



CHRISTOPHER RUSHING

EDUCATION

Georgia Southern University

August 2005 – August 2010

Dual major: B.A. in Theatre and English

*Graduated Magna Cum Laude

Atlanta Shakespeare Theater

Acting/Education Apprentice - 2010

WORK EXPERIENCE

Synetic Theater

Education and Outreach Director

July, 2019–Present

As the Education Director I revitalized and oversaw all Education Programs at Synetic Theater.

- ▲ Created, oversaw, and managed a six-figure educational budget that generated substantial revenue.
- ▲ Oversaw long term planning and strategic operation of Synetic Theater Education programs.
- ▲ Served as the Outreach co-ordinator, booking assemblies, residencies, and workshops that annually reach around 15,000 students a year.
- ▲ Served on the Strategic Planning Committee that helped redefine Synetic Theater's Mission.
- ▲ Oversaw Synetic Theater Studio programs that experienced record student numbers throughout all programs. This included the Teen Company, Saturday Classes, Synetic Fitness, and our student matinees.
- ▲ Engaged in Community Outreach, codifying and strengthening community relationships with Alexandria City Public Schools, Fair Fax County Public Schools, and D.C. Public Schools.
- ▲ Trained, lead, and provided feedback for a team of a dozen teaching artists.
- ▲ Wrote narrative and assisted with grant writing, many of which received the requested funding.
- ▲ Served on and was an outspoken supporter of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Access Committee. Strove to apply an anti-racist and EDIA lens to Education Programming.
- ▲ Wrote lesson plans and curriculum.
- ▲ Lead the company successfully through the COVID pandemic by creating innovative programming that allowed Synetic Theater to stay financially stable. This work included:
 - Conceiving and creating new mainstage shows,
 - Creating and overseeing Virtual Summer Camp and Classes
 - Creating a dynamic and successful Virtual Field Trip series which impacted over 25,000 students.
 - Developed, received funding, and distribute smARTies are in a box to 10,000 families in the greater D.C Metro area.
 - Created Hybrid training classes, Synetic SchoolCare, the virtual show "It's Elementary with Sherlock Holmes," and the new Pre-Teen Program.

PROFILE

I am an enterprising leader with a history of helping Theaters and Educational Institutions grow while maintaining high quality Theatre arts programming.

I have nearly a decade of experience working in multiple Theatre disciplines including as an actor, director, dramaturg, playwright, educator, producer, stage manager, fundraiser, and Artistic Director.

I love teaching. I am a dynamic educator, with experience working with students of various abilities and the capacity to work with students of all backgrounds. I am excellent at scaffolding my work and meeting my students where they are. I believe in engaging students with questions and challenging them to be the leaders of their own learning.

I have a track record of efficiently managing multiple projects, following and maintain a strict budget, serving as a team lead, and training new employees. I have extensive experience in the development, growth, team building, and leadership of paid and volunteer personnel.

CONTACT

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SKILLS

Data Collection/Assessment
Microsoft Office Suite
Editing Video and Audio
Team Lead
Maintaining Project Budgets
Point of Sale Software/Ticketing
Casting
Writing Curriculum and Lesson Plan
Strategic Planning
Professional Development
Assessment Practices

PHILOSOPHY:

Theatre should engage and challenge its artistic and geographical community. Theater can elevate us as humans, serve as societal critique, and provide stories that feed our souls. The most compelling theatre is inclusive and features diverse voices. I am passionate about Theatre because it creates and nourishes empathy in those who view it and those who participate in it.

REFERENCES:

Michael Tarver, Actor/Teacher
Gwinnett Public Schools
michael_j_tarver@gwinnett.k12.ga.us
770-789-1707

Jennifer Adams, Education Director
Orlando Repertory Theatre
jadams@orlandorep.com
407.896.7365 x 20

Laura Cole, Director of Education
Atlanta Shakespeare Company
laura@shakespearetavern.com
404.874.5299 x 58
Jessica Fern Hunt, Artistic Director

Frances Barreto, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
UCP of Central Florida
fbarreto@ucpcf.org
407.852.3302

WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

United Cerebral Palsy of Central Florida Charter Schools

Art Integration Teacher and Team Lead

Sept. 2017–July 2019

**Won Teacher of the Year for 2017-18*

I worked at six of the seven campuses throughout the school year.

Duties include:

- ✦ Engaged in community outreach.
- ✦ Received training on how to work with a diverse student population.
- ✦ Provided direct, instructional support, coaching and guidance to teachers integrating visual arts within their classrooms and embedded throughout the curriculum(s).
- ✦ Taught up to twelve classes a week for grades K-8.
- ✦ Wrote narrative and applied for Grants.
- ✦ Served as Team Lead for the Arts Integration Team.
- ✦ Taught Arts Enrichment afterschool programs.

Atlanta Shakespeare Company

Education Associate Artist

July. 2012–July. 2014

- ✦ Provided Arts enrichment that fulfilled Georgia Theater Standards.
- ✦ Lead teacher/director for after school program with Therrell High School that culminated in a full length Shakespeare play performance (2011-2014).
- ✦ Performed common administrative tasks.
- ✦ Trained new Teaching Artists and provided teaching assessment on Teaching Artists throughout the year.
- ✦ Taught workshops, classes, and multi-month residencies for students' grades K-college.
- ✦ Wrote original plays with students and directed both student and professional actors.
- ✦ Contacted education clients and booked workshops.
- ✦ Engaged in community outreach and nurtured relationships with other Arts Organizations and Theatres in the community.
- ✦ Wrote education curriculum.
- ✦ Lead Teacher/Director for summer High School program called Shakespeare Intensive for Teens.

Freelance

Teaching Artist

August. 2010–Present

- ✦ Served as a teaching artist for a variety of companies including: *Atlanta Shakespeare Company, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Forefront Arts, Academy Theatre, Orlando Repertory Theater, and Theatre Gael.*

The Seedling Project

Artistic Director

July. 2015–July. 2016

The Seedling Project; a One-Year Theatre Lab,

- ✦ Conceived, created, and ran a one-year Theatre Lab that produced six projects.
- ✦ Negotiated contracts for venues and actors.
- ✦ Generated copy.
- ✦ Assisted in fundraising.

THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

Lear- The Fern Theatre

"Under the skillful direction of Chris Rushing, the violence that unfolds after Lear's tragic error develops with machine gun-fire rapidity and a dreadful inevitability....The production is, in spite of its small faults, electrically alive. The brutal culminating events have seldom felt so uncomfortably, devastatingly close." - Andrew Alexander, ArtsATL

Hedda Gabler - The Seedling Project

"This was perhaps the most intimate Hedda I've seen -- characters mere inches from the audience -- and I truly felt as if I were in the room with the characters, and credit for such an apt use of the space needs to go as much to Ms. Herd's adaptation as to Mr. Rushing's direction."

-Brad Rudy, AtlantaTheatreBuzz

Waiting for Godot - Averitt Center for the Arts

"Director Christopher Rushing seems to have had a very clear vision of what he wanted to present to his audience - "Charlie Chaplin in Hell". He was concerned with presenting a play that is tragically funny and hilariously tragic. He succeeded...the production had the collision of characters as Beckett seems to have wanted: carefully choreographed comic chaos!" -Dr. Peter Mellen, Armstrong University, American College Theatre

Joy – Synetic Theater

"Synetic has once again developed its own way to bring theater performers and audiences together. Joy is a distinctive, live production of original content and technical design ... interactive and thought provoking. It is contemporary storytelling with a deep self-revealing memoir-ish arc." - DC Metro Theatre Arts

"We've seen a lot of innovative approaches to online theater, but this one seems genuinely new" – American Theatre Magazine

"Bold moves, controlled grace, and sheer passion...an intimate theatrical experience that feels oh so one-on-one." – DC Theatre Scene

*Acting Resume available upon request

Show:	Role	Theatre
JOY	Creator/Adaptor	Synetic Theater
Decameron (Day 10)*	Actor/Adaptor	Synetic Theater
Our Voices	Director	UCP in Partnership with Orlando Repertory Theatre
Cinderella Remixed	Director	UCP in Partnership with Orlando Repertory Theatre
12 th Night	Director	Lowndes Shakespeare Center
Lear	Director	The Fern Theatre
Hedda Gabler	Director	The Seedling Project
Americana	Director	The Seedling Project
Down Came the Rain	Director	Theatre South, GSU
The Pillowman	Director	Theatre South, GSU
Stop/Over	Director	Aris Theatre
Romeo and Juliet	Asst. Director	Georgia Shakespeare Fest.
Tempest	Asst. Director	Atlanta Shakespeare Com.
Anthropomorphized Bottles	Director	Onion Man Theatre
Office of Nostalgia	Director	Onion Man Theatre
Art	Director	Academy Theatre
True West	Director	Averitt Center for the Arts
App. With Death	Director	Averitt Center for the Arts
Waiting for Godot	Director	Averitt Center for the Arts

*Won Audience Choice Award

Academic Directing

Mary Poppins	Director	Orlando Repertory Theatre
Disney Stars	Director	Orlando Repertory Theatre
12 th Night	Director	Atlanta Shakespeare Com.
Jungle Book	Director	Orlando Repertory Theatre
Wayside School	Director	Orlando Repertory Theatre
Star Wars Shakespeare	Director	Orlando Repertory Theatre
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Director	Atlanta Shakespeare Com.
King Lear	Director	Atlanta Shakespeare Com.
Much Ado About Nothing	Director	Therrell High School (via ASC)
Tempest	Director	Therrell High School (via ASC)
Romeo and Juliet	Director	Therrell High School (via ASC)
The Comedy of Errors	Director	Therrell High School (via ASC)
Eurydice (scene)	Director	Directing Fellowship, KCACTF
One Flew Over...	Director	Directing Fellowship, KCACTF

Other

It's Elementary...	Creator/Writer	Synetic Theater
Journey's End*	Playwright	Atlanta Shakespeare Com.
Heartscape	Playwright	The Fern Theatre
The Olympians	Playwright	Atlanta Shakespeare Com.
One Stop Heart Shop	Playwright	Onion Man Theatre
Waiting Just to Go	Playwright	Onion Man Theatre
Repetition and Repetition	Playwright	Playwrighting Finalist, KCACTF
Americana	Playwright	The Seedling Project
Twelfth Night	Dramaturg	Orlando Shakespeare Com.
The World of Harper Lee	Stage Manager	The Athena Group
Lear	Set Designer	The Fern Theatre
Deathwatch	Producer	The Seedling Project
The Maids	Producer	The Seedling Project
Celtic Shorts (Fundraiser)	Executive Producer	Aris Theatre
Serial Killers	Executive Producer	The Seedling Project

* Journey's End was selected as a "Cultural Experience Project Winner" for 2019 by the Atlanta Mayor's office.