

Emily Rebecca Wirkus

Curriculum Vitae
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(701) 215-4827
She/They
Fully vaccinated

EDUCATION

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| Master of Fine Arts in Acting & Directing
<i>Western Illinois University, Macomb IL</i> | 05/2019 |
| Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre
<i>University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magna Cum Laude | 05/2014 |
| Bachelor of Music in Music Education
<i>University of North Dakota, Grand Forks ND</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cum Laude | 12/2011 |

CERTIFICATIONS

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| North Dakota ESPB Teacher's License <ul style="list-style-type: none">• K-12 Music Education | Renewal in 08/2023 |
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of North Dakota (UND) - Grand Forks, ND

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| Text Analysis , Instructor (upcoming)
Supervisor: Dr. Ryan Zerr
<i>An analysis of the dramatic text from the standpoint of production and performance.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to basic analytical terminology• Repetition and practice of terminology in action, using relevant source material including plays, films, and other media.• Group discussions of all material and solo projects to display competency on subject material and evidence of critical thinking skills. | Spring 2023 |
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Instructor

Fall 2022

THEA 204: Musical Theatre Acting I

Supervisor: Dr. Ryan Zerr

An introduction to the unique style of performance techniques for musical theatre including voice and movement work, acting, and staging.

- Preparation of small group, large group, and solo work in Golden Age Musical Theatre Style.
- Emphasis on character analysis and analysis of a musical score in relation to character study.
- Reflection of character analysis work on Golden Age Musical Films and live production.
- Introduction to Golden Age choreographers through quick-pickup audition style dance calls.

Instructor

Spring 2022

THEA 220: Voice & Movement II

Supervisor: Dr. Ryan Zerr

A sequential continuation of THEA 120: Voice & Movement I with focus on freeing the channel for sound, improving range, and articulation. Emphasis in movement will be in posture and introducing somatic techniques.

- Introductory Physical Technique - The Viewpoints Book by Anne Bogart
- Advanced Physical Technique - The Mastery of Movement by Rudolf Laban
- Introduction to Psychological Gesture - On the Technique of Acting by Michael Chekov
- Study, and application of International Phonetic Alphabet - Speaking With Distinction by Edith Skinner
- Accents & Dialects for Actors by Paul Meier
(Led by instructor: Standard British/RP, Russian, Irish, German, French; Led by classmates with instructor assistance: Scottish, South African, New York, Italian)

Instructor

Fall 2021

THEA 120: Voice & Movement I

Supervisor: Dr. Ryan Zerr

Development of the student's physical and vocal awareness. Emphasis on freeing the actor and identifying personal habitual response patterns.

- Freeing the Natural Voice by Kristin Linklater
- Introduction to Alexander Technique
- Additional strength building
- Establishment of foundational physical and vocal warm up methodology.
- Emphasis on storytelling technique and expanding physical and vocal variety in personal work.

Western Illinois University (WIU) - Macomb, IL

Instructor

Spring 2019

THEA: 170 Movement I

Supervisor: Tammy Killian and DC Wright

This course will develop an awareness of the actor's physical self while expanding the actor's physical potential. This course will also develop the actor's kinesthetic awareness to be sensitive to stimuli such as other people, various environments, and psychological moods.

- Introduction to Alexander Technique and posture
- Focus on building baseline strength
- A wide variety of team and trust building exercises with emphasis on building physical and spatial awareness

Graduate Assistant Instructor

Spring 2019

THEA 477: Dialects for the Stage

Supervisor: Carolyn Blackinton

Training in American regional and foreign dialects most frequently required in performance. Various approaches are introduced so that individuals may develop personal working methods.

- Continued practice and utilization of International Phonetic Alphabet
- Focused study on Accents & Dialects for Actors by Paul Meier
- Instructor led dialects learned: Standard American, Standard British (RP), Russian, Scottish, Irish, French, German, Italian, South African

Instructor

Fall 2018

THEA 110: Introduction to Theatre

Supervisor: Jason Connor

Designed to acquaint the student with an overview of the aesthetics of drama and the practical aspects of the living theatre.

- Text based lectures based on Living Theatre by Goldfarb & Wilson
- Class activities and discussion using pop-culture examples and application
- Group discussions and reflection based on performance observation

Co-Instructor

Fall 2018

THEA 270: Movement II

Instructor & Supervisor: DC Wright

Continuation of THEA 170—Movement I. This course explores the actor's own movement habits and patterns, and develops methods for altering and implementing new physical mannerisms for created characters through movement and masks.

- Establishment of advanced warm up routine for actors
- Continued focus on building physical strength and physical awareness
- Focused study on Laban movement technique

Instructor

Spring 2018

THEA 381: Directing II

Supervisor: Tammy Killian

A continuation of the development of directorial skills using classroom exercises, discussions, and scene work.

- Review and practiced use of Text Analysis Terminology
- Introduction to the build and function of a Director's prompt book
- Individual projects and Group Discussions on a variety of scenes
- Final Showcase of individual Directing Scenes (5 min per scene)
- Recommended text - A Sense of Direction by William Ball

Instructor

THEA 382: Directing I

Fall 2017

Supervisor: Tammy Killian

The director's function in theatrical production from an aesthetic and practical standpoint.

- Review and practiced use of Advanced Text Analysis Terminology
- Advanced Study and build of Director's prompt book
- Introduction to Rehearsal Techniques
- Final Showcase of Directing Projects (10-15 min per scene)
- Recommended text - The Actor & The Target by Declan Donnellan

Graduate Tutor

2015-2017

Supervisor: Neil Baird

University Writing Center, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL

PRIVATE COACHING EXPERIENCE

Western Illinois University (WIU)

Proficiency Preparation

Spring 2019, 2017, 2016

Supervisor: Lysa Fox, Head of Musical Theatre

One on one coaching for undergraduate BFA candidates in preparation for yearly proficiency skills evaluation.

Audition Screening Preparation

Fall 2018, 2017, 2016

Supervisor: Lysa Fox, Head of Musical Theatre

One on one coaching for undergraduate BFA candidates in preparation for department screening for professional auditions.

Professional Acting Coaching

Private Studio

2022- Present

One on one coaching for actors of all skill levels, from novice to expert, with focus on sharpening acting skills based on voice, movement, and a variety of techniques unique to the individual needs of the student

CREATIVE/SCHOLARLY WORK

Professional work - Acting

Empire Theatre Company , Grand Forks, ND Clown 1 - <i>The 39 Steps</i> Joanne - <i>Company</i> Heather Duke - <i>Heathers</i>	2017-2022
MTKC Pro , Shawnee, KS Macy's Manager/Ensemble - <i>Elf: The Musical</i>	12/2019
This Happy Breed & The Arts Asylum , Kansas City, MO Featured Ensemble - <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	10/2019
North Dakota Shakespeare Company , Grand Forks, ND Beatrice - <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	06/2019
Crossroads Repertory Theatre , Terre Haute, IN Penny Pingleton - <i>Hairspray!</i> Annelle - <i>Steel Magnolias</i> Elizabeth - <i>Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde</i> Featured Ensemble - <i>Young Frankenstein</i> Christmas Eve - <i>Avenue Q</i> Gabriella - <i>Boeing, Boeing</i> Featured Ensemble - <i>Company Cabaret</i>	2016-2018
Starry Night Repertory Theatre , Macomb, IL <i>Enchanted April</i> , Caroline Bramble <i>Spoon River Anthologies</i> - Ensemble	2014-2015
Minot Summer Theatre , Minot, ND Featured Ensemble - <i>The Music Man</i> Audrey - <i>Little Shop of Horrors</i> Sister Amnesia - <i>Nunsense!</i>	2013-2015

Jeune - *Musical of Musicals the Musical*
 Ensemble - *Big River*
 Penelope Toop - *See How They Run*
 Logaine Schwartz'grubinerre - *25th Annual...Spelling Bee*
 Ensemble - *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Crimson Creek Players, Grand Forks, ND 08/2010
 Featured Dance Ensemble - *The Producers*

Professional Work - Directing

Firehall Theatre, Grand Forks, ND 2021-2023
Shrek the Musical - Upcoming, Summer 2023**
Mamma Mia
Christmas Belles

Empire Theatre Company, Grand Forks, ND 02/2022
The 39 Steps

Festival 56, Princeton, IL 2019-2021
Rabbit Hole - virtual revival reading
Rabbit Hole

Starry Night Repertory Theatre, Macomb, IL 03/2019
Over the River and Through the Woods

Valley Middle School, Grand Forks, ND 03/2014
Peter Pan, Jr.

Professional Work - Choreography

Firehall Theatre, Grand Forks, ND 2022-2023
Shrek The Musical - Choreographer; Upcoming Summer 2023**
Mamma Mia - Choreographer

East Grand Forks High School, East Grand Forks, MN 11/2021
Hello, Dolly! - Choreographer

Crossroads Repertory Theatre, Terre Haute, IN 2017-2018
Hairspray! - Choreographer's assistant & Dance Captain
Young Frankenstein - Co-Choreographer

Minot Summer Theatre , Minot, ND	2014-2015
<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i> - Choreographer	
<i>The Music Man</i> - Dance Captain	
<i>Spamalot!</i> - Choreographer	
Professional Work - Music Direction	
Empire Theatre Company , Grand Forks, ND	08/2012
<i>Xanadu</i>	
Professional Work - Stage Management	
Empire Theatre Company , Grand Forks, ND	08/2013
<i>Avenue Q</i> , Co-Assistant Stage Manager	
Professional Work - Technical Theatre	
Empire Theatre Company , Grand Forks, ND	02/2022
<i>The 39 Steps</i> , Costume Designer	
Minot Summer Theatre , Minot, ND	2013-2015
Costume Shop Manager (*denotes head designer)	
<i>The Music Man</i>	
<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	
<i>Greater Tuna</i>	
<i>Nunsense!</i>	
<i>Big River</i>	
<i>The Nerd</i>	
<i>Spamalot!*</i>	
<i>See How They Run</i>	
<i>Musical of Musicals</i>	
<i>25th Ann. Spelling Bee*</i>	
<i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	
<i>Shrek the Musical</i>	
Crimson Creek Players , Grand Forks, ND	08/2011
<i>RENT</i> , Spotlight operator	

Educational Work - Acting

* denotes KCACTF Irene Ryan Nomination for the role

University of North Dakota , Grand Forks, ND	2021-2022
Mercutio - <i>Romeo & Juliet, Unrehearsed</i>	
Lady Bracknell - <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	
Western Illinois University , Macomb, IL	2017-2019
Catherine - <i>Proof</i>	
Kitty - <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>	
Roscoe/Rachel* - <i>One Man, Two Guvnors</i>	
Gossip 5 Track - <i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	
University of North Dakota , Grand Forks, ND	2008-2014
Beatrice* - <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	
Diana Morales - <i>A Chorus Line</i>	
Nan/Lina* - <i>Three Days of Rain</i>	
Featured Ensemble/Co-Creator - <i>Crush(ed)</i>	
Featured Ensemble/Co-Creator - <i>My Generation</i>	
Little Sally - <i>Urinetown</i>	
Lenny* - <i>Crimes of the Heart</i>	
Smitty* - <i>How to Succeed in Business</i>	
Nurse - <i>South Pacific</i>	

Educational Work - Directing

University of North Dakota , Grand Forks, ND	11/2022
<i>Carrie: The Musical</i>	
Western Illinois University , Macomb, IL	2015-2017
<i>Henry IV unrehearsed</i>	
<i>Spring Awakening</i>	
<i>25th Annual Putnam Co. Spelling Bee</i>	
<i>Circle Mirror Transformation</i>	
<i>Somina Mundi (devised piece)</i>	
<i>Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen</i>	
<i>The Rising of the Moon</i>	
University of North Dakota , Grand Forks, ND	2012-2014
<i>Body Awareness (selected scenes)</i>	
<i>Becky Shaw (selected scenes)</i>	
<i>Other Desert Cities (selected scenes)</i>	

Educational Work - Choreography

University of North Dakota , Grand Forks, ND	2022-Present
<i>Conference of the Birds</i> (Upcoming, Spring 2023)	
<i>Unnecessary Farce</i> (Upcoming, Spring 2023)	
<i>Carrie: The Musical</i>	
Western Illinois University , Macomb, IL	2015-2019
<i>Spring Awakening</i> (selected numbers)	
<i>25th Annual Putnam Co. Spelling Bee</i> (selected numbers)	
<i>Insomnium</i> - University Dance Theatre	
<i>The Waiting Room</i> - University Dance Theatre	
<i>Revoltng Children</i> - University Dance Theatre	
<i>Open</i> - devised piece	

Educational Work - Stage Management

Western Illinois University , Macomb, IL	04/2016
<i>The Wild Party</i>	

Community Theatre Work - Acting

Firehall Theatre , Grand Forks, ND	2011-2012
<i>Ruthless!</i> - Judy Denmark	
<i>A Christmas Carol</i> - Ensemble	

Community Theatre Work - Directing

Macomb Arts Center , Macomb, IL	02/2017
<i>Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged</i>	

Community Theatre Work - Technical Theatre

Firehall Theatre , Grand Forks, ND	12/2021
<i>Christmas Belles</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Costume Designer ● Set Designer ● Props designer 	

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Audition 101 Workshop , Co-Instructor <i>Firehall Theatre & Greenway Festival, Grand Forks ND</i> Co-Instructor: Amy Driscoll	08/2021
German Dialect, Guest Instructor , THEA 477G <i>Western Illinois University, Macomb IL</i> Instructor: Carolyn Blackinton	04/2019
Myanmar Theatre Workshop , Actor <i>Western Illinois University, Macomb IL</i> Supervisor: Tammy Killian	04/2019
Improvisational Theatre Workshop , Instructor <i>Macomb Public Schools, Macomb IL</i> Supervisor: Tammy Killian	04/2019
Foundations of Directing Workshop <i>Blackburn College, Carlinville IL</i> Supervisor: Caroline Conover	03/2019
Meisner/Esper Technique Acting Workshop <i>Blackburn College, Carlinville IL</i> Supervisor: Caroline Conover	03/2019
Intro to Tap Dance for Adult Beginners Workshop <i>Minot Summer Theatre, Minot ND</i> Supervisor: Chad Gifford	06/2014

UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

KCACTF Region V Musical Theatre Intensive Dance Coordinator <i>University of North Dakota, Grand Forks ND</i> Supervisor: Co-Vice Chair Emily Cherry Oliver (upcoming)	01/2023
KCACTF Region V Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Respondent <i>University of North Dakota, Grand Forks ND</i> Supervisor: Co-Vice Chair Emily Cherry Oliver	01/2022

KCACTF Region V Musical Theatre Intensive Respondent <i>University of North Dakota, Grand Forks ND</i> Supervisor: Co-Vice Chair Emily Cherry Oliver	01/2022
Season Selection Committee Member <i>University of North Dakota, Grand Forks ND</i> Committee Head: Emily Cherry Oliver	03/2022
Faculty Selection Committee Member - Head of Directing Search <i>Western Illinois University, Macomb IL</i> Co-Committee Members: Adam Lewis and DC Wright	03/2019
Public Relations Committee Member <i>Western Illinois University, Macomb IL</i> Supervisor: Tammy Killian	01/2019
Directing Curriculum Revision Committee Member <i>Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL</i> Supervisor: Tammy Killian	09/2018

HONORS/AWARDS

Western Illinois University - Tammy Killian, Department of Theatre and Dance	
2019	KCACTF Irene Ryan Semi-Finalist, Region III KCACTF Musical Theatre Acting Intensive Finalist, Region III KCACTF Musical Theatre Dance Intensive Finalist, Region III
2018	KCACTF Irene Ryan Nominee, Region III
University of North Dakota - Kathleen McClennan, UND Theatre Arts	
2014	Most Valuable Theatre Student Award KCACTF Irene Ryan Nominee, Region V KCACTF Musical Theatre Acting Intensive Finalist, Region V
2013	KCACTF Irene Ryan Nominee, Region V
2009	KCACTF Irene Ryan Nominee, Region V