement disciplines including Viewpoints Theory and Laban Efforts.

**Theatre History II: Global Learning Trip to London (TH 4112)**

Taught students theatre history in 10-day course in London. Trip included museums, walking tours, backstage tours, a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, and production experiences at the West End, National Theatre, and Globe Theatre.

**Special Topics: The Canon (TH 423V)**

Led students through a play-reading class focused on analyzing important classical works. Helped students understand texts while developing their artistic point of view. Served as an introduction to dramaturgy.

**Voice and Diction (TH 2123)**

Taught Lessac technique including proper breathing, posture, and vocal support. Emphasized the voice as a conduit to unlocking characterization and achieving acting objectives. Course explored both physical and vocal work in monologues and scenes.

**Artistic Inquiry and the Human Experience (ARTS 2303)**

Taught arts course to general education students, helping them identify the connection between art and their personal lives. This course focused on revealing how art communicates meaning and enriches human experience, and helped them recognize their own roles and responsibilities within the arts community. Course included classwork and artistic experiences.

**BAYLOR UNIVERSITY**

Teacher of Record (2007-2009)

Served as graduate research assistant, box office employee, and teacher of record during tenure. Received full-paid tuition. Directed two main-stage shows and assistant directed another. Completed a 120-page thesis exploring Steve Martin’s *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, which I also directed. Created and performed graduate school orientation play.

**COURSES**

**Theatre Appreciation (THEA 1206)**

Taught lecture-style class for enrollment of 200 students. Introduced students to basic theatre terms as well as history and literature.

**Acting for Non-Majors (THEA 1314)**

Taught basic acting approaches to non-theatre students, focusing on how to apply training to non-theatre activities and careers.

**REICHER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Teacher (2004-2006)

**COURSES**

**Introduction to Theatre**

Taught basic theatre acting exercises, techniques, theatre history, and more to students grades 9-12. Put on full productions.

**Spanish I, II, III, and IV**

Taught multiple levels of Spanish to high school students. Worked with local elementary program to have students serve once a week. Led student trip to Spain.

**PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS**

Workshop. *Unlocking the Director’s Toolbox*. Women in Theatre, March 2024.

Presentation. *Women in the Workplace: Dolly Parton's 9 to 5 the Musical*. Faculty Research Day, Lipscomb University, September 2023.

Panel. *Strategies to Point Marginalized Students Towards Success*. Southeastern Theatre Conference, March 2021.

Workshop. *Improvisation for Actors*. Nashville Children's Theatre, May 2021.

Performance Review. "Tomás and the Library Lady." *Texas Theatre Journal*, Volume 16 Issue 1, 2019.

Panel. "Mothers in Academia." Women in Theatre Festival Conference, July 2019.

Panel. "Faith, Theatre, & Academia: A Conversation." Southeastern Theatre Conference, March 2018.

Presentation: "Shakespeare and Leadership." Christian Scholar's Conference, June 2016.

Interview. "Digging Up Texas Roots: An Interview with Playwright Robert Askins." *Texas Theatre Journal*, Volume 10, Issue 1, 2014.

Performance Review. "Once." *Texas Theatre Journal*, Volume 9 Issue 1, 2013.

Paper. "Seeking the Light: Perceptions of Truth and Faith in Shanley's *Doubt, A Parable* and Guirgis's *Jesus Hopped the A Train*." Christian Scholars Conference, June 2010.

Paper. "The Pursuit of Keeping on Breathing: a Journey through Foote's Adaptation of Faulkner's *Tomorrow*." Horton Foote American Playwrights Festival, November 2009.

Literary Manager, Horton Foote American Playwrights Festival, March 2009.

## **DIRECTING EXPERIENCE**

### **PROFESSIONAL**

Director        ***BloodsuckingLeech***: Nashville Repertory Theatre

Director        ***The Merry Wives of Windsor***: Nashville Shakespeare Festival

Director        ***9 to 5 the Musical***: Nashville Repertory Theatre

Director        ***Driving Miss Daisy***: Studio Tenn Theatre Company

Director        ***Steel Magnolias***: Studio Tenn Theatre Company

Director        ***A Christmas Carol***: Nashville Repertory Theatre

Director        ***Julius Caesar***: Nashville Shakespeare Festival (featuring Eddie George)

Director        ***Shakespeare's Case***: Nashville Shakespeare Festival

Asst. Dir.      ***Love's Labor's Lost***: Nashville Shakespeare Festival

- Director      ***The Revolutionists***: Reading, Nashville Repertory Theatre RepALoud
- Director      ***Together We are Making a Poem in Honor of Life***: Reading, Ingram New Works Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre
- Director      ***Showing***: Reading, Ingram New Works Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre
- Director      ***Pattern Seeking Animals***: Reading, Ingram New Works Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre
- Director      ***The Very Last Wishes of Grandpa Joe***: Reading, Ingram New Works Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre
- Director      ***The Second Avenue Subway***: Reading, Ingram New Works Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre
- Director      ***Bloodsucking Leech***: Reading, Ingram New Works Festival, Nashville Repertory Theatre

#### **SEMI-PROFESSIONAL**

- Co-Dir.      ***Tomorrow***: Tablerock Repertory Theatre (Featuring Elizabeth A. Davis)
- Director      ***Tarzan in Concert***: Disney Theatricals/Nat'l Assoc. for Music Education (Featuring Eden Espinosa)
- Director      ***Stand***: Tour with Writer's Stage, Nashville, TN.
- Director      ***Man and Superman***: Blackbird Theater Company, Nashville, TN.
- Director      ***The Crucible***: Blackbird Theater Company/Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

#### **ACADEMIC**

- Director      ***Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.
- Director      ***Little Women the Musical***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.
- Director      ***Ada and the Engine***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.
- Director      ***Pride & Prejudice***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.
- Director      ***Mamma Mia!*** Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.
- Director      ***Bright Star***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.
- Director      ***Silent Sky***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.
- Director      ***She Loves Me***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.
- Director      ***Dancing at Lughnasa***: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director *The Pajama Game*: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director *Pride's Crossing*: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director *The Glass Menagerie*: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director *Much Ado about Nothing*: Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

Director *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*: Baylor University, Waco, TX.

Director *An Infinite Ache*: Baylor University, Waco, TX.

Asst. Dir. *The Importance of Being Earnest*: Baylor University, Waco, TX.

## **OTHER**

Director *Love, Loss and What I Wore*: Reading, First Night Productions, Nashville, TN.

Director *Hotel + Bar*: Reading, Pipeline Collective, Nashville, TN.

Director *Black and Blue*: Reading, Tennessee Playwrights Festival, Nashville, TN.

## **PRODUCING EXPERIENCE (LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY)**

2025-2026 *The Game's Afoot, Matilda, Radium Girls, Elevate: Artist's Journey, The School for Wives*

2024-2025 *Antigone in Munich, CATS, Much Ado about Nothing, Elevate: Legacy, Little Women*

2023-2024 *I and You, Big Fish, Ada and the Engine, Elevate: Faith, Hope, Love, Hamlet*

2022-2023 *Crazy for You, An Enemy of the People, Elevate: Brand New, Pride & Prejudice*

2021-2022 *Mamma Mia, When She Had Wings, Elevate: A Beautiful Day, Romeo and Juliet*

2020-2021 *As You Like It, Songs for a New World, Elevate*

2019-2020 *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, Bright Star, Kindertransport, Elevate: A Heavenly View*

2018-2019 *Tartuffe, Godspell, Silent Sky, Elevate: Higher Ground, Blood Wedding*

2017-2018 *The Miracle Worker, She Loves Me, Elevate: This is the Moment, On The Verge, Inherit the Wind (w/ Nashville Repertory Theatre)*

2016-2017 *The 39 Steps, Beauty and the Beast, Peter and the Starcatcher, Elevate: Still I Rise, Richard II (w/ Nashville Shakespeare Festival)*

2015-2016 *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged), Into the Woods, Elevate, The Crucible (w/ Blackbird Theater Company), You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

2014-2015     *Dancing at Lughnasa, Seussical, Reflections, West Side Story, Medea*

## **ACTING EXPERIENCE**

<i>The Coffee Trees</i> (rdg.)	Anita	Ensemble Studio Theatre (NY)
<i>She Loves Me</i>	Ensemble/Dancer	Dorset Theatre Festival
<i>All in the Timing</i>	Betty/Waitress	Dorset Theatre Festival
<i>Lovers: Winners and Losers</i>	Narrator	Dorset Theatre Festival
<i>Richard II</i>	Northumberland	Nashville Shakespeare Festival
<i>Jester's Dead</i> (rdg.)	Jester/Merlin	Nashville Shakespeare Festival
<i>Doubt, A Parable</i>	Sister James	Lipscomb University
<i>By the Bog of Cats</i>	Monica	Baylor University
<i>Doctor Faustus</i>	Good Angel	Baylor University
<i>Anton in Show Business</i>	Holly	Baylor University
<i>Caucasian Chalk Circle</i>	Aniko	Baylor University
<i>Childe Byron</i>	Augusta Ada	Baylor University
<i>Arcadia</i>	Hannah Jarvis	Baylor University
<i>Three Sisters</i>	Masha	Baylor University
<i>The Oresteia</i>	Ensemble	Baylor University

## **IMPROVISATION EXPERIENCE**

Guerrilla Improv Comedy Troupe, 2001-2004, 2007-2009

B.U.G.S. Theatre in Action Graduate Orientation, 2008-2009

## **MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

### STUDENT MAINSTAGE DIRECTORS

*The Game's Afoot*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*Antigone in Munich*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*I and You*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

### STUDENT ASST. DIRECTORS

*Matilda the Musical*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Nashville Shakespeare Festival, Nashville, TN.

*Little Women the Musical*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*Ada and the Engine*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*Pride & Prejudice*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*Mamma Mia*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*Steel Magnolias*, Studio Tenn, Nashville, TN.

*A Christmas Carol*, Nashville Repertory Theatre.

*Bright Star*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*Silent Sky*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*The Crucible*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*Dancing at Lughnasa*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*Medea*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

*Exposure*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.

## **ORGANIZATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS**

Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

International Council of Fine Arts Deans

Parent Artist Advocacy League

Women in Theatre

Association for Theatre in Higher Education

League of Professional Women in Theatre

Southeastern Theatre Conference

Theatre Communications Group

## **RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS**

2024 Nominated: Outstanding Director of a Play for *Driving Miss Daisy*, First Night Awards

2024 Nominated: Outstanding Director of a Play for *Ada and the Engine*, First Night Awards

2023 Received: Outstanding Director of a Musical for *9 to 5*, First Night Awards

2023 Nominated: Outstanding Director of a Play; Theatrati of the Year, First Night Awards

2022 Received: Tenure status, Lipscomb University

2022 Received: Outstanding Director of a Musical for *Mamma Mia*, First Night Awards

2021 Received: Dean's Award of Excellence, Lipscomb University

2020 Received: Outstanding Director of a Musical for *Bright Star*, Nashville First Night Awards

- 2017 Received: Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, *Excellence in Direction for The Crucible*
- 2017 Nominated: Outstanding Professor, Lipscomb University
- 2016 Nominated: Outstanding Director of a Play, Nashville First Night Awards
- 2016 Received: Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, *Excellence in Direction for Dancing at Lughnasa*
- 2016 Inducted: Connect Leadership Class, Lipscomb University
- 2015 Nominated: Nashville's Outstanding Director of a Play, Nashville First Night Awards
- 2015 Nominated: Outstanding Professor, Lipscomb University
- 2014 Nominated: Outstanding Professor, Lipscomb University
- 2013 Received: First Night Star Award: Important Nashville Theatre Contemporary
- 2012 Nominated: Nashville's Best Director, BroadwayWorld, *Julius Caesar* and *Pride's Crossing*

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

National Association of Schools of Theatres, 2018-present

CITA, 2018

Humana Festival, 2015

Lessac Technique with Arthur Lessac

Playwriting with Horton Foote, Romulus Linney, Tina Howe, Doug Wright, Donald Margulies, Nate Eppler

Shakespeare with LAMDA's Rodney Cottier

Song Interpretation with Marin Mazzie, Eden Espinosa

Spolin Technique with JeanMarie Collins

Audition Technique with Kevin Kennison

## **SERVICE/COMMITTEE WORK**

### **LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2024-2025 | Student Teaching Faculty Mentor                           |
| 2024-2025 | Member: General Education CORE Council                    |
| 2023-2024 | Member: Program Review Committee                          |
| 2022-2023 | New Faculty Mentor  |
| 2021-2022 | Member: President's Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee   |
| 2021-2022 | Member: Director of Academic Advising Search Committee    |
| 2021-2022 | Member: Presidential Inauguration Gala Planning Committee |
| 2021-2022 | TnAchieves Mentor   |
| 2020-2025 | Member: Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion       |
| 2020-2021 | Student Teaching Faculty Mentor                           |

2019-2021	New Faculty Mentor
2020-2021	Stephen Lee Marsh Award Selection Committee
2018	College of Education Camp Volunteer
2018	Honors College Move-In Volunteer
2016-2023	Member: Academic Curriculum Team
2016-2026	Member: Executive Leadership Team, College of Entertainment and the Arts
2016-2017	New Faculty Mentor
2015-2026	Member: Academic Leadership Team, College of Entertainment and the Arts
2015-2017	Member: Honors Advisory Board
2015-2017	Member: General Education Council
2015-2016	Chair: Vision and Mission Committee, College of Entertainment and the Arts
2015-2016	Member: Academic Advisory Board, Faculty Senate
2014-2026	Family Fund contributor
2013-2015	Provost Breakfast Server
2013-2014	Lipscomb Missions

#### **ADDITIONAL SERVICE**

2023	Covenant School Donor
2022-2026	Volunteer at Church of the Redeemer
2021	Diaper Exchange Donor
2020	<i>Color of Compromise</i> Group Leader, Church of the Redeemer
2018-2026	Second Harvest Food Bank Donor
2020	Nashville Tornado Fund Donor
2018-2023	Safe Haven Drive Donor
2018	Neverthirst Donor
2018	Salvation Army Volunteer, Houston, TX
2016	GoFundMe Lead Fundraiser for Ethiopia Alemu
2015-Present	Compassion International Sponsor
2015	Woodmont Hills Church of Christ, Live Wires Teacher, ages 2-4
2015	Stop Hunger Now
2014-2019	Women's Bible Study Co-Leader, Westminster Presbyterian Church
2012-2013	Theatre Critic Panelist, Circle Players
2012	Habitat for Humanity
2010-Present	Room in the Inn Volunteer
2010	Red Cross Volunteer, Nashville Flood
2009	Relay for Life
2008-2009	Adult English Class Teacher
2006	Hurricane Katrina Charity Concert Performer

2004-Present

Goodwill Donor

## **REFERENCES**

References available upon request.