

MARY “KATIE” SIMONS DAVIS

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EDUCATION

M.F.A.	Theatre Arts: Directing, University of Mississippi
M. A.	Theatre Arts, University of Texas at El Paso
B. A.	Theatre Arts, Juniata College

TEACHING

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA, Chickasha, OK

Professor of Theatre Arts	August 2017-present
Associate Professor of Theatre Arts	August 2011- 2017
Assistant Professor of Drama	August 2006-2011

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

For fifteen years I have been the coordinator of the program offering a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts in the Division of Arts and Humanities at Oklahoma’s Public Liberal Arts College. This challenging and rewarding position is currently the only tenure-track position in the Theatre Arts Program. I collaborate with the technical director and with the music program, communication & marketing office, advancement office, student activities board, and campus event planning. I supervise one professional staff member and four student employees. I recruit, hire, and mentor visiting artists/adjunct instructors for our program. I am responsible for program and outcomes assessment, curriculum planning, reporting, and recruiting and retention.

TEACHING & CURRICULUM PLANNING

I teach three courses each trimester, with an additional three hours of release for production assignments. However, I often teach 3-6 hours of overload and regularly offer courses by tutorial (no load credit) to facilitate a robust course rotation that benefits student recruitment and graduation requirements. I have developed new syllabi for (and taught) twenty-one THTR courses currently listed in our catalog. I have also developed syllabi for (and taught) seventeen special topics courses in Theatre and Film. I contribute to our general education core by teaching Rhetoric & Critical Thinking, World Thought and Cultures, and Senior Seminar (capstone research project). I completed an extensive program review in 2017 which includes recommendations for curriculum changes and program staffing increase. **Recent new courses developed include: Arts Management, Stand-Up Comedy, and Intimacy for Stage and Film. I have offered all courses of this program as Guided, Remote Learning since March 2020.**

ADVISING

I am the academic advisor for all students in the major, serve as the sponsor for the USAO Cast of Alpha Psi Omega, and advise a number of students with undeclared majors. **There are currently twenty-seven majors and three theatre minors on our campus of 700 students.**

CREATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

I am the producing director (and de facto designer and production manager) on a minimum of two productions each season. I am responsible for all aspects of design, leading all student crews, and collaborating on all marketing and publicity materials. The productions of this program serve the training of majors in the program and also provide academic theatre experience for non-majors. The production rotation includes diverse styles that directly support classroom curriculum, and the productions are treated as the laboratory for applying disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge while working with challenging and relevant material.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

I have just completed a year of service as the President of the Faculty Association, following a year of service as Treasurer/President Elect. I have also served the Faculty Association as secretary and have been the Chair of these committees: Interdisciplinary Studies, Curriculum, Resources, and Academic Integrity. I served as the co-chair of an internal Higher Learning Commission Assurance Argument writing committee. In the course of my tenure, I have served on the Assessment, Resources, Cultural Activities & Recreation, Festival of Arts and Ideas, Faculty Handbook, Academic Regulations, Academic Strategic Planning, Administrative Council, and Tenure and Promotion committees, in addition to other ad hoc committees (including for our HLC Accreditation a decade ago). **I am currently the Executive Director of the Davis-Waldorf Performing Artist Series and chair its steering committee.** I present workshops at Freshman Orientation. I serve in our community as a board member for the Chickasha Public Schools Foundation and as a member of our Arts Council. **For two years, I have worked with the American Association of Community Theatres as a respondent to submissions for the New Play Competition.**

RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP & CREATIVE PROJECTS

I have presented workshops for local and state organizations, including the Oklahoma Community Theatre Association, Oklahoma Speech, Theatre, Communications Association, and the Creativity World Forum. I support the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Association One-Act competition and have served as a judge at Regional and State level since 2012. I have been trained as an adjudicator for KCACTF productions and conduct workshops in Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process. I maintain professional memberships in the American Association of University Professors, American Association of University Women, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, National Association of Schools of Theatre, American Association of Community Theatres, Intimacy Directors International, and Mid-America Theatre Conference. **In my current position, I am also closely involved with University Advancement and have written multiple successful grants for USAO, including a Title III NASANTI grant and Oklahoma Arts Council project grants. I have presented three times in the past five years at the annual meeting of the Association of Theatre in Higher Education for the Playwriting and Theatre as a Liberal Art focus groups. My areas of research include MEA/**

PROMOTION AND TENURE

In 2017, my dossier was reviewed by the division of Arts and Humanities, recommended by my division chair, and reviewed by the Tenure and Promotion Committee and Vice President for Academic Affairs. On the recommendation from President John Feaver, I was promoted to Professor by the USAO Board of Regents, effective fall 2017. **For fourteen years, I have received positive comments in my annual administrative reviews.**

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, Oxford, MS

Teaching Assistant, Department of Theatre Arts

Aug 1999 - May 2002

I entered this graduate program with a completed Master of Arts and teaching experience and was the instructor in multiple sections of these courses: Fundamentals of Acting, Business & Professional Communication, Introduction to Public Speaking.

My graduate coursework was in Theatre and Film. I was also the director of two full-length productions for the Theatre Department and the Assistant Director on several plays and films alongside my advisors and instructors. I was the recipient of scholarships and awards in this position.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: continued

THE PEOPLES LIGHT AND THEATRE COMPANY, Malvern, PA

Acting Instructor/Teaching Artist

August 1998 - May 1999

- ♦ Assisted Acting classes led by Tom Teti and Paul Mesejian
- ♦ Assisted in Workshops of Project Discovery with Cathy Simpson
- ♦ Assisted with the development of study guides and studied grant writing with Education Director, Nancy Shaw
- ♦ During this time, I was also employed as the Group Sales/Telemarketing Manager, Assistant House manager, and working closely with our Marketing and Development teams.

JUNIATA COLLEGE, Huntingdon, PA

Visiting Instructor/Director of Theatre

August 1996- May 1997

I was hired for this position during a time of program transition for theatre arts at Juniata College. As an alumna of the department, I was uniquely able to advise students seeking an emphasis in theatre arts. I designed and taught six courses (in Acting, Directing, Playwriting, Introduction to Theatre, and Dramatic Literature) offered additional courses by directed study, directed a full-length production each term, produced the student one-act and new play festivals, coordinated the theatre budget, and served as a faculty advisor to all students in theatre studies.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO, El Paso, TX

Graduate Instructor, Department of Theatre Arts

August 1994 – May 1996

I was the Box Office Manager for the University Theatre. I was also the Teaching Assistant for World Literature, Acting, and Introduction to the Theatre and Film courses. My graduate coursework included directing for theatre and film, film theory, new play development, and playwriting.

ARTS ADMINISTRATION & PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

CORINTH THEATRE-ARTS, Corinth, MS

Artistic Director & Business Manager

May 2002 – June 2006

I directed and designed more than sixty productions between 2001-2006 at this vibrant community arts organization serving Northeast Mississippi. I taught adult acting classes and a yearly camp focused on the development of new plays with children aged 4-16. I served as an advisor to the drama programs/clubs at Corinth High School, Alcorn County Junior High School, Tishomingo County High School, Ripley High School, and Enrichment, Inc. I expanded the theatre's outreach program, which involved creating study guides, developing workshops connected with the presentation of touring performances, and working with teachers in the elementary schools of Alcorn County to promote the inclusion of the performing arts in their lesson plans. I also presented playwriting workshops for the English Department at Blue Mountain College. Concurrently, I was the Business Manager for CT-A and their grant writer. Among my accomplishments there: I managed a recovery from great debt to running "in the black" each season; increased audience numbers; increased volunteer numbers; developed positive relationships with other community arts organizations; raised standards on productions and programs; improved marketing; raised 250K in matching funds and accomplished a major renovation of the Crossroads Playhouse. CTA received annual support through grants from the Mississippi Arts Commission and private foundations. I was the advisor to the board of directors and representative for CT-A at meetings of the Mississippi Theatre Association.

WOMEN'S THEATRE ENSEMBLE PROJECT (WTEP), El Paso, TX

Director

October 1993 – May 1996

- ♦ Co-Founding and Creative Member of this collective with a mission to create performance and expression opportunities for women at UTEP

WINTERWORKS and PLAYWORKS, El Paso, TX

New Play Festival Student Producer

August 1994 – December 1995

- ♦ Literary Assistant (play selection and playwright support)
- ♦ Dramaturg and Director for play development workshops and staged readings
- ♦ Coordinator of play festivals as the research and project assistant to Michael Wright, MFA

AWARDS AND HONORS

- ♦ Regents Award for Superior Teaching, (2019), USAO
- ♦ Outstanding Young College Teacher (2013), Oklahoma Speech Theatre Communication
- ♦ Association Oklahoma College Public Relations Association – Excellence Award for Marketing (2011)
- ♦ Alpha Psi Omega – inducted as honorary member & faculty sponsor for Sigma Xi Cast (2007)
- ♦ Girl Scouts of America: Outstanding Mississippi Woman in the Arts (2006)
- ♦ University of Mississippi Theatre Arts Outstanding Graduate Student (2002)
- ♦ Phi Kappa Phi (2001)
- ♦ University of Mississippi Graduate Fellowship (1999-2002)
- ♦ UTEP Graduate of the Year (1997)
- ♦ UTEP Graduate School Academic Achievement Award (1996)
- ♦ UTEP Department of Theatre Arts Special Achievement Award (1995)
- ♦ American College Theatre Festival Award: Excellence in New Play Development (1995)
- ♦ UTEP Kreutilek Graduate Fellowship (1994-95)
- ♦ National Honor Society Member (1990)
- ♦ The Masque: Juniata College Theatre Honor Society - (1990)

SELECTED DIRECTING CREDITS

CITY OF CHICKASHA

“Another Shrew Tamed” by Katie Davis 2016
 A 21st Century Droll adapted from Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew* for performance at the inaugural Celtic/Renaissance Faire

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA

desdemona’s child (blood cry)	2020
The Bald Soprano	2020
The School for Lies	2019
Songs for A New World	2019
Dirk Gently’s Holistic Detective Agency	2018
The Philadelphia Story	2018
Hecuba	2017
Crow & Weasel	2017
Frank Langella’s Cyrano	2016
Brecht’s A Life of Galileo	2016
The Servant of Two Masters	2015
Guys & Dolls	2015
Bedroom Farce	2014
Twisted Trees by Brian Coburn (premiere)	2014
Mankind (my original adaptation)	2013
The Toy Cart	2013
KAISER (my original adaptation of Julius Caesar)	2012
Uncle Vanya	2012
Angels in America	2011
HMS Pinafore	2011
The Matchmaker	2010
Far Away	2010
Lysistrata	2009
West Side Story	2009
Twelfth Night	2008
Almost, Maine	2008
Death of A Salesman (ACTF Participating Entry)	2007
Two Rooms	2007
The Man Who Came To Dinner	2006

CHICKASHA COMMUNITY THEATRE, Chickasha, OK

Annie, Jr.	2008
HONK! Junior	2007

SELECTED DIRECTING CREDITS (continued)

CORINTH THEATRE-ARTS, INC., Corinth, MS

Theatre for Children and Youth

Charlotte's Web (tour)	2006
A Christmas Carol	2005
The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe	2005
The House at Pooh Corner (tour)	2004
Footloose	2004
The Secret Garden	2004
The Hobbit	2003
Bye Bye, Birdie	2003

Main Stage

Kiss Me, Kate	2006
Fuddy Meers	2006
Crimes of the Heart	2006
Dinner With Friends	2006
Cat on A Hot Tin Roof	2005
Little Shop of Horrors	2005
The Taming of the Shrew	2005
Bus Stop	2005
A Christmas Story	2004
The Mousetrap	2004
Proof	2004
The Robber Bridegroom	2004
Macbeth	2003
The Importance of Being Earnest	2003
The Wizard of Oz - RSC version	2003
Romeo and Juliet	2003
To Kill A Mockingbird	2002
Barefoot in the Park	2002
Much Ado About Nothing	2002

ENRICHMENT, INC., Ripley High School, Ripley, MS

The Music Man	2004
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UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, Oxford, MS

Buried Child	2001
Rosmersholm (my adaptation)	2000

JUNIATA COLLEGE, Huntingdon, PA

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead	1997
Antigone	1996

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO, El Paso, TX

Cloud 9	1995
Them (premiere) by James Utz	1994

WOMENS THEATRE ENSEMBLE PROJECT, El Paso, TX

Babel (premiere) by Katherine McWilliams	1995
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SELECTED DESIGN CREDITS

Mentor and collaborator on production design at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma 2006-present

Fuddy Meers	Sound Design	CTA	2006
Dinner With Friends	Scene & Sound Design	CTA	2006
Cat On A Hot Tin Roof	Scene Design	CTA	2005
Little Shop of Horrors	Scene Design	CTA	2005
A Christmas Story	Scene Design	CTA	2004
The Robber Bridegroom	Scene & Costume Design	CTA	2004
Barefoot In the Park	Scene Design	CTA	2002
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead	Scene Design	Juniata College	1997
Christie in Love	Scene & Costume Design	UTEP Studio	1994
West Side Story	Costume Design	Rockwell Productions, PA	1992

PLAYWRITING

Othello, adapted for live online reading in zoom. Directed by Katie Davis, USAO, October 2020

“The Sports Complex”, an adaptation of *The Iliad* for children. Performed by the campers at ARTScope, June 2017, hosted at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. Directed by Robert Story.

“Another Shrew Tamed,” a droll, an adaptation of Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew* for Shakespeare in the Park at the inaugural Celtic Renaissance Faire in Chickasha, Oklahoma’s Shannon Springs Park. Directed by Katie Davis.

Mankind, an adaptation of the Medieval Morality Play as a Halloween Dustbowl Tent Revival Directed by Katie Davis at USAO, October 2013.

KAISER, an adaptation of Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar for an Expressionist production at USAO, Directed by Katie Davis, November 2012.

Apology II, a script for an animated film short, written with Christopher Bennett (USAO student) in collaboration with Shayna Woidke and the University of Science and Arts Office of Media and Public Relations. Film debuted at the Creativity World Forum, OKC, November 2010.

Esther Phillips Williams: Raising Her Voice in Song, developed in collaboration with Julie Bohannon, Jeff Perriman and the Chickasha Arts Council, performed at the Rose Hill Cemetery Tour, September 2010.

The Fabulous Baker Girls: A Dialogue, developed in collaboration with the Chickasha Arts Council, Directed by Katie Davis and performed at the Rose Hill Cemetery Tour, September 2008.

The Magic Circle: A Dramatic Companion to the Music of Brahms, Directed by Katie Davis and performed at the Brahms Festival, USAO, 2008.

PLAYWRITING (continued)

A Three Part Drama: The Intimate Beethoven, The Lyrical Beethoven, The Dramatic Beethoven, developed in collaboration with Yuval Waldman for the Beethoven Festival at USAO, Directed by Katie Davis and Yuval Waldman and performed February 2008.

School Days: An Interactive Historical Drama, commissioned by the Loretta Y. Jackson African American Historical Society for the Oklahoma Centennial, 2007. (Renamed Separate School when the Verden One Room School was established as a historical landmark.)

Twelfth Night, adapted. Performed at USAO, Directed by Katie Davis, November 2008.

Romeo and Juliet, adapted. Performed at Corinth Theatre-Arts, January 2003.

Much Ado About Nothing, adapted. Performed at Corinth Theatre-Arts, January, 2002.

Apocalypstik, concept and script. Adapted from the collected works of Jeanette Winterson. Performed at The University of Mississippi, May, 2001.

Kismet. Workshopped at the Hangar Theatre Intern Company, Ithaca, NY, July 1995.

The Phoenix, presented in staged reading at UTEP PlayWorks Festival, July 1995.

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS (selected)

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| Panelist: | Association for Theatre in Higher Education annual conference (virtual),
Theatre as a Liberal Art Focus Group:
“Finding Opportunity in this Weird Moment,” July 30, 2020 |
| Presenter: | Moment Work in Devising Contemporary Theatre, Festival of Arts and
Ideas, “Interaction”, February 5, 2019. |
| Presenter: | Adapting Chekhov’s Castle as a Playwriting Etude, ATHE 2018.
Interdisciplinarity as a Growth Platform for Theatre Programs, ATHE
2018. |
| Presenter: | Karen Malpede’s <i>Extreme Whether</i> : Finding Family in Nature.
USAO Festival of Arts and Ideas “Our Beautiful Planet,” January, 2017. |
| Workshop Presenter: | “Coaching Creativity: an Introduction to the Critical Response Process
of Liz Lerman,” at Canadian Valley Technical Center, 2018
also at USAO Festival of Arts and Ideas, 2011 |
| Panelist: | <i>Building Relationships between College/High School Theatre Programs</i> ,
Oklahoma Speech Theatre Communication Association, 2014 |
| Presenter: | <i>The Hero as Pilgrim: (Myth)Representation in post 9/11 Works by Arab-
American Playwrights</i> . Mid-America Theatre Conference, Production
and Practice Symposium, 2013 |

Workshop Presenter: “Using Auditions to Build your Volunteer Pool”
Oklahoma Community Theatre Association, 2012

Booth Presenter: “The Making of Apology II,” Creativity World Forum, OKC, 2010

Presenter: *Contemporary Playwrights and Kierkegaard’s “Girl”*
Mid-America Theatre Conference, Theatre History Symposium, 1995

PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Board of Directors, Chickasha Public Schools Foundation, 2019-present.

Board of Directors, Oklahoma City Theatre Company, Oklahoma City, 2015-2017
- President of the Board and Chair of Strategic Planning and Grants, 2016

Fundraising Chair, Board of Directors, Reduxion Theatre, Oklahoma City 2014-15

Board of Directors, Chickasha Public Library, 2013-2019
President, 2017-2019.

Advisory Board Member, Chickasha Community Theatre, 2006-2020.

Oklahoma Secondary Schools Association, One-Act Competition Judge, 2012-2018

Master Teacher, ARTScope, Chickasha Area Arts Council, 2008-present

Board of Directors, Corinth Arts Council, City of Corinth, MS, 2005-06

Panel Coordinator, North Mississippi Regional Arts Forum, Mississippi Arts
Commission, 2002

Judge, Individual Speech Competition, Academic Decathlon, University of MS, 2000

Performance Competition Coordinator, National History Day, Juniata College, 1997

Competitor and Judge, Odyssey of the Mind, 1986-1999

ASSOCIATIONS

- Theatre Communications Group, member
- American Association of Community Theatres, member
- Oklahoma Community Theatre Association, member
- Oklahoma Speech Theatre Communication Association Member
- Association of Theatre in Higher Education, member
 - Focus Groups:
 - Theatre as A Liberal Art
 - Theatre for Social Change
 - New Play Development
- Mid-America Theatre Conference, member
- American Association of University Professors, member
- American Association of University Women, member
- National Association of Schools of Theatre, individual member

OTHER TRAINING

<i>Middendorf Breath Work</i>		James Wagner	ACT Workshop	2020
<i>Intimacy Direction</i>		Tonia Sina	Workshop/Collaboration	2017-18
<i>Creative Collaboration</i>		Tom Borrup	Oklahoma Arts Council	2010
<i>Critical Response:</i>		Liz Lerman	Oklahoma Arts Council	2010
		Jay Edelhaus	American College Theatre Festival	2008
<i>Movement:</i>	Viewpoints	Raúl Ramos	El Elénco Experimental	1994-96
	Suzuki	Raúl Ramos	El Elénco Experimental	1994-96
<i>Combat:</i>	Hand-to-Hand	Erick Wolfe	Oklahoma City, OK	2009-13
	Rapier	Lloyd Caldwell	Corinth Theatre-Arts	2002
<i>Acting:</i>	Michael Chekhov	James Abar	NYC	1992
<i>Directing:</i>	Moment Work	Barbara Pitts McAdams	Tectonic Theater Project	2018-20
	Devising Theatre	Gaiety Acting School	Workshop/ATHE	2018
	Michael Chekhov	Tory Matsos	ATHE	2017
	Internship	Robert Moss	Hangar Theatre	1995
<i>Playwriting:</i>	Master Class	David Henry Hwang	USAO	2018
	Master Class	Luis Alfaro	ATHE Workshop	2014
	Private Study	Louis Lippa	Malvern, PA	1998
	Research Assistant	Michael Wright	El Paso, TX	1996
<i>Management:</i>	Learning Outcomes	Jane Duncan, Nova Southeastern, ATHE		2017
	Retention	Noel Levitz	USAO	2016
	Development	Oklahoma Arts Council		2016
	Fundraising	Oklahoma Arts Council		2014
	Grant Writing	Mississippi Center for Non-Profits		2005
	Board Development	Mississippi Center for Non-Profits		2004
<i>Assessment:</i>	Learning Outcomes	USAO		2015-16

RELATED SKILLS

- ♦ Skilled in
 - Stage Management (QLab 4)
 - Carpentry & Theatrical Lighting
 - Design, Pattern Drafting and Costume Construction
 - Arts Management: Grant Writing, Development, Fundraising, Strategic Planning
- ♦ Experienced in cinematography, acting for the camera, film editing (Final Cut Pro)
- ♦ Experienced in the use of:
 - Word processing software
 - Sound editing software
 - Graphics design software
 - Zoom for live, online theatre performance

AREAS OF RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

- Creativity & Interdisciplinary Problem Solving
- Postmodern/Digi-modern Studies and Performance Studies
- Improvisation and Stand-Up Comedy
- Community Development through the Arts
- Theatre for Social Change
- New Play Development –supporting work by historically un(re)presented communities including MEA playwrights and non-western traditions