

LAURA WARINGER

Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre
Newcomb Department of Music
Tulane University
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EDUCATION

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

PhD, Theatre & Performance Research

2024

Dissertation: *Triple Threat: A Study of American Musical Theatre Training*

THE ROYAL CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA

MFA, Music Theatre

2011

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

BFA, Drama

CAP21 Musical Theatre Conservatory, Stone Street Studio for Screen Acting

2006

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TULANE UNIVERSITY, (New Orleans, LA) 2024-present

Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre, Director- BFA & MFA Musical Theatre programs

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE, (Charlotte, NC) 2019-2024

Assistant Professor of Directing, Coordinator- Musical Theatre Certificate Program

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, (Tallahassee, FL) 2016-2019

Graduate Teaching Assistant & Graduate Instructor of Record, School of Theatre

MAKING LIGHT PRODUCTIONS & CONSERVATORY, (Tallahassee, FL) 2016-2019

Acting & Voice Instructor

STAGECOACH THEATRE ARTS, (London, UK) 2010-2013

Drama Teacher & Vocal Director

THE ROYAL CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA, (London, UK) 2010-2011

Graduate Teaching Assistant

PRIVATE ACTING & VOCAL COACH

2006-present

CREATIVE RESEARCH & ACTIVITY

FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, Wanderlust: Theatre on Location, 2018-present

- Forthcoming Projects:
 - *The Frenchtown Project*, Tallahassee, FL. An original, site-specific musical theatre experience telling the story of Florida's oldest Black neighborhood. In production. Premieres Fall 2024. Producing Artistic Director, Creative Director.
 - *Threads: A New Musical*, Gastonia, NC. A new musical based on the Loray Mill strike of 1929. Premieres April 2024 in partnership with UNC Charlotte and Nouveau Sud. Director & Producing Artistic Director.
 - Untitled Commission for the Popes Museum, Cairo, GA. A new site-specific musical based on the life of feminist folk artist Laura Popes Forrester. Currently in pre-production, premiere TBD 2025. Producing Artistic Director.
 - *Parade*, Atlanta, GA. A site-specific production of the Tony Award-winning musical based on the Leo Frank case. Currently in the research & development phase. Producing Artistic Director & Director.
 - *Crescendo*, Thomasville, GA. An original, site-specific musical adaptation of the novel of the same name. Currently in the research and development phase. Producing Artistic Director.

- Completed Projects:
 - *Into the Woods*, a site-specific production at Lichgate Conservancy, Tallahassee, FL. November 2022. Producing Artistic Director, Director.
 - Nominated for 13 Regional BroadwayWorld Awards, including Best Musical and Best Director
 - *A Christmas Carol*, a bespoke original musical adaptation created on commission for Thomasville's Victorian Christmas Festival, Thomasville, GA. December 2019. Playwright and Creative Producer.
 - *Musicals on the Move*, an ambulatory site-specific musical theatre experience, Tallahassee, FL. July 2019. Producer, Creator & Director.
 - Nominee, Best Musical and Best Director, 2019 Regional BroadwayWorld Awards

ACTOR & SINGER, Professional Performances (Under stage name Laura Hope-London)

London/West End

Beth	<i>Little Women</i>	The Lost Theatre (UK Premiere)
Anna	<i>Spring Awakening</i>	The Bridewell Theatre
60s Dancer	<i>2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony</i>	Danny Boyle, dir.
Co-Creator/Star	<i>The BreakUp Mixtape Cabaret</i>	London Theatre Workshop
Cate	<i>Not Just Another Love Story</i>	The Bridewell Theatre
Gretchen Weiners	<i>Mean Girls (workshop)</i>	The Pheasantry
Tess	<i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i>	Stephen Edwards, dir. RCSSD
The Child	<i>Sigrún's Fire</i>	Stephen Clark, dir. RCSSD
Portia (Stepsister)	<i>Cinderella</i>	Derek Barnes, dir. RCSSD

New York/National Tour/Regional

Belle/Tiny Tim	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Theatreworks USA (National Tour)
Jen	<i>John & Jen</i>	Artist Salon NYC
Lead	<i>RakheLeah</i>	Elizabeth Swados, La Mama Etc.
Lead	<i>Atonement</i>	Elizabeth Swados, La Mama Etc.
Soloist	<i>Coming Together</i>	Duncan Sheik, Greenwich Hall
Soloist	<i>Hart to Hart</i>	Julie Andrews, Lincoln Center
Anne Frank	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	Showmakers Rep
Helena	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Edinburgh Fringe Festival Benefit

Film & Television

Co-Star	<i>Mildred Pierce</i>	Todd Haynes, HBO
Co-Star	<i>Royal Pains</i>	USA Networks
Host	<i>HBO Chatzone</i>	Mike Scalere, HBO
Writer/Lead	<i>Homeward (Short)</i>	Akash Meeda, dir.
Writer/Lead	<i>Departures</i>	Laylla Azerbaijani, dir.

DIRECTING

Director	<i>Legally Blonde (2024)</i>	UNC Charlotte
Director	<i>Untitled Loray Mill Musical (2024)</i>	Wanderlust: Theatre on Location
Director	<i>As You Like It</i>	UNC Charlotte
Director	<i>Into the Woods</i>	Wanderlust: Theatre on Location
Director	<i>Gather</i>	UNC Charlotte
Director	<i>See Rock City</i>	UNC Charlotte
Director	<i>Musicals on the Move</i>	Wanderlust: Theatre on Location
Director	<i>The Breakup Mixtape</i>	London Theatre Workshop
Director	<i>The Music Man</i>	Margate Summer Youth Theatre
Director	<i>Suessical</i>	Margate Summer Youth Theatre
Director	<i>Schoolhouse Rock Live!</i>	Margate Summer Youth Theatre
Asst. Director	<i>A Man of No Importance</i>	Florida State University
Asst. Director	<i>A New Brain</i>	Florida State University
AD/Dramaturg	<i>Hairspray</i>	Florida State University
AD/Dramaturg	<i>Guys & Dolls</i>	Florida State University

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- “The Villain in Your History: The Complications of Color-Conscious Casting in *Hamilton's America*,” in *Hamilton: History and Hip-Hop: Essays on an American Musical*. (Jefferson: McFarland & Co. Press, 2024) Dr. Kevin Wetmore, editor.
- “Welcome to America: Reassigning Appropriation Through Choreography in *Soft Power*” in *Dance in US Popular Culture*. (New York: Routledge Press, 2023) Dr. Jen Atikns, editor.
- “Queen B: A Lyrical Investigation of Beyoncé as Feminist, Mother, Superstar, and Sex Symbol,” in *Queen Mothers: Articulating the Spirit of Black Women Teacher-Leaders*. (Charlotte: Information Age Publishing, 2019.) Dr. Rhonda Jeffries, editor. Dr. Devair Jeffries-Lee, first author.

PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS & PANELS

- “Carefully Taught: Teaching & Performing Golden Age Musicals Through a Modern Lens” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) August 2023, Austin, TX.
- “Beyond Assumptions: De-centering whiteness & gender binaries in the Musical Theatre Performance Classroom”, Presenter and session coordinator, ATHE Musical Theatre & Dance Focus Group Pre-Conference, 2021, Detroit, MI (virtual).
- “Mobilizing a Movement: Creating an Anti-Racist Musical for the Pandemic,” Song Stage & Screen 2021, Salzburg, Austria (virtual).
- “Steering the Conversation: Innovation and Inspiration in Community-Engaged Musical Theatre,” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), 2020, Live Virtual Conference Presentation.
- “Two-Year Triple-Threat: Designing a Musical Theatre Curriculum for a Non-Conservatory Program,” Mid America Theatre Conference (MATC) 2020. Presenter, Pedagogy Symposium, Chicago, IL.
- “This is Me: Race, Identity and Revisionist History in *The Greatest Showman*,” International Conference on Film Studies, 2019, London. UK.
- Convener, “Arousing the Senses: Sonic and Digital Dimensions in Performance” Working Group, ASTR 2018, San Diego, CA
- “Choose Your Own Neil Patrick Harris: Collisions of Sexuality, Stardom, and Public Persona,” ATHE 2018, Boston, MA.
- “The Villain in Your History: The Complications of Color-Conscious Casting in *Hamilton's America*,” Song, Stage and Screen XIII, 2018, Los Angeles, CA.

- “Method Men: Suffering, Stardom & Stanislavski’s System in Hollywood,” Comparative Drama Conference, 2018, Orlando, FL.
- “The Industry and the Academy: Bridging the Gap between Actor Training and Career,” ATHE 2017, Las Vegas, NV.
- “What’s the Use of Wond’rin?: Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Bad Boys & the Power of Female Perspective”, Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference (ATHE), 2017, Las Vegas, NV .
- “Making *Lemonade*: Beyoncé’s Reclamation of Musical Theatre as a Mode of Reinvention,” Song, Stage, and Screen XII 2017, Guildford, UK.
- “And Actor Prepares?: Auditioning & the Subversion of Craft and Performance,” Comparative Drama Conference, 2017, Orlando, FL.

RESEARCH GRANTS & AWARDS

- Received:
 - Cultural Grant, City of Tallahassee Council on Culture & Arts, Primary Investigator, general operations grant for *Wanderlust: Theatre on Location*, 2023.
 - UNC Charlotte College of Arts + Architecture New South | Global South Award, Co-Investigator, project-specific grant to commission the creation of the *Untitled Loray Mill Musical*, 2023.
 - Fast Track Grant, Florida Dept. of State Division of Art and Culture, Primary Investigator, project-specific grant to help fund *The Frenchtown Project*, 2022.
 - UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grant, Primary Investigator, grant approved to put toward creative research associated with *Wanderlust*’s production of *Into the Woods*, 2022.
 - UNC Charlotte D.Arts Faculty Grant Award, Primary Investigator, grant approved to put toward the development of a corresponding mobile app for *The Frenchtown Project*, 2022.
 - Florida Department of State Arts of Culture Grant, grant to help fund *Wanderlust*’s creation of *The Frenchtown Project*, 2022.
 - LeonCARES Grant, Primary Investigator, project-specific grant to help fund *Wanderlust*’s creation of *The Frenchtown Project*, 2021.
 - UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grant, Primary Investigator, grant

approved toward creative research associated with Wanderlust's creation of *The Frenchtown Project*, 2020-2021.

- Applied/In Review:
 - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
 - North Carolina Arts & Sciences Council, Cultural Vision Grant
 - Creative Capital Grant
 - The Awesome Foundation Grant
 - We Shall Overcome Fund Grant

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT- UNC CHARLOTTE

- Spring 2024
 - COAA 3350: Musical Theatre Workshop: New Musical Development
 - THEA 2402: Production Practicum - *Legally Blonde* (Director)
 - THEA 4610: Advanced Design, Tech & Management- *Legally Blonde*
 - Oversaw student Assistant Director
- Fall 2023
 - THEA 1140: Theatre Experience
 - THEA 3202: Audition Techniques
 - COAA 3350: Musical Theatre Workshop: Audition Technique & Repertoire
 - Semester-long Musical Theatre master classes taught via International Exchange program with Tohoku University, Japan
- Spring 2023
 - THEA 4001: Site-Specific Shakespeare (Director, *As You Like It*)
 - THEA 3207: Acting for Musical Theatre
 - COAA 3350: Musical Theatre Workshop: Contemporary Musical Theatre
- Fall 2022
 - On reassignment of duties to direct *Into the Woods* for Wanderlust: Theatre ob Location
- Spring 2022
 - COAA: Musical Theatre Workshop: Audition Technique & Repertoire
 - THEA 4001: Page to Stage: Musical Theatre & Adaptation (Special Topics)
- Fall 2021
 - COAA: Musical Theatre Workshop: Ensemble & Scene Study
 - THEA 3207: Acting for Musical Theatre
 - THEA 2402: Production Practicum - *Gather* (Director, mentor for student directors)
 - Semester-long Musical Theatre master classes taught via International Exchange program with Tohoku University, Japan
- Spring 2021
 - COAA 3350: Musical Theatre Workshop: Contemporary Musical Theatre
 - THEA 2402: Production Practicum - *See Rock City* (Director)

- THEA 4610: Advanced Design, Tech & Management- *See Rock City*
 - Oversaw student Assistant Director
- Fall 2020
 - THEA 3207: Acting for Musical Theatre
 - COAA 3350: Musical Theatre Workshop: Golden Age Musical Theatre
- Spring 2020
 - THEA 1140: Theatre Experience
 - COAA 3350: Musical Theatre Workshop: Developing Repertoire
- Fall 2019
 - THEA 3300: Directing I
 - COAA 3350: Musical Theatre Workshop

COORDINATOR, MUSICAL THEATRE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

- Restructured the existing Musical Theatre Certificate curriculum into a cohesive 4-semester progression
- Authored an official handbook for the Certificate Program, creating detailed program description, mission, goals, and protocols
- Instated regular auditions for the program to occur each Spring semester
- Created a recruitment initiative to include visits to music, theatre, and dance classes, local high schools, and hosting informational Zoom sessions for prospective students
- Arranged a partnership with the All-in-One Conference (A1 Conference) to hold their pre-screen auditions on UNC Charlotte's campus for theatre, dance and music students
- Recruited guest artists for master classes:
 - Damon Daunno (Tony nominee, *Oklahoma!*)
 - Ato Blankson-Wood (Tony nominee, *Slave Play*)
 - Kevin McAllister (Broadway's *Caroline or Change, Come from Away*)
 - Grace McLean (*The Great Comet*, Lortel-winning composer and star of *In the Green*, Lincoln Center)
 - Georgia Stitt (founder of Maestra, Broadway musical director)
 - Kevin Metzger-Timson (Broadway casting director, Tara Rubin Casting)
 - Evan Kasprzak (Finalist, *So You Think You Can Dance, Newsies, Cats*)
 - Eric Woodall (Broadway casting director, Artistic Director of NC Theatre)
 - Chad Eric Murnane (Broadway casting director, Binder Casting)
 - The Broadway touring company of *Come From Away*
- Recruited Tony Award winner Ali Stroker (*Oklahoma!*) for a special event for the Theatre Department in November 2020
- Recruited *See Rock City* writers Brad Alexander & Adam Mathias for a special after-show audience conversation during our production of the show

SERVICE

INTERNAL SERVICE- UNC CHARLOTTE

- Coordinator, Musical Theatre Certification Program
- Chair, Theatre Dept. Acting Professor Search Committee, 2023-2024
- Faculty Council, College of Arts + Architecture, 2021-2024 (Vice Chair, 2023-24)
- Faculty Mentor, STAR (Student Theatre At Robinson), 2019-present
- Theatre Dept. Equity Audit Committee, 2022-2023
- University Faculty Council Representative, 2022-2023
- Theatre Dept. Curriculum & Assessment Committee, 2019-2023 (Chair, 2020-present)
- Search Committee member, MFA Director Community Arts Practices, 2021-2022
- Department Representative, NAST Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD. 2022
- Performing Arts Services Collaboration Committee, 2022
- Theatre Dept. Strategic Planning Working Group, 2021
- Theatre Dept. 3-D Working Group, 2019-2022
- Faculty Mentor/Acting Coach, KCATCF Irene Ryan Acting Awards Competition
- Faculty Representative & Recruitment, NCTC Annual Auditions
- Faculty Representative, UNCC Explore Event
- Faculty Spotlight Interview, CoA+A Marketing
- Moderator, Ali Stroker virtual special event
- Moderator, after-show audience conversation with Brad Alexander & Adam Mathias, writers of *See Rock City*
- Guest Performer, Faculty & Friends Recital Series, Dr. Sequina DuBose's concert

EXTERNAL SERVICE

- Book Proposal Reviewer, Routledge Press
- ATHE Pre-conference committee, Musical Theatre & Dance focus group
- Adjudicator, 9th & 10th Annual Blumenthal Performing Arts High School Musical Theatre Awards (The Blumey Awards)
- Volunteer Visiting Master Instructor, Making Light Productions

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Actors Equity Association (AEA)
- SAG- AFTRA
- British Actors Equity
- National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT)
- Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
- American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)
- International Thespian Society Alumni Association (ITS)
- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
- New York University Alumni Dean's List
- NYU Tisch Alumni Council
- Theatrical Intimacy, Best Practices Training, Theatrical Intimacy Education