

Tony Vezner

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Education

- 1992 M.F.A. - Directing, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
1989 B.A. - English and Theatre Arts, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky (cum laude)

Other Studies

- 1987 University of Birmingham at Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Centre, Stratford-on-Avon, England
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Employment History

2007- Associate Professor, Department of Theatre, Concordia University, Irvine, CA

Serving in this four person department which has thirty-five majors and mounts a season of five productions in its black box space and 500 seat amphitheater. Promoted to the rank of associate professor in 2011.

Curriculum and Instruction responsibilities have included:

- Teaching the following courses in the curriculum:
 - THR 101: Experiences in Theatre (general education)
 - THR 111: Experiences in Theatre (general education)
 - THR 251: Introduction to Theatre (dramatic literature/general education)
 - THR 262: Acting II (period styles including Greek and Comedy of Manners)
 - THR 351: Directing I
 - THR 371: Acting III (Shakespeare, Chekhov, Beckett, Pinter, Mamet)
 - THR 443: Contemporary Theatre and Culture (dramatic literature/history)
 - THR 451: Directing II
 - THR 452: Advanced Script Analysis
 - WRT 337: Writing for the Stage and Screen
- Mentoring senior directing projects (THR 498 – Theatre Showcase, a 3 credit hour individual study course) which culminate in full productions of one-act plays:
 - One Egg by Babette Hughes (2007) directed by Dominick Holland
 - The Actor's Nightmare by Christopher Durang (2009) directed by Andrew Eddins
 - All About Al by Cherie Vogelstein (2010) directed by Drew Williams
 - The American Dream by Edward Albee (2010) directed by Hannah Welter
 - The Whole Shebang by Rich Orloff (2011) directed by Naomi Rogers
- Mentoring a senior playwrighting projects (THR 498 – Theatre Showcase, a 3 credit hour individual study course) which culminated in staged readings of the plays:
 - Supporting Characters by Chad Biar (2008)
 - Sigh No Morte by Brock Powell (2011)
- Developing new courses for the curriculum (THR 443, 452)
- Presenting guest lectures in other University courses (THR 261, ENG 466)

Director of Theatre Activities (2011-)

- Producing the department's five production season including overseeing the department's production budget, securing royalties, and facilitating the work of the department's technical staff.
- Contracting guest designers, choreographers, voice coaches, and directors for all productions

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- Administering the Concordia University Dance Company including hiring the artistic director and overseeing the company's work.
- Overseeing the transfer of the department's 2011 production *The Cover of Life* to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Regional Festival in Ogden, Utah in February 2012.

Producing Artistic Director – Looseleaf Theatre Company (2011-)

Co-founder of this professional company housed at Concordia's 500 seat amphitheater. Looseleaf provides student internship opportunities in a professional environment. The company marked its inaugural season in 2012 attracting 1388 viewers over 5 performances. Specific duties include:

- Administering the university's internship program for students in acting and technical areas.
- Script selection, casting, and contract negotiation for actors and design staff
- Budgeting for all areas including payroll, marketing, and concessions
- Managing marketing efforts including logo development, direct mail, newspaper and electronic marketing.
- Overseeing front of house operations including gift sales and concessions
- Directing for the season (see "Creative Accomplishments – Directing" below)

Committee Appointments and Other University Service

- Led a team of 8 students to China to teach subjects in English at an international school for 3 weeks. Selected the team, oversaw lesson development, and coordinated with the school – July 2012.
- Convocations and Academic Environment Committee – joined 2012
- Academic Research and Development Subcommittee – appointed 2011
- Space Utilization and Usage Subcommittee – appointed 2011
- Search Committee for Faculty position in the Art Department – appointed 2011
- Judge for the President's Academic Showcase - 2009

Additional departmental duties include

- Directing 1-2 productions annually for the program
- Overseeing recruitment of new students for the Theatre Program.
- Serving as an academic advisor for theatre majors
- Preparing students for the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival Irene Ryan competition.
- Serving as a colleague respondent for Region 8 of KCACTF.
- Directing 2 drama ministry teams called ACTS ("Acclaiming Christ in Theatre and Service") – 2007-08
- Helping direct and emcee the Theatre Program's 2007 fundraiser *Coffeehouse on Broadway*.
- Enlarging the Theatre Program's presence on the university's website: posting material including production photos, faculty bios, and alumni news. In 5 years I added 5 pages and over 800 photographs.

2004-2006 Producing Artistic Director, New American Theatre, Rockford, IL

New American Theater operated on an Equity (SPT 7) contract with a 280 seat thrust theater on a budget of one million dollars with a full-time staff of ten, producing a five-show season.

Responsibilities

- Season selection, rights negotiation/acquisition
- Casting for all productions, negotiating all contracts.
- Direct 4-5 productions a season (see "Creative Accomplishments – Directing" below)
- Hiring and supervising guest directors, designers, and technical staff, managing production budgets
- Represent the theater to the public at community events, fundraisers, and in the media
- Work in cooperation with the board of directors to secure corporate and individual donor support
- Oversaw the summer season featuring works from partner Northern Illinois University and others.

1998-2004 Artistic Director, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL

This community theatre near Chicago produces a 7 play season on a \$750,000 budget in its two theatre spaces. During my tenure TWS was recognized for its “Outstanding Contribution to Community Theatre” (see “Distinctions” below) and was profiled by Chicago Public Radio, the Chicago Tribune, and Reader Arts Magazine.

Responsibilities

- Season selection, casting and guest director selection (in cooperation with a committee)
- Directing 3-5 productions each season (see “Creative Accomplishments – Directing” below)
- Overseeing the theater’s Director’s Workshop in which fledgling directors direct one-act plays.
- Creating and administering the theatre’s production budget
- Representing the theater to the public at speaking engagements and in the media

Accomplishments

- Created a lecture series featuring Steppenwolf dramaturg Michelle Volansky, Chicago Tribune critic Richard Christiansen, and puppeteers from Defiant Theatre.
- Created a workshop series taught by professionals including improvisation by Second City instructors, mime, stage combat, Feldenkreis movement, and dialect work.
- Formed a play development program to cultivate new work. Playwrights involved included Gretchen Smith, Head of Playwrighting at SMU and Hurt MacDermott, Jeff Citation winner.
- Created a set of acting courses which I taught. All courses 6 weeks unless noted:
Realistic Acting I and II Acting Moliere Verse Shakespearean Verse
Character Physicalization Acting Samuel Beckett Realistic Acting Intensive (2 weeks)
Shakespearean Acting Intensive (2 weeks)
- Created a set of directing seminar’s which I taught – all 8 weeks: Basics and Blocking , Actor Coaching, Advanced Work, Directing Shakespeare
- Directed Chicago area premieres of four plays including Tom Stoppard’s adaptation of *The Seagull*

1998-2000 Co-Artistic Director, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL

Circle is an ensemble-based non-equity professional theatre outside of Chicago which at the time had two theatres spaces - one seating 60 the other 90. Circle produces a 7 show season emphasizing new plays and premieres.

Responsibilities

- Season selection, hiring guest artists, and leading the theater’s 15 company members
- Direction of one production per season (see “Creative Accomplishments – Directing” below)
- Supervision of the theater’s finances

Accomplishments

- Circle garnered 7 Joseph Jefferson nominations and 6 citations in 2000 (see JeffAwards.org)
- Produced the first off-Broadway production of the Tony-award winning *The Life*
- Expanded the theatre’s facility by one third providing more dressing rooms and rehearsal space
- Expanded grants and sponsorships three-fold and established the theatre’s first board directors

1992-98 Adjunct Instr, Dept. of Communications & Theatre, Concordia Univ. River Forest, IL

Courses Taught

CTH 4420 Acting and Directing Studio
CTH 4428 Contemporary Theatre – Dramatic Literature of the past 20 years
CTH 110 Speech Communication

Other Responsibilities

- Artistic director (1992-1994) of Concordia’s drama ministry team, Players INC. (“In the Name of Christ”). The team performed at chapel, outreach functions, and Christian drama festivals.

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1994-96 **Adjunct Instructor, Dept. of Theatre, Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, IL**
Courses Taught
THR 105 Introduction to Theatre

1990-92 **Associate Instructor, Dept. of Theatre and Drama, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN**
Courses Taught
T121 Acting One

Distinctions

- 2013 A scene from Beau Jest invited to the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, Region 8.
 - 2011 Excellence in Education Award, Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, Region 8.
 - 2011 A scene from Hamlet invited to the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, Region 8.
 - 2010 Nomination, Garland Award for Excellence in Direction. The Seagull, Chance Theater, Anaheim, CA
 - 2003 Illinois Theatre Assoc. Award, TWS, "Outstanding Contribution to Community Theatre"
 - 2000 Joseph Jefferson Recommendation for American Buffalo at Circle Theatre, Forest Park, Illinois.
 - 2000 Nomination, Illinois Theatre Assoc., Theatre of Western Springs, "Community Theatre of the Year"
 - 1997 Joseph Jefferson Recommendation, Principia Scriptoria at Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL.
 - 1989 Boyd Martin Award for "Outstanding Contribution to the Theatre program, University of Louisville".
 - 1987 English-Speaking Union Overseas Scholarship, University of Birmingham, Stratford-on-Avon, UK
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Creative Accomplishments – Directing - University

- 9/12 Beau Jest, James Sherman, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 3/11 The Arsonists, Max Frisch, translated by Alistair Beaton, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 9/10 Hamlet, William Shakespeare, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 3/10 The House of Blue Leaves, John Guare, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 1/09 Metamorphoses, Mary Zimmerman from Ovid, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 2/08 Dancing at Lughnasa, Brian Friel, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 10/93 A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare, Concordia University River Forest, IL
- 3/93 The World on the Street, William Shakespeare, adapt. Tony Vezner Concordia University, River Forest, IL
- 4/92 Blood Relations, Jaci Stephen, adapt. Tony Vezner (one act), Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- 10/91 Ghosts, Henrik Ibsen, translated by Rolf Fjelde, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- 2/91 The Marriage of Bette and Boo Christopher Durang, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- 4/90 Real Estate Louise Page, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- 2/90 Light Up the Sky (asst. director under Ken Costigan) Moss Hart, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- 2/89 The Good Doctor, Neil Simon, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
- 10/88 3 Bears in Search of an Author, Dan Greenberg (one act), adapt Tony Vezner, University of Louisville
- 10/87 Punishment Without Crime, Ray Bradbury (one act) adapt. Tony Vezner, University of Louisville

Creative Accomplishments – Directing – Professional and Community

- 5/13 As You Like It, William Shakespeare, Looseleaf Theatre Company, Irvine, CA (in progress)
- 5/12 Twelfth Night, William Shakespeare, Looseleaf Theatre Company, Irvine, CA
- 11/11 Sad Tales of G.I. Joe, John Bolen (one act), New Voices at Stages Theater, Fullerton, CA
- 9/09 The Seagull, Anton Chekhov, adapt. Richard Nelson, Chance Theater, Anaheim, CA
- 11/08 Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol, Tom Mula, Chance Theater, Anaheim, CA
- 10/06 Sherlock's Last Case, Charles Marowitz, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 9/06 Bad Dates, Theresa Rebeck, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 6/06 The Mayor's Arts Awards, Rockford Area Arts Council, Coronado Theater, Rockford, IL
- 6/06 A Place Called Home, multimedia reading by Don Moore, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 4/06 Tommy, Des McAnuff and Pete Townshend, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 1/06 A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 11/05 Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll, adapted by Tony Vezner, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 9/05 Over the Tavern, Tom Dudzick, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 4/05 The Taffetas, Rik Lewis, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 3/05 Five Women Wearing the Same Dress, Alan Ball, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 1/05 Around the World in 80 Days, Jules Verne, adapt. J. Hildreth, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 12/04 A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens, adapt. J. Mortimer, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 9/04 The Guys, Anne Nelson, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 6/04 Ten Little Indians, Agatha Christie, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 4/04 Anna Karenina, Leo Tolstoy, adapt. Helen Edmundson, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 2/04 The Laramie Project, Moises Kaufman, etc., Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 10/03 Around the World in 80 Days, J. Verne, ad. J. Hildreth, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 9/03 On Golden Pond, Ernest Thompson, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 6/03 Grace and Glorie, Tom Ziegler, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 4/03 The General From America, Richard Nelson, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 2/03 Five Women Wearing the Same Dress, Alan Ball, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 10/02 The Tempest, William Shakespeare, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 9/02 Charley's Aunt, Brandon Thomas, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 5/02 Dearly Departed, David Bottrell and Jesse Jones, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 4/02 The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 2/02 Tartuffe, Moliere, translated by Richard Wilbur, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 10/01 As Bees in Honey Drown, Douglas Carter Beane, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 9/01 The Last Night of Ballyhoo, Alfred Uhry, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 5/01 Pride's Crossing, Tina Howe, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 4/01 Kindertransport, Diane Samuels, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 2/01 The Winter's Tale, William Shakespeare, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 10/00 Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen, ad. Christina Calvit, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 9/00 The Nerd, Larry Shue, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL

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- 6/00 American Buffalo, David Mamet, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
- 4/00 A Life in the Theatre, David Mamet, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 3/00 Showstoppers of the Century, Musical Revue, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 2/00 Endgame, Samuel Beckett, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 10/99 The Seagull, by Anton Chekhov, ad. by Tom Stoppard, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 9/99 The Visit, Friedrich Durrenmatt, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 6/99 Wait Until Dark, Frederick Knott, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 4/99 S'Marvelous - The Work of George & Ira Gershwin, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 2/99 Inspecting Carol, Daniel Sullivan, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
- 1/99 The Cover of Life, R.T. Robinson, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 10/98 An Inspector Calls, J.B. Priestley, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 5/98 I Hate Hamlet, Paul Rudnick, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 9/97 Principia Scriptoriae, Richard Nelson, Chicago Area Premiere, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
- 1/97 Rumors, Neil Simon, Stage Right Dinner Theatre, Wood Dale, IL
- 10/96 All in the Timing, David Ives, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
- 8/96 The Duck Variations (one act), David Mamet, 2 Guys and a Bench Prod., River Forest, IL
- 8/96 The Stronger (one act), August Strindberg, 2 Guys and a Bench Prod., River Forest, IL
- 8/96 English Made Simple (one act) by David Ives, 2 Guys and a Bench Prod., River Forest, IL
- 4/96 The Lost Weekend (Co-Director) adapted from the movie, WNEP Theatre, Chicago, IL
- 10/95 Standing On My Knees by John Olive, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 11/94 The Ping-Pong Players (one act) William Saroyan, Bailiwick Director's Festival, Chicago, IL
- 1/94 The Innocents, William Archibald from Henry James, Oak Park Village Players, Oak Park, IL
- 12/89 There Is No Present, Barbara Blumenthal, Bloomington Playwright's Project, Bloomington, IN
- 6/88 Amazing Grace (asst. dir. under David McManus) Bob Blue, New Stage Repertory, Louisville, KY
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Creative Accomplishments - Adaptation

- 11/05 Alice in Wonderland from Lewis Carroll, New American Theater, Rockford, IL
- 10/92 The World on the Street from Shakespeare, Concordia Univ. River Forest, IL
- 4/92 Blood Relations adapted from Jaci Stephen (one act), Indiana Univ. Bloomington, IN
- 10/88 3 Bears in Search of an Author from Dan Greenberg (one act) Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY
- 4/88 Punishment Without Crime from Ray Bradbury (one act), Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY
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Creative Accomplishments – Directing – Staged Readings

- 4/08 Supporting Cast by Chad Biar, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 2/02 Lily by Gretchen Smith, Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
- 1/98 The Hostage by Steven Danzis, Chicago Writers Bloc at the Theater Building, Chicago, IL
- 10/97 The Hostage by Steven Danzis, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
- 7/92 Yellow Violets by Madge Dishman, Phoenix Theater, Indianapolis, IN
- 11/89 Lily by Gretchen Smith, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Creative Accomplishments - Design

- 3/11 Projections Co-Design, The Arsonists, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
 - 10/10 Sound Design, A Year With Frog and Toad, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
 - 5/10 Projections Design, The American Dream Concordia University, Irvine, CA
 - 10/03 Scenic Design, Around the World in 80 Days Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
 - 10/02 Scenic Design, The Tempest Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
 - 10/01 Scenic Design, As Bees in Honey Drown Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
 - 10/96 Scenic Design, All in the Timing Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
 - 10/93 Scenic Design, A Midsummer Night's Dream Concordia University, River Forest, IL
 - 3/93 Scenic Design, The World on the Street Concordia University, River Forest, IL
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Related Experience

- 2004 Consultant Member, Doctoral Committee, Joan E. Kole, Union Institute & University
 - 2001 Member, Thesis Evaluation Committee, Janel Horvath, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
 - 1997 Member, Regranting Review Committee, Hinsdale Center for the Arts and Illinois Arts Council
 - 97-00 Company Member, Circle Theatre, Forest Park, IL
 - 95-98 Member, Board of Directors, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Oak Park, IL
 - 89-90 Media Liaison, Dept. of Theatre and Drama, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
 - 1989 Stage Management Intern, Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Louisville, KY
 - 85-86 Company Member, Louisville Experimental Theater Co., Louisville, KY
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Workshops and Speaking Engagements

- 6/08 "Building a Character's Body - Character Physicality", C.I.T.A. National Conf., Azusa Pacific University
 - 10/00 "The Art of Collaboration: Director/Designer Process", Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
 - 7/00 Director's Roundtable, Bailiwick Director's Festival, Bailiwick Theatre, Chicago, IL
 - 6/00 Producer's Panel Discussion, Director's Forum, The Theatre Building, Chicago, IL
 - 11/00 "Arts Accessibility in the Western Suburbs" – Committee of 100, Hinsdale, IL
 - 6/99 Advanced Acting Workshop, C.I.T.A. Midwest Conference, Milwaukee, WI
 - 6/99 "All the World's A Stage" - Panel Discussion, C.I.T.A. Midwest Conference, Milwaukee, WI
 - 4/97 "Getting Actors into Action", C.I.T.A. Midwest Conference, Bethel College, South Bend, IN
 - 10/95 "Standing On My Knees - A Panel Discussion", Theatre of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL
 - 9/94 "Audition Techniques", Concordia University, River Forest, IL
 - 4/92 "Auditioning for the Stage" Black Culture Center, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, IN
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Memberships

- 2009 Theatre Communications Group
- 2008 Association of Theatre in Higher Education
- 2008 Christians in Theatre Arts national networking organization
- 97-04 Member, Chicago Director's Forum, Chicago, IL

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1989 Mortar Board National Honor Society

1987 English-Speaking Union