

Emily Shaffer
Dramaturg
A Divine Kerfuffle

H. Russ Brown, Our Playwright



H. Russ Brown is a family-oriented person, as said on his website that his greatest achievement is his marriage to his wife, Elizabeth, and his two amazing kids, Grant and Auben. A quote on Brown’s website that really paints a picture of who he is, is as follows: “Love is my Sword, Faith is my Armour & Humor is my Shield” – H. Russ Brown.

He began his career over thirty years ago in Texas. H. Russ Brown received his Bachelor of Science in Journalism with a focus on Advertising & Public Relations from Texas A&M University. He then went on to get his Master of Fine arts in Acting from Western Illinois

University. Brown is also a Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors.

H. Russ Brown is an artist who wears many hats, some of which include Actor, Director, Set Designer, Fight Director, Dialect Coach, Playwright, Prop Designer, Costume Designer,

Educator, and Graphic Artist.

Brown currently serves as Head of Theatre / Artistic Director for the College of the Mainland Theatre Program in Texas City, TX. Previous work in education includes teaching and guest lecturing at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of Houston, Texas Tech University, Illinois State University, North Carolina School of the Arts, Ball State University, Lon Morris College,



Figure 1: H. Russ Brown directing actors.

Nicolet College, Spoon River College, Elgin Community College, Roosevelt University, and Western Illinois University.

H. Russ Brown is very experienced with contemporary, classical, and musical theatre performance. Some of his previous roles include Tevya in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd*, Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Hotspur in *Henry IV, Part 1*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Curly in *Oklahoma!*, Fagin in *Oliver!*, and The King of Siam in *The King and I*.

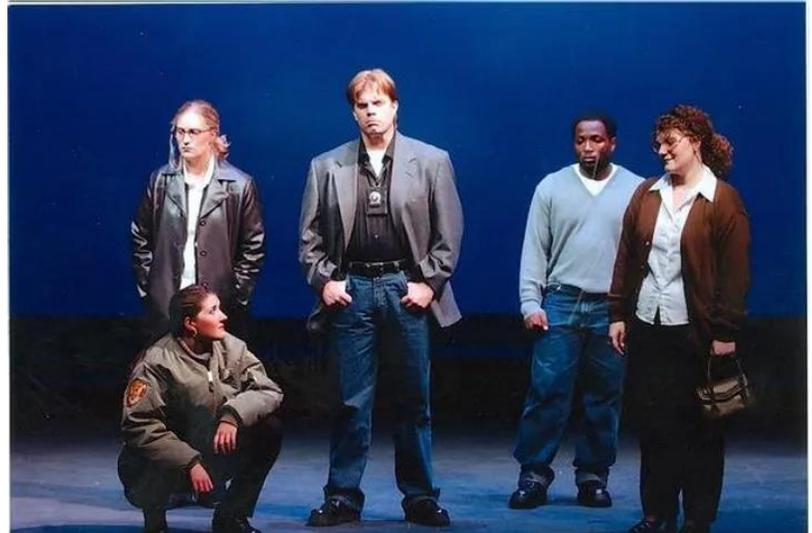


Figure 2: Brown as Det. Debree in "The Laramie Project"

Brown is a director successful with all kinds of theatre but is exceptional with Comedy and Musical Theatre. He believes a story should be both seen and heard, not only told emotionally, but when done correctly, the audience will experience the muscular expression of the story. Brown is passionate about bringing his unique vision to the timeless themes of personal conflict and the human experiences. Some of his previous directorial experiences include *Eurydice* with Wildcat Theatre Company, *Oklahoma!* with Lon Morris College, *Southern Hospitality* with Wildcat Theatre Company, *Amahl and The Night Visitors* with C. U. Methodist Playhouse, and *The Fantasticks* with Lon Morris College.

H. Russ Brown has been choreographing fights on stage for 25 years in over 100 productions as a Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors. He has worked all over the country, from Chicago, to Houston, to L.A. to New York, and back. Brown believes that staged violence should serve the story, not show off his choreography. He works collaboratively with the production team to design the choreography, ensure the Director's vision is honored, and create safe and dramatically effective moves. Some of his previous work as an SAFD Certified Teacher includes *The Three Musketeers* with Alley Theatre, *Hamlet* with Trama Theatre Company of Chicago, *Newsies* with Stratford HS Players, *Sweeney Todd* with Columbia Entertainment Company, *I Hate Hamlet* with Nicolet College, and *Julius Caesar* with UW-Stevens Point. Brown also has choreography experience with weapons, unarmed / martial arts,

and equestrian skills. The weapons Brown has experience with are Broadsword, Bullwhip, Small Sword, Western Lariat, Single Sword, Knife, Rapier / Dagger, Quarterstaff / Bo Staff, Shaolin Spear, Filipino Fighting Sticks, Sword & Shield, and Firearms. The unarmed / martial arts experience is with Tae Chuang Do, Tae Kwon Do, Kickboxing, Boxing, Wrestling, and Street / Ground Fighting. The Equestrian Skills he has experience with is Western / Rodeo.

This video highlights Brown's work: <https://youtu.be/vZKQzQ47od8>

H. Russ Brown has over 25 years of experience training actors in stage dialect and voice-over acting. He focuses on how to vocally portray characters that are both unique and truthful. Brown is experienced with the IPA, (International Phonetic Alphabet). His website features audio clips of his dialect work.



Figure 3: Brown's design work for "Lend Me A Tenor" at Studio Theatre in 2007.

H. Russ Brown has over 25 years of professional experience in Advertising and Marketing, especially because it's what he got his degree in for undergrad. His focuses are Logo Design for Theatres and Companies, Custom Set Dressing pieces, and Theatrical Marketing design.

To learn more about H. Russ Brown, please visit his website: hrussbrown.com.

Source:

“H. Russ Brown / Excelsior! Theatricals - Theatre Artist.” *hrussbrown*, www.hrussbrown.com/.
Accessed 20 Dec. 2023.