

Employment History

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

August 2021-Present

Graduate Assistant are assigned various work supporting IU's Department of Theatre and Contemporary Dance, but primarily serving as teaching assistants and associate instructors. I was the Teaching Assistant for one section of Intro to Theatre for Dr. Jenny Lane. I served as Professor of Record for the following courses:

- Fundamentals of Acting (seven sections): instruct non-majors on the basics of Stanislavski's system and introduce students to the craft of acting.
- Acting 1 for Majors (one section): instruct majors on the basics of Stanislavski's systems, introduce majors to various western theatre teachings (Strasberg, Meisner, Adler, Hendricks), and expand each student's physical, vocal, and imaginative resources.
- Acting II (two sections): instruct majors in scene study course rooted in Uta Hagen's Respect for Acting and delving deeply in acting for contemporary realism.

Constellation Stage and Screen Bloomington, IN

May 2022-December 2023

Lead Instructors run weeklong summer camps including: Improv and Comedy for Teens, Theatre for Teens, Comedy for Kids, Theatre for Kids, and Theatre for Littles. Responsibilities included:

- Writing lesson plans
- Creating final sharing
- Supervising one-two assistants/interns
- Childcare and supervision
- Communicating with parents

Additionally hired as a teaching artist for the Indiana Educator Fellowship for Creative Teaching grant, a collaboration between Constellation and Teacher at White River Valley Middle School to use theatre to support her Language Arts lessons. Duties included:

- Attending trainings provided by the state in creative teaching
- Creating curriculum in collaboration between Constellation and White River Valley Middle School
- Writing and leading lesson plans in support of the teacher's classroom learning outcomes and activities

CLIMB Theatre, Inver Grove Heights, MN

August 2011—June 2021

Director of Education/Associate Artistic Director (May 2013-August 2021) is responsible for the overall educational quality of CLIMB's interactive plays and classes. Central to this work is recruiting, managing, and growing a skilled team of actor-educators, and developing and overseeing CLIMB's curriculum. Additional duties include:

- Researching, designing, and writing arts and applied arts curriculum and support materials
- Collaborating with partner organizations to create programming to meet their specific goals
- Producing between ten-fourteen plays
- Directing a minimum of four plays annually
- Developing evaluation tools and analyze data
- Managing and design grant activities and report on accomplishments

As an **Outreach Coordinator (May 2012-May 2013)**, my responsibilities included:

- Providing excellent customer service
- Meeting and exceeding team sales goals
- Creating and nurturing strategic partnerships
- Communicating residency information to the artistic department
- Participating in creation and execution of marketing strategies

As a **Team Lead Actor-Educator (August 2011-May 2012)**, my responsibilities included writing and leading applied theatre lessons for students in grades PK-12 and adults on topics from bullying prevention to theatre skills to character development topics, like empathy. For this position I received 16 days of training in teacher persona, classroom management, questioning technique, direction giving, improvisation, customer service, and theatre in non-traditional spaces.

Theatre Arts Training Intern : As an Intern at CTC I assisted leading various theatre arts classes including: beginning theatre, musical theatre, dance, improvisation, early childhood theatre, and advanced theatre courses. Additionally as part of my internship I assisted in basic administrative tasks. During my internship, I was asked to fill a temporary leadership position, **Assistant to Teaching Arts Training Education Manager (February 2011-May 2011)**. My added responsibilities for the final four months of my internship were:

- Overseeing teaching artist attendance and submitting payroll
- Serving as liaison to parents
- Reserving rehearsal spaces
- Creating reports of the day's activities

Additional Experience

- Standardized Patient, University of Pittsburgh (2004-9)
- 2014 ArtSage, Arts and Aging Conference Presenter (Minneapolis, MN)
- 2017 AATE Conference Presenter (New Orleans, LA)
- 2008 Teaching Assistant at the University of Pittsburgh for Acting the 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries
- 2010 Coach and Judge for the Pittsburgh Public Theatre's Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest

Professional Affiliations

- Umbrella Collective Company Member
- Vice President of the Board--Chameleon Theatre Circle
- AATE—2018 Conference Planning Committee Member
- Theatre Coup d'Etat Artist Liaison and Development Consultant (2015-2018)
- Bakerloo Theatre Project Artist in Residence (2010-2014)

Grants and Special Projects

Have written/co-written over 50 grants and successfully received over 2 million in granted funds for CLIMB Theatre.

Planned, designed curriculum, and/or oversaw the management of the following special projects:

- Bridging Memories (2019) developed two new plays about Elders with memory loss through the adaptation of a book, Grandpa and Lucy, by Edie Weinstein, and by facilitating storytelling workshops with Elders with memory loss and young artist.
- Youth Propelling Youth (2019) provided playwriting workshops for middle and high school students at seven schools in the Twin Cities that explored and created new works that taught social emotional skills.
- Collaboration with Minnesota Prison Writer's Workshop: Playwriting (2018) assisted Anton Jones in teaching a playwriting course at Stillwater Correctional Facility, a Men's prison in Minnesota.
- Humans of Minnesota (2017) collected stories from rural Minnesotan towns that were used to create four new plays and twelve episodes about life in Minnesota.
- Multi-Sensory Classes (multiple Partners in Arts Participation Grants 2012-2017) provides direct sensory engagement through storytelling for adults with severe and profound physical and cognitive disabilities. Partnerships included: Midwest Special Services, Workabilities, and Development Achievement Centers in Bemidji, Thief River Falls, and Walker.
- CLIMB Through: A Performance Residency (multiple Partners in Arts Participation and Regional Arts Council Grants 2013-2018) workshops explore critical issues such as identity, racism, bullying, and other social emotional topics through theatre skills development. Each program's design is unique to its population and their needs, but all culminate in a sharing piece for peers, teachers and/or families. Recent partners: The Education Equity Alliance, Discovery Community, Naytahwaush Elementary, and West Seventh Community Center.
- Faraway Woods (2016 Arts Learning Grant) teaches preschoolers theatre skills while engaging them in social emotional development through interactive podcasts that serve as a springboard for the characters and stories explored in class.
- English Language Learning Program (2015 Arts Access grant) helped adult English Language Learner's develop English skills through applied theatrical practice such as role-play, articulation exercises, and script writing.

- Job Skills Program (2015 Arts Learning Grant) that engaged youth in developing job skill by learning theatre skills such as audition technique, improvisation, costume, articulation, and text analysis.
- CLIMB Across Minnesota for Youth (2015 Arts Learning Grant) worked with teens and pre-teens in 12 rural Minnesota communities to train and rehearse in clowning and pantomime techniques to perform socially relevant performances at their local fairs and festivals.
- Elders CLIMBing: Beyond (2014 Arts Access Grants) used theatrical techniques such as tableaux and improv as well as TimeSlips methods to create theatre for elders with memory loss due Alzheimer’s, dementia, and other age-related conditions.
- Lake Harriet Project (2012) Led a collaborative project with Lake Harriet Elementary—Upper Campus that engaged 6th graders in the creation of a sharing piece designed to reduce bullying and help third graders transition to the Upper School (2012)

Directing Experience

Productions

Year	Show	Playwright	Company	City
2024	Vox Pop! a post democratic musical*	David Davila	IU Theatre	Bloomington, IN
2023	Orlando	Sarah Ruhl	IU Theatre	Bloomington, IN
2023	Why Liliya Why*	Annalise Cain	IU Theatre	Bloomington, IN
2022	Everybody	Branden Jacobs-Jenkins	IU Theatre	Bloomington, IN
2022	The Piñata*	David Davila	IU Theatre	Bloomington, IN
2020	Dragonshield*	Buffy Sedlachek	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2019	Flora and Fauna’s Stream*	Benjamin Domask	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2019	Walkin’ It Back*	Buffy Sedlachek	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2018	Tuluah Rabbit’s New Habit*	Buffy Sedlachek	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2018	Polka Dot Shoes*	Cristina Pippa	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2018	One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest	Dale Wasserman	Chameleon Theatre Circle	Bloomington, MN
2018	All You Can Eat*	Anton Jones	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2017	Rude Rudy Roo	James Rone	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2017	Claudia Vs. The Trashinator	James Rone	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2017	Poor, Poor Jule*	Lauren Diesch	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2017	About Face*	Lauren Diesch	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2017	CLIMB Back Up*	Lauren Diesch	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2017	Baltimore Waltz	Paula Vogel	Theatre Coup d’Etat	Minneapolis, MN
2016	Control Patrol*	Lauren Diesch	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2016	Model Behavior*	Lauren Diesch	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2015	Step Up, Stand Out*	Lauren Diesch	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2015	Little Bugs	James Rone	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2015	Be Brave	James Rone	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2015	How Other People Feel	Julie Janus	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2015	Just Three Steps	Julie Janus	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2015	A Common Thread*	Julie Janus	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN

Year	Show	Playwright	Company	City
2015	Different and Same*	Julie Janus	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2014	Emma and The Cash Cow	Peg Wetli	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2014	Fizz and Boom Read!*	Peg Wetli	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN
2014	Feeling History: African American's Reach for Equality	Peg Wetli	CLIMB Theatre	Inver Grove Heights, MN

*Indicates world premiere

Assistant Direction

Year	Show	Playwright/Composer	Theatre	City
2021	Falstaff	Giuseppe Verdi	IU Opera, Michael Shell (dir)	Bloomington, IN

Staged Readings

2022	Proverbs 17:9, or the Redeemed	Emily Lancaster	KCACTF NPF	Virtual
2021	The Mesquite Tree	David Davila	IU Theatre	Virtual
2020	Tracy Jones	Stephan Kaplan	Chameleon Theatre Circle	Virtual
2019	Apocalypse Pet Care	Richard A. Pauli	Chameleon Theatre	Bloomington, MN

Performance Experience

YEAR	Show	Role	Company	Director	City
2023	On The Line	Amy Savage	Ted Jones Playhouse	Ansley Valentine	Bloomington, IN
2023	Shakespeare's Will	Anne (understudy)	IRT	Brenda DaVita	Indianapolis, IN
2022	More Perfect Places	Woman 2	IU	Seth Bockley	New Harmony, IN
2019	Two Gentlemen of Verona	Silvia/Lucetta	Hypnic Jerk	Kari Steinbach	Minneapolis, MN
2019	The Gun Show	Playwright	Uprising Theatre	Emily England	Minneapolis, MN
2019	Antigone	Antigone	Park Square Theatre	MJ Kedrowski	St. Paul, MN
2018	Bull	Isobel	Hypnic Jerk	Kari Steinbach	St. Paul/MPLS, MN
2018	Ravagers	Chloe	Umbrella Collective	Hannah Holman	St. Paul, MN
2017	Moby Dick	Boomer	Theatre Coup d'Etat	James Napoleon Stone	Minneapolis, MN
2017	Awakening	Chloe/Mrs. Warren	Umbrella Collective	Laura Leffler	Minneapolis, MN
2016	Crucible	Mary Warren	Theatre Coup d'Etat	Brian Joyce	St. Paul, MN
2016	Antigone	Antigone	Theatre Coup d'Etat	MJ Kedrowski	Minneapolis, MN
2016	Sense and Sensibility	Eleanor	Theatre in The Round	Kari Steinbach	Minneapolis, MN
2016	[title of show]	Susan	Chameleon Theatre Circle	Kim Miller	Burnsville, MN
2015	The Voyage of Seasoar	Milo (Cabin Girl)	Bricolage Theatre	Parag Gohel	Pittsburgh, PA
2015	Equus	Jill	Theatre Coup d'Etat	James Napoleon Stone	St. Paul, MN
2015	Don't Drink The Water	Susan Hollander	Theatre in The Round	Benjamin Kutschied	Minneapolis, MN
2015	Jesus Christ Superstar	Mary Magdalene	Chameleon Theatre Circle	Bradley Donaldson	Burnsville, MN

2014	Illuminati in Drama Libre	He	Theatre Unbound	Dionne Laviolette	Minneapolis, MN
2014	Girl Gumshoe and Detective Dad	Gina	Gadfly Theatre	Immanuel Elliot	Minneapolis, MN
2014	Now I See	Chorus	Fox In a Box	MJ Kedrowski	Minneapolis, MN
2014	Falling Awake	Billie	Gadfly Theatre	Mel Day	Minneapolis, MN
2014	Lilies of the Field	Sister Elizabeth	Open Window Theatre	Joy Donley	Minneapolis, MN
2013	All's Well That Ends Well	Page	Theatre in the Round	Diane Mountford	Minneapolis, MN
2012	Henry V	Chorus/Various	Bakerloo Theatre Project	Will Addis	Troy, NY
2012	Candida	Ms. Garnett	Bakerloo Theatre Project	Lily Junker	Troy, NY
2011	Twelfth Night	Feste	Bakerloo Theatre Project	Will Addis	Troy, NY
2011	The Love of the Nightingale	Procne	Bakerloo Theatre Project	Lily Junker	Troy, NY
2010	Romeo and Juliet	Nurse	Bakerloo Theatre Project	Will Addis	Troy, NY
2010	Under Milkwood	Various	Bakerloo Theatre Project	Lily Junker	Troy, NY
2010	Kassandra	Kassandra	Bluespots Productions	Leonie Pichler	Pittsburgh, PA
2009	You Can't Get Lost in America	Birgit	Yinzespielen	Corey Tamler	Augsburg, Germany

Special Skills: Mezzo Soprano – Viewpoints – Meisner Technique – Improvisation – Devising – Applied Theatre – Realistic Baby Cry – Some German -
Dialects: RP, Estuary, German, New Jersey, Yinzer, Minnesotan - SAFD Certified: Single Sword, Hand-to-hand, Knife

Playwrighting

Title	Type	Company	Year
Dollar Wars: The Empire Strikes Cash	Touring Production	CLIMB Theatre	2018
Unfiltered	Touring Production	CLIMB Theatre	2018
Poor, Poor Jule	Touring Production	CLIMB Theatre	2017
About Face	Touring Production	CLIMB Theatre	2017
CLIMB Back Up	Touring Production	CLIMB Theatre	2017
Control Patrol	Touring Production	CLIMB Theatre	2016
Model Behavior	Touring Production	CLIMB Theatre	2016
Step Up, Stand Out	Touring Production	CLIMB Theatre	2016

Awards and Recognition

Foster Harmon Fellowship

Mathew Everett's Top Ten List, *Baltimore Waltz*, Theatre Coup D'Etat

Lavender Magazine Best Costume Design, *Moby Dick*, Theatre Coup D'Etat

Employee of Distinction, CLIMB Theatre

Best Partner, KCACTF: District 2

2023-2024

2017

2017

February-April 2014

2009

Reviews *The Gun Show*

“Lauren Diesch, who has made her mark as an actress in some of the Twin Cities’ smaller theaters, is an absolute powerhouse in Uprising Theatre’s area premiere of *The Gun Show*. She masterfully sustains for its length of 65 minutes many variations of emotional intensity. In a play, and most certainly a solo play, the portrayal of a character written almost totally at a high emotional frequency is a daunting challenge to pull off and Diesch rises to that occasion with dynamic beauty.” –John Townsend, *Lavender Magazine*

“Curiously, the role of the playwright is usually played by a man, as specified by the playwright herself (perhaps part of the distance that she talks about). But Uprising cast a woman, which just feels right, and much more authentic. That woman is Lauren Diesch, who gives an impassioned performance. The play is a 60-minute monologue, with “the playwright” speaking directly to the audience in the intimate (read: tiny) space at off-leash area art box. She is literally in your face as she paces throughout the space, making eye contact and drawing us all into the story.” –Jill Schafer, *Cherry and Spoon*

Reviews of *Baltimore Waltz*

“It’s not an easy play — emotionally or intellectually — but Coup d’Etat’s strong production is alive to the several levels on which the story works. It’s a highly episodic show, and director Lauren Diesch gives each scene its own energy while remaining attentive to the overarching structure.” Jay Gabler, *City Pages*

“Fantastic, funny and heartbreaking (...) The play is, if possible, even more bracing and lovely than when I’d previously experienced (...) Director Lauren Diesch embraces not only the comedy and the sorrow that buffet the play (often both in the same moments), but also expands on the dance that concludes the story to incorporate movement at key moments throughout, to match the poetry of the script. She not only gets great performances from her actors, she’s assembled a design team that really delivers on the concept of the play.” Matthew Everett, *Single White Fringe Geek*

Review of *Antigone*

“Diesch’s *Antigone* in particular offers a poignant sense of the conflicted loyalties and damage that characterize the relationships among these four siblings.” – Lisa Brock, *Star Tribune*, 2015

Review of *Twelfth Night*

“Neither man nor woman, but pure human wit.” – Gail Burns, *Gail Sez*

Review of *Sense and Sensibility*

“Steinbach’s casting is impeccable. Austen’s story has two eligible young ladies who will need marriage to find their place in society following the death of their father. The lead actors portray the “sense” (Lauren Diesch as Elinor Dashwood) and “sensibility” (Jane Burkitt as Marianne Dashwood) of the title. Scarcely can I imagine better personalities to inhabit these characters. Pittsburgh native Diesch shines with subtle intelligence and reserved mien in Austen’s stand-in character, Elinor, never flubbing even the cadence of her innumerable lines, while Burkitt contorts her body to show her character’s stormy emotions.” – Adam M. Schenck, *South Side Pride*

Review of *Jesus Christ Superstar*

“Diesch’s rendition of “I Don’t Know How to Love Him” is stellar without being saccharine.” – Basil Considine, *TC Daily Planet*