

MARK A. FOSSEN

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6492 Lombardy Drive
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EDUCATION

MFA	University of Idaho, Theatre Arts Concentration in Directing Major Professor: Robert C. Caisley	December 2017
BA	University of Utah, Theatre Studies Graduated Magna Cum Laude	May 2014
	Columbia College, Theatre	1990-1993
	DePaul University, Acting	1989-1990
	New York University, Acting	1988

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Utah

Teaching

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Theatre Spring 2017, Spring 2018

- *Theatre and Theory* – Taught lecture-based course applying literary theories to theatrical texts, including structuralism, poststructuralism, Marxist and materialist theory, feminist, queer, and gender theory, and postcolonial theory. Class included written assignments as well as final performances.

Teaching Assistant and Reader, Department of Theatre 2012 - 2014

- *Theatre and Theory* — Worked with Dr. Sydney Cheek-O'Donnell to enhance existing theatre theory curriculum into a hybrid format as part of the Undergraduate Student Experts in Teaching program.
- *Theatre History* — Provided feedback and final grading for Dr. Robert Nelson for assignments in writing intensive Theatre History class. Assisted in quiz design and course content.

Guest Lecturer, Department of Theatre 2011 - 2015

- Lectured on the director's role in a production and their role in developing designs in Introduction to Theatre and Set Design courses.

Service

Dramaturgy Advisor, Department of Theatre Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

- Served as advisor for all student dramaturgs, providing resources and advice during each show's process, coordinating communication with departmental staff, editing and proofing printed materials, and guiding the talkback process.

Westminster College

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Theatre

Fall 2016, Fall 2017

- *Devised Theatre* - Designed and taught a new course in the program for all incoming students. Through the course of the semester, students devise and create a theatre piece for public performance.

Theatre Arts Conservatory

Instructor

2009 - 2012

- Taught Conservatory III/IV on Spolin Improvisation. Developed and taught a new pre-professional course on actor development through scene study, Shakespeare, improvisation, and other concentrated studies.

EDUCATIONAL HONORS AND AWARDS

Ralph E. and Winnifred S. Margetts Scholarship

2012

Awarded to undergraduate in the Theatre Department to support either an original monograph on a theatre history topic or create a dramaturgical packet in support of theatre production at either the Babcock Theatre or the Pioneer Memorial Theatre.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING (SELECTED)

<i>A View from the Bridge</i> by Arthur Miller (upcoming)	The Grand Theatre	2018
<i>The Real Thing</i> by Tom Stoppard (upcoming)	Pinnacle Acting Company	2018
<i>Silent Sky</i> by Lauren Gunderson	Pygmalion Theatre	2017
<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> by Tennessee Williams	The Grand Theatre	2017
<i>Stage Kiss</i> by Sarah Ruhl	Wasatch Theatre Company	2016
<i>The Skin of Our Teeth</i> by Thornton Wilder	The Grand Theatre	2015
<i>August: Osage County</i> by Tracy Letts	Utah Rep/Silver Summit	2014
<i>Our Town</i> by Thornton Wilder	The Grand Theatre	2014
<i>As You Like It</i> by William Shakespeare	Davis Arts Council	2013
<i>Death of a Salesman</i> by Arthur Miller	The Grand Theatre	2013
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i> by William Shakespeare	Davis Arts Council	2012

<i>The Crucible</i> by Arthur Miller	The Grand Theatre	2012
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by William Shakespeare	Davis Arts Council	2011
<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> by Tennessee Williams	The Grand Theatre	2011
<i>The Road and the River</i> by ian pierce	Hope and Nonthings (Chicago)	1994
<i>Dark Ride</i> by Len Jenkins	Gillarlaine Theatre (Chicago)	1993
<i>Fragmented Veins of Staci and Cayse</i> by ian pierce	Hope and Nonthings (Chicago)	1993
<i>Awake and Sing!</i> by Clifford Odets (Assistant)	Steppenwolf Theatre (Chicago)	1992

EDUCATIONAL DIRECTING (SELECTED)

<i>Bellwether</i> by Steve Yockey	Westminster College	2016
<i>Don Juan Comes Back from the War</i> by Ödön von Horváth	Westminster College	2015
<i>The Children's Hour</i> by Lillian Hellman	University of Utah	2015
<i>Student SLAM</i> by Various	Theatre Arts Conservatory	2011/12
<i>Apprentice Showcase</i> (Co-director)	Idaho Shakespeare	1995

PROFESSIONAL ACTING (SELECTED)

<i>The Ice Front</i>	Morten	Plan-B Theatre - <i>World Premiere</i>
<i>Blackbird</i>	Ray	Utah Repertory Theatre
<i>Based on a True Story</i>	Hendrix	Plan-B Theatre - <i>World Premiere</i>
<i>Pilot Program</i>	Jacob Husten	Plan-B Theatre - <i>World Premiere</i>
<i>Clearing Bombs</i>	John Maynard Keynes <i>Best Theatre Performance 2014 Arty Awards</i>	Plan-B Theatre - <i>World Premiere</i>
<i>The Threepenny Opera</i>	Macheath	University of Utah, Guest Artist
<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	Chillingworth	Plan-B Theatre - <i>World Premier</i>
<i>The Odyssey</i>	Odysseus	Meat & Potato - <i>World Premier</i>
<i>Amerigo</i>	Christopher Columbus	Plan-B Theatre - <i>World Premier</i>

<i>Macbeth</i>	Macbeth	Salt Lake Shakespeare
<i>Exposed</i>	Official #2	Plan-B Theatre - <i>World Premiere</i>
<i>The Alienation Effekt</i>	Heber Vigil/Ragg/Susan/Airport Person/Chess Student	Plan-B Theatre
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Sundance Summer Theatre	Oberon/Theseus
<i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	Vice Principal Panch	Pinnacle Acting Company
<i>Wieland</i>	Pleyel	Thick Description - <i>World Premiere</i>
<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	Sir Thurio	Idaho Shakespeare Festival
<i>Henry IV, Part I & Part II</i>	The Douglas/Pistol	Idaho Shakespeare Festival
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	Sampson	California Shakespeare Theatre
<i>Richard II</i>	Ensemble	California Shakespeare Theatre
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	Ensemble	California Shakespeare Theatre

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Fossen, Mark A., Cheek-O'Donnell, Sydney, PhD. "Theory into Practice: Visualizing and Activating the Study of Critical Theory in Theatre," *University of Utah Undergraduate Research Abstracts*, vol. 14, Spring 2014.

"Theory into Practice: Visualizing and Activating the Study of Critical Theory in Theatre," University of Utah Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2014.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Board Member (2015 -)

Board President (2017-)

The Grand Theatre

Board Member (2015 -)

Great Salt Lake Fringe Festival

Producer (2012)

Webmaster (2012 -)

Pinnacle Acting Company

Reader

Salt Lake Acting Company David Ross Fetzer Foundation for Emerging Artists, 2016
id Theatre Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, 2018

PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS (SELECTED)

Death of a Salesman: “I suspect this was a stronger showing of Miller’s seminal play than that recent Broadway revival, that kept Mielziner’s design, but lost something of the play’s heart and spirit.” Susan W. Abbotson, *The Arthur Miller Journal*, vol. VIII, num. 1, Spring 2013

Don Juan Comes Back from the War: “The standout aspect of this particular production was the solid and decisive direction by Mark Fossen, who has an enormous strength for creating breathtaking imagery on stage.” Elise Hanson, *Utah Theatre Bloggers*, Nov. 20, 2015

August: Osage County: “The performances are insightful and always on the same page, thanks to Mark Fossen's direction, which tingles with tension. Fossen has a way of placing and moving actors so that relationships snap into focus.” Barbara M. Bannon, *Salt Lake Tribune*, Aug. 5, 2014

The Skin of Our Teeth: “Mark Fossen shows his facile knack for directing what could be a musty theater history lesson into shockingly vibrant, must-see entertainment. His affection for the material is evident, and the directing style is very right for this play.” Blair Howell, *Deseret News*, Mar. 16, 2015

Clearing Bombs: “BEST THEATER PERFORMANCE: [...] Fossen delivered a terrific interpretation of a celebrated scholar whose certainty creates more friction in the conversation, helping give debates over policy a surprisingly human face.” Scott Renshaw, *City Weekly*, Sept. 10, 2014