

# Laura Beth Wells

[ksuactor@gmail.com](mailto:ksuactor@gmail.com)

[www.laurabethwells.com](http://www.laurabethwells.com)

## EDUCATION

2000	MFA, Theatre Performance	Kent State University	Kent, OH
1996	BA, Theatre	University of Tennessee	Knoxville, TN

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

### BROADWAY

<i>Spider-man: Turn Off the Dark</i>	Emily Osborn/Marbles/Brenda Julie Taymor/Philip McKinley, directors (original company)	Foxwoods Theatre
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### NEW YORK THEATRE (selected)

<i>Hands of Horror; Me and You</i>	Tinny McGee; You Andrew Volkoff, director	Drama League Play Fest
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<i>The Rockae, a new rock musical</i>	Autonoe Cara Reichel, director	Prospect Theatre /NYMF '07
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LaChiusa's <i>The Wild Party</i>	Madeline True Saheem Ali, director	Columbia Stages
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### REGIONAL THEATRE (selected)

<i>Fun Home</i>	Alison Jessica Holt, director	River and Rail Theatre
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<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Mrs. Dilber/Mrs. Fezziwig Kathleen Conlin, director	Clarence Brown Theatre
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<i>Gideon's Knot</i>	Heather John Sowle, director	Bridge Street Theatre
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<i>The Who's Tommy</i>	Mrs. Walker Gabriel Barre, director	Connecticut Repertory Theatre
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<i>The Pajama Game</i>	Brenda;u/s Babe & Mabel David Ira Goldstein, director	Arizona Theatre Company
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<i>All in the Timing</i>	Kafka, Waitress Matt August, director	Hangar Theatre
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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**2020-present Adjunct Professor University of Tennessee Knoxville, TN**

\*Currently teach Theatre 100, a lecture-based generalist course for undergraduates

\*Have also taught Theatre 220 (Introduction to Acting) and Theatre 221 (Beginning Scene Study), both for undergraduates in previous semesters

**2021 Adjunct Professor/Director Maryville College Maryville, TN**

\*Directed undergraduate students and worked with undergraduate designers on a full-scale production of *Five Women Wearing The Same Dress* during the fall semester

**2019-2021 Adjunct Professor Pellissippi State Knoxville, TN \*Taught**

Theatre 1030, a lecture-based generalist course for undergraduates

**2005-2006 Adjunct Professor Syracuse University Syracuse, NY**

\*Taught DRA 105, the Level I Acting course for non-major undergraduates

\*Taught DRA 305, the Level II Acting/Scene Study course for non-major undergraduates

**2005-2006 Adjunct Professor SUNY Binghamton Binghamton, NY**

\*Taught THEA 207, the Level I acting course for undergraduates

**2004-2005 Resident Professional Cornell University Ithaca, NY**  
**Teaching Artist**

\*Responsibilities included:

--Teaching THEA 280, the Level I Acting course for undergraduates

--Creating and teaching a movement masterclass on Rudolph Laban's Effort Shapes --Coaching and mentoring students on audition pieces, etc.

--Performing in season productions

**1997-2000 Teaching Fellow Kent State University Kent, OH**

\*Taught Art of the Theatre, a lecture-based generalist course for undergraduates

\*Taught Art of Acting, the Level I acting course for undergraduates

### ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**2016-2020 Teaching Artist Knoxville Children's Theatre Knoxville, TN \*Classes taught include:**

--Beginning and Advanced Acting techniques and Scene Study

--Movement workshops based on Rudolph Laban's Effort Shapes

--Audition techniques and monologue selection

--Building characters and scenes through improvisation

--Acting and character development for developmentally challenged adults (collaboration with Sertoma Center)

**2006 Teaching Artist/Director Hangar Theatre/Project 4 Ithaca, NY**

\*Worked with teachers and students in fourth grade classrooms during 3-week residencies.

Goals included:

- Identify educational goals for each project (Aligning with NYS Learning Standards and school curriculum)
- Create original plays with music, inspired by their topic, with students, teachers, and musician/songwriter
- Stage and present public performance

**2005 Teaching Artist/Director Hangar Theatre/Next Generation Ithaca, NY Summer Acting Conservatory**

\*Taught Acting Level 3 for students ages 14-18: basics of character development, monologue and scene study

\*Co-directed *The Phantom Tollbooth*, a fully produced hour-long show featuring Next Generation students performing on the Hangar Theatre mainstage using the Next Generation students.

**2001 Teaching Artist San Francisco Shakespeare Festival San Francisco, CA**

\*Taught Acting for Beginning students (grades 2-8) and Advanced students (grades 9-12).

\*Directed a fully produced, 50-minute adaptation of *Macbeth* with the Advanced students.

**2001 Teaching Artist Calaveras Repertory Theatre Milpitas, CA**

\*Created and taught Fundamentals of Rudolph Laban's Effort Shapes to students grades 4-8.

**2000-2001 Teaching Artist/Director Theatre of All Possibilities Santa Cruz, CA**

\*Taught and directed participating student and adult actors at the school, integrating them into our performance.

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**2013 Ted Sluberski, Acting for the Camera, New York, New York**

**2012 Bob Krakower, Acting for the Camera, New York, New York**

**2012 Maggie Phillips, Voice Over Technique, New York, New York**

**2011 Barry Shapiro, Commercial Acting Technique, New York, New York**

**2006 Nancy Stark Smith, Contact Improvisation and Open Score Work, Toronto, Ontario** One-week intensive rehearsal process to create our performance, *Co-Existing Forms*.

**2000 Ken Howard, Audition Technique, Kent, Ohio**

**1999 Mark LaMura, Acting for the Camera, Kent, Ohio**

**1998 Catherine Wolf, Meisner Approach, Kent, Ohio**

## **AWARDS, UNION AFFILIATIONS, AND COMMISSIONED WORKS**

**2018** Commissioned by Flying Anvil Theatre in Knoxville, TN to create and perform *A Perfect Match*, a cabaret featuring myself and Metropolitan Opera baritone David Crawford

**2001** Became a member of Actor's Equity Association

**1997-2000** Awarded Full Graduate Assistant Teaching Fellowship at Kent State University

## **PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

Dennis Perkins  
Artistic Director/Former Academy Director Knoxville  
Children's Theatre  
dennis@knoxvillechildrenstheatre.com  
865-208-3677

Terri Kent, Professor  
Musical Theatre Coordinator  
School of Theatre and Dance  
Kent State University  
Producing Artistic Director  
Porthouse Theatre  
tkent@kent.edu  
330-672-0107

Kathleen Conlin Director  
kconlin@illinois.edu  
217-390-1579

Jayne Morgan  
Founder Flying Anvil Theatre  
jayne@flyinganviltheatre.com  
865-357-1309