

Barbara Zahora

(She/Her)

Curriculum Vitae

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Multidisciplinary theatre artist and educator working in the Chicago area, specializing in foundational voice and speech, heightened language text, and the development of holistic and particularized practice in acting. Experienced and inclusive leader in both professional and academic arts organizations.

- 16 years university teaching and directing experience
- 15 years professional directing experience in both AEA-affiliated and non-union theatres
- 25 years professional acting experience
- Former artistic director and current company member of Oak Park Festival Theatre and current associate artistic director of Misalliance Repertory Theatre (formerly ShawChicago)

EDUCATION

MFA Theatre Performance, Cum Laude 2001
Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University - Chicago, IL
Thesis: "Flo Owens in William Inge's *Picnic* and *Summer Brave*"
Thesis Production Director and Advisor: Steve Scott
Thesis Advisor: Bruce Kirle
Major Professors: Dr. Joel Fink, Dr. June Compton, Steve Scott, Belinda Bremner, Dr. Eric Armstrong, and Sarah Hartmann

BAC Bachelor of Arts in Communications, Cum Laude 1995
Bowling Green State University - Bowling Green, OH
Majors: Theatre, Communications (Human Resources concentration)
Minors: Oboe Performance, Vocal Performance

POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

Linklater Voice Designation Training 2015-2017
Apprenticed Master Teacher Christine Adaire in teaching the Linklater progression to BFA candidates in Acting and Musical Theatre during the 2016-2017 academic year at the Chicago

College of Performing Arts. 140+ hours of practicum with Linklater pedagogy, in addition to personal training on the Linklater Progression for vocal development.

International Artistic Residence

2004

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre - London, U.K.

Chosen as one of two actors from the U.S. and one of ten actors from five participating countries to train intensively in Shakespeare performance.

Master of Play: Mark Rylance; Master of Voice: Stewart Pearce; Master of Movement: Glynn MacDonald; Master of Text: Giles Block.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND TEACHING

**Roosevelt University, Chicago College of Performing Arts
Chicago, IL**

2009 – Present

Program Director, BFA Acting

January 2025-Present

Continuing my service to CCPA I am now focused on BFA Acting, with goals of increasing our revised program's visibility and working with college leadership to improve recruitment strategy.

Responsibilities include:

- Working with chair to staff Acting courses
- Oversight of area content delivery and maintaining standards of excellence in instruction
- Mentoring of faculty and guiding them through onboarding of university systems and processes
- Faculty observations and evaluations
- Program assessment and collection of artifacts for accreditation purposes
- Partnering with chair and CCPA Enrollment Management on recruiting efforts and strategy
- Overseeing independent studies and professional performance opportunities for students
- Student advising and support

***Chair of the Theatre Conservatory/
Associate Professor of Acting (Tenure Track)***

July 2023-January 2025

In the Spring of 2023 as I was serving as interim chair, I applied for and was offered the role of chair of the Theatre Conservatory, along with a move from my non-tenure track agreement to a tenure-track appointment. During my time as chair our conservatory experienced unprecedented growth, particularly in our BFA Musical Theatre program for AY 2024-25, resulting in our largest cohort of BFA Theatre students in CCPA's history. We also made further changes to our

curricula in a subsequent revision of all three BFA programs for AY 2025-26. Please see below for list of responsibilities.

***Interim Chair of the Theatre Conservatory/
Associate Teaching Professor of Acting (Non-Tenure Track)***

July 2022-July 2023

Responsibilities and accomplishments included:

- Leading and managing the Conservatory's three BFA programs (Acting, Musical Theatre, and Musical Theatre Dance Concentration)
- Oversight of hiring, evaluation and mentoring of faculty and production staff
- Oversight of major curricular revision of all BFA programs (Acting, Musical Theatre and Musical Theatre Dance), which was implemented in AY 2024-25
- Artistic programming of Theatre Conservatory production season
- Approval and oversight of student-directed projects
- Creation of the CCPA New Works Group, which invited BFA students, alumni and faculty to workshop original plays and musicals
- Implementation of initiatives focused on inclusion in programming and casting, as well as partnering with Theatrical Intimacy Education (TIE) on trauma-informed best practices for physical and emotional boundary-setting on stage
- Strategic planning within the theatre conservatory and the college
- Production budget preparation and management
- Course planning and scheduling
- Student advising and mentorship
- Student recruitment and outreach, along with strategizing to optimize enrollment in all programs
- Other operational responsibilities

Co-Head of Acting/Assistant Teaching Professor

August 2019 – June 2022

Visiting Assistant Professor/Head of Voice and Speech

August 2015 – July 2019

Adjunct Faculty

January 2009 – August 2015

Currently teaching:

- **Advanced Acting: Performing Shakespeare** (Fall 2025) – Analysis of verse and heightened language applied to sonnets and monologues in performance
- **Fundamentals of Acting I** (Fall 2025) – Beginning analysis of Stanislavski system principles in ensemble-building exercises, combined with initial work in voice and speech.
- **Advanced Acting: Historical Styles Scene Study** (Spring 2026) -- Restoration through early 20th century

- **Senior Showcase** (Spring 2026) – Curating and directing material for virtual showcase released nationwide and Showcase Live performance for Chicago-based agents and casting authorities.

Past Courses Developed and Taught:

- **Senior Showcase** (Spring 2024 – Present)
- **Period Styles Scene Study** (Spring 2009 – Present) Restoration through early 20th Century for all BFA, MA in Directing, and former MFA Acting programs
- **Advanced Scene Study: Early Modern Realism** (Fall 2015 – Fall 2024) – A scene study focused on the works of Ibsen, Chekhov and contemporaries developing alongside Stanislavski's system.
- **Audition and Professional Business** (Fall 2021-Fall 2023) Seminar preparing seniors for the professional industry. Topics included marketing and branding, unions, contracts, introduction to agents and casting directors and preparation for senior showcase
- **Introduction to Professional Business** (Fall 2019-20) – A special topics seminar introducing students to theatre as a profession and examining the role of the artist-citizen in society and culture.
- **Acting Shakespeare** (Summer 2018 for MA Directing)
- **Shakespeare's Women** (Fall 2016) – A special topic study in Women and Gender Studies focusing on the evolution of Shakespeare's female characters
- **Vocal/Physical Prep I** (Fall 2016-2018) – Linklater and Rodenburg vocal pedagogy applied to text
- **Vocal/Physical Prep II** (Spring 2017-2019) Continuation of Linklater and Rodenburg work in performance, International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) applied to General American in performance
- **Techniques in Acting** (Spring 2016-2019) -- A practicum in which seminal methods and exercises from key pedagogies in acting training were applied to mid-20th century to contemporary scene studies
- **Stage Directing I** (Fall 2015-17)
- **Fundamentals of Acting I** (Fall 2019)
- **Fundamentals of Acting II** (Spring 2016)
- **Intermediate Acting I** (Fall 2015, Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
- **Acting I for Non-Majors** (Fall 2015)
- **Advanced Acting: Performing Shakespeare** (Fall 2013)
- **Theatre History II** (Spring 2011)
- **Theatre History I** (Fall 2010)

Instructor **September 2022 – December 2022**
Northwestern University School of Communication – Evanston, IL

Taught one section of Theatre Voice and Speech I as an emergency replacement instructor.

Lecturer/Instructor **January 2013 – June 2015**
Northwestern University Bienen School of Music – Evanston, IL

Developed and taught curricula for Opera Workshop in Acting and Period Styles Movement for BM candidates and MM candidates in Opera Performance.

Instructor **April 2014 – June 2014**
North Central College – Naperville, IL

Designed and taught curricula for Period Styles Scene Study – Restoration through early 20th Century for BA Theatre Performance Majors.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

Teaching Artist **August 2012- Present**
Acting Studio Chicago – Chicago, IL

Classes taught have included Intermediate Scene Study, Summer Shakespeare for Teens, Shakespeare Monologues, Beginning Monologue, and Vocal Development.

Teaching Artist **2012-2014**
Shakespeare Project of Chicago – Chicago, IL

Educational outreach for middle schools to community colleges, performing the 50-Minute Hamlet (developed by Jeff Christian) and Romeo and Juliet in 50 Minutes (developed by Peter Garino, Michelle Shupe and Barbara Zahora). Developed additional workshops on verse structure, Folio technique, Shakespeare's sonnets, and other topics.

GRANTS AWARDED

Roosevelt University Professional Development Grant **2015**

In support of training with Master Linklater teacher Christine Adaire

SERVICE**ACADEMIC SERVICE TO THE THEATRE CONSERVATORY**

Program Director, BFA Acting*	January 2025-Present
Chair of the Theatre Conservatory*	July 2023-January 2025
Interim Chair of the Theatre Conservatory*	July 2022-July 2023
Co-Head of Acting	August 2019 – June 2022
CCPA Theatre Conservatory Theatre Standards Committee	Fall 2019

Committee tasked with establishing standards and creating documentation for classrooms and production spaces regarding physical safety, concern resolution procedures and collaborative respect.

Theatre Program Recruiting	Fall 2019 – Present
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Tasks include collaborating with CCPA Enrollment on marketing content, conducting workshops and teaching demonstrations throughout the year, adjudication of applicant pre-screen videos and live callback auditions, traveling to high school theatre festivals such as Texas Thespian Festival and attending LA Unifieds, making scholarship recommendations for admitted students, and being a point of contact for all incoming BFA Acting students and their families.

*Please see “Academic Appointments and Teaching” for description of responsibilities

ACADEMIC SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE

Search Committee Chair – NTT Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor of Acting, Voice and Speech	Fall 2024
Search Committee Chair – NTT Assistant Teaching Professor Musical Theatre Dance	Spring 2024
Search Committee – NTT Assistant Teaching Professor of Musical Theatre	Spring 2024
Search Committee – NTT Assistant Teaching Professor of Acting	Spring 2025

**Search Committee – NTT Assistant Teaching Professor
of Opera**

Summer 2025

ACADEMIC SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Planning and Budget Committee
University Senate
Graduate Council
Undergraduate Council

Fall 2020 – Present
Fall 2023-Present
2022-2023
2024-2025

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION - ARTISTIC ADMINISTRATION

Associate Artistic Director

Misalliance Repertory Theatre (SAG-AFTRA, Equity affiliated) March 2019 – Present

Misalliance Repertory Theatre was formed after the closing of ShawChicago in 2019. The mission of our company is to perform the works of language-rich playwrights similar to George Bernard Shaw in humor and social commentary.

Artistic Director

January 2018 – December 2022

Oak Park Festival Theatre (Equity) - Oak Park IL

Responsibilities included:

- Working in partnership with the managing director in choosing artistic programming and overseeing all aspects of production and audience experience
- Creating and managing production budgets
- Hiring and supervising casting and production personnel
- Creating strategies for development and fundraising
- Enforcing identity-conscious casting and hiring policies and industry standards regarding stage intimacy
- Designing the professional workshop series in the summer internship programs, as well as creating and directing the intern showcases
- Overseeing community and education outreach and initiatives.

Oak Park Festival Theatre is one of the oldest outdoor theatres still in operation in the Midwest. It is an Equity theatre operating on Chicago Area Theatre (CAT) Tier 1 and 3 agreements with Actors' Equity Association. Its annual budget during my tenure was approximately \$350K, with which we produced up to 4 productions a year with a part-time staff of five people. I was in leadership during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we were one of the first Chicago area theatres to offer live performance again in the summer of 2021 due to our outdoor location. My team led the company through the loss of our office space due to fire in the fall of 2021 and succeeded in refinancing an \$80K deficit and leaving the company with a positive cash

flow of approximately \$120K at the end of 2022. I directed some of the company's most critically acclaimed productions, including *Elizabeth Rex*, which starred Wendy Robie and garnered a Jeff Nomination for Best Principal Actress.

**Consulting Artistic Director
ShawChicago (Equity) – Chicago, IL**

June 2018 – March 2019

In its last year of operation, ShawChicago's artistic director Bob Scogin was hospitalized with complications following a lung cancer diagnosis. I had been an actor and director for the company since 2006 and one of its core company members, and I was asked by managing director Tony Courier and the board to oversee the 2018-2019 performance season. After Bob's death in November of 2018 and our final production of *The Doctor's Dilemma* in March of 2019, the board decided that the company would cease operation after 25 years.

**Associate Artistic Director/Director and Adapter
Shakespeare Project of Chicago (Equity) - Chicago, IL**

January 2010 – March 2018

Shakespeare Project of Chicago is an Equity theatre specializing in theatrical staged readings of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. In addition to assisting our artistic director in choosing programming and in managing, casting and development, I adapted and directed several full-length Shakespeare plays for staged reading performances at Chicago area libraries. I also designed and performed abridged productions of Shakespeare plays and customized workshops for middle schools, high schools and community colleges.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Actors' Equity Association (AEA) **2003 - Present**

**Screen Actors' Guild/
American Federation of Radio and Television Artists (SAG-AFTRA)** **2023 - Present**
Eligible since 2015

Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) **2019 - Present**
Associate Member

ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

DIRECTING CREDITS

Professional Theatre (Equity)

The Tempest (2021)

Oak Park Festival Theatre

<i>Elizabeth Rex (2019)*+</i>	Oak Park Festival Theatre
<i>Hollow/Wave (2018)</i>	Silk Road Rising
<i>Candida (2018)</i>	ShawChicago
<i>Hay Fever (2018)</i>	ShawChicago
<i>Macbeth (2017)*</i>	Oak Park Festival Theatre
<i>Misalliance (2016)</i>	ShawChicago
<i>Shrewish (2016)</i>	Artemisia Theatre
<i>Private Lives (2015)</i>	ShawChicago
<i>50-Minute Romeo and Juliet Tour (2011)</i>	Shakespeare Project of Chicago

*Joseph Jefferson Recommended

+Jeff Nomination for Best Actress in a Principal Role – Wendy Robie

Audio Drama

<i>The New Word (2021)</i>	Misalliance Repertory Theatre
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Academic Theatre

<i>Pride and Prejudice (2023)</i>	CCPA at Roosevelt University
<i>Votes for Women (2022)</i>	CCPA at Roosevelt University
<i>Best Love Scenes Ever! (2022)</i>	CCPA at Roosevelt University
<i>In Arabia We'd All Be Kings (2020)</i>	CCPA at Roosevelt University
<i>Love's Labour's Lost (2019)</i>	CCPA at Roosevelt University
<i>Ovidian Myths (2019)</i>	CCPA at Roosevelt University
<i>Something Shaw (2016)</i>	CCPA at Roosevelt University
<i>Spoon River: Coming Home (2010)</i>	CCPA at Roosevelt University

Professional Staged Readings

<i>Down on Uncle Vinnie's Farm (2023)</i>	Chicago Dramatists
<i>Coriolanus (2018)</i>	Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Love's Labour's Lost (2017)</i>	Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>The Winter's Tale (2016)</i>	Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>The Udmurts (2015)</i>	Equity Library Theatre
<i>All's Well That Ends Well (2014)</i>	Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>The Lake (2013)</i>	Artemisia Theatre
<i>Troilus and Cressida (2012)</i>	Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor (2011)</i>	Shakespeare Project of Chicago

Original Adaptations and Devised Works

Best Love Scenes Ever! (2022)

An adaptation of love scenes taken from works in public domain, framed by an original, devised story by Nicholas Alfano III and the cast. Including original songs by Madeline Barbeau.

Ovidian Myths (2019)

An original adaptation based on Ted Hughes's *Tales from Ovid*

Shrewish (2016)

A contemporary feminist mash-up of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Macbeth*, commissioned by Artemisia Theatre

Something Shaw (2015)

Selected scenes from some of George Bernard Shaw's greatest works

50-Minute Romeo and Juliet (2011, with Michelle Shupe and Peter Garino)

An educational touring show for four actors in which two young actors play the titular lovers and two older actors play all other roles

ACTING CREDITS**THEATRE (Select Roles)**

THE WINTER'S TALE

ROMEO AND JULIET

CHRISTMAS COMES BUT

ONCE A YEAR

ARMS AND THE MAN

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH

YOU

THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

ALL MY SONS

THE ART OF CORNELIA OTIS

SKINNER

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

HEARTBREAK HOUSE

50 MINUTE HAMLET

50-MINUTE MIDSUMMER

THE COUNTRY GIRL

DANCING AT LUGHNASA

MARIONETTE MACBETH

A SHAKESPEARE MASTER

PLAY

LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN

THE MOLIÈRE COMEDIES

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

HARD TIMES

MISALLIANCE**

RICHARD II

WIT

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS

WELL

Role

Paulina

Nurse

Dr. Harriet Jacques

Catherine Petkoff

Penny Sycamore

Judith Anderson

Madame de Volanges

Sue Bayliss

Nell Gwynn, etc.

u/s Desiree Armfeldt

Hesione Hushabye+

Ophelia, etc.

Titania/Hippolyta

Georgie Elgin

Maggie Mundy

u/s Lady Macbeth

Helena, Perdita

Lady Plymdale

Female u/s – All Parts

Ensemble/Katharina u/s

Belle/Abby

Mrs. Sparsit+

Hypatia Tarleton

Queen's Lady

Student/Technician

Joyce

Joseph's Servant

Ensemble

Theatre

Oak Park Festival Theatre

Shakespeare Project of Chicago

Shakespeare Project of Chicago

ShawChicago

Oak Park Festival Theatre

ShawChicago

American Players Theatre

American Players Theatre

ShawChicago

Writers Theatre

Writers Theatre

Shakespeare Project of Chicago

First Folio Theatre

Illinois Theatre Center

Oak Park Festival Theatre

Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Shakespeare's Globe

Northlight Theatre

Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Goodman Theatre

Lookingglass Theatre

Writers Theatre

Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Goodman Theatre

Lookingglass Theatre at CCPA

Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Director

Kevin Theis

Michelle Shupe

Peter Garino

Mary Michell

Jason Gerace

Robert Scogin

Brenda DeVita

William Brown

Robert Scogin

William Brown

William Brown

Jeff Christian

Michael Goldberg

Etel Billig

Belinda Bremner

Kate Buckley

Mark Rylance

William Brown

Brian Bedford

David H. Bell

Kate Buckley

Heidi Stillman

William Brown

Barbara Gaines

Steve Scott

Eva Barr

Brian Bedford

Barbara Gaines

HENRY IV PARTS 1 and 2	Mistress Quickly	Colorado Shakespeare Festival	Michael Addison
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+Performing Understudy/Standby

**Joseph Jefferson Nomination – Best Ensemble

TELEVISION

CHICAGO FIRE (Ep. 4.11)	Co-Star	NBC	Drucilla Carlson
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FILM

OPERATOR	Role	Producer	Director
THE LEGEND OF AMBA	Sassy Waitress	JuntoBox Films	Logan Kibens
FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS	Stepmother	Liberation Pictures	Kaelan Strouse
	Extra	DreamWorks	Clint Eastwood

VOICEOVER and COMMERCIAL

Client lists available upon request

DIALECT AND VOICE COACHING CREDITS

Project	Dialects/Voice	Producer	Director
The Music Cure (Audiodrama)	British RP	Misalliance Repertory Theatre	Gary Alexander
Desire (Film)	Vocal and dialect coach for Shannyn Sossamon	Ridley Scott Associates	Adam Smith
Shining City	Irish (Dublin, etc.)	Irish Theatre of Chicago	Jeff Christian
The Weir	Irish (Leitrim, etc.) of Chicago	Seanachai/Irish Theatre	Matt Miller
A Moon for the Misbegotten	New England/Irish, Irish (Dublin), etc.	Seanachai/Irish Theatre of Chicago	Kevin Theis
Blithe Spirit	British RP	First Folio Theatre	Alison C. Vesely
Richard III	Various dialects/Vocal Coaching	Lakeside Shakespeare	Scott Cummins
Henry V	French/Vocal Coaching	Lakeside Shakespeare	Elizabeth Laidlaw
Love's Labour's Lost	Various/Vocal Coaching	Lakeside Shakespeare	Jeff Christian
The Autumn Garden	Deep Gulf Southern	Eclipse Theatre	Nathaniel Swift
The Collector	British (Sussex)	Livewire Theatre	Christopher Dennis
Toys in the Attic	Deep Gulf Southern/ Louisiana	Blindfaith Theatre	Nick Minas

Dialect Design and Vocal Coaching (Select Academic and Community Theatre)

Project	Dialects/Voice	Producer	Director
The 39 Steps	MidAtlantic, British RP, Cockney, Scottish, German	North Central College	John Warrick
The Importance of Being Earnest	British RP	Glenbard East High School	Josh Rubin
Pride and Prejudice	British RP	New Trier High School	Anne James-Noonan
The School for Scandal	British RP	Mundelein High School	Jonathan Meier
Vinegar Tom	Various British	North Central College	Carrie Lee Patterson
Parade	Deep Gulf Southern, Brooklyn Jewish	North Central College	Matt Boresi
The Plough and The Stars	Irish (old Dublin)	Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University	Jeff Christian
Dead Man Walking	Louisiana Southern	Northwestern Bienen School Of Music	Michael Ehrman
Ruddigore	British RP	Northwestern Bienen School Of Music	Michael Ehrman
Smash	Various British	Oakton Community College	Daniel Cunningham
Sex in the Title	British RP, Estuary, French, Scottish	First Street Playhouse	Craig Gustafson

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Kimball Studios On-Camera Instructor Intensive **2024**
Janine DiTullio and others, instructors

Best Practices Weekend Workshop **2022**
Theatrical Intimacy Education in Chicago, IL
Laura Rikard and Greg Geffard, instructors

Best Practices Virtual Workshop 2022
Theatrical Intimacy Education
 Laura Rikard and Chelsea Pace, instructors

Shakespeare's Globe Seminar on Shakespeare and Race 2020
 (Virtual)

Laban Movement Analysis with Alison Henderson 2014
 Certified Laban Movement Specialist

Shakespeare Advanced Scene Study (Summer) 2009-2011
 Susan Hart and Jeffrey Carlson

Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA) 2009
 Summer Conference with Kristin Linklater, Patsy Rodenburg
 and Catherine Fitzmaurice
 Pace University, NYC

Vocal Intensive – Shakespeare Monologue
 Patsy Rodenburg at Michael Howard Studios, NYC 2002

First Folio Technique
Chicago Shakespeare Theatre
 Kate Buckley and Larry Yando, instructors 1999-2001

Uta Hagen Intensive
Wayne State University 1995

CORPORATE COACHING EXPERIENCE

Executive Communications Coach 2004 - Present
Speak by Design - Chicago, IL

Developed and delivered customized curricula in presentation skills, vocal development, accent modification, and executive leadership for a wide range of corporate clients, including McKinsey and Co., W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Motorola, and Reyes Holdings.