

Laura Copenhaver

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EDUCATION

David Geffen School of Drama at Yale University 2022
MFA – Technical Design and Production New Haven, CT

Florida State University 2003
BA – Theater and English Literature Tallahassee, FL

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

VIRGINIA TECH *2022-present*
Technical Director / Assistant Professor of the Practice in Technical Direction Blacksburg, VA
Teach undergraduate technical theater courses in the fall and spring; serve as technical director and shop supervisor for School of Performing Arts theater productions; mentor undergraduate and graduate students in technical direction and props management; maintain the scenery budget for four productions a year; teach graduate level production studios each semester; Create and modify curriculum for undergraduate technical theater students; serve on the Graduate Steering committee within the department of Theatre Cinema.

Courses Taught:

TA 3014 Production Lab: Scene Shop *Fall 2022 - present*
Course description: Production experiences in the areas of performance, design and theatre technology, with specific focus on scenic carpentry and electrics work, with direct application to School of Performing Arts productions.

TA 2014 Stage and Lighting Technology *Fall 2022 - present*
Course description: This course explores the area of Technical Theatre in Scenery and Lighting, and introduces how these technical aspects, and others, are approached in the production of contemporary theatre. Additionally, through hands-on experience and field tours of theatres on campus, exposure to discernable stages and equipment will be observed locally.

TA 3144 Topics: Technical Direction *Spring 2023*
Course description: This course is an overview of the role of the Technical Director within a contemporary theater production, and an introduction to the many skills in which a TD must be proficient. Through lecture, discussion, and projects, students will be exposed to and practice each of the skills, culminating in a final project that they will oversee and execute from budgeting to strike.

TA 3144 Topics: Drafting in AutoCAD *Fall 2023*
Course description: This course is an introduction to drafting and modeling in 2D and 3D AutoCAD, with additional focus on communicating design ideas and technical drawings on paper to facilitate communication with collaborators.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

TA 3144 Topics: Structural Design for the Stage I

Spring 2024

Course description: This course is designed to equip students with the knowledge necessary to quantify the load requirements for a structural member, perform stress analysis, and select the appropriate material for a given loading condition. It uses *Structural Design for the Stage* (2nd edition, Holden et al.) and covers stress analysis, and beam and column design in wood.

DAVID GEFLEN SCHOOL OF DRAMA AT YALE UNIVERSITY

2019 – 2021

Teaching Assistant

New Haven, CT

Grade homework, tutor students, and teach review sessions for the Structural Design for the Stage course.

Courses Assisted:

DRA 109a Structural Design for the Stage I

DRA 109b Structural Design for the Stage II

DRA 209a Structural Design for the Stage III

LAKE NONA HIGH SCHOOL

2012 – 2018

Theater Teacher / Technical Director

Orlando, FL

Teach a full schedule of high school-level courses in a wide assortment of theatrical topics, including performance, improvisation, design, and technical production. Serve as scenic designer, lighting designer, and technical director for 3-4 fully realized productions per year, or supervise students filling those roles. Develop technical theater curriculum and common final exams for Orange County Public Schools. Serve as Secretary of the Board for Florida District 5 Thespians (a district of the International Thespian Society), plan the district festival for ~1500 students annually, manage student workers at both the district festival and state festival.

Courses Taught:

Theatre 1

2012 – 2018

Course description: Theatre I is designed to give students a well-rounded introduction to the theatrical arts.

Students will develop a basic understanding of main concepts and be equipped with tools for success on the stage. The course will allow students the opportunity to participate in both improvised and rehearsed performances. Topics of study include introductions to pantomime, Theatrical performance standards, improvisation, plot structure, comedy, tragedy, theatre history, and acting.

Comprehensive Theatre

2013 – 2018

Course description: This course is designed to give students an understanding of advanced concepts in drama and equip them with the tools produce a fully realized production from start to finish. Students will participate in both improvised and planned performances, and work on the creation of a fully realized theatrical production.

Stagecraft 1

2012 – 2018

Course description: This course is an introduction to the practical skills necessary to create a theatrical production and to the design work that creates the visual and aural environment of a production. Through lecture, discussion, and hands-on application, students will practice skills in carpentry, costuming, props, sound, and lighting, and create designs for each discipline.

Advanced Stagecraft*2013 – 2018*

Course description: This course explores advanced topics in the art of making a theatrical production. Students will learn advanced tool and equipment usage, create designs for realized productions, and execute the designs for two mainstage productions.

COLONIAL HIGH SCHOOL*2007 – 2012***Theater Teacher / Director, Technical Director**

Teach a full schedule of high school-level courses in a wide assortment of theatrical topics, including courses in performance, improvisation, design, and technical production. Serve as scenic designer, lighting designer, and technical director for 2-3 fully realized productions per year, or supervise students filling those roles.

Courses Taught:**Theatre 1***2007 – 2012*

Course description: Theatre I is designed to give students a well-rounded introduction to the theatrical arts. Students will develop a basic understanding of main concepts and be equipped with tools for success on the stage. The course will allow students the opportunity to participate in both improvised and rehearsed performances. Topics of study include introductions to pantomime, Theatrical performance standards, improvisation, plot structure, comedy, tragedy, theatre history, and acting.

Theatre 2*2007 – 2012*

Course description: Theatre II is designed to give students a deeper understanding of performance techniques, as well as an introduction to technical theater and the production process. Students will participate in improvised and planned performances, and work on the creation of one act plays that incorporate some technical elements.

Comprehensive Theatre*2009 – 2012*

Course description: This course is designed to give students an understanding of advanced concepts in drama and equip them with the tools produce a fully realized production from start to finish. Students will participate in both improvised and planned performances, and work on the creation of a fully realized theatrical production.

Stagecraft 1*2008 – 2012*

Course description: This course is an introduction to the practical skills necessary to create a theatrical production and to the design work that creates the visual and aural environment of a production. Through lecture, discussion, and hands-on application, students will practice skills in carpentry, costuming, props, sound, and lighting, and create designs for each discipline.

Advanced Stagecraft*2009 – 2012*

Course description: This course explores advanced topics in the art of making a theatrical production. Students will learn advanced tool and equipment usage, create designs for realized productions, and execute the designs for two mainstage productions.

PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

Technical Supervisor	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Virginia Tech SOPA	David R. Gammons
Technical Supervisor	<i>Or,</i>	Virginia Tech SOPA	Amanda Nelson
Tech. Director	<i>Sleep Deprivation Chamber</i>	Virginia Tech SOPA	David R. Gammons
Scenic Designer	<i>Placebo</i>	Virginia Tech SOPA	Suzanna Rinehart
Technical Supervisor	<i>Placebo</i>	Virginia Tech SOPA	Suzanna Rinehart
Technical Supervisor	<i>Oedipus</i>	Virginia Tech SOPA	David R. Gammons
Technical Supervisor	<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i>	Virginia Tech SOPA	C. Rawlings & A. Wyatt
Tech. Director	<i>Describe the Night</i>	Virginia Tech SOPA	Suzanna Rinehart
Tech. Director	<i>This Random World</i>	Virginia Tech SOPA	Amanda Nelson
Asst. Tech. Dir.	<i>Choir Boy</i>	Yale Repertory Theatre	Christopher Betts
Tech. Director	<i>She Kills Monsters</i>	Yale School of Drama	Adrienne D. Williams
Tech. Director	<i>Two Mile Hollow</i>	Yale Cabaret	Kat Yen
Props Head	<i>Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play</i>	Yale School of Drama	Kat Yen
Assc. Tech. Dir.	<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	Colorado Shakes	Christopher DuVal
Assc. Tech. Dir.	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Colorado Shakes	Timothy Orr
Tech. Director	<i>Henry VI</i>	Yale School of Drama	Logan Ellis
Asst. Tech. Dir.	<i>Trouble in Mind</i>	Yale School of Drama	Anisha Kudtarkar
Production Electrician	<i>El Huracan</i>	Yale Repertory Theatre	Laurie Woolery
Tech. Director (TD), Scenic Designer (SD), Lighting Designer (LD)	<i>Aida</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD, LD	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, LD	<i>In the Heights</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD, LD	<i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD	<i>Hairspray</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD	<i>Leading Ladies</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD	<i>West Side Story</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD	<i>25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD	<i>Les Miserables</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD	<i>Loving Lives</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD	<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD	<i>Songs for a New World</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Lake Nona HS	Gail Chase
TD, SD	<i>Aida</i>	Colonial HS	Noelle Monroe
TD, SD	<i>Night of Our Ives</i>	Colonial HS	Noelle Monroe
TD, SD	<i>The Mystery at Twicknam Vicarage</i>	Colonial HS	Noelle Monroe
TD, SD	<i>Murder by Poe</i>	Colonial HS	Noelle Monroe
TD, SD	<i>Fame</i>	Colonial HS	Noelle Monroe
TD, SD	<i>25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	Colonial HS	Laura Copenhaver

PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE (cont.)

TD, SD	<i>The Foreigner</i>	Colonial HS	Laura Copenhaver
TD, SD	<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	Colonial HS	Laura Copenhaver
TD, SD	<i>The Odd Couple</i>	Colonial HS	Laura Copenhaver
TD, SD	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i>	Colonial HS	Laura Copenhaver
TD, SD	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Colonial HS	Laura Copenhaver

STUDENT MENTORING

At Virginia Tech:

Aya Giardina	Tech. Director	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Spring 2024
G. Gada	Asst. Tech Dir.	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Spring 2024
G. Gada	Tech. Director	<i>Or,</i>	Fall 2023
Aya Giardina	Tech. Director	<i>Placebo</i>	Fall 2023
G. Gada	Asst. Tech. Dir.	<i>Placebo</i>	Fall 2023
Taylor Wood	Props Design & Manager	<i>Placebo</i>	Fall 2023
Aya Giardina	Tech. Director	<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i>	Spring 2023
Jacob Lee	Asst. Tech. Dir.	<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i>	Spring 2023
Jessica Gmitter	Props Head	<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i>	Spring 2023
Daniel Solomon Holland (MFA)	Tech. Director	<i>Oedipus</i>	Spring 2023
G. Gada	Asst. Tech. Dir.	<i>Oedipus</i>	Spring 2023
Jessica Gmitter	Props Head	<i>Oedipus</i>	Spring 2023
Taylor Woods	Asst. Props Head	<i>Oedipus</i>	Spring 2023
Alex Munn (MFA)	Props Des.	<i>Describe the Night</i>	Fall 2022
Jessica Gmitter	Asst. Tech. Dir.	<i>Describe the Night</i>	Fall 2022
Aya Giardina	Tech. Designer	<i>Describe the Night</i>	Fall 2022
Zed Mohr	Tech. Designer	<i>Describe the Night</i>	Fall 2022
Aya Giardina	Asst. Tech. Dir.	<i>This Random World</i>	Fall 2022
Alex Munn (MFA)	Props Des.	<i>This Random World</i>	Fall 2022
Jessica Gmitter	Asst. Props	<i>This Random World</i>	Fall 2022

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Graduate Steering Committee

Virginia Tech 2022-Present

REFERENCES

Available upon request.