

Laura Beth Wells

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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>Always, Patsy Cline</i>	Patsy Cline Terry Alford, 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, and Theatre 215, History of the Broadway Musical, which I also helped develop

*Developed and teach online, asynchronous versions of both Theatre 100 and Theatre 215

*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

Ken Martin
Artistic Director, Clarence Brown Theatre
Department Head, University of Tennessee Theatre
kmartin@utk.edu
865-974-6011

Joshua Peterson
Founding Artistic Director
River and Rail Theatre
joshua@riverandrailtheatre.com
865-310-2664