

## KELSEY FISHER-WAITS

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### EDUCATION/TRAINING

Texas Tech University (Lubbock, TX)

*M.F.A. in Performance & Pedagogy, 2017*

- Thesis Chair: Dr. Bill Gelber
- Thesis: The preparation and presentation of the role of Mother Courage in Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*.

University of Central Oklahoma (Edmond, OK)

- *B.F.A. in Theatre Performance—Acting, 2014*

### PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

#### Teaching

- **University of Central Oklahoma**  
*Adjunct Professor, January 2024-Present*
  - Teaching Beginning Acting, Voice and Movement, Audition Techniques, Voice, Speech and Dialects, Acting Styles I, Directing Lab, Improvisation, Irene Ryan Studio, Theatre History I & II, and more to BFA acting and theatre education majors. Acting coach for the University of Central Oklahoma's participating students in the ACTF Region VI Irene Ryan annual competition. Member of the newly formed Season Selection Committee, as well as the ACTF Committee. Director in the 2024-2025 season, 2025-2026 season, and the upcoming 2026-2027 season.
- **Illinois State University**  
*Instructional Assistant Professor of Acting, 2017-2023*
  - Taught various levels of acting and voice and movement to BA/BS acting and theatre education majors, as well as non-acting majors. Served two terms on the School of Theatre and Dance's Production Committee, a committee responsible for selecting the mainstage shows for the academic year, amongst other services to the program. Served one term on the School of Theatre and Dance's Department/School Curriculum Committee. Recipient of three Impact Awards, 2019, 2020, 2022\*, a student-nominated award given through the Illinois State University College to faculty that impacted the academic success of freshmen and/or first year transfer students. Recipient of the 2020 Wonsook Kim College of

Fine Arts Outstanding Teaching Award, Category II. Served as Acting Coach and Coordinator for the 2022-2023 ISU KC-ACTF Region III Irene Ryan nominees.

- \*Denotes multiple nominations

- **Texas Tech University**

*Graduate Part-Time Instructor of Acting, 2014-2017*

- Taught Introduction to Acting for non-majors for two years. Recipient of the Helen DeVitt Jones Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award through the Texas Tech University Graduate School in 2017.
- *Teaching Assistant for Cinema*  
Assisted in grading assignments, meeting with students, and managing attendance for 60-80 students (per semester) in the Cinema course for one year.

### **Acting/Directing**

- Professional actor, performed with 3<sup>rd</sup> Act Theatre Company, Carpenter Square Theatre, Ghost Light Theatre, Reduxion, participated in many staged readings with Michael Legg through Texas Tech University's Wild Wind Program (including working on a staged reading of *Queens* by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Martyna Majok), as well as the Illinois Shakespeare Festival as a non-equity company member for three seasons. Academic actor for over fifteen years, having received numerous awards for excellence in performance and directing, as well as over a dozen Irene Ryan Acting nominations from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival organization.
- Professional director, past projects include directing at the high school level, co-directing over a dozen productions with the Oklahoma Center for Arts Education, various student projects at both the undergraduate and graduate level, including the premiere production of Jonathan Peck's *A Father's Trial*. Selected directing projects include Caryl Churchill's *Vinegar Tom* at Illinois State University, which received many awards in both production and performance categories, the world premiere of Nancy Steele Brokaw's *Shakespeare Bootcamp* with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, the world premiere and inaugural production for new theatre company Nomad Theatre's show *Raising the Bar*, Sarah DeLappe's *The Wolves* at Illinois State University, and would have directed the Nancy Steele Brokaw world premiere of *Measure Up!* with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival the summer of 2020, but the season was cancelled due to Covid-19. Most recent productions include Jen Silverman's *The Moors*, and Jenny Rachel Weiner's *Horse Girls*, both at the University of Central Oklahoma in the Studio theatre, and Anne Washburn's *mr. burns: a post-electric play*, at the University of Central Oklahoma in Mitchell Hall Theatre. Upcoming production: *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really*, which will be the Mitchell Hall 2026-2027 season opener at the University of Central Oklahoma.

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE: COURSE OVERVIEW

### *University of Central Oklahoma*

Adjunct Professor, 2024-Present

- THRT 1523 Beginning Acting for Majors
- THRT 3633 Voice and Movement 3
- THRT 3513 Voice, Speech, and Dialects
- THRT 3563 Audition Techniques
- THRT 3583 Improvisation
- THRT 4623 Acting Styles I
  
- THRT 4353 Theatre History I: Origin to Renaissance
- THRT 4363 Theatre History II: Renaissance to Contemporary
- THRT 4731 Directing and Collaboration Lab
- THRT 4812 Irene Ryan Studio

### *Illinois State University*

Instructional Assistant Professor of Acting, 2017-Present

- THE 101 Oral Interpretation of Literature
- THE 110 Acting I
- THE 113 & 313 Acting II
- THE 153 Introduction to Acting
- THE 211 Vocal Technique for the Actor I
- THE 212 Vocal Technique for the Actor II
- THE 221 Stage Movement II
- THE 256 Voice and Movement for the Actor I
- THE 257 Voice and Movement for the Actor II
- THE 214 Acting Styles: Discovery and Performance—Shakespeare

- THE 322                      Auditioning
- THE 372                      Topics in Voice: Dialects
- THE 398                      Professional Practice in Theatre
- Independent Studies
- Honors Contracts

### ***Texas Tech University***

Graduate Part-Time Instructor, 2014-2017

- THA 2301                      Introduction to Acting
- THA 2304                      Introduction to Cinema

## **OTHER SERVICES TO THE UNIVERSITY**

### **University of Central Oklahoma**

*ACTF Coach, Region VI (ongoing)*

- Duties include coaching ACTF Irene Ryan nominees in both scene and monologue performances in preparation for competition at the annual festival. In the 2024-2025 season we took fourteen competing groups—seven advanced to the semi-finals, and four to the finals round. In the 2025-2026 season, we took fourteen competing groups—four advanced to the semi-finals, as well as the finals round.

*Acting Area Progressions (ongoing)*

- Duties include participating in annual meetings dedicated to individual assessment of degree progress for all acting majors in the Theatre Arts Department.

*Student Director Faculty Advisor—Upstage Theatre Collaboration*

- *Boy My Greatness, 2025*

### **Illinois State University**

*ISU KC-ACTF Acting Coach, Region III, 2022-2023*

- Mentored and prepped nominated Irene Ryan students through all stages of preparation for the Region III Festival in Flint, Michigan. Duties included individual assessments of each actor's strengths, advising them on how to pick a partner that compliments aforementioned strengths, and, ultimately, finding new and exciting material to display their talents in a competitive nature. Of the nine duos we took, six made it to the semi-

finals round, and one group made it to finals. The Irene Ryan nominee from this final duo went on to receive an award given through VASTA for their work at the end of the festival.

### *Acting Program Curriculum*

- Assisted in the updating of the School of Theatre and Dance’s Acting Program curriculum. Participated in the review and revising of current courses, as well as creating new curriculum that provides students with even more opportunities to expand their knowledge and participation in the craft of acting. I specifically helped shape the merging of Voice for the Actor I & II with Movement for the Actor I & II, which is now Voice and Movement for the Actor I & II. I felt strongly, alongside my fellow acting colleagues, that this separation of classes led students to think of voice and movement as separate things, when they should ideally be working in harmonious collaboration. In merging the two, we opened the door to offer more specific courses, such as another course I helped to shape—Topics of Voice: Dialects. Additionally, I had a hand in the revisions of the Acting II course, as well as the creation of the Improvisation for the Actor course. *2020-2021*

### *Acting Assessments*

- Duties include participating in bi-annual week-long meetings dedicated to individual assessment sessions for all acting majors in the School of Theatre and Dance program.

### *Student Director Faculty Advisor—MFA Mainstage*

- Duties include mentoring MFA Directing candidates as they cast and mount published works for the Mainstage Season.
  - *Good Kids, 2021*

### *Student Director Faculty Advisor—Undergraduate FreeStage*

- Duties include mentoring student directors as they cast and mount both original and published works for performance in the FreeStage Festival.
  - *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again., 2022*
  - *The Last Five Years, 2022*
  - *Ordinary Days, 2021*
  - *Exis\*, 2020*
  - *Dance Piece\*, 2020*
  - *Orlando\*, 2020*
  - *Improv Mafia Show, 2020*
  - *When We Were Young and Unafraid, 2019*
  - *Parallel Lives, 2018*
  - *Studio of the South, 2018 (co-advisor)*
  - *Pardon Me, 2018*
  - *The Man in the Salmon Jacket, 2017*

\*Denotes cancellation due to Covid-19

## *Student Mentor*

- Duties include mentoring various students in the process of creating artistic work for themselves within both the School of Theatre and Dance, as well as their local community.

## *Audition Prep Coach*

- Duties include assisting students in selecting, cutting, and performing audition material for both the School of Theatre and Dance auditions, as well as professional auditions.

## *Thesis Committee Member*

- Jessica Fleeman, MFA Design and Production, 3<sup>rd</sup> year 2021-2022

## *Voice/Dialect Coach*

- Duties include coaching the vocal work, including a variety of dialects, for both FreeStage and Mainstage shows. Detailed list below.

## *School of Theatre and Dance Recruitment*

- Duties include attending a high school theatre conference day-long session dedicated to auditioning potential recruits for the School of Theatre and Dance, as well as participating in potential student audition sessions.

## *KC-ACTF Volunteer Coach*

- Duties include coaching KC-ACTF Irene Ryan nominees in both scene and monologue performances in preparation for competition at the annual festival.

## *KC-ACTF Adjudication Respondent*

- Duties include attending and responding to various KCACTF-affiliated productions by leading a post-show talk back discussing all elements of the production.
  - *Seeds*, Trinity Christian College 2018, shadowing Lori Adams and John Stark

## *Illinois Shakespeare Festival Invited Gathering*

- Participated in brainstorming discussions for the 2020 Illinois Shakespeare Festival season. *May 2019*

## **Texas Tech University**

### *Box Office Employee*

- Duties included selling tickets to patrons, cash handling, and collaborating with front of house operations to facilitate student reserve tickets.

## *Costume Shop Staff*

- Served as assistant to the Costume Shop Supervisor. Duties include handling interdepartmental affairs via email and telephone, scheduling, and organizing the facility. Other main role was shop buyer, in charge of purchases pertaining to the Costume shop, both in-house and production related, from both local and online suppliers. Also assisted in some minor elements of costume construction.

## *Research Assistant*

- Served as Research Assistant (RA) to Dr. Bill Gelber, Director of Theatre for the Texas Tech School of Theatre and Dance, for two years. Duties include aiding in classroom assignment preparations, scheduling, designing and distributing posters for masterclasses, compiling research for future publications, etc. Also aided in the organizational work in the initial stages of the collaboration between the Texas Tech School of Theatre and Dance and The Craftsmen of Dionysus.

## **DIRECTING EXPERIENCE**

<i>**Dracula: A Feminist Revenge...</i>	Director	University of Central Oklahoma
<i>mr. burns: a post electric play</i>	Director	University of Central Oklahoma
<i>Horse Girls</i>	Director	University of Central Oklahoma
<i>The Moors</i>	Director	University of Central Oklahoma
<i>Measure Up*</i>	Director	Illinois Shakespeare Festival
<i>The Wolves</i>	Director	Illinois State University
<i>Raising the Bar</i>	Director	Nomad Theatre Company
<i>Shakespeare Bootcamp</i>	Director	Illinois Shakespeare Festival
<i>Vinegar Tom</i>	Director	Illinois State University
<i>A Father's Trial</i>	Director	Texas Tech University
<i>The Orientation</i>	Director	University of Central Oklahoma
<i>FUBAR VIII</i>	Co-Director	University of Central Oklahoma
<i>Sweeney Todd Jr.</i>	Co-Director	Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
<i>Annie</i>	Co-Director	Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
<i>Honk! The Musical</i>	Co-Director	Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
<i>Dear Edwina</i>	Co-Director	Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
<i>Beaty and The Beast</i>	Co-Director	Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>	Co-Director	Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
<i>Willy Wonka Jr.</i>	Co-Director	Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
<i>Little Mermaid Jr.</i>	Co-Director	Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
<i>Mulan: The Musical Jr.</i>	Co-Director	Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
<i>Shrek: The Musical Jr.</i>	Co-Director	Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
<i>Seussical Jr.</i>	Co-Director	Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
<i>Savage Dilemma</i>	Director	Putnam City North High School
<i>Happily Ever, Once Upon</i>	Director	Putnam City North High School

\*Cancelled due to Covid-19

\*\*Upcoming

**SELECTED THEATRE PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

~ <i>Violet Sharp</i>	Betty Gow	Terry Veal, CST
*** <i>Gaslight</i>	Bella	Christine Jolly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Act
<i>Clue: Onstage!</i>	Mrs. Peacock	Collin Andrulonis, CST
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Antonia	Lisa Dixon, ISF
<i>Love's Labor*</i>	Costard	Quetta Carpenter, Factory
<i>Caesar</i>	Casca	Quetta Carpenter, ISF
<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	Mistress Quickly	Deanna Jent, ISF
<i>Henry V</i>	Quickly/Orleans	Karen Kessler, ISF
<i>Shakespeare In Love</i>	Quickly/Kate	Marti Lyons, ISF
<i>Still Dance the Stars*</i>	Gretta	Kristin Schoenback, ISU
<i>The Illusion</i>	Alcandre	Enrico Spada, ISU
<i>Outrageous Fortune*</i>	Louise Bell	Dr. Kim Pereira, ISU
<i>Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play</i>	Jenny/Marge	Caroline Jane Davis, TTU
<i>Hurricane Katrina Play*</i>	Various Roles	Meg Davis, TTU
<i>Sometimes Fire*</i>	Ensemble	Michael Legg, Wild Wind
<i>Wonder*</i>	Beverly	Michael Legg, Wild Wind
<i>Queens*</i>	Ensemble	Michael Legg, Wild Wind
<i>The Pinsky Project</i>	Della	Richard Corley, TTU
<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Mrs. Kirby	Dr. Jonathan Marks, TTU
<i>Mother Courage**</i>	Mother Courage	Dr. Bill Gelber, TTU
<i>The Soft Parade</i>	Vi	Nikki Singer, TTU
<i>bobrauschenbergamerica</i>	Bob's Mom	Dr. Kato Buss, UCO
<i>Sketchy</i>	Bev	Sierra Carter, Reduxion
<i>Measure for Measure</i>	Duke	Dr. Robert McGill, UCO
<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>	Amanda	Dr. Robert McGill, UCO
<i>Anton in Show Business</i>	Wikivitch	Dr. Kato Buss, UCO
<i>Henry V</i>	Fluellen	Jerry Ferraccio, UCO
<i>The Lark</i>	Joan's Mother	Dr. Donald Bristow, UCO
<i>Tartuffe</i>	Dorine	Timothy Mooney, UCO
<i>Changed Forever</i>	Theresa	Hayley Thompson, UCO
<i>Three Sisters</i>	Masha	John Dennis, UCO
<i>Antigone</i>	Chorus	Dr. Robert McGill, UCO

~Current Project

\*Staged Readings

\*\*Thesis Role

\*\*\*Indicates nomination for Broadway Award Oklahoma, Best Performer category

**FILM**

<i>Sonnet 24: Promotional</i>	Self	Illinois Shakespeare Festival
<i>Take Time to Pause: Promotional</i>	Paulina	Illinois Shakespeare Festival
<i>The Fable of Shannon Cable</i>	Party Goer	Vinnie Hogan
<i>Changed Forever Documentary</i>	Actor	UCO

**VOCAL/DIALECT COACHING**

**OKC Area**

- *Violet Sharp*, Carpenter Square Theatre, 2026
  - *RP, Cockney, Estuary, Scottish, New York*
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Poteet Theatre, 2026
  - *RP, Estuary*
- *The Women of Lockerbie*, Deer Creek High, 2025
  - *Scottish*
- *The Secret Garden*, Poteet Theatre, 2025
  - *RP, Yorkshire*
- *Clue: Onstage!*, Carpenter Square Theatre, 2023
  - *French*
- *Outside Mullingar*, Heartland Theatre 2019
  - *Irish*

**University of Central Oklahoma**

- *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really* (Upcoming, Fall 2026)
  - *Romanian, RP, Estuary*
- *Blithe Spirit*, 2025
  - *RP, Cockney*
- *Alabaster*, 2025
  - *General Southern*
- *Fleabag*, 2024
  - *RP, Cockney*

**Chicago Area**

- *Red Light Winter*, Ego Death Theatre Collective, 2026
  - *French*

**Illinois State University**

- *Murder on the Orient Express*, 2023
  - *Various*
- *Men on Boats*, 2023
  - *General Southern*

- *Fairview*, 2022
  - *French*
- *Gross Indecency*, Mainstage 2021
  - *RP*
- *Violet*, FreeStage 2019
  - *General Southern*
- *We are Proud to Present...*, FreeStage 2019
  - *Various*
- *Blue Room*, FreeStage 2019
  - *French*
- *The Light in the Piazza*, Mainstage 2019
  - *Italian*
- *Ga-AD!*, Mainstage 2018
  - *Various*

### Texas Tech University

- *Sweet Eros*, Student Project 2016

## PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS—PROFESSIONAL

### Illinois Shakespeare Festival

- Illinois Shakespeare Acting Interns x The Factory
  - The Factory, a collective comprised of myself and LaQuetta Carpenter, established a collaboration with the acting intern class for the 2020-2021 season to workshop our current project, *Love's Labor*, a feminist adaptation and re-writing of Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*. Interns were introduced to the process of new play development which culminated into a reading for invited company members. *July 2021*
- Illinois Shakespeare Festival Intern Panel
  - Participated in a panel of directors for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival intern class. Subjects discussed included casting processes, work/life balance, etc. *June 2019*

## PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS—UNIVERSITY

### University of Central Oklahoma

- Guest Lecturer: Voice and Movement III
  - First visit, presented an hour-long class to students in the UCO Department of Theatre and Dance's advanced voice and movement course. The topic of focus was Patsy Rodenburg's *Second Circle* activities. Second visit, coached students' scenes for final performances. *August 2023, December 2023*

## Illinois State University

- Guest Workshop Presenter: PHY 307—Seminar in Physics
  - Presented an hour-long workshop to students of the Physics Department to assist in developing communication skills by utilizing improvisational acting techniques. *April 2018*

## Texas Tech University

- “The Art of Flirting: Casual Social Interaction for Individuals in College”
  - Assisted in a workshop created through the Texas Tech Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research for the Project CASE students. After being led through a detailed lecture delving into the subtle art of flirting, the Project CASE students were welcomed into a party lab to model some of the techniques imparted to them by engaging with actor volunteers. *April 2017*
- “Status Transactions for Classroom Management”
  - Assisted with workshop in vocal and physical dynamics to help international teaching assistants to communicate more effectively in a classroom environment, as well as with one-on-one advising, through explorations of Keith Johnstone’s Status Transactions. *July 2016*
- Texas Tech University School of Law
  - Participated and performed in a mock trial geared towards preparing law students for handling difficult clients in a courtroom setting. *March 2016*
- Acting Workshop, UIL One-Act Play Clinics
  - Led students through various physical and vocal exercises to help develop rich and complex character work. Exercises included Viewpoints, Status transactions, as well as games that welcome the art of play, developed by Matt Chapman. *July 2016*
- Acting, East Lubbock Promise Neighborhood Grant Program
  - Assisted fellow Texas Tech School of Theatre and Dance students in teaching students ranging from K-5 basic introduction to both theatre and acting techniques, with a special focus on warm-ups and collaborative group exercises. *2015*

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)

- Served as the Graduate Student Representative on the Conference Committee *2017*
  - Aided in facilitating “ATHE: After Dark” event

- Aided in facilitating “ATHE: By the Pool” event
- Created and distributed a survey for graduate student attendees
- Served as the Graduate Student Representative for the Acting Focus Group *2017, 2018*

## **Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC)**

- “From Classroom to Colleague: Transitions from Grad School”, *March 2019*
  - Panel discussion with professors Ashley Love, Rick Reeves, Jamie Rogers, and Gabriel Vanover

## **Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA)**

- “The Laughter Yoga Warmup”, *August 2019*
  - Warm-up created and presented with Professor Connie de Veer

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), *2015-Present*
- Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA), *2018-Present*

## **HONORS/AWARDS**

Oklahoma Broadway Awards Nominee, Best Performer (Bella in *Gaslight*), *2025*

Illinois State University Impact Award Recipient: *2022*

ISU Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts Outstanding Teacher Award, Category II, *2020*

Illinois State University Impact Award Recipient\*: *2020*

Illinois State University Impact Award Recipient: *2019*

ISU SoTD Mask & Hammer, Various Awards for *Vinegar Tom*: *2019*

ATHE Acting Focus Group Young Professional Rep: *2017-2018*

Helen DeVitt Jones Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award: *2017*

ATHE Conference Planning Committee: *2016-2017*

ATHE Acting Focus Group Graduate Rep: *2015-2017*

CH Foundation Scholarship: *2016-2017*

J.T. and Margaret Talkington Scholarship: *2014-2015, 2015-2016*

KC-ACTF Irene Ryan Nominee at Texas Tech University: *2015*

Texas Tech School of Theatre and Dance Best Actress: *2015*

University of Central Oklahoma Theatre Student Advisory Board Secretary/Co-Founder: *2013*

KC-ACTF Irene Ryan Nominee at University of Central Oklahoma: *2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013*

University of Central Oklahoma Department of Theatre and Dance Excellence in Fine Arts-Acting: *2010, 2014*

University of Central Oklahoma Alpha Psi Omega Chapter’s Best Lead Actress: *2009-2010, 2011-2012, 2013-2014*

## KFW CURRICULUM VITAE

Alpha Psi Omega member: *2009-2014*

Oklahoma State Superintendent Award for Excellence in Fine Arts-Theatre: *2009*

\*Denotes Multiple Nominations