

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

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 (Greek and Comedy of Manners – changed in 2011 to Realism)
 - 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 (styles)
 - 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
 - The Lesson by Eugene Ionesco (2014) directed by Nicole Salimbeni
 - Catastrophe by Samuel Beckett (2014) directed by Lauren Winnenberg
 - Chamber Music by Arthur Kopit (2015) directed by Katie Foggiano
 - Refrain and Reprise by Trenton Semple (2015) directed by Jacob Schott
- 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)
 - Operation Procrastination by Nick Scutti (2014)
- Developing new courses for the curriculum (THR 443, THR 452)
- Presenting guest lectures in other University courses (THR 261, THR 471, ENG 466)

Director of Theatre Activities (2011-)

- Producing the department's five production season: overseeing the department's production budget, securing royalties, and facilitating the work of the technical staff.
- Contracting guest designers, choreographers, voice coaches, and directors for all productions
- Supervising the department's technical director and production manager
- Overseeing the university dance company: hiring the artistic director and overseeing the company's work.
- Supervising marketing for the season including: an annual full-color brochure, posters, postcards, newspaper and electronic and social marketing.
- Managing the department's participation in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, including moving an invited production, *The Cover of Life*, to Ogden, Utah in February 2012.

Producing Artistic Director – Looseleaf Theatre Company (2011-)

Co-founder of this professional non-Equity company housed at Concordia's 500 seat amphitheater. Looseleaf provides Concordia student internship opportunities in a professional environment. The company performed first in 2012 and has attracted over 1500 audience members per year. Specific duties include:

- Administering the university's internship program for students in acting and technical areas.
- Script selection, casting, and contract negotiation for all 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

- Visiting Professor, Concordia's Around the World Semester for 17 days in Brazil, August, 2014
- Search Committee for faculty position in Theatre Department – 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15
- Committee on Student Retention – 2013-
- Mentor, WINGS program – 2013, 2014-
- Sole team leader for 8 students sent to Shenzhen, China to teach at an international school for 3 weeks. Selected the team, oversaw lesson planning, and coordinated with the international school – July 2012.
- Convocations and Academic Environment Committee – 2012-
- Faculty sponsor, Improv-ceivable, a student-run improv troupe which performs on campus six times per year and also performs for off-campus competitions - 2011-
- Academic Research and Development Subcommittee – 2011-12
- Space Utilization and Usage Subcommittee – 2011-12
- Search Committee for Faculty position in the Art Department – 2011-12
- Judge for the President's Academic Showcase - 2009

Additional departmental duties include

- Directing 1-2 productions annually for the program (see Creative Accomplishments – Directing below)
- 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 website: posting production photos, faculty bios, and alumni news. In 7 years I have added 6 pages and over 1200 photographs. Also responsible for posting to the department's Tumblr blog.

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

New American Theater operated on an Equity (SPT 7) contract with a 280 seat theater on a budget of \$1.1 million with a full-time staff of 10, producing a five-show season. Selected the season and acquired rights, did all casting and contract negotiation for guest artists. Created and managed the production budgets, represented the theater to the public and the media, worked with the board of directors to secure corporate and donor support, and oversaw the theater's 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 theatres. During my tenure TWS was recognized for "Outstanding Contribution to Community Theatre" (see "Distinctions" below) and was profiled by Chicago Public Radio, the Chicago Tribune, and Reader Arts Magazine. Oversaw season selection, the Director's Workshop program, hired guest directors, directed 4-5 productions a season, administered the production budget, and represented the theatre to the public and the media.

Accomplishments include:

- Created a lecture series featuring Chicago professionals like Steppenwolf dramaturg Michelle Volansky, Chicago Tribune critic Richard Christiansen, and Defiant Theatre puppeteers.
- Created a workshop series taught by professionals including: Second City improvisation instructors, and experts in mime, stage combat, Feldenkreis movement, and dialect work.
- Formed a play development program. Playwrights included Jeff Citation winner Hurt MacDermott and Gretchen Smith, Head of Playwrighting at SMU.
- Created and taught a set of acting classes, all 6 weeks in length. Topics included: Realistic Acting I and II, Acting Moliere Verse, Shakespearean Verse, Character Physicalization, Acting Beckett.
- Created and taught a set of directing seminars, 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. Circle produces a 7 show season emphasizing new plays.

Responsibilities included season selection, supervising guest artists, and guiding the work of the theatre's 15 company members, directing one production per season and overseeing the theater's finances. During my tenure, Circle garnered 6 Joseph Jefferson citations in 2000 (see JeffAwards.org), established the theatre's first board of directors, expanded its grants and sponsorships three fold and expanded the facility by one third.

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.

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 Theatre 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, Theatre of Western Spring, 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".
1989 Cum Laude graduate, the University of Louisville
1987 English-Speaking Union Overseas Scholarship, University of Birmingham, Stratford-on-Avon, England

Creative Accomplishments – Directing - University

1/15 Reckless by Craig Lucas, Concordia University, Irvine, CA (in progress)
9/13 The Brothers Menaechmus, Plautus, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
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

- 5/15 The Merchant of Venice, William Shakespeare, Looseleaf Theatre Company, Irvine, CA (in progress)
- 5/14 The Comedy of Errors, William Shakespeare, Looseleaf Theatre Company, Irvine, CA
- 5/13 As You Like It, William Shakespeare, Looseleaf Theatre Company, Irvine, CA
- 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

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- 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
- 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 – Design

- 5/14 Sound Design, The Comedy of Errors, Looseleaf Theatre Co., Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- 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, William Shakespeare, 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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Creative Accomplishments – Directing – Staged Readings

- 4/14 Operation Procrastination by Nick Scutti, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
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
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Related Experience

- 2011- Advisor, EverWitt Productions, LLC
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

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
1989 Mortar Board National Honor Society
1987 English-Speaking Union