

Jennifer Riley

Director. Artist. Teacher.

Ogden, Utah
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Theatre director, educator, and artistic leader with 20+ years of experience directing professional, collegiate, community, and educational productions. Recognized for building collaborative rehearsal environments where actors, designers, technicians, and creative teams thrive through trust, shared ownership, and artistic rigor. Specializes in Shakespeare, musical theatre, and actor-centered storytelling, combining expertise in classical text, movement, vocal coaching, choreography, and intimacy practices to create bold, meaningful theatre while developing artists at every stage of their careers.

EDUCATION

- Master of Fine Arts – Theatre Arts (Directing Emphasis)
University of Idaho
- Bachelor of Arts – Musical Theatre
Weber State University
- Master of Business Administration (In Progress)
Weber State University

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Founder and Artistic Director of Ogden Shakespeare Festival
- Directed professional, collegiate, community, and educational productions ranging from Shakespeare and classical theatre to large-scale musicals and new works
- Built collaborative creative teams by fostering trust, shared ownership, and open artistic dialogue
- Mentored performers ranging from youth actors to collegiate and professional artists
- Experienced in artistic planning, production management, grant-supported programming, and community engagement
- Currently pursuing an MBA to complement artistic leadership with strategic organizational management

SELECTED DIRECTING CREDITS

Professional Theatre

Production	Company	Year
Julius Caesar	Ogden Shakespeare Festival	2026
ShakesFeare	Ogden Shakespeare Festival	2025
The Merry Wives of Windsor	Ogden Shakespeare Festival	2025
As You Like It	Ogden Shakespeare Festival	2024

Production	Company	Year
Annie	Ogden Musical Theatre	2025
The Hunchback of Notre Dame	Ogden Musical Theatre	2024
The Secret Garden	Ogden Musical Theatre	2023
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Next Ensemble	2021

Collegiate Theatre

Production	Institution	Year
Her Sister	University of Idaho First Bite Series	2021

Educational Theatre

Production	School	Year
Matilda	St. Joseph Catholic High School	2025
Bright Star	St. Joseph Catholic High School	2024
Into the Woods	St. Joseph Catholic High School	2023
The Hunchback of Notre Dame	St. Joseph Catholic High School	2022
Anything Goes	St. Joseph Catholic High School	2021
West Side Story	St. Joseph Catholic High School	2020

DIRECTING PHILOSOPHY

My rehearsal room is built on trust, collaboration, and artistic curiosity. I believe the strongest productions emerge when every member of the company—from actors and designers to technicians and stage management—feels empowered to contribute creatively. By cultivating an environment where artists feel safe to take risks, challenge assumptions, and support one another, I strive to create theatre that is both deeply human and artistically compelling. I want to be known for creating an environment that enables everyone to do their best work!

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Artistic Leadership

- Ensemble Building
- Creative Team Leadership
- Artistic Vision & Concept Development
- Actor-Centered Directing
- Collaborative Rehearsal Processes

Directing

- Shakespeare & Classical Theatre
- Musical Theatre
- Contemporary Drama
- New Works
- Adaptation & Dramaturgy

Movement & Performance

- Choreography
- Stage Movement
- Viewpoints
- Suzuki
- Intimacy Practices
- Vocal Coaching

Education & Mentorship

- Performer Development
- Acting Pedagogy
- Classical Text Training
- Stanislavski
- Uta Hagen
- Michael Chekhov

Organizational Leadership

- Strategic Planning
- Grant-Supported Programming
- Community Partnerships
- Production Management
- Team Development