



SCHOOL OF  
**THEATRE AND DANCE**  
*Illinois State University*

**2022-2023**



WESTHOFF THEATRE –  
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

APRIL 27-29, 2023 @ 7:30 P.M.; APRIL 29 @ 2 P.M.

**ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEATRE AND DANCE  
PRESENTS**

*RAPTURE*

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: LAINA REESE**

**PERFORMANCE ORDER:**

*Sugar Rush* – Laina Reese

*Conditioned and Contained* – Darby Wilde

*The Space Between Two Roads* – Gregory Merriman

*all the expectations* – Sara Semonis

**INTERMISSION** (10 mins)

*See You Next Week* – Jocelyn Perez

*LoveUp* – YNOT †

*Bottomless Mimosas* – Elijah Gibson †

† Denotes Guest Artist

**RUN TIME: 90 mins**

## **SCHOOL OF THEATRE AND DANCE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Illinois State University was built on the land of multiple Native nations. These lands were the traditional birthright of Indigenous people who were forcibly removed and have faced centuries of struggle for survival and identity in the wake of dispossession and displacement. We acknowledge that our campus sits on the lands that were once home to the Peoria, Kaskaskia and Myaamia, and later due to colonial encroachment and displacement to the Fox, Potawatomi, Sauk, Shawnee, Winnebago, Ioway, Mascouten, Piankashaw, Wea, and Kickapoo Nations. We also express honor to those Indigenous people who we may have excluded in this acknowledgement due to erasure and historical inaccuracy.

As members of a public settler colonial institution, we acknowledge our responsibility not only to understand this history but also to actively confront the ways in which colonial policies and thinking continue in our personal and professional lives. In the theatre, specifically, we recognize that this industry has been complicit and even instrumental in misrepresenting Indigenous people (both in its literature and on its stages) and in marginalizing Indigenous people and cultures. We commit to create change and progress.

We ask that you join us on that journey.

### **WHAT IS A LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT?**

In countries such as New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and among tribal nations in the U.S., it is commonplace, even policy, to open events and gatherings by acknowledging the traditional Indigenous inhabitants of that land... Acknowledgment by itself is a small gesture. It becomes meaningful when coupled with authentic relationships and informed action. But this beginning can be an opening to greater public consciousness of Native sovereignty and cultural rights, a step toward equitable relationship and reconciliation. Naming is an exercise in power. Who gets the right to name or be named? Whose stories are honored in a name? Whose are erased? Acknowledgment of traditional land is a public statement of the name of the traditional Native inhabitants of a place. It honors their historic relationship with the land... It is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people's history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth. Imagine this practice widely adopted: imagine cultural venues, classrooms, conference settings, places of worship, sports stadiums, and town halls, acknowledging traditional lands. Millions would be exposed – many for the first time – to the names of the traditional inhabitants of the lands they are on, inspiring them to ongoing awareness and action.

(Honor Native Land Guide, <https://usdac.us/nativeland>)

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NOTE:

Welcome to the Spring 2023 Dance Concert, *Rapture!* *Rapture* is comprised of four (4) original dance faculty works from Darby Wilde, Laina Reese, Greg Merriman, and Jocelyn Perez; an in-house guest artist work from Sara Semonis; and two (2) visiting guest artist works from YNOT and Elijah Gibson. Illinois State Dance Theatre is comprised of vibrant, diverse student artists and performers that have worked extremely hard during the creative process to perform in-show. Thank you to all of the talented performers, choreographers, production faculty, staff, and students that were involved in bringing this amazing show to fruition. Lastly, thank YOU for supporting the School of Theatre and Dance—enjoy the show!

—Laina Reese

## SPECIAL THANKS

Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts, Dean Jean Miller, Dr. Ann Haugo, Darby Wilde, Sara Semonis, Lucy Yahr, Connie Blick, and Lauren Lowell

## GUEST ARTISTS



### Anthony "YNOT" Denaro

Anthony Denaro, M.F.A, aka YNOT, explores the design, sustainability, history, and community of Hip Hop. Through a futurist lens, YNOT's work manifests in dance, typography, music, and architecture. YNOT's reputation in the dance world precedes him. As a B-boy, he's traveled the world extensively judging battles, teaching workshops, and building cultural awareness. He is a member of the legendary dance troupe, known as the Rock Steady Crew. He is most known for his rhythmic approach to the dance which has earned him respect from his peers and pioneers such as Crazy Legs and Mr. Wiggles. Through his humble

nature and love of the art form he focuses on traveling and teaching workshops in studios and schools across the US and the world. He has also toured with theatre groups such as Rennie Harris Pure Movement and has worked with such artists such as Moby and KRS One. YNOT has built up a reputation as an inspirational dancer of today and dedicates his time to sharing the knowledge he has gained on his path through his career. Trained at the Art Institute of Philadelphia, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Animation, followed by an MFA in Dance from Arizona State University. In addition to his multi-media artistry, YNOT is world-renowned for popularizing the raw, stand-up, art of b-boyin' called Top Rock. Currently, his classes can be found on a workshop basis internationally, as well as at Texas Tech University, where he facilitates Breaking Technique, Stylized Letterform Design and Sound Design for Electronic Music Production. Alongside his dance and professorship, YNOT both physically and digitally creates two and three dimensional visual works that construct a possible future of the Hip Hop aesthetic.

## Elijah Gibson



Elijah Alhadji Gibson founded Social Movement Contemporary Dance Theater in 2019 after an international career as a professional dancer and a career in Higher Education. Originally from San Diego, California, he began dance with the San Diego Civic Dance Association and attended the San Diego School for the Performing Arts. Gibson continued his education and studied dance in college and received his Master of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, with a focus on dance history, somatic studies, and pedagogy. Gibson joined the world-renowned Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago where he toured nationally and internationally for eight years, performing the works of the late Gus Giordano, Margo Sappington, Christopher Huggins, Jon Lehrer, Mia Michaels, Liz Imperio, Randy Duncan, Tony Powell, Ron De Jesus, and Davis Robertson among many others. He's also had the privilege of guest performing with Instruments of Movement, Cirqua Rivera Dance Theater, Thodos

Dance Chicago, and Especialty Tap Chicago just to name a few. He has performed and taught throughout the United States as well as in Germany, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Latvia, Spain, Ecuador, Canada, and Mexico. Mr. Gibson has served on the faculties of RDA Midwest, Gus Giordano Jazz Intensive, American College Dance Festival Association, Jazz Dance World Congress, Dance Masters of Wisconsin, Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, Leon Dance Arts NY, Embrace Dance Convention, and Key West Modern Dance. Dance companies have performed his choreography nationally and internationally such as Nomi Lamad, Inaside Dance Chicago, Thodos Dance Chicago, Jayson Tisa Dance Company, City Dance Company of Houston, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago II, and Naway Dance Company, as well by university dance ensembles throughout the country. Mr. Gibson has been on faculty at Shenandoah Conservatory at Shenandoah University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Sam Houston State University, the University of Texas at Austin, and is currently on faculty at the University of Houston. Gibson has been fortunate to have dabbled in every aspect of the arts from dance, theater, and film.

## PERFORMANCES

### *Sugar Rush*

**Choreography:** Laina Reese

**Music:** "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" by Esquivel & His Orchestra, "Are You Having Any Fun?" by Elaine Stritch, "Amnesia" by Mr. Fingers, "I Want a Little Sugar in My Bowl" by Nina Simone

**Dancers:** Cate Conlon, Rebeca Dasneves, Anna Lamczyk, Kyan Mcquitter, Allisson Mercier

**Costume/Hair & Makeup Designer:** Hailey Bonk

**Lighting Designer:** Joseph H. Chambers

Sound Designer: M. Anthony Reimer

Calling Stage Manager: Rose Geovanes

### *Conditioned and Contained*

**CONTENT WARNING:** Profanity and potentially triggering subject matter

Choreography: Darby Wilde

Music by: Aaron Paolucci

Dancer: Taylor Danan

Understudy: Dyana Davis

Costume/Hair & Makeup Designer: Jordan Bishop

Lighting Designer: Jaden C. O'Berry\*\*

Sound Designer: Aaron Paolucci

Calling Stage Manager: Noah Davidson

### *The Space Between Two Roads*

*"Exploring the unexplored verge...the space between two roads."*

Choreography: Gregory Merriman

Music by: Adrian Berenguer

Dancers: Laurel Baumann, Veronica Camargo, Cora Gray, Valerie Hagedorn, Beth Halsey, Alyson Rea, Mika Sanders, Julia Tortorici, Mareon Robinson

Rehearsal Assistant: Alexis Burns

Costume/Hair & Makeup Designer: Elana Carmine

Lighting Designer: Jaden C. O'Berry\*\*

Sound Designer: M. Anthony Reimer

Calling Stage Manager: Noah Davidson

### *all the expectations*

Choreography: Sara Semonis

Music: "Chances" by Jill Barber, "Is That All There Is" by Peggy Lee

Dancers: Tava Matesi, Ty Kirklin

Crew Performers: Alexis Burns, Dyana Davis, Rose Geovanes

Rehearsal Assistant: Sarah Akbari

**Costume/Hair & Makeup Designer:** Billy Blue\*\*

**Lighting Designer:** Joseph H. Chambers

**Sound Designer:** M. Anthony Reimer

**Calling Stage Manager:** Amanda Bachinger

### ***See You Next Week***

**Choreography:** Jocelyn Perez

**Music:** "Ita" by Lechuga Zafiro, "11:11" by Bente, "Sudor En Vapor" by Lechuga Zafiro, "11,600 years ago" by Blear Moon, "When We're Older " by James Blake

**Dancers and Choreographic Contributions:** Clare Bates, Johnie Boxell, Gia Capitano, Suaniya Curry, Maggie Sedlacek, Nitara Williams

**Understudy:** Victoria Wilson

**Costume/Hair & Makeup Designer:** Katherine L. Dohogne

**Lighting Designer:** Jaden C. O'Berry\*\*

**Sound Designer:** M. Anthony Reimer

**Dramaturg:** Angela Spilotro

**Calling Stage Manager:** Rose Geovanes

### ***LoveUp***

**Choreography:** Anthony "YNOT" Denaro Y

**Music:** "YNOT"

**Dancers:** Cora Gray, Jazmyne Gray, Ty Kirklin, Allisson Mercier, Maggie Sedlacek, Nitara Williams

**Understudies/Rehearsal Assistants:** Dyana Davis, Christina Rauwolf\*

**Costume/Hair & Makeup Designer:** Lexi Metz

**Lighting Designer:** Jaden C. O'Berry\*\*

**Sound Designer:** M. Anthony Reimer

**Calling Stage Manager:** Rose Geovanes

\*Christina Rauwolf will be performing on 4/28

## ***Bottomless Mimosas***

*At the conclusion of this work, please return any items collected during performance to crew members at theatre exits. Thank you!*

**Choreography:** Elijah Gibson †

**Music:** "Give it Away" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers, "Three (Windows)" by Travis Lake

**Dancers:** Clare Bates, Johnie Boxell, Suaniya Curry, Taylor Danan, Jazmyne Gray, Ty Kirklin, Kyan Mcquitter, Mareon Robinson, Concetta Rolfe

**Costume/Hair & Makeup Designer:** Lexi Metz

**Lighting Designer:** Joseph H. Chambers

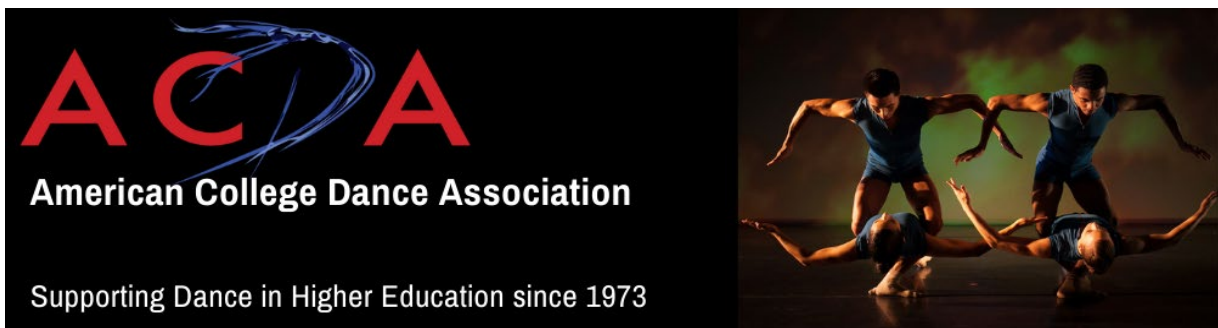
**Sound Designer:** M. Anthony Reimer

**Calling Stage Manager:** Rose Geovanes

\*\* Denotes Master of Fine Arts Candidate  
\* Denotes Master of Arts or Science Candidate  
± Denotes Master of Fine Arts and Master of Arts or Sciences Candidate  
† Denotes Guest Artist

## **AMERICAN COLLEGE DANCE ASSOCIATION**

The American College Dance Association's primary focus is to support and promote the wealth of talent and creativity that is prominent throughout college and university dance departments. ACDA's sponsorship of regional conferences and the national dance festival provides the venue for students and faculty to engage in three days of performances, workshops, panels, and master classes taught by instructors from around the region and country. The conferences also provide the unique opportunity for students and faculty to have their dance works adjudicated by a panel of nationally recognized dance professionals in an open and constructive forum. The conferences are the primary means for college and university dance programs to perform outside their own academic setting and to gain exposure to the diversity of college dance throughout the United States. Many conferences culminate with the presentation of pieces selected for their exemplary artistic quality.





## PRODUCTION STAFF

School Director .....	Ann Haugo
Technical Director .....	Dave George
Production Manager .....	Lucy Yahr
Costume Shop Director .....	Susie High
Costume Crafts Supervisor .....	J. Wendy Wallace
Light and Sound Shop Supervisor .....	Tony Lobello
Prop Shop Supervisor .....	Caitlin Buswell**
Scene Shop Supervisor .....	Max Zorn
Box Office & Center for the Performing Arts Manager .....	Nick Benson
Stage Manager .....	Rose Geovanes
Additional Calling Stage Manager(s) .....	Amanda Bachinger, Noah Davidson
Master Electrician .....	Avery Cranston
Light Board Operator .....	Jenna Judd
Sound Board Operator .....	Julian Campos
Wardrobe Crew Head .....	Katie Zaragoza
Deck/Wardrobe Crew .....	Gabriel Barta, Ava Brines, Julian Campos, Jenna Judd, Hillary Omachel, Diamond Pearson, Peyton Robinson, Jacob Swanson, Alan Talic, Allison Williams
Lighting Crew .....	Kimberly Aguayo-Pizano, Megan Doan, Andrew Faber, Valerie Hagedorn, Xavier Langer, Andrew Markley, Jackson Regan, Emily Robins, Maggie Sedlacek, David Simpson
Archive Photographer .....	Pete Guither
Archive Videographer .....	Firozeh Irranezhad

# SCHOOL OF THEATRE AND DANCE

## FACULTY AND STAFF

Ann Haugo (Director)

Robert Quinlan (Associate Director)

### ACTING AND MUSICAL THEATRE

Lori Adams (Area Head)

Connie de Veer

Kelsey Fisher-Waits

Maggie Marlin-Hess

David Prete

John Tovar

Matthew Vala

Janet Wilson

### DANCE AND DANCE TEACHER EDUCATION

Darby Wilde (Area Head)

Kristin Carlson

Laina Carney

Gregory Merriman

Jocelyn Perez

### PRODUCTION DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Lauren M. Lowell (Area Head)

Dave George

Susie High

Lexi Metz

Jeremy Jenkins

Mary Jungels-Goodyear

Joyce Liao

Tony Lobello

Aaron Paolucci

Tony Reimer

John C. Stark

J. Wendy Wallace

Lucy Yahr

Maximillian Zorn

### DIRECTING

Robert Quinlan (Area Head)

David Prete

John Tovar

### THEATRE TEACHER EDUCATION

Michael J. Vetere III (Area Head)

Jimmy Chrismon

### THEATRE STUDIES

Kee-Yoon Nahm (Area Head)

Demitri Corbin

Ann Haugo

Shannon Epplett

Bruce Burningham

Derek R. Munson

Leslie Orr

### FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Li Zeng (Area Head)

David Prete

Bruce Burningham

Brendan Leahy

Leslie Orr

### ADDITIONAL FACULTY/STAFF

Office Manager: Connie Blick

Finance & Communications Manager: Lauren Palmer

Academic Advisor and Recruitment Coordinator: Cristen Monson

Freshman Academic Advisors: Shannon Darling, Jessa Hendricker, Laura Phillips, Amy Secretan (honors)

Administrative Aide: Michelle Woody

# **STUDENT STAFF & PRACTICUM ASSIGNMENTS**

## **Theatre and Dance Marketing & Promotions**

Student Staff: Ashleigh Feger\*

Practicum Students: Kailey Eaheart, Zoe Irving, Tatiana Jovancic, Roberto Soares, Annie Wagner

## **Theatre and Dance Office**

Student Staff: Thomas Brown\*, Ashleigh Feger\*, Addison Kobos, Zach Mlekush

## **Box Office**

Student Staff: Paige Bolen, Johnie Boxell, Cierra Espinoza, Bebe Marzano, Riley Partin, Satomi Radostits, Alysa Raelyn, Kelli Saldivar, Mikey Schelinski, Lisa Stromberger, Jo Vanderport, Lorelei Wernecke, Jacob Williamson, Viktor Wilson-Miller

Practicum Students: Lily Brill, Bella Brown, Diego Chavez, Devin Creighton, Samantha Curiel, Jaylon Golden, Taniah Jones, George Kesse, Lauren Krelle, Tava Matesi, Elijah Morris, Autumn Nicole, Mallory Paolucci, Brianne Pearlman, Martin Pinkston, Mirana Procopio, Christian Rauwolf, Nora Riordan, Janelle Rodriguez, Olivia Soble, Sam Swope, Tess Wastyn, Monica West, Gwyneth Wiebenga

## **Scene Shop**

Student Staff: Joe Chambers, Myles Daugherty, Payton Fitzgerald, Katie Giacabazi, Laura Ledin\*\*, Shaun Leonard, JP Lockwood, Michael Mason\*\*, Eli McEwan, Katie Novak, Maggie Rausch, Isabel Samuel\*\*

Practicum Students: Hannah Klose

## **Costume & Crafts Shop**

Student Staff: Jordan Bishop, Billy Blue\*\*, Amy Brandel, Elana Carmine, Markos Carmona, Katherine Dohogne, Hannah Hogue, Stephen Menard, Jenefas Okonma±, M Stranski\*\*, Katie Zaragoza

Practicum/Independent Study Students: Emma Borovka, Parker Daugherty, Michaela Dennis, Julian Fonseca, Roni Krylov, Alice Roseman

## **Light & Sound Shop**

Student Staff: Joe Chambers, Avery Cranston, Brent DeVries, Firozeh Irannezhad\*\*, Connor Kielty, Kevin Kress, Jaden C. O'Berry\*\*, Isabel Samuel\*\*, Keyla Marie Soto-Pabon\*\*, Jacob Self

## **Armory**

Practicum Students: Charlie Busker, RJ Hagberg, Ava Perrigo

## **Prop Shop**

Student Staff: Caitlin Buswell\*\*, Connor Daemicke, Delaney Kosar

Practicum Students: Michelle Alexander, Gia Capitano, Lauren Harper, Brandon Ndagijimana, Ava Perrigo, Concetta Rolfe, Andrew Short

## **Paint Shop**

Student Staff: Michael Mason\*\*, Lauren Powell

## **UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION**

Dean, Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts .....Jean Miller  
Director of Development..... Polly Bedford  
Director, School of Theatre and Dance ..... Ann Haugo  
Center for the Performing Arts Manager ..... Nick Benson  
Associate Dean of Research and Planning ..... Sara Semonis  
Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Student Services .....Janet Tulley  
Director, School of Music ..... Adriana Ransom  
Interim Director, Wonsook Kim School of Art ..... Tyler Lotz  
Director, Creative Technologies Program ..... Rose Marshack  
Director and Chief Curator, University Galleries ..... Kendra Paitz  
Business Communications Associate ..... Stephanie Kohl Ringle  
Budget Associate..... Vikkie Cossio  
Director, CFAIT .....Eric Yeager

# **THEATRE POLICIES**

## **TICKET POLICIES**

The Box Office in the Illinois State University Center for the Performing Arts (CPA) handles tickets for all Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts events, including music, dance, and theatre performances in the Center for Performing Arts, Westhoff Theatre, and the Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

The Box Office is open Monday, through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the academic year and noon to 4 p.m. during the summer. The Box Office is also open one hour before all performances for sales and for Will Call ticket pickup. When picking up tickets directly before a Westhoff Theatre or Illinois Shakespeare Festival performance, a separate box office is set up at the performance location.

Tickets may be purchased online at [GoRedbirds.com](http://GoRedbirds.com), 24 hours a day! For general ticketing inquiries please call (309) 438-2535 or email [FineArtsTickets@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:FineArtsTickets@IllinoisState.edu).

## **LATE SEATING**

We ask all patrons to be in the theatre 10 minutes prior to the performance.

Due to the intimate nature of the Westhoff Theatre space, late seating for patrons may only be available at intermission, or not at all. This policy is for the safety of our patrons and actors as entering the theatre and seating areas require walking on the stage. If you leave the venue during the performance for any reason, there is a chance you will not be able to be re-seated. Seating is first-come, first-served, and it is strongly recommended to arrive earlier for performances in this space. Refunds will not be issued to patrons arriving late if there is no late seating or intermission for the performance.

For events in the Center for the Performing Arts, patrons may be seated late at the discretion of the House Manager, during an appropriate break in the performance.

## **NO EXCHANGES—NO REFUNDS**

## **VENUE POLICIES**

To ensure the best experience for all patrons, please be aware of the following:

- The use of cameras or other recording devices in the theatre is prohibited.
- Please silence and put away all electronic devices before the performance begins. Sound and lit phone screens are distracting to other patrons and the performers.
- Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager.
- If you leave your seat during the performance, you may not be resealed.
- Food and drink (except bottled water) are not allowed in the theatre.
- Illinois State University is a non-smoking campus, and there is absolutely no smoking or vaping in university buildings.

## REMEMBERING KARI BETH RUST & COLLEEN TOVAR

### KARI BETH RUST

*July 28, 1962 – September 22, 2022*



Kari Beth was an alum of our program. She graduated in 1985 with a focus in costume design and like many of our graduates, she began a freelance career with a home base in Chicago, where she worked and designed costumes for professional theatres in the city. In 1995, she returned to Illinois State to become the Costume Shop Supervisor. From 2009 to 2012, she and husband Rob Fulton (also known as Mr. Kari Beth Rust) lived and worked in Georgia, and in 2012, when she returned to Illinois, she began serving as Costume Director for both the

School of Theatre and Dance and the Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

If we include her student years, Kari Beth has been a part of the School of Theatre and Dance community for almost 30 years. It's hard for us to imagine the School without her bright spirit. She mentored every student who passed through the costume shop with care and generosity (and a dose of reality when they needed it), whether an M.F.A. candidate in Costume Design or a first-semester major who had never handled a needle and thread. Her careful mentoring of each student was instrumental in the success of every SOTD production season. Kari Beth continued to design as well, most recently designing several pieces for our dance concerts and the Theatre for Young Audiences play each summer for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

### COLLEEN TOVAR

*August 7, 1971 – November 7, 2022*

Colleen completed a degree in Theatre Design and Technology at Illinois State University in 1999, after working professionally as a stage manager primarily in the Chicago area. She and John were engaged while in their senior year in 1999 and moved back to Chicago to continue working in theatre. Colleen worked in management roles at Allerton Crowne Plaza before becoming Production Manager of Noble Fool Theatre Company in 2003, where she would work with many ISU faculty and alumni. In 2004, she became Production Manager of Fox Valley Repertory Theatre, followed by a move to Managing Director of the company in 2005. During that time, she continued to work as a freelance stage manager as well, including stage managing Chicago's Jeff Awards for many years. She began serving as Production Manager and teaching/mentoring stage management at Ball State University in 2015, and came to Illinois State in 2020 to do the same.

