

Chris Tennison

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Theater – Acting Emphasis, 2018, University of Arkansas

Bachelor of Arts in Theater, 2002, University of St. Thomas

Member – TYA USA

Representative Training:

Directing:	Jay Burton, Sam Havens, Michael Landman
Acting:	Jay Burton, Amy Herzberg, Sam Havens, Michael Landman, Steven Marzolf, Claire McDonald,
Dramatic Literature:	Jay Burton, Claire McDonald
Theater History:	Jay Burton, Claire McDonald
Voice:	Jay Burton, Mavourneen Dwyer, Sam Havens,
Singing:	Jason Burrow, Michael Mertz, LoVetri Somatic Voicework (certified Level 1)
Movement:	Kate Frank (Alexander, Chekhov), Michael Landman (Viewpoints), Gail Leftwich (Tap, Ballet, Styles)
Design:	Jay Burton, Claire McDonald
Devising:	Les Wade
Stage Combat:	Bryan Burns, Frank Greene, Scott Russell
Dramatic Writing:	Idris Goodwin, Kevin Koval, Michael Landman, John Walch
Masks:	Amy Herzberg, Craig McDonald
Clown:	Jef Johnson

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Alvin Community College

- *Theatre Director:* Responsible for the strategic vision and leadership of ACC Community Theatre. This involves season selection. Marketing, Community Outreach, Directing and Lighting Designing 5 shows a year.
- *Principal Instructor:* Responsible for teaching 5 of the 10 courses required for degree completion:
 - *Acting I*
 - *Stage Makeup*
 - *Script Analysis*
 - *Theatre Appreciation*
 - *Voice for the Actor*

University of Arkansas

- *Theater Appreciation*. A lecture course that serves as an introduction to theatre arts; play writing, directing, acting, history, and design. This course fulfilled a general fine arts credit for students.
- *Acting I for Majors*. I was chosen to pilot an introductory acting studio course for theatre majors, exploring the physical, vocal, and imaginative processes required for performance of dramatic texts, and building a vocabulary and technique for acting through exercises and scene work.
- *Stage Speech*. An introduction to basic skills of speech, voice production, and communication for performance and broadcasting. Special focus was on General American speech and the characteristics of speech regionalisms. The course explores breath control, resonance, articulation, pitch, volume, voice quality and stress management.
- *University Perspectives (Provost Lecturer)*. A first-year “student success” course, this class is taught with both an online component and classroom activities. The course is designed to teach and encourage critical thinking and civic engagement. I was responsible for all online content as well as various individual lectures, and for the leading of discussions.

Trike Theater

- *Improv*. An introduction to the basic rules of short-form improv, with an emphasis in game playing. For ages 7–18.
- *Acting I*. Introductory Acting course that covers basic concepts, and introduces artists to objective, action, value adjustment, and imagination exercises. For ages 7 - 18.
- *Acting II*. Course topics include: vocal production, introduction to text analysis, and continued exploration of value adjustment, and imagination exercises.
- *Scene Study*. A course that teaches advanced acting technique, play analysis, and advanced character creation strategies.
- *Devising*. A course that takes students through the devising process, creating a new piece of theatre culminating in a series of public performances. Ages 14 - 19.
- *Advanced Character Building*. A course that enhances one’s character-building abilities by focusing on movement profiles, vocal profiles, and advanced text analysis. For ages 7–18.
- *Production Camps*. These camps are three-week intensives that mimic a professional rehearsal process. With full technical support, these camps conclude with a four-performance run. For ages 12–18.
- *Fine Arts Camps*. An exploratory experience that focuses on various elements of fine

arts, and works to incorporate them into a multifaceted theatrical event.

- *The Next Gen Project.* An advanced yearly project that takes high school aged students through the process of writing, and producing their own work.

Curriculum Developed: Acting I, Acting II, Scene Study, Devising, Improv, Next Gen / Masterclass, Viewpoints for devising with youth

Page Parkes School of Acting

- *Acting for the Camera I.* An introduction to on-camera techniques. Includes slating, acting for commercials, and basic film terminology.
- *Acting for the Camera II.* An advanced course which focuses on playing action, text analysis, and an overview of business practices.
- *Sitcom Acting.* An exploration at the most common character archetypes in sitcoms. Focus on building comic timing, character creation, and sitcom history.
- *Monologue Preparation.* An audition techniques class that focuses on preparing monologues for audition purposes.
- *Improv.* An introduction to short- and long-form improv. For ages 18 and up.
- *Acting as a Business.* An overview of industry conventions and practices, and how new professionals can enter the job market with the proper tools and expectations for success. For all ages.
- *Guideposts.* An intensive course based around Michael Shurtliff's *Guideposts*. For all ages.

Curriculum Developed: Sitcom/Comedy Acting, Acting as a Business, Guideposts

Main Street Youth Theaters Kids On Stage Program

- *Audition Preparation/Private Coaching.* Private audition coaching and acting lessons.
- *Scene Study.* A course designed to increase students' skill in text analysis, with a focus on finding actions, objectives, and stakes. For ages 12–18.
- *Theater History.* Basic introduction to major periods of theater history and the benchmark plays of each period. For ages 8–15.
- *Stage Speech.* An introduction to the basic skills of speech, voice production, and communication for performance. The course explores breath control, resonance, articulation, pitch, volume, voice quality, and stress management. For ages 12–18.
- *Audition Techniques.* An audition techniques class that focuses on preparing a monologues for audition purposes. For ages 10–18.

- *Monologue Preparation*. A course designed to prepare monologues, with a focus on partner identification and playing of action. For ages 12–18.

Curriculum Developed: Theater History, Acting/Scene Study, Monologue Preparation, Stage Speech

GUEST LECTURER:

Stage Speech. Diagnostics for vocal production, University of Arkansas, 2019
Shakespeare and Magic. Shakespeare Course, University of St. Thomas, 2011.

WORKSHOPS, PANELS, PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Workshops

TYA Advocacy in the Time of Book Banning, TYA National Conference, June 2023
TYA Advocacy in the Time of Book Banning, TYA Digital Conference, June 2023
Theater as Team Building. Huntsville High School, Huntsville, Arkansas, 2016.
Introduction to Guideposts. Page Parkes School of Acting, 2015.
Warming up the Body and the Voice. Page Parkes School of Acting, 2015.
Audition Workshop. Page Parkes School of Acting, 2015.
Introduction to Shakespeare. Town Center Theatre, 2010.

Panels

Moderator and Coordinator: Talk-back series following Town Center Theatre's productions of *Night and Her Stars* and *Julius Caesar*.

Panelist: Resources from Planning In-Person TYA Summer Camp 2021: A Webinar Roundtable Conversation.

Publications

No Book Ban Coalition, *Wake Up, Theatres: Do You Think They'll Stop With Book Bans*, American Theatre Magazine, July 2022

CLASSES QUALIFIED TO TEACH:

Acting I
 Acting II
 Acting III
 Voice and Diction/Stage Speech
 Dialects/IPA
 Directing I
 Viewpoints
 Script Analysis
 Introduction to Theater/Theater Appreciation

Children's Theater
Children's Theater Literature
The Sitcom: Origins, Impact, and Acting Styles
Styles of Acting
Devised Theatre
Stage Makeup

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / HEAD OF ACADEMY:

2018–2022: Trike Theatre, Bentonville, Arkansas. I am responsible for articulating the Academy's vision (aligned with strategic plan) and growing Academy programming in line with this vision and strategic goals. This includes hiring and evaluating Academy staff and volunteers, pursuing new marketing strategies and partnerships, managing Academy budget, developing professional contacts locally, regionally and nationally, representing Trike Theatre at external education meetings or events, developing progressive education curriculum for all appropriate ages and capabilities, teaching academy classes as well as adult professional development programs, advising teaching artists of best practices, directing productions.

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT:

2018–Present: University of Arkansas Department of Theatre, Fayetteville Arkansas.
Responsibilities include guest lecturing, and vocal / dialect coaching for classes and productions.

PRODUCER:

2005–2012: Founding Artistic Director of Town Center Theatre, Woodlands, Texas. As Founding Artistic Director, I was involved with the creation of mission statements, by-laws, and operating procedures. In addition, I oversaw a four-show season, and managed the Education/Outreach initiatives of the organization. I was responsible for grant writing, speaking to potential donors, and local community organizations. I directed two productions a year, as well as serving as a teaching artist for our educational programs. In addition to working with the board on artistic initiatives, I was also responsible for drafting, presenting, and overseeing a yearly production budget that grew to \$80,000 over seven years.

DIRECTING:

Fully Produced Productions

- 2023: *Tick, Tick, Boom!* By Jonathan Larson. Alvin Community College, Alvin, Texas.
- 2022: *A Christmas Carol* by Patrick Barlow. Alvin Community College, Alvin, Texas.
- 2022: *Turn of the Screw* by Jeffrey Hatcher. Alvin Community College, Alvin, Texas.
- 2015: *Moon Over Buffalo* by Ken Ludwig. Alvin Community College, Alvin, Texas.
- 2014: *Over the River and Through the Woods* by Joe DiPietro. Alvin Community College, Alvin, Texas.

- 2014: *The Fantasticks* by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones. Fort Bend Theater, Stafford, Texas.
- 2010: *Merry Christmas George Bailey* adapted by Joseph Milillo and Chris Tennison. Town Center Theatre, Woodlands, Texas.
- 2009: *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare. Town Center Theatre, Woodlands, Texas.
- 2008: *All in the Timing* by David Ives. Town Center Theatre, Woodlands, Texas.
- 2007: *Quilters* by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek. Town Center Theatre, Woodlands, Texas.
- 2005: *Compleat Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged* by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield. Fort Bend Theater, Stafford, Texas.
- 2004: *Fools* by Neil Simon. Fort Bend Theater, Stafford, Texas.

Fully Produced Theatre for Youth

- 2023: *Law and Order Fairy Tale Unit* by Jonathan Rand, Alvin Community College, Alvin Texas
- 2023: *Journey of Little Red*, Alvin Community College, Alvin Texas
- 2020: *La Tortuga and the Hare*, created by Trike Theatre, Bentonville, Arkansas
- 2020: *Sideways Stories From Wayside School*, by John Olive, Trike Theatre, Bentonville, Arkansas
- 2019: *Jungalbook*, by Edward Mast, Trike Theatre, Bentonville, Arkansas
- 2018: *The Wizard of Oz*, by Trike Theater, Bentonville, Arkansas.
- 2017: *The Odyssey*, by Thomas Hischak Trike Theater, Bentonville, Arkansas.
- 2016: *Cyrano* by Jo Roets. Trike Theater, Bentonville, Arkansas.
- 2006: *10 Little Indians* by Agatha Christie. Main Street Theater, Houston, Texas.
- 2005: *Jungalbook* by Edward Mast. Main Street Theater, Houston, Texas.
- 2004: *Tales of Trickery*. Main Street Theatre, Houston, Texas.

Staged Readings

- 2006: *Invasion of the Potty Snatchers*. Country Playhouse New Play Festival, Houston, Texas.

Dialect/ Voice Coaching

- 2019: *Topdog / Underdog* by Susan Lori Parks. University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Arkansas
- 2018: *Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberly* by Lauren Gunderson. TheaterSquared, Fayetteville, Arkansas
- 2018: *Life is a Dream* by Pedro Calderón de la Barca. University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- 2017: *It's a Wonderful Life, the Radio Play* by Joe Landry. TheaterSquared, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- 2017: *Transatlantic* by John Walch. Arkansas New Play Festival, TheaterSquared, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- 2017: *Angels in America Part II* by Tony Kushner. University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- 2016: *Angels in America Part I* by Tony Kushner. University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Assistant Director

- 2006: *Orobours* by Tom Jacobson. Main Street Theater, Houston, Texas.

ACTING:

<i>Play</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>Theater</i>
2020			
<i>Thrift Store Junkie</i> (world premiere)	Henry	Steven Marzolf	Univ. of Arkansas (guest artist)
2019			
<i>Shakespeare In Love</i>	Ralph	Amy Herzberg	TheatreSquared
<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Bottom	Steven Marzolf	Trike Theatre
2018			
<i>As You Like It</i>	Touchstone	Justin Scheuer	Classical Edge
<i>Pine</i> (world premiere)	Man	Kholoud Sawaf	Theater for One
<i>West of Why</i> (world premiere)	Paul	Shawna Gold	Univ. of Arkansas
<i>Life is a Dream</i>	Basilio	Jeremiah Albers	Univ. of Arkansas
2016			

<i>It's A Wonderful Life</i>	Various	Jeff Church	TheatreSquared
<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>	Tom	Cole Wimpee	Univ. of Arkansas
<i>Arkansas New Play Fest:</i>	Doug	Jacob Sexton	TheatreSquared
<i>Comet Town</i>			
<i>Assassins</i>	Sam Byck	Amy Herzberg	Univ. of Arkansas
<i>Angels in America Part II</i>	Roy Cohn	Jeremiah Albers	Univ. of Arkansas

2016

<i>Angels in America Part I</i>	Roy Cohn	Cole Wimpee	Univ. of Arkansas
<i>All the Way</i>	Various u/s	Benny Sato Ambush	TheatreSquared
<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Gremio/Vincentio	Steven Marzolf	Classical Edge
<i>Last Gas</i>	Guy	Brendan Burke	Shadowland Stages
<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	Various u/s	Mark Shanahan	TheatreSquared
<i>Eurydice</i>	Lord of the Underworld	Morgan Hicks	Univ. of Arkansas
<i>God of Carnage</i>	Michael	Jeremiah Albers	Univ. of Arkansas
<i>Butte (reading)</i>	F. Augustus Heinze	Khlood Sawaf	Block Street Theater

2010

<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Toby Belch	Justin Doran	Univ. of St. Thomas (guest artist)
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Friar Lawrence	Illich Guardiola	Phoenix Inc. Theater

2009

<i>Hamlet</i>	Claudius	Illich Guardiola	Phoenix Inc. Theater
---------------	----------	------------------	----------------------

2007

<i>The Shoemaker and the Christmas Elves</i>	The Shoemaker	Chesley Krohn	Theatre Under the Stars
<i>Night and Her Stars</i>	Dan Enright	Illich Guardiola	Town Center Theatre

2006

<i>Three Billy Goats Gruff</i>	Barry	A.C. Alexander	Theater Express
<i>Bell Book and Candle</i>	Redlitch	Joseph Milillo	Country Playhouse
<i>Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing</i>	Jimmy Fargo	Andrew Hager	Main Street Youth Theater
<i>Diary of Anne Frank</i>	Mr. Van Daan	Becky Udden	Main Street Youth Theater

2005

<i>Pippi Longstockings</i>	Various	Kate Pogue	Main Street Youth Theater
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Leonato	Joseph Milillo	Univ. of St. Thomas (guest artist)
<i>Red Badge of Courage</i>	Various	Becky Udden	Main Street Youth Theater
<i>If You Take a Mouse to the Movies</i>	Manny (originated role)	Ted Giles	Main Street Youth Theater

<i>Alexander Who's Not, Not,</i>	Various	Illich Guardiola	Main Street Youth Theater
<i>Not Going to Move</i>			
<i>Beyond The Fringe</i>	Various	Mark Adams	Main Street Theater
<i>On the Razzle</i>	Coachman	Rod de los Reyes	Main Street Theater
<i>Somebody's Sons</i>	Morris <i>(originated role)</i>	Illich Guardiola	Main Street Theater
<i>(world premiere)</i>			
<i>The Outsiders</i>	Two-bit	Becky Udden	Main Street Theater

2004

<i>Comic Potential</i>	Various	Mark Adams	Main Street Theater
<i>Superfudge</i>	Jimmy Fargo	Freeman Williams	Main Street Youth Theater
<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>	Various	Ted Giles	Main Street Youth Theater
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Mark Antony	Illich Guardiola	Main Street Youth Theater
<i>Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>	Dad	Illich Guardiola	Main Street Youth Theater
<i>Aesop's Fables</i>	King	Bryan Burns	Houston Children's Festival
<i>In the Garden of Live Flowers</i>	Various	Illich Guardiola	Main Street Theater
<i>Charlotte's Web</i>	Various	Ted Giles	Main Street Youth Theater
<i>Oleanna</i>	John	A.C. Alexander	Fan Factory Theater

STAGE MANAGEMENT:

Stage Manager

2003

- *The Piano Lesson*. Ensemble Theater.
- *Harlem After Hours*. World Premiere, Wortham Theater.
- *Sundown Names and Nightgone Things*. World Premiere, Ensemble Theater.

2002

- *Black Nativity*. Ensemble Theater.
- *A Lesson Before Dying*. Community reading event, Alley Theater.

Assistant Stage Manager

2005

- *Go Dog! Go.* Main Street Youth Theater.
- *A Year with Frog and Toad.* Main Street Theater.

DESIGN:

Scenic Design

- *Hotel Faux Pas* by Sam Havens. University of St. Thomas.
- *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* by Clark Gesner. University of St. Thomas.
- *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel. University of St. Thomas.
- *Hang the Moon* by Sam Havens. University of St. Thomas.
- *Wonderful Tennessee* by Brian Friel. University of St. Thomas.
- *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare. University of St. Thomas.
- *Bell Book and Candle* by John Van Druten. Country Playhouse.
- *The Skriker* by Carol Churchill. Theater Collide.
- *You Can't Take It With You* by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. Fort Bend Theater.
- *Light Up the Sky* by Moss Hart. University of St. Thomas.
- *Magdalene* by Sara Kumar. Paragon Arts.

Lighting Design

- *Why Mosquitos Buzz* by Marsha Jackson Randolph. Ensemble Theater.
- *One Block Past the Park* by Marsha Jackson Randolph. Ensemble Theater.
- *Ms. Cavander's Class* by Thomas Melancon. Ensemble Theater.
- *Fiddler on the Roof* by Jerry Bock, Sheldon Harnick, and Joseph Stein. Applause Theater.
- *Night and Her Stars* by Richard Greenburg. University of St. Thomas.

PRIVATE TEACHING AND COACHING:

Acting and Audition Coach

- Houston, Texas: 2002–2015
- Fayetteville, Arkansas: 2015–Present

Voice and Diction Coach

- Houston, Texas: 2008–2015
- Fayetteville, Arkansas: 2015–Present

JURY/JUDGING:

- **2017:** Selection Committee for *Ampersand New Play Festival*. University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas.
- **2016:** Selection Committee for *Ampersand New Play Festival*. University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas.
- **2007:** Lone Star Swing Forensic Tournament – Judge, Houston Half Forensics Tournament – Judge.
- **2006:** Lone Star Swing Forensics Tournament – Judge.

ARTS COUNCILS AND BOARDS:

- **2010:** Voting Member, Houston Arts Alliance General Operating Support Grants Panel. Houston, Texas.
- **2007–2010:** Founding Member, Woodlands Arts Alliance. Woodlands, Texas.
- **2005–2012:** Board Member, Town Center Theatre. Houston, Texas.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2013–2015: Department Coordinator, Rice University, Houston, Texas. Oversaw undergraduate program and accreditation/assessment requirements.
- 2008–2013: Administrative Assistant, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas. Oversaw budgets, core curriculum review, program review, and assessment plans.
- 2005–2006: Shop Foreman, High School for the Visual and Performing Arts, Houston, Texas.
- 2002–2006: Technical Director, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas.
- 2002–2003: Production Stage Manager, Ensemble Theater, Houston, Texas.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Recipient of University of Arkansas Graduate School Fellowship, 2015–2018
- University of Arkansas Department of Theater Graduate Representative, 2016–2017
- Recipient of Humphries Memorial Scholarship, 1997–2002.
- Recipient of University of St. Thomas Outstanding Graduate in Theater Award, 2002.