Kendra Kahl
Curriculum Vitae

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ACADEMIC HISTORY

MFA - Theatre for Youth & Community **2022**
Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ)
Thesis: Bubbled Up!: *Engaging Young Artist-Scientists Through TVY Public Performance*

BFA - Theatre for Youth **2017**
Samford University (Birmingham, AL)
Thesis: Into the Jungle: Adapting and Producing a Dramatic Script Based on Kipling's The Jungle Book

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Instruction **2022-Present**
University of Northern Iowa

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Emphasis Coordinator / Area Head **Ongoing**
Theatre for Youth & Communities
Communication-Theatre Teaching

Advisor **Ongoing**
All Theatre for Youth & Communities emphasis students

Performance Committee **Ongoing**
Department of Theatre

Area Heads Committee **Ongoing**
Department of Theatre

Anti-Discrimination Committee **Ongoing**
Department of Theatre

Education Preparation Senate - Secondary Representative **Ongoing**
College of Education

Alpha Psi Omega Faculty Advisor **Ongoing**
University of Northern Iowa

Faculty Search Committees **2022-2024**
Adjunct Assistant Professor; Assistant Professor of Acting

FACULTY DISTINCTIONS

Service Learning Leader
University of Northern Iowa
Courses with Service Learning Projects: Creative Drama
Won Service Learning / Live Client Project Award for local elementary school tour of *Suzette Who Set to Sea* and associated educational materials

HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES TAUGHT

University of Northern Iowa
Creative Drama, Methods of Teaching Drama & Theatre, Theatre for Youth, Theatre in Education, Production Studies, Theatre for Communities, History of the Theatre I, History of the Theatre II, Introduction to Playscripts, Studies in Dance for Musical Theatre, Community Engagement, Practicum, Performance Engagement, Foundations of Theatre

Arizona State University
Creative Drama, Theatre for Social Change, Seminar: Acting for Stage & Screen, Acting II: Meisner, Principles of Dramatic Analysis, Multidisciplinary Collaboration

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ADVISING

"We've Known Each Other For Centuries": Theatrical History of the Myth of Orpheus and Eurydice **April 2024**
Jude Beekman
INSPIRE Conference, University of Northern Iowa

PUBLISHED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Mapping Presence: An Exploration of Embodiment and Knowledge Transfers in Cyber-Mediated Classrooms
LEARNing Landscapes Journal, June 2022 Issue

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

A POPPED! pARTnership: Exploring Visual Art's Role in TVY Devising with Youth — **April 2026**
Amplify & Ignite: A Symposium on Theatre for Social & Civic Engagement
American Alliance for Theatre & Education

Hero Huddle: Using Creative Drama to Teach Social Awareness in the Elementary Classroom — **April 2025**
UNI Social-Emotional Learning Conference

Bubbled Up!: Engaging Young Artist-Scientists through TVY Public Performance — **July 2022**
Children, Youth & Performance

Make It Count!: Teaching Math & Science Through Theatre — **July 2021**
American Alliance for Theatre & Education

Out of the Box: Using Materials in Remote Classes — **July 2021**
Children, Youth & Performance

Mapping Presence: Exploration of Knowledge Transfers — **Feb. 2021**
UCLA Grad TAPS Conference, Featured Working Session

CONFERENCE SERVICE

New Guard Debut Panel, Chair, Selection, Moderator — **July 2021**
American Alliance for Theatre & Education

Emergent Voices Debut Panel, Chair, Selection, Moderator — **July 2021**
American Alliance for Theatre & Education

New Guard Debut Panel, Co-Chair, Selection — **Aug. 2020**
American Alliance for Theatre & Education

OTHER TYA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

2025 TYA/USA National Festival & Conference	**Spring 2025**
2024 AATE National Conference	**Summer 2024**
2024 TYA/USA National Festival & Conference	**Spring 2024**
2022 American Theatre for the Very Young (ATVY)	**Spring 2022**
2021 TYA/USA National Festival & Conference	**May-Nov. 2021**
2020 TYA/USA National Festival & Conference	**May 2020**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESIDENCIES

Faculty, Creative Drama (K-6) - Winter Virtual Conference **Feb. 2023**
Tennessee Arts Academy

- Facilitated workshops in creative drama for K-3 and 4-6 Tennessee educators.
- Followed up with educators from summer 2022 conference.

Faculty, Creative Drama (K-6) - Summer Conference **July 2022**
Tennessee Arts Academy

- Facilitated workshops in creative drama for K-3 and 4-6 Tennessee educators.
- Curated lesson materials, worksheets, and readings for week-long residency.
- Led interlude workshops and held mentorship hours for educators.

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS

Found & Fabulous: Puppetry from the Unexpected **Jan. 2026**
Nebraska Thespian Festival

Roll the Dice! **Nov. 2025**
Iowa Thespian Festival

Shuffle into Tap **Nov. 2025**
Iowa Thespian Festival

Anything Goes with Tap **Nov. 2024**
Iowa Thespian Festival

Intro to Tap **Nov. 2024**
Iowa Thespian Festival

All That Jazz **Feb. 2024**
UNISTA, University of Northern Iowa

Roll the Dice! **Nov. 2023**
Iowa Thespian Festival

Tappin' Toes **Nov. 2023**
Iowa Thespian Festival

Overheard in the Lab: Resolving Work & Research Drama **Nov. 2021**
University of Arizona Cancer Center

Formatting Your Conservatory Semester **Aug. 2021**
Childsplay Theatre Company, Academy Professional Development

LIBRARY INSTALLATIONS

Page to Stage: Designing & Directing *Gretel! The Musical* **Spring 2025**
Rod Library, University of Northern Iowa

PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Classic Upward Bound Program **2023-Present**
Department of Theatre, University of Northern Iowa
Supervise teams of alumni and undergraduate students that provide theatre workshops throughout the summer CUB programming.

Local Preschool, Elementary, Middle, and High Schools **2022-Present**
Department of Theatre, University of Northern Iowa
Curate partnerships for Creative Drama workshops with students, Level III and Community Engagement placements in schools, and touring performances. Provide educational materials related to Theatre for Young Audiences productions.

Child Development Center **2023-Present**
Department of Theatre, University of Northern Iowa
Work with preschool aged children to bring literature to life. Class partnership with Theatre in Education and ongoing lessons.

Preschool Classrooms in the Cedar Valley **Fall 2025**
Department of Theatre, University of Northern Iowa
Partnered with preschool classrooms to devise a new Theatre for the Very Young play entitled *POPPED!*. Mentored UNI students in the facilitation of two workshops for our preschool aged devising partners. Preschool students experienced drama activities, helped create visual art for the set and lobby display, and came to UNI's campus for performances of the production. The program was free of charge to schools due to grant support.

GRANTS

The Guernsey Foundation Grant *(POPPED!)* **2025**
The Guernsey Foundation (for University of Northern Iowa TVY)

Creative Constellations Grant *(Bubbled Up!)* **2021**
Herberger Institute, Arizona State University

FELLOWSHIPS

Teacher Education Transformation Summer Fellowship **Summer 2024**
University of Northern Iowa

Graduate Fellowship **Aug. 2021-May 2022**
Arizona State University

Graduate Fellowship **Aug. 2020-May 2021**
Arizona State University

University Fellowship **Aug. 2013-May 2017**
Samford University

PLAYWRITING FOR YOUTH & TYA

POPPED! (TVY)

- A 40-minute Theatre for the Very Young play about books that pop to life during a girl and dad's bedtime routine.
- Devised with University of Northern Iowa students and young people in the Cedar Valley.
- Premiered in Cedar Falls, IA, at the University of Northern Iowa in fall 2025.

The One Between

- An 80-minute fantasy epic about a girl who must restore balance to her world by engaging with the 7 creators.
- Finalist for the PLAYground Festival of Fresh Works 2020. Semi-Finalist for the 2022 Festival.
- Commissioned by Samford University.
- Premiered at the 2022 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Super Nova

- A two-act play following Nova, a 10-yr-old girl, and her younger sister as they enter the foster care system.
- Nova plays out fantasy sequences with the toys in her room to help her make sense of the situation.
- Themes include protection, loss, displacement, love, empathy, and belonging.

Bubbled Up! (TVY)

- An interactive 40-minute play with original music.
- Two lab scientists, Dr. Square and Prof. Round, experiment with bubbles.
- Premiered in Tempe, AZ, public parks in March 2022 as part of the Thought Bubble Theatre Festival.

The Jungle Book

- A 30-minute touring adaptation with original music. Utilizes percussive sound created by cast and flexible set and costume needs. Written for a cast of 10-13.
- Produced by Samford University's Theatre for Youth program. Toured to schools in Birmingham, AL, ages PreK-4th grade in spring 2017.
- Remounted through Samford & Samford collaborative theatre project in 2018.
- Performed at the Theatre for Youth Festival during the 2018 Southeastern Theatre Conference.

A Tale of Two Sisters: The Beauty of Bawang & Suna

- One of three 20-minute adaptations of Balinese tales commissioned for a large cast of youth conservatory performers.
- Utilizes percussive sound created by the cast, shadow puppetry, and traditional Indonesian dance. Spoken word and group poetry connect the tales.
- Produced at the Omaha Theater Company in the 2018 summer youth conservatory.

Night Light (TVY)

- A highly interactive 40-minute piece that follows the nocturnal insects living beneath a tree.
- Three actors double as both their insect character and a puppet version of their character to show scale, climb the tree, or fly in the sky at different moments during the production.

The Jungle Book (Youth Cast)

- A 55-minute adaptation with original music. Written for a cast of 20-28.
- Utilizes percussive sound created by the cast as well as multi-voiced characters/puppetry.
- Produced at the Omaha Theater Company at The Rose in fall 2018.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

- A 40-minute adaptation with some modernized language and original Shakespearean verse.
- Written for a cast of 20 youth.
- Produced at IMAGINE! Summer Theatre Camp with 20 6th-12th grade students in summer 2017.

CREATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Mud, Short One-Act **Fall 2020**

Canyon Voices Issue 22

DIRECTING YOUTH

The Fountain Finders*	Childsplay Theatre Company	2022
The Murder at Mandel Mansion*	Childsplay Theatre Company	2021
The Lotus Adventure*	Childsplay Theatre Company	2021
DreamSpace*	Childsplay Theatre Company	2020
The Crystal Crowning*	Childsplay Theatre Company	2019
Honk! Jr.	The Rose Theater	2019
Broken Mirror #19*	The Rose Theater	2019
Around the World in 80 Days	The Rose Theater	2018
The Many Disguises of Robin Hood	The Rose Theater	2018
Young Playwrights Festival #23	The Rose Theater	2018
Pride Players #19*	The Rose Theater	2018
Shrek	The Rose Theater	2018
A Midsummer Night's Dream	IMAGINE! Theatre Camp	2017
Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Lexington Children's Theatre	2016
A Series of Unfortunate Events	Lexington Children's Theatre	2016
The Wizard of Oz	Lexington Children's Theatre	2016
Magic Treehouse	Lexington Children's Theatre	2016
Junie B. Jones - Party Animal	Lexington Children's Theatre	2016
Big Shot	Children's Worship Choir	2015

* = Devised Work

TOUR DIRECTING

Suzette Who Set to Sea	University of Northern Iowa	2024
Bubbled Up!	Thought Bubble Theatre Festival	2022
The Music Makers	The Rose Theater	2018
The Jungle Book	Samford University TYA	2017

DIRECTING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

POPPED!	University of Northern Iowa	2025
Gretel! The Musical	University of Northern Iowa	2025
The Case of the Perilous Parlor	Arizona State University	2021
Dear Elizabeth: A play in letters	Samford University	2016
Informed Consent	Samford University	2016
Talking With...	Samford University	2015
Please Have a Seat	Samford University	2015

OTHER PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

***Pride Players #20**, Music Director*	The Rose Theater	2019
***Alice in Wonderland, Jr.**, Choreographer*	Virginia Samford Theatre	2017
***Dear Elizabeth**, Sound Designer*	Samford University	2016
***Girls Just Wanna Have Fun**, Choreographer*	Lexington Children's Theatre	2016
***Girls Just Wanna Have Fun**, Music Director*	Lexington Children's Theatre	2016
***Bring Out Your Wicked Side**, Choreographer*	Lexington Children's Theatre	2016
***A Midsummer Night's Dream**, Choreographer*	Samford University	2016
***Sketch Me If You Can!**, Choreographer*	Samford University	2016
***Nightswim**, Stage Manager*	Samford University	2016
***The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)**, Choreographer*	Samford University TYA	2015
***The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)**, Props Designer*	Samford University TYA	2015
***The Wizard of Oz**, Props Designer*	Samford University TYA	2014

REPRESENTATIVE PERFORMANCE ROLES

Alone, Virginia Poe	Arizona State University	2021
The Crucible, Elizabeth Proctor	Arizona State University	2020
All Hell, Ellen Ewing Sherman	Arizona State University	2019
Matilda the Musical, Acrobat/Dance Captain	The Rose Theater	2019
Wonderland, Felicite/Dormouse	The Rose Theater	2018
Elf: The Musical, Sara/Waitress/Ensemble	The Rose Theater	2018
Judy Moody & Stink, Judy Moody	The Rose Theater	2018
Nebraskaland!, Jane Linstrom	The Rose Theater	2018
The Mysterious Files of Silver Cash, Sammy	The Rose Theater	2018
Madagascar, Kowalski/Foosa	The Rose Theater	2017
The Adventures of Nutrition Man, Dr. Exercise	The Rose Theater	2017
The Amish Project, One-Woman Show	Virginia Samford Theatre	2017
Wake Up, Brother Bear!, Sister Bear	Samford University	2017
The Pavilion, Kari	Samford University	2017
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Puck	Samford University	2016
Sleeping Beauty, Modron	Samford University	2016
On the Town, Diana Dream/Dancer	Samford University	2016
Jane Eyre: A Musical Drama, Grace Poole	Samford University	2015
The BFG, Mary/Fleshlumpeater	Samford University	2015
The Wind in the Willows, Norman Weasel	Samford University	2014
Agnes of God, Agnes	Samford University	2014

TEACHING ARTISTRY FOR YOUTH

Teaching Artist - Schools & Academy **Aug. 2019-May 2022**
Childsplay Theatre Company (Tempe, AZ)

- Taught creative drama classes, skill-building classes, after-school residencies, and in-school post-show workshops.
- Developed lesson plans and curriculum for residencies and classes.
- Devised performances with students in conservatory and other performance-culminating classes.
- Coded videos in the EYEPlay research program for preschool teacher support in drama education.
- Helped transition programming online in 2020, including teaching, marketing, and education program design.
- Piloted Social Emotional Learning after-school program.
- Designed sensorial Environment elements as part of an NEA-funded subscription box pilot program.

Teaching Artist - Early Childhood **Sep. 2021-May 2022**
Desert Foothills Theatre (Scottsdale, AZ)

- Wrote and developed curriculum for pilot 4-6-year-old school year programming.
- Taught after-school classes for early childhood students.

Teaching Artist **Aug. 2017-Aug. 2019**
The Rose Theater (Omaha, NE)

- Taught residencies in school classrooms to enrich core curriculum.
- Directed Teens 'N' Theater productions and Pre-K metro touring shows.
- Taught after-school programming for at-risk middle and elementary students.
- Taught creative drama, musical theater, acting technique, and playwriting classes and camps.
- Led post-show and full-day field trip opportunities for classes visiting the theater.
- Coordinated Teen Leadership Council youth speakers; created accompanying lessons and discussions.
- Assisted with all Youth Productions administration: marketing, social media, editing, production meetings.
- Wrote grants (including collecting surveys and compiling quantitative data).

Associate Director **Summer 2017**

IMAGINE! Theatre Camp (Birmingham, AL)

- Wrote camp curriculum and coordinated counselor assignments, classrooms, registration, and scheduling.
- Adapted, directed, and designed a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with 6th-12th grade students.

Resident Professional Intern **Summer 2016**

Lexington Children's Theatre (Lexington, KY)

- Co-taught creative drama classes for ages 4-7 based on children's literature in and out of role.
- Directed performance and musical theatre workshops for ages 8-16.
- Taught original choreography and accompanied musical theatre workshops.
- Designed set, props, costumes, lights, and sound for performance and musical theatre workshops.
- Performed other administrative, planning, and teaching duties as needed.

Theatre Director - Musical Theater Camp **July 2015**

Children's Worship Choir (Birmingham, AL)

- Wrote acting curriculum for students ages kindergarten through 8th grade.
- Taught acting technique using a culminating scripted performance.
- Designed set, props, and costumes for end-of-week production and facilitated their creation by students.

Dance Instructor **June 2014-2017**

Center Stage Dance Studio (Elizabethtown, KY)

- Wrote and executed curriculum for tap master classes as well as followed previously written curriculum for beginning and intermediate ballet, tap, and jazz classes.
- Stage managed dance concerts—called cues and ran the deck.

HONORS & AWARDS

Outstanding Teaching Award **2026**

University of Northern Iowa

Above & Beyond Award **2026**

University of Northern Iowa, United Faculty

Service Learning / Live Client Project Award *(Suzette Who Set to Sea)* **2024**
University of Northern Iowa

First Year Student Advocate **2022-2024**
University of Northern Iowa

Semi-Finalist for PLAYground Festival of Fresh Works *(The One Between)* **2021**
Purple Crayon Players

Semi-Finalist for PLAYground Festival of Fresh Works *(Super Nova)* **2021**
Purple Crayon Players

Teaching Excellence Award **2020**
Arizona State University

Finalist for PLAYground Festival of Fresh Works *(The One Between)* **2019**
Purple Crayon Players

Gail Patrick Best Director Award *(Dear Elizabeth)* **2017**
Samford University

Best Playwright for Youth **2017**
Samford University

Gail Patrick Best Director Award *(Talking With...)* **2016**
Samford University

Best Ensemble of a Studio Performance *(Talking With...)* **2016**
Samford University

Best Actress in a Mainstage Play *(Puck, A Midsummer Night's Dream)* **2016**
Samford University

Best Actress in a Studio Performance *(Agnes, Agnes of God)* **2015**
Samford University