Jennifer Leigh Sears Scheier

# Curriculum Vitae

## **EDUCATION**

## PhD in Theatre Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2021

"The Quest for Professionalization: A 20th Century Cautionary Tale for United States

Stage Managers"

Advisor: Dr. Valleri J. Robinson

# MFA in Theatre Arts (Stage Management), University of Iowa

2011

"History of Stage Management: Role of the Prompter in American Theatre 1750-1850"

## BA in History and Social Science, Eastern Connecticut State University

2008

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

## **Assistant Professor of Stage Management**

2024-Present

Conservatory of Performing Arts, Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA

- 9-month position teaching 4/4 load including the following courses: Stage Management 1, AEA & Theatrical Unions, Professional Prep for Stage Managers, and mentoring practicum credits.
- Mentoring Stage Management students through the production process, attending rehearsals and techs as available and offering guidance for improvements.

## **Assistant Professor of Stage and Production Management**

2022-2024

College of Arts and Humanities, Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO

- 9-month position teaching four courses with a four course release for production management work and production stage management work.
- Served as the Academic Production Manager overseeing the calendar and budget for all academic live events (including theatre, dance, music, and fashion programs) roughly 30 productions/concerts/events each year.
- Oversaw an innovative curriculum overhaul for the BFA Stage Management degree, utilizing classes already in the catalog in adjacent colleges to better prepare students to be innovative leaders and adapters in the stage management field.
- Mentored 8 BFA Stage Managers and several BA Theatre stage managers over the last two school years.
- Connected Theatre students to local production companies through a series of events, tours, and/or guest-speaking engagements. This included planning a Networking-Night for Art & Design, Communications, Cinema Art, and Performing Art departments, which led to several students getting summer work in 2023.

• Adapted Propared software to more efficiently organize the production calendar and keep everyone consistently up-to-date without having to alter multiple calendars.

## **Visiting Assistant Professor of Stage and Production Management**

2021-2022

College of Arts and Letters, Governors State University in University Park, IL

- 12-month position teaching four courses with a five course release for production management work and production stage management work.
- Served as production manager and production stage manager for two theatre productions and one dance concert.
- Established digital callboards for the Theatre and Performance Studies (TAPS) program and for each of the program's productions as a central communication tool.
- Developed digital inventory of program's scenic, props, and costumes for both theatre and dance.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books:**

Scheier, J. (Under contract) *Historicizing U.S. Stage Management: A Collection of Essays on Historical Contextualization, Shifting Methodologies, and Changing Perspectives.* FOCAL Press/Routledge: New York.

## **Book Chapters:**

Scheier, J. (2022) "Intersectional History: Stage Managers' in the Actors' Union" *Off-Headset: Essays on Stage Management Life, Work, and Career.* FOCAL Press/Routledge: New York.

#### Web-Based Publications:

Scheier J. (2020) "YSM2020: Advocacy & Community." Stage Directions Magazine, February.

Scheier J. (2020) "Defining Stage Management: A Glimpse of a Guidebook." *Stage Directions Magazine*, January.

Scheier J. (2020) "YSM2020: 100 Years of Being Explicit." Stage Directions Magazine, January.

Scheier J. (2019) "Finding Stage Management History." Stage Directions Magazine, June.

Scheier J. (2019) "History of College Stage Management Courses? Not Yet!" *Stage Directions Magazine*, May.

Scheier J. (2018) "Historical Calling Technology: Telephone Switchboards." *Stage Directions Magazine*, September.

Scheier J. (2018) "Historical Calling Technology: Cue Lights." Stage Directions Magazine, Aug.

Scheier J. (2018) "Historical Calling Technology: The Speaking Tube." *Stage Directions Magazine*, July.

Scheier J. (2018) "Historical Calling Technology: Bells, Whistles, Flags and Call Boys." *Stage Directions Magazine*, April.

Scheier J. (2018) "Stage Management Grievances in 1942." Stage Directions Magazine, March.

- Scheier J. (2018) "Murder Onstage: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Actress Kills Her SM Before Audience." *Stage Directions Magazine*, February.
- Scheier J. (2017) "Women in Stage Management: Revolutionizing History with Inclusion." *Stage Directions Magazine*, December.
- Scheier J. (2017) "A Crash Course in American Stage Management History." *Stage Directions Magazine*, December.
- Scheier J. (2017) "Why Study History of Stage Management?" Stage Directions Magazine, April.
- Scheier J. (2017) "Why Stage Managers Are Included in the Actors' Equity Association." *Stage Directions Magazine*, January.

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

University of Illinois Graduate College, "COVID Summer Block Grant."	2020
University of Illinois Department of Theatre, "Theatre Block Grant."	2019
University of Illinois Department of Theatre, "Research Travel Grant."	2018
US Department of Education, "Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship" (FLAS),	2017
Used at the Università per Stranieri di Perugia.	
University of Illinois Department of Theatre, "Conference Travel Grant."	2017
University of Illinois Department of Theatre, "Arts Fellowship."	2016-2017
University of Iowa, "Iowa Arts Fellowship."	2008-2011

#### **INVITED TALKS**

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

## **Exhibits Curated**

- Scheier, J. (2022, March). "Stage Management Paperwork Through the Centuries" Physical Exhibit. United States Institute of Technical Theatre Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- Scheier, J. (2020, October). "Stage Management Paperwork Through the Centuries." National Collaborators Conference, Virtual Conference.
- Scheier, J. (2020, April). "Stage Management Paperwork Through the Centuries" United States Institute of Technical Theatre Conference, Virtual Conference.

# **Papers Presented**

- Scheier, J. (2022, July). "Curbing Stage and Production Management's Carbon Footprint with Digital Tools." Association of Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit, MI.
- Scheier, J. (2022, July). "Restorative Pedagogy to Redefine Stage Management, Revitalize its History, and Promote Equity in Stage Management Training Programs." Association of Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit, MI.

<sup>&</sup>quot;History of Stage Management;" Stage Managers' Association; September 30, 2019.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Introduction to Stage Management;" Grand Valley State University; September 17, 2011.

- Scheier, J. (2022, July). "Reimagining the Definition and Education of Stage Management for the Future We Want to Embody." Association of Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit, MI.
- Scheier, J. and Karyn Meek. (2022, May). "Revelations from the Study & Analysis of Stage Management." Broadway Stage Management Symposium. Hybrid Conference.
- Scheier, J. (2022, March). "History of Promptbook Making from the 1500s to Contemporary Digital Scripts" United States Institute of Technical Theatre Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- Scheier, J. (2022, February). "Revolutionizing Stage Management Definitions through Historical Handbooks." Mid-America Theatre Conference, Virtual Conference.
- Scheier, J. (2021, October). "Professional Progress: Arbitrating Actors' Equity Membership." American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, CA.
- Scheier, J. (2020, November). "Professional Progress: Arbitrating Actors' Equity Membership." American Society for Theatre Research, Virtual Conference.
- Scheier, J. (2020, October). "The History, The Art, The Act of Calling Cues." National Collaborators Conference, Virtual Conference.
- Scheier J. (2019, March). "Adapting to Inventions: The Stage Managers' Journey through the Second Industrial Revolution." Mid-America Theatre Conference, Cleveland, OH.
- Scheier, J. (2018, October). "Bringing Darkness to Light: The Untold History of the American Stage Manager." Research Live! Finalist, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Scheier, J. (2017, April). "The Art and Act of Calling Cues: The American Audience Rejects Aural Cueing." University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate Student Theatre Conference, Madison, WI.

#### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

# **Point Park University – Theatre**

Stage Management 1

Fall 2024

- Developed and taught undergraduate stage management course for BFA Stage Managers and Theatre Production majors/minors.
- Focused on activity-based lessons to reinforce stage management skills through practical activities.
- Adapted Montessori learning principles to the class structure to better engage, empower, and challenge the student by immersing them in a self-driven course.

# **AEA & Theatrical Unions**

Fall 2024

- Developed and taught undergraduate union course for Theatre Production majors about the history of theatrical unions, how to read a collective bargaining agreement, and how to utilize the CBA when making decisions that impact the cast, crew and other hires.
- Guided student analysis for 22 collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) from a variety of theatrical unions, focusing on the similarities and differences of perceived negotiation topics.
- Created project-based learning activities to test the student's understanding and retention of the CBA's. Using the salary information from each CBA, students developed the minimum budget required to produce the show and other challenges.

# Professional Prep for Stage Managers

Fall 2024

- Co-taught undergraduate course for BFA stage managers and other production students, exploring the professional requirements for researching, submitting, and acquiring a professional contract.
- Guided student portfolio, cover letter, resume and website creation to meet industry standards and prepare them to find the job, research the job, interview for the job, and get the job.

## **Lindenwood University – Theatre**

Stage Management 1

Fall 2022 & 2023

- Developed and taught undergraduate stage management course for Theatre majors and BFA Stage Managers
- Focused on activity-based lessons to reinforce stage management skills through practical activities.
- Adapted Montessori learning principles to the class structure to better engage, empower, and challenge the student by immersing them in a self-driven course.

# Advanced Stage Management: Non-Traditional Stage Management

Fall 2022

- Developed and taught undergraduate stage management course for BFA Stage
   Management Students focusing on Leadership Skills, Digital Tools in Stage Management,
   Calling Techniques in Opera, Dance and other Live Events, and Non-Traditional Stage
   Management.
- Used free and available digital tools and university resources to ensure that all students met course expectations with success, without the financial burdens associated with stage management.
- Focused on activity-based lessons to reinforce stage management skills through practical activities.

## Advanced Stage Management: Production Management

Fall 2022

- Developed and taught undergraduate stage management course for BFA Stage Management Students focusing on Production Management, Union Contracts, and Conflict Resolution.
- Focused on activity-based lessons to reinforce related skills through practical activities.
- Connected students with 5 Theatrical Union Reps and 3 local production managers to aid in networking and resource gathering for the students.

#### Career and Portfolio

Spring 2023 & 2024

- Developed and taught undergraduate course for Theatre Majors focused on preparing to find work: the job search, audition/portfolio prep, budgeting, life planning.
- Connected students with several people within my network to talk about the realities of working on cruise ships, the National Tour for Hamilton, Film/TV, and connected the

- students with casting agents, headshot photographers, and the artistic director of Stages St. Louis.
- Split course into lectures, guest visits, and web-based activities.

#### Rehearsal and Production

Fall 2022-Present

- Oversaw the undergraduate course for rehearsals and productions, which included tracking student attendance to the company meetings, show assignments, and performances.
- Created, distributed, and collected the responses for the production application form.
   Once collected, assigned backstage show assignments to students that were not already cast or assigned to productions.

## **Governors State University – Theatre and Performance Studies**

Introduction to Stage Management

Spring 2022

- Developed and taught undergraduate stage management course for underrepresented and non-traditional college students.
- Used free and available digital tools and university resources to ensure that all students met course expectations with success, without the financial burdens associated with stage management.
- Split course into lecture and activity-based lessons to reinforce stage management skills through practical activities.

## Special Topics: Introduction to Theatre Design

Spring 2022

- Developed and taught a project-based undergraduate introduction to theatre design course for underrepresented and non-traditional college students.
- Used a flipped classroom model, allowing students to complete projects during class time to generate discussions on how to problem solve while completing the tasks at hand. Projects included designing lightings for a dance piece, creating a mini-model, costume rendering, and making stage blood/stage snow and creating sound effects.

#### Online Introduction to Theatre

2 sections, Fall 2021

• Moderated course sections for undergraduate non-majors and majors with 30 students per section.

## **Indiana State University – Theatre Department**

Introduction to Stage Management Adjunct Professor

Fall 2019

- Developed coursework directly related to stage and production management for undergraduate students, many of whom came from underrepresented and underserved communities.
- Coached students through hands-on activities to bridge lectured concepts with the contemporary challenges faced in the professional theatrical workplace.
- Mentored student leadership through course discussion and production work.

 Demonstrated differences between theatre, opera, musical theatre, and dance stage management to encourage students to explore other related fields and their demonstrated skills would easily translate.

## **University of Utah – Theatre Department**

Advanced Stage Management Visiting Adjunct Professor

Spring 2019

- Worked collaboratively with the Head of Stage Management, Amber Bielinski, to develop a new class and coursework focused on history of stage management in a Conservatory setting for BFA undergraduate stage managers.
- Facilitated online and in-person lectures and created projects for students to connect historical context with contemporary stage and production management challenges and solutions.

# University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – Theatre Department

Online Introduction to Theatre Teaching Assistant

23 sections, Fall 2016 – Spring 2021

• Moderated course sections for undergraduate non-majors and graded four discussions, four writing assignments, and a final project for 50 students per section.

Introduction to Theatre Teaching Assistant

4 sections, Fall 2016-Spring 2019

- Conceptualized weekly section meetings for undergraduate students.
- Developed activities and assignments that corresponded with lectures.
- Maintained gradebook and evaluated all student submissions.

## Literature of Modern Drama Teaching Assistant

Spring 2018

• Taught and graded undergraduate student assignments on American modern theatre, focusing on playwrights and plays written between 1900-present day.

## **Dramatic Analysis Teaching Assistant**

Fall 2017

- Lectured on course content using David Ball's *Backwards & Forwards*.
- Graded assignments generated and maintained the attendance and gradebook.

## University of Iowa – Theatre Department

Stage Management I Instructor of Record

Fall 2010

- Generated the syllabus, course content and assignments for 28 undergraduate and graduate students, one of the largest sections at the time.
- Contributed a new teaching module on stage management history based on the research ascertained through my thesis process.

Theatre & Society: Romantics Teaching Assistant

Spring 2010

- Facilitated weekly section meetings, developed activities and assignments that corresponded with theatre history lectures from Shakespeare to the present.
- Assessed all assignments and maintained gradebook.

Theatre & Society: Ancients & Moderns Teaching Assistant

Fall 2009

- Facilitated weekly section meetings, developed activities and assignments that corresponded with theatre history lectures from Greece to Shakespeare.
- Assessed all assignments and maintained gradebook.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

#### Research Assistant to Dr. Kirsten Pullen

2020 - 2021

Theatre Department, University of Illinois

 Created a database of 50 women and contributors, tracking assignments, deadlines, contract status, etc. for a forthcoming edited volume on influential female American theatre artists.

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Stage Managers' Committee, Actors' Equity Association, 2020–2023.

History of Stage Management Committee, Stage Managers' Association, 2019–Present.

"Definition of Stage Manager" Working Group, Actors' Equity Association, 2020–2021.

#### UNIVERSITY SERVICE

# **Point Park University**

Theatre Curriculum Committee, 2024-Present.

## **Lindenwood University**

DEI Committee, 2022-2024. Season Selection Committee 2023-2024.

## **University of Illinois**

Student Advisory Board Member; 2018-2019.

#### **University of Iowa**

Undergraduate Scholarship Committee; 2010-2011.

#### **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

"An Interview with Dr. Jennifer;" Waiting for Places Podcast; July 9, 2021.

#### **GUEST LECTURES**

<sup>&</sup>quot;Researching Stage Management History;" Twins Talk Theatre Podcast; March 16, 2018.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Theatrical Unions," University of Illinois, January 2024.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Stage Managers in Actors' Equity Association," University of Illinois, February 2024.

<sup>&</sup>quot;The Professionalization of Stage Management," University of Iowa, September 14, 2021.

#### RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

# Actors' Equity Association (AEA) Stage Manager

2012-Present

- Prioritize and advocate for the production/production process itself, from preproduction to closing performance.
- Collaboratively work with all production departments to guide the production from preproduction to closing for theatrical plays, musicals and other live performances.
- Serve as a leader and liaison between the production team, administrative team, and the performers.
- Mentor MFA graduate and undergraduate stage managers, other interested students or early career stage managers during and beyond stage management contracts.
- Support and assist in the implantation of all applicable union contracts and agreements.

## **Freelance Opera Stage Manager**

2011-Present

- Support, facilitate and safeguard the production from pre-production to closing performance for opera and dance productions.
- Serve as a liaison between the production team, administrative team, and all performers.
- Mentor MFA graduate and undergraduate stage managers, other interested students or early career stage managers during and beyond stage management contracts.
- Support and assist in the implantation of all applicable union contracts and agreements as needed.

#### **Academic Production Manager for Lindenwood**

2022-2024

Lindenwood University, St. Charles, MO

Oversaw the academic theatre production process, including: season selection, creating
the season calendar, season budget, production design process, production meetings,
production creation, load-in, tech rehearsals, dress rehearsal, performances, strike, and
the post-mortem meeting.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Stage Managers in Actors' Equity Association," University of Iowa, September 21, 2021.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Stage Management History" Ithaca College, August 26, 2021.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Why Study Stage Management History?" Ithaca College, September 21, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Stage Managers' Fight for Representation in AEA." University of Illinois, February 27, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>quot;History of Theatrical Unions." University of Illinois, February 4, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>quot;History of Stage Management Guidebooks." Indiana State University, March 22, 2018.

<sup>&</sup>quot;History of Actors' Equity." University of Illinois, February 27, 2018.

<sup>&</sup>quot;History of Stage Management Calling Practices." Indiana State University, October 24, 2017.

<sup>&</sup>quot;A Brief History of the Stage Manager." University of Iowa, March 23, 2017.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Opera SM vs Theatre SM." Indiana State University, September 17, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>quot;You Have a BFA, Now What?" Washington University, February 19, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Intro to History of the Stage Manager." University of Iowa, October 7, 2014.

- Mentored the stage management and tech/design students assigned to each production.
- Mentored the student assistant production manager assigned.
- Generated and maintained the production calendar and production process for all dance, music, and fashion events. This included: scheduling and running production meetings, overseeing the production process for each event, and mentoring the students involved.
- Created and oversaw the budget for all Academic Theatre productions.

## **Production Manager for TAPS program**

2021-2022

Governors State University, University Park, IL

- Hired designers and oversaw production process, including setting up contracts for future productions.
- Created digital inventory of all scenic, prop, and costume items for both theatre and dance.
- Generated and maintained production calendar for all TAPS productions including theatre and dance.
- Contributed to budget development as needed for both dance and theatre.

# Assistant to the Production Manager as the Resident Stage Manager

2012-2013

Long Beach Opera, Long Beach, CA

- Assisted the production manager at Long Beach Opera as the Resident stage manager for the season in production management duties.
- Developed and implemented of safety and parking protocols for secure venues including the Los Angeles Port.
- Served as a liaison between the cast, crew, and artistic team and the housing/vehicle donors and other producing partners when problems arose.
- Contributed to budget development as needed.

#### Assistant to the Director of Theatre

2010-2011

Theatre Department, University of Iowa

- Assisted the Director of Theatre on the planning and implementation of the annual week-long New Play Festival for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Oversaw the schedule and budget for the visiting artists, playwrights, and adjudicators.
- Served as the on-site liaison during the New Play Festival for issues that required the Director of Theatre.
- Completed additional administrational work as needed.

#### TEACHING AREAS/COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

Introduction to Stage Management

Advanced Stage Management, Range of topics including History, Opera, Unions, Dance, Events. Career and Portfolio

Theatre History, General or Specialized Introduction to Theatre Script Analysis

# PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Actors' Equity Association (AEA)
American Society of Theatre Research (ASTR)
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
Mid-American Theatre Conference (MATC)
Stage Managers' Association (SMA)
United States Institute of Technical Theatre (USITT)

# **THEATRE CREDITS**

Production Stage Manager 12 Angry Jurors A Delightful Quarantine 2020 Summer Season ^ 2019 Summer Season The Boy From Oz Festival Of Christmas ** Les Miserables Red Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde Twelfth Night Stage Manager Alice Chan * Weatherman * Brownie Points **	Governors State University Governors State University Illinois Shakespeare Festival Illinois Shakespeare Festival Celebration Theatre Lamb's Players Theatre Lamb's Players Theatre Nashville Repertory Theatre Nashville Repertory Theatre GV Shakespeare Festival  La Jolla Playhouse La Jolla Playhouse Lamb's Players Theatre	University Park, IL Bloomington, IL Bloomington, IL Los Angeles, CA San Diego, CA San Diego, CA Nashville, TN Nashville, TN Grand Valley, MI San Diego, CA San Diego, CA San Diego, CA	Dir: Dr. Patrick Santoro Dir: Anthony Sims Artistic Dir: John C. Stark Artistic Dir: John C. Stark Dir: Michael A. Sheppard Dir. Deborah Smyth Dir. Robert Smyth Dir. Rene D. Copeland Dir. Pete Vann Dir. Roger Ellis  Dir. BD Wong Dir. James Vasquez Dir. Deborah Smyth	2022 2021 2020 2019 2016 2014 2014 2014 2012 2011 2015 2014 2012
Ntare Guma Mbaho Mtwine ** The Effect of Gamma Rays The Tempest A Funny Thing Happened	RedCat Theatre Iowa Summer Rep Capital Classics Music Theatre	Los Angeles, CA lowa City, IA Hartford, CT Green Bay, WI	Dir: Emily Hoffman Dir. Mary Beth Easley Dir. Laura Sheehan Dir. James Birder	2012 2011 2009 2008
Rehearsal Stage Manager West Side Story	Lamb's Players Theatre	San Diego, CA	Dir. Deborah Smyth	2015
Assistant Stage Manager John Birch Music Society * In The Heights Lost in Yonkers	La Jolla Playhouse San Diego Rep Iowa Summer Rep	San Diego, CA San Diego, CA Iowa City, IA	Dir: Christopher Ashley Dir. Sam Woodhouse Dir. Eric Forsythe	2013 2013 2011
Production Assistant The Tallest Tree In The Forest	La Jolla Playhouse	San Diego, CA	Dir: Moises Kaufman	2013
OPERA CREDITS				
Production Stage Manager Carmen A Soldier's Tale/A Fiddler's Tale Norma King Gesar A Tell Tale Heart **/ Van Gogh Paper Nautilus ** Maria De Buenos Aires **	Knoxville Opera Long Beach Opera Knoxville Opera Long Beach Opera Long Beach Opera Long Beach Opera Long Beach Opera	Knoxville, TN Long Beach, CA Knoxville, TN Long Beach, CA Long Beach, CA Long Beach, CA Long Beach, CA	Dir. Chuck Hudson Dir. David Schweizer Dir. Elizabeth Bachman Dir. Andreas Mitisek Dir. Andreas Mitisek Dir. Andreas Mitisek Dir. Andreas Mitisek	2015 2014 2014 2013 2013 2012 2012
Assistant Stage Manager Macbeth Camelia La Tejana ** The Fall Of The House Of Usher Man Who Mistook His Wife INDUSTRIAL/TV CREDITS	Long Beach Opera Long Beach Opera Long Beach Opera Long Beach Opera	Long Beach, CA Long Beach, CA Long Beach, CA Long Beach, CA	Dir. Andreas Mitisek Dir. Mario Espinosa Dir. Ken Cazan Dir. David Schweizer	2013 2013 2013 2012
Stage Manager World Food Prize 2011 Holiday Pops: 2010 World Food Prize 2010	PBS Broadcast iWireless Center PBS Broadcast	Des Moines, IA Quad Cities, IA Des Moines, IA	PM: Mark Thompson PM: Rich Stodd PM: Mark Thompson	2011 2010 2010

<sup>^ =</sup> Canceled due to COVID Pandemic \* = Workshop \*\* = World or Coast Premiere