

Morgan M. Benson

Curriculum Vitae

507.626.1998

Email: morgan.benson96@gmail.com

Los Angeles, CA

Education

Master of Fine Arts

Minnesota State University, Mankato – Acting 2022

Bachelor of Arts,

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall - Theatre Arts 2018

Employment

Elementary, Middle, and High School Substitute Teacher, *Minnesota*

2018-2019

Tyler-Russell-Ruthton Public Schools

Served as a long-term Substitute Art Teacher for the middle and high school.

- Co-teaching and lesson planning arrangement with elementary art teacher.
- Teach courses in painting, drawing, sculpting, and photography.
- Ensure the classroom is safe, comfortable, and engaging.

Tracy Area Public Schools

Served as a short-term Substitute Teacher for the elementary, middle, and high school.

- Review and implement lesson plans.
- Mentor and engage students.
- Record and grade quizzes, homework, projects, and exams.
- Create reports to inform the students' permanent teacher of their success.
- Adapt quickly to different classroom environments and student needs.

Graduate Assistant, *Minnesota State University, Mankato*

2019-2022

Mankato, Minnesota

Served as Graduate Assistant for the Department of Theatre and Dance.

- Instruct undergraduate level acting course.
- Teaching Assistant for undergraduate acting, speech, stage dialects, and theatre history courses. Teach lessons and develop assignments under advisor supervision.
- Advise and mentor undergraduate actors.
- Costume shop stitcher. Work with designers to fit and build production costumes.

Box Office Manager, *Minnesota State University, Mankato*

2019-2022

Mankato, Minnesota

Served as Box Office Manager for the Department of Theatre and Dance.

- Train and oversee all box office employees.
- Create employee schedule for weekly and performance shifts.
- Coordinate and lead staff meetings.
- Service patrons at the box office window and provide phone and email support.
- Sell theatre and dance tickets through the online software, "AudienceView."
- Ensure that honesty, safety, and security are woven into all box office practices.

Children's Theatre, *Southwest Minnesota State University*

2019-2021

Marshall, Minnesota

Served as Director, Musical Director, and Choreographer.

- Director Junior production of *Madagascar* in 2021.
- Musical Director for the 2020 musical theatre revue.
- Choreographer from 2019-2021 for all musical theatre pieces.

- Work with over 60 children in producing a theatrical production.
- Practice open communication with parents and guardians

Publicity Manager, *Southwest Minnesota State University*

2016-2018

Marshall, Minnesota

Served as a Publicity Manager for the Theatre Department

- Collect and edit individual program biographies for cast and crew in production.
- Manage publicity budget and report at weekly theatre faculty meetings.
- Revise production posters. Create and revise production programs.
- Dispersed production posters around campus, town, and surrounding towns.
- Take cast and crew headshots for each production.

Apprentice, *Black Hill Playhouse*

2017

Custer State Park, South Dakota

Served as an Actor Intern

- Work as production carpenter, stitcher, house manager, props person, and actor.

Client Service Specialist, *ReadyCredit Corporation*

2022-2024

Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Served as a Client Service Specialist in the Customer Service Department

- Train Client Service Specialist Employees
- Transfer, debit, or credit cardholder funds.
- Send customer support emails within required SLA timeframes.
- Follow up with customers to ensure card issues are resolved in a timely manner.
- Provide phone support.
- Introduce and train call center partners with enhanced features and functionalities.
- Properly assign tickets for supply requests.
- Provide statistical reports.
- Attend partner calibration calls and process improvement meetings.
- Work with finance and compliance regarding cards and incidents related to fraud.

Mentee, *Southwest Minnesota State University*

2015-2018

Marshall, Minnesota

Served as a Mentee in the SMSU Mentor Program

- Designed and publicized posters for events from the SMSU English Department working through SMSU English Professor, Marianne Zarzana.
- Revised and edited papers and the SMSU English Department website content.

Resident Assistant, *Southwest Minnesota State University*

2016-2017

Marshall, Minnesota

Served as a Mentee in the SMSU Mentor Program

- Ensured safety in all SMSU Residents and keep them involved at SMSU. Including staying positive, hard-working, organized, and goal-oriented.
- Planned programs SMSU students can attend to stay involved. (22 programs were planned and executed successfully in seven months)
- Designed posters for the planned programs.
 - Accomplished with Microsoft Office with extra focus on detail and creativity.
- Publicized SMSU on and off campus events.
 - Executed by hanging posters in Resident Halls, through word of mouth, and through social media outlets.

Acting – Regional

<i>*Unnecessary Farce</i>	Billie Dwyer	Black Hills Playhouse
<i>*Grease</i>	Cha-Cha	Black Hills Playhouse
<i>*Young Frankenstein</i>	Ensemble	Black Hills Playhouse
<i>Chicago</i>	Velma Kelly	Marshall Area Stage Company
<i>Mamma Mia</i>	Donna Sheridan	Marshall Area Stage Company
<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i>	Dr. Einstein	Lake Benton Opera House
<i>Urinetown: The Musical</i>	Cop	Lake Benton Opera House
<i>Barefoot in the Park</i>	Mrs. Banks	Highland Summer Theatre
<i>PAS DE DEUX</i>	Wind	SkyPilot Theatre, Los Angeles

Acting – Academic

<i>Connie and Loretta</i>	Connie Smith	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Hay Fever</i>	Myra Arundel	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>H. M. S. Pinafore</i>	Ensemble	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Arms and The Man</i>	Raina Petkoff	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Mrs. Dashwood	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Angel Street</i>	Elizabeth	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Silent Sky</i>	Annie Cannon	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Going to See The Elephant</i>	Mrs. Nichols	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Shakespeare in Love</i>	Mistress Quickley	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	Adelaide	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>One Man, Two Guvnors</i>	Rachel Crabbe	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>How to Talk Minnesotan</i>	Lucy Humde	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>Into The Woods</i>	Baker's Wife	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Penelope Sycamore	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>The Tempest</i>	Caliban	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>The Near-Sighted Knight... Dragon</i>	Princess	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>Hamlet</i>	Multiple roles including Hamlet and Laertes	Southwest Minnesota State University

Acting – Film and Television

<i>*T-Mobile</i>	Service User	Sky Candy Productions
<i>The Wendigo</i>	Maya	Student Film
<i>The Family Plan</i>	Kickboxer	Apple Studios
<i>Black Spartans</i>	Go-Go Dancer	Cory Wharton
<i>Caught Up</i>	1 st Team STAND-IN	Tyler Perry Series
<i>Caught Up</i>	Sorority Friend	Tyler Perry Series
<i>Dreamer</i>	Shelby	Gene Halverson Productions
<i>Our Why</i>	Girlfriend	Ananda Dunlap Productions
<i>Surfer Love</i>	Marg	No Way Theatre
<i>Abdo, Eick & Meyers</i>	TV Commercial VO	True Façade Pictures
<i>Farmer of The Year</i>	Extra	Yellow House Films
MSU Software Training Video	Student #1	MSU Tech Services

Direction and Choreography

<i>Heart's Desire</i>	Director	Minneota Public Schools
<i>State Fair</i>	Director and Choreographer	Tracy Area Arts
<i>A Little Murder Never...</i>	Director	Lake Benton Opera House
<i>The Nerd</i>	Director	Tracy Area High School
<i>Chicago</i>	Choreographer	Marshall Area Stage Company
<i>Mamma Mia</i>	Choreographer	Marshall Area Stage Company
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Choreographer	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>Madagascar Jr.</i>	Director and Choreographer	Marshall Community Children's Thea.
Children's Theatre	Director	Marshall Community Services

Children's Theatre
High School Workshop
Guys and Dolls

Music Director & Choreographer
Acting Instructor & Choreographer
Director and Choreographer

Marshall Community Services
Southwest Minnesota State University
Southwest Minnesota State University

Costume Construction

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Black Comedy, Cloud 9, Nocturn, Mamma Mia, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, A Doll's House, Shakespeare in Love, Arsenic and Old Lace, Newsies, The Musical, Tartuffe.

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

Into the Woods, The Tempest, The Near-Sighted Knight and the Far-Sighted Dragon, Boeing Boeing, How To Talk Minnesotan.

Artistry Theatre, Bloomington

Shrek

Black Hills Playhouse, Custer

Young Frankenstein, Grease.

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd, State Fair

Lake Benton Opera House, Lake Benton

A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody

Costume Design

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Black Comedy, Atreus

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd, State Fair

Lake Benton Opera House, Lake Benton

A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody

Hair and Makeup Design

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

The Crucible

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Set Construction

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

The Near-Sighted Knight and Far-Sighted Dragon, The Tempest, Into The Woods, Boeing Boeing, You Can't Take It With You, How To Talk Minnesotan, Guys and Dolls.

Black Hills Playhouse, Custer

Peter and the Starcatcher, Young Frankenstein, Grease.

Lake Benton Opera House

Urinetown: The Musical, A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody, Arsenic and Old Lace.

Set Design

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

Guys and Dolls

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Lake Benton Opera House

A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd

Properties Person

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

The Tempest, Guys and Dolls, How To Talk Minnesotan, You Can't Take It With You, Into The Woods, Hamlet.

Black Hills Playhouse, Custer

Peter and the Starcatcher, Young Frankenstein, Grease, Unnecessary Farce.

Interact Center for Performance Arts, Bloomington

We're Still Here

Lake Benton Opera House

A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody, Arsenic and Old Lace.

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd, State Fair.

Marshall Area Stage Community

Chicago, Mamma Mia.

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Stage Management

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

Boeing Boeing

Dialect Coach

Minnesota State University, Mankato

H.M.S Pinafore

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Hair and Makeup Design

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

The Crucible

Light Design

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Sound Design

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Collegiate Courses

Stage Dialects (Spring 2021 & 2022)

Study and perform Standard British, Cockney, Irish, Scottish, Brooklyn, and American Southern dialects. Write out all performance monologues using the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Acting Styles (2021)

Study, workshop, and perform ritual, ancient Greek tragedy, comedy/farce, and Theatre of the Absurd acting.

Theatre Theory and Criticism (2021)

Study and discuss Aristotle, Augusto Boal, Bertolt Brecht, Pierre Corneille, Madame de Staël, Václav Havel, Horace, Bharatanatyam, Zeami, Castelverto, Philip Sidney, Giambattista Guarini, Felix Lope de Vega, François Hédelin, abbé d'Aubignac, John Dryden, Friedrich Nietzsche, Emile Zola, August Strindberg, Maurice Maeterlinck, Gordon Craig, Bernard Shaw, Antonin Artaud, and Gotthold Ephraim Lessing.

Global Theatre History (2021)

Study and lead short lessons covering 20th century Western theatre, West African Griots theatre, Kutiyattam Sanskrit theatre, Kathakali performers, Rab'inal Achi Guatemalan dance-play, Noh theatre, Native American Clown Dancers, Mali Bamana Puppets, Indian Storytelling and Puppet Theatre, Kabuki theatre, Chinese Opera, Chinese Shadow Play, Bunraku, Nigerian Yoruba Folk Opera, 1800s Industrialism, and 1700s Age of Enlightenment.

Theatre Movement (2020-2022)

Ballet and Dance Partnering for Theatre: salsa, waltz, jazz, ballroom. Yoga with focus toward Susanna Barkataki's book, "Embrace Yoga's Root: Courageous Ways to Deepen Your Yoga Practice."

Acting in Masks (2021)

Study and perform with Neutral, Basic, and Character masks.

Act Scene Studies (2020)

Analyze scripts and characters. Perform, rehearse, and workshop short scenes.

Theatre History (2016, 2017, 2020)

Read classical works and plays. Study and lead short lessons covering theatre poets, philosophers, and practitioners and theatre of Asia, India, China, Japan, Ancient Greece, Egypt, and Rome, and Medieval theatre, the Middle, Dark and High Middle ages, the Italian renaissance, and the Elizabethan Renaissance.

Dramaturgy (2016, 2020)

Completed dramaturgical protocols for *Ruined* by Lynn Nottage, *The Cost of Living* by Martyna Majok, and *Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe,

Advanced Acting Techniques (2017, 2020)

Study, workshop, and perform short scenes from published plays and musicals. Focusing on Chekhov and Stanislavski acting methods and techniques. Participate in exercises such as neutral acting, animal/character acting, mind-body connection, and other character exploration exercises.

Acting for Camera and Radio (2018, 2020)

Rehearse and perform short TV scripts in front of camera. Create commercial voiceover reel.

Directing (2018)

Analyze scripts, hold auditions and rehearsals, develop direction promptbook, cast and direct short scenes.

Stage Combat (2019)

Train and perform hand combat, sword, rapier & dagger, quarterstaff choreography.

Theatre Speech (2019, 2020)

Learn portions of the International Phonetic Alphabet and apply to proper speaking techniques. Speech training and performance focusing on a variety of vocal qualities, and techniques regarding vocal time, tone, tension, volume, and overall dynamism.

Musical Theatre Acting (2019)

Perform ballads, character, comedy, dramatic, classical, and partner songs.

Theatre Research (2019)

Examining theatre and its impact on the contemporary world.

Stage Management (2017)

Practice and study stage management techniques.

Scenic Design (2017)

Design and create miniature models for a variety of plays and musicals.

Costume Construction (2017)

Learn and practice costume constructions basics including hand and machine sewing, surging, fabric printing and dyeing, and working with costume designers.

Stage Makeup (2017)

Practice a variety of stage makeup techniques to alter appearance including age, weight, facial hair, along with fake blood, cuts, and bruising effects. Create and designed facial prosthetics. Additional make-up looks including, mosaic, Egyptian, Kabuki, and animal.

Film & TV Appreciation (2017)

Study and explore different movie and television genres.

Sound Design (2017)

Design and create a variety of sounds for multiple plays and musicals.

Costume History/Design (2018)

Study Western theatre history. Read and design costumes from classical plays.

Stagecraft (2016)

Learn and practice set building techniques using a variety of construction tools.

Survey of World Music (2016)

This course explores the music of the world's people. Emphasis is on non-Western traditions. American musical cultures explored through Native and African American traditions. Examine the various sounds, patterns, and structures of music from around the globe. Students experience various repertoires, styles, and genres of music and consider the effects of the media on globalization of music culture.

Additional Academic Research**Philip Sydney and his "Defense of Poesy"**

Research paper exploring the concept that poetry is superior to philosophy or history.

Antonin Artaud and the Theatre of Cruelty

Research paper exploring the concept of originality.

Decolonizing Theatre

Research paper regarding the colonial structure is present in today's American theatre with examples including Shakespeare, cultural commodity, and the tokenization of casting and production of "identity" plays. Decentralization is a powerful strategy moving towards decolonization.

SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference

- Presented at 2017 research conference. Research exploring, "Vogue Cover Makeup From 1967 To Present."
- Presented at 2016 research conference. Research including *Doctor Faustus* dramaturgy and a prestatation titled, "The World of Doctor Faustus."

Additional Training

Acting for the Camera Workshop	Isiah Whitlock Jr.
Acting in Film Workshop & Improv Workshop	Kevin Crowley
Chanhassen Training Camp	Chanhassen Dinner Theatre
-Studied acting, Shakespeare, dance, lighting, music, and costume design.	
14 years of dance	Tracy Dance Studio and Tracy Area High School
-Tap, jazz, contemporary, ballet, and high kick.	
6 years of voice training	Tracy Area High School Choir (2yrs Chamber Choir)
MSU, Mankato voice lessons	Christina Smith
8 years of percussion training	Tracy Area High School Band
6 years of piano playing training	Shannon Benson – Tracy, MN piano instructor

TEACHING

University Instruction

2023

SMSU Meisner Technique Acting Workshop
SMSU Chekhov Technique Acting Workshop

2020-2022

MSU THEA 101: Acting for Everyone instructor (5 Sections) 2019-2022
MSU THEA 612: Advance Theatre Speech I teaching assistant
MSU THEA 613: Advanced Theatre Speech II teaching assistant

2021

MSU Meisner Technique workshop in THEA 518: Acting Styles
MSU THEA 514: Stage Dialects I teaching assistant
MSU THEA 622: Stage Dialects II teaching assistant
MSU THEA 582: Global Theatre History II teaching assistant

2020

Feldenkrais Method workshop in MSU THEA 612: Theatre Speech

High School Instruction

2020 & 2022

MSU, Mankato, High School Theatre Games and Warm-Up Workshop Instructor

2019-2021

SMSU, Marshall Area Stage Community, and Marshall Community Services High School
Workshop Instructor
-Choreography
-Auditioning
-Acting

2018-2019

Russell, Tyler, Ruthton Middle and High School Long-Term Substitute Art Teacher
-Photography
-Painting
-Drawing
-Sculpting
-Printmaking

2017

SMSU, Marshall, High School Improv Workshop Instructor

2016

SMSU, Marshall, Second Grade Acting Workshop Instructor

Additional Service to Departments

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

- Representative and spokesperson for the Theatre Department at the Student Activities Meeting allowing funding to the department.
- Drama Club President in 2018, Treasurer in 2017, and member in 2016.
- Improv Troupe Captain in 2017 and member in 2016.
- Perform as the entertainment at the University Gala in 2017 and 2018
- Model for a Fashion History workshop in 2017 and Air Brush Makeup workshop in 2016 during Library Week.

Minnesota State University, Mankato

- Perform as the entertainment at the 2021 University Gala.
- Participated in the interview committee for the 2020 new theatre faculty member.

Honors and Awards

- Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 5 – Irene Ryan Scholarship Nominee for *Hay Fever* 2021, *Silent Sky* 2020, *You Can't Take It With You* 2017, and *The Tempest* 2016
- Obtained Bachelor of Arts Degree with Magna Cum Laude Honors
- Member of SMSU 2017 Homecoming Court
- Tracy Area High School 2015 Homecoming Queen
- Member of the 2015-2018 SMSU Mentor Scholarship Program
- Obtained SMSU Theatre scholarships including, the Excellence in Theatre, University Gala, and Alpha Psi Omega
- SMSU 2015-2018 Dean's List
- SMSU 2017 Drama Club President.

References

Matthew Caron, M.F.A.

Department of Theatre and Dance Managing Director
Minnesota State University, Mankato
507.389.2264
matthew.caron.2@mnsu.edu

Heather Hamilton, Ph.D.

Department of Theatre and Dance Professor
Minnesota State University, Mankato
507.389.1179
heather.hamilton@mnsu.edu

Michael Lenz, M.F.A.

Former Department of Theatre Professor
Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall
507.530.6454
michaelandrewlenz@gmail.com

Julie Kerr-Berry, Ed.D.

Department of Theatre and Dance Chair
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Chorographer
507.389.2125
julie.kerr-berry@mnsu.edu

Vladimir Rovinsky, M.F.A.

Department of Theatre and Dance Professor
Minnesota State University, Mankato
507.389.1496
vladmir.rovinsky@mnsu.edu

Nadine Purvis Schmidt, M.F.A.

Department of Theatre Professor
Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall
507.537.7011
nadine.schmidt@smsu.edu

Shelia Tabaka, M.F.A.

Department of Theatre Professor
Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall
507.530.3454
sheila.tabaka@smsu.edu

Daniel Workman, M.F.A.

Department of Theatre Chair Professor
Augustana University, Sioux Falls
Black Hill Playhouse Artistic Director
Custer, SD
605.274.5065
daniel.workman@augie.edu

Mark Wilmes

Lake Benton Opera House Artistic Director
Lake Benson, MN
markwilmes@gmail.com

Paul Hustoles, Ph.D.

Former Department of Theatre and Dance Chair
Minnesota State University, Mankato
paul.hustoles@pcae.k12.mn