

Education

M.F.A. Theatre for Youth, Arizona State University

B.Phil. Interdisciplinary Studies , Miami University, Oxford OH

Awards

Nancy Staub Publications Award, UNIMA-USA	2021
Orlin Corey Award for Artistic Excellence, American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE)	2012
Outstanding Faculty, Professional, CSUSB College of Arts and Letters	2009
Kennedy Center-American College Theatre Festival Excellence in Education Award	2008
Outstanding Faculty, Instruction, CSUSB College of Arts and Letters	2005
8 Presidential Citations, AATE	2001-2017

Teaching and Relevant Experience

- Professor of Theatre Education and Entrepreneurship, California State University San Bernardino
- Professional Director, Improvisor, Puppeteer, Business Improv specialist, and Teaching Artist
- Guest professional (Puppetry and Improvisation), Royal Central School of Drama, London, 2022
- Chair, Puppetry in Education and Therapy, Puppeteers of America, 2023-2025
- Curriculum designer, Theatre Arts CSET Waiver credential track, 2022-23
- Networks and Special Interest Groups Coordinator (Board position), American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE), 2015-17
- Assessment Coordinator and Faculty Inquiry Group Consultant, Quarter to Semester Conversion for General Education, CSUSB, 2016-17
- Theatre and Puppetry Specialist, The California Arts Project, 2000-current
- Arts Provider, LA County Arts for All, 2015- current
- Course Coordinator, CSU Summer Arts
- Professional Teaching Artist, Smithsonian Institution and Smithsonian Associates, Washington DC
- Company Member, Bread and Puppet Theatre

Publications/Academic Presentations

- *Puppetry in Theatre and Arts Education: Head, Hands, and Heart*. Methuen Drama (Bloomsbury), winner of Nancy Staub Publications Award, 2019
- “Finding the Courage to Demand Delight,” featured scholar, *The Academic Minute* 2025
- “Finding the Courage to Demand Delight: How Puppetry can Bring Back Imagination and Joy in Education,” Keynote, Symposium Figurentheater-Pädagogik, Figurentheater-Kolleg, Bochum, Germany 2025
- “Puppetry and Improv - Creativity Catalysts,” featured presenter, Puppets in the House, Verona WI 2025
- “The Improvisational Mind: An Active Exploration,” Presentation, California Entrepreneurship Educators Conference, San Diego CA 2025
- “Puppetry and Improvisation: Delight as a Tool for Transformative Experiences,” Presentation, Applied Improv Network Global Conference, Prague, Czech Republic 2024
- “Delight is Essential! Improv and Puppetry as Catalysts for Creativity,” Zoom Presentation, Society for Arts Entrepreneurship Education online conference 2023
- “Making Meaning and Poking Fun with Performing Objects,” Zoom presentation, American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE) Conference, Washington DC 2021
- “Getting to the Core: The Power of Becoming Integral to Entrepreneurship,” Zoom presentation, Society for Arts Entrepreneurship Education online conference, 2020
- “The Voiceless Must Shout: Agitprop, Maskwork, and Gesture,” with Elena Velasco, Presentation, AATE Conference, NYC, NY, 2019
- “The Power of Masks,” Presentation, Courageous Creativity Conference (for the California Arts Project), Disneyland, 2019
- “The Mask Movement: Heightening Social Action,” with Elena Velasco, Presentation, AATE Conference, Minneapolis, MN, 2018
- “Cultural Reboot: Descubre las maravillas en su vida” with Elena Velasco, Presentation, AATE Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2017
- Article Clinic, interactive panel created to foster one-on-one mentoring for new researchers, AATE conferences, 2016, 2017, 2018
- “Creative Drama, Movement, and Puppetry Collision for Preschoolers!” with Jean Prall Rosolino, AATE Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2017
- “Devising through Puppetry: Tools for Kinetic Collaboration” with Elena Velasco, Presentation, American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE) Conference, Boston, MA, 2016
- “We’ve Been Doing This A While Now: Diversity and Inclusivity at CSUSB.” Panel Chair, AATE Conference, Boston, MA, 2016
- “Build Your Puppetry Brain.” Presentation, AATE Conference, Milwaukee WI, 2015
- “Minimal Puppetry, Maximum Impact.” Presentation, AATE Conference, Washington DC, 2015

- “Theatre as a Methodology.” Presentation, Conference for Innovative Education, CSUSB, 2013
- “Minimalist Puppetry for Educators.” Presentation, Educational Theatre Association Conference, San Diego CA, 2012
- “Revealing the Magic: Puppeteers Offer Advice, Deep Thoughts, and Inspiration.” *TYA Today*, 2010
- “How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Tour a University TYA/Puppetry Production to Bulgaria and China.” Presentation, AATE Conference, San Francisco, 2010
- “Puppets, Cameras, and Children: New Ideas for Playing with Multimedia.” Presentation, AATE Conference, Vancouver BC, 2007
- “Vision and Voice: Integrating Visual Literacy Skills in the Language Arts Curriculum” with Dr. Susan Daniels, Dr. Alayne Sullivan, and Dr. John Ruttner, *Turning Trees: Selected Readings of the International Visual Literacy Association* (Fall 2003) pp 61-70
- “Hip Hopera? Puppetry? Intersections of Breath, Body, and Voice in Actor Training.” Presentation with Kathryn Ervin, AATE/ATHE Conference, NYC, 2003
- “Visions and Voice: Integrating Visual Literacy Skills in the Language Arts Curriculum.” Presentation with Dr. Susan Daniels and Dr. Alayne Sullivan. International Visual Literacy Association Conference, Breckenridge CO, 2002
- “The Creative Arts Project: Teaching Practice as Advocacy.” Panel presentation, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference, San Diego, 2002
- “Theatre of the Oppressed for Educators.” Panel presentation, Theatre of the Oppressed Youth Symposium, University of Southern California, 2002
- “Puppetry for Teachers.” Presentation, California Educational Theatre Association Conference, Los Angeles, 2001
- “Using Interactive Theatre to Prepare K-12 Teachers.” Presentation with Dr. Barbara Maier. AATE Conference, San Diego, 2001
- “Creative Puppetry at HB Woodlawn Alternative High School.” *Creative Drama* v. 4 no. 1, Spring 2001, pp 4-7
- “Giant Puppets for Classroom Applications.” Presentation, Educational Theatre Association Conference, Washington DC, 2000
- “Multicultural Challenges.” Panel Presentation, International Museum Theatre Alliance Conference, Boston Museum of Science, 1999
- “Ritual Without Walls: Large-Scale Spectacle in the Classroom.” Presentation, AATE Conference, Denver CO
- “Playing with Science,” *Stage of the Art* v. 7 (Summer 1995) pp 10-14

Selected Creative Work (Directing, Puppetry, Performance)

- Featured improviser, *Wayne Brady: Family Remix* (Hulu), Season 1 Episode 7
- Producer and writer, *Matata in the Mara*, Buni Media, Nairobi, Kenya, 2024-current
- Special Producer’s Audition, Creator/Performer, *The Make it Uppets*, America’s Got Talent 2025
- *Mariposa/Butterfly*, Director/Puppet Designer, CSUSB Theatre tour, 2024

- *Puppets in the Mara*, Adapter/Director/Puppet Designer, CSUSB Theatre tour, 2023-24
- *Teeny Tiny Puppet Festival/Teatro Lambe Lambe*, Director (with Cass and Fagner Gastaldon), CSUSB Theatre, 2023
- *Butterfly/Mariposa*, Puppeturg, NYU New Plays for Young Audiences, Dir: José Cruz Gonzalez, written by José Casas and Sandra Fenischel Asher, 2021
- *The Adventures of Pia in Tlaxlandia*, Puppeturg, In Other People's Shoes productions (Los Angeles), Dir: Robert Castro, written by José Cruz Gonzalez, 2021
- *Math Mayhem*, Director/Writer/Puppet Design, 5 Covid safe video-based productions for San Bernardino schools during quarantine, CSUSB, 2021
- Improvisor, *Farm to Table*, Ophelia's Jump Productions House Team, Upland CA 2018-2020
- *Charlotte's Web*, Director/Puppet design, tour of San Bernardino city schools, CSUSB, 2019
- *The Paper Bag Princess and Other Stories*, Director/Puppet design, CSUSB, tour of Inland Empire, 2018
- *Godspell* (director: Elena Velasco), Puppet design, Bowie State University, Bowie, MD, 2018
- *The Witches* (director: Abigail Dressler), Puppet design, Lewis Family Playhouse, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, 2017
- *Alicia in Wonder Tierra*, Director/Puppet design, CSUSB, 2016
- *Around the World in 80 Puppets*, Director/Puppet design, tour of Inland Empire for CSUSB, 2015
- *Black Butterfly*, Director, tour of Inland Empire, CSUSB and CSUSB Palm Desert, 2014
- *Think Big!*, Director, Monterey Bay Aquarium, 2014
- *Who Said Miaow?* (Dir: Gina Pavlova) Puppeteer and Script Adaptation. Skirball Puppet Festival, 2014
- *Student New Play Showcase*, Director, CSUSB, 2013
- *Round and Round*, Director/Writer/Puppet design, CSUSB and tour of Southern California, 2013
- *The Nightingale* (dir: Moises Kaufman) Puppetry coach, La Jolla Playhouse, 2012
- *An Unpuppet Show*, Devisor/Director, CSUSB and tour of Southern California, 2011
- *Red, Blue and White* (dir: Gina Pavlova) Puppeteer, Producer, 24th St Theatre, Los Angeles, 2011
- *A Wrinkle in Time* (Dir: Tom Provenzano) Puppet Mistress, CSUSB, 2011
- *Cinderella* (Dir: Margaret Perry) Puppet Mistress, CSUSB, 2010
- *Oh So Silly Animal Stories*, Director/Writer/Puppet design. Presented at CSUSB and local schools, puppetry and music festivals, University of Wyoming (Laramie public schools) 2009-10
- *The Lytle Creek Show*, Director/Writer/Puppet design in collaboration with the Lytle Is Vital Consortium (Water Resources Institute, CSUSB). Tour of Inland Empire and video creation, 2008
- *The Odyssey*, Director/Puppet design, CSUSB tour, Puppet Fair Sofia, Bulgaria, Children's Stage Season Chongqing, China, 2007-9
- KRCB Pledge Drive (Sonoma, CA), Puppet segments (puppet design and improvised performance), 2007

- SAWPA Training Video, Puppet design and performance, 2007
- *The Inland Emperor's New Clothes*, Director/Writer, puppet co-designer, CSUSB and tour of Southern California, 2005
- *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse* (Dir: Michelle Ebert Freire) Puppet design and manipulation coach, CSUSB for Landis Auditorium Riverside, CA, 2004
- *The Crane Wife*, Director (with Dr. William Peterson) and Puppet design, CSUSB, 2003
- *Crow and Weasel*, Director and Puppet design, CSUSB, 2002

Courses Taught

- The School of Entrepreneurship at CSUSB (Jack H. Brown School of Business and Public Administration): The Improvisational Mind, Entrepreneurial Innovation and Creativity, Exploring Entrepreneurship: Leadership for Global Challenges
- CSUSB Theatre Arts: Puppetry in the Classroom, Creative Drama, Improvisation, Devise Theatre, Theatre for Social Justice, Sketch Comedy, Children's Theatre, Puppetry Workshop, Puppetry for the Camera, Theatre in the Elementary School Classroom, Advanced Creative Drama, Studies in Dramatic Literature, Introduction to Theatre, Performance Practicum
- CSUSB College of Arts and Letters: The Cultures of American Childhood
- CSU Summer Arts: "From the Streets to the Screen: Puppets, Cameras, and Controlled Chaos" with professional puppeteers Paul Zaloom, Tim Lagasse, and Clare Dolan
- Arizona State University: Puppetry with Children, Puppetry Workshop, University Instruction
- Guest artist/instructor, Giant Puppet Design, University of Wyoming at Laramie

Selected Professional Performances and Workshops

Puppets in the House Festival, Verona WI

Celebrate Puppetry Festival, Wales UK

Hartford University, Hartford CT

Da Arts Center, Pomona CA

San Manuel Indian Tribe, Highland CA

Skirball Puppet Festival, Los Angeles CA

California Baptist University, Riverside CA

University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba AU

San Bernardino County Libraries

Tennessee Arts Academy

Hochschule Konstanz Startup School, Germany

Ball State Theatre Education, Muncie IN

Courageous Creativity, Disneyland, Anaheim CA

RIMS intern program, Riverside CA

Sacred Heart School, Atherton CA

LA Stage Day, LA Stage Alliance

Southern California Libraries Cooperative

Celebrate Puppetry Festival, Tujunga CA

Carleton College, MN

The California Youth Theatre

UCLA Graduate Studies, Library Science
LA Central Library
Studio Theatre, Washington DC

Ontario Public Libraries
Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts
The National Zoo

Affiliations/Memberships

- Applied Improvisation Network (AIN)
- Society for Arts Entrepreneurship Education (SAEE)
- TYA/USA
- UNIMA (International Puppeteers Association)
- Puppeteers of America

Grants

- Theatre Communications Group (TCG) Travel Grant, 2008
- National Endowment for the Arts, Summer Schools in the Arts, 2007
- CSUSB, consistent recipient of grants supporting innovative teaching, creative work, international exchange, and service learning efforts

Professional Training

- Entrepreneurship: Experiential Classroom conference, Notre Dame, 2021
- Puppetry: Eric Bass, Sandglass Theatre Intensive (VT), Michael Earl TV Puppetry (Los Angeles), Jim Kroupa and many others (O'Neill Puppetry Conference)
- Graduate of the Sketch Writing Program, The Second City Los Angeles, 2007
- Improv: William Hall, *BATS* San Francisco, Jeremy Rowley, Brian Palermo *The Groundlings*, Mike Leffingwell, *Upright Citizen's Brigade Los Angeles*, Keith Johnstone and Tracy Burns, *Theatresports Los Angeles*, Andrew Eninger and Martin DeMaat, *The Second City Chicago*
- Corporeal Mime: Thomas Leabhart (Pomona College and Aurillac, France)
- Acting: Meade Andrews, Sandra Kamman, Musical Theatre: George Fulginini-Shakar (The Studio Theatre, Washington DC)
- Viewpoints and Suzuki training intensive: SITI Company, Los Angeles