

J. Austin Eyer

Unions: AEA, AFTRA/SAG

Website:

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My career in theatre consists of Broadway performance credits, a published book, professional skills as a director and choreographer, administrative experience as the head of a BFA program in musical theatre, and 16 years combined teaching for two nationally recognized top-five musical theatre programs. My connection to the current theatre industry, as well as my knowledge of musical theatre history, makes me a well rounded educator for students hoping to explore a career in the theatre.

Education:

The Pennsylvania State University May 2020

- MFA in Theatre, Concentration in Directing
 - Program Advisor: Susan H. Schulman

New York University (Tisch School of the Arts) May 2004

- BFA in Drama

Academic Employment

The University of Texas at Arlington 2020–Present

- Assistant Professor and Co-Area Head of Musical Theatre
 - Primary students include around 50 Musical Theatre BFAs. Duties include 3/3 teaching load, administrative duties, recruitment, advising, creative research, service, directing and choreographing productions.

Courses Taught

- Singing for the Actor I
- Singing for the Actor II
- Dance for Musical Theatre
- Senior Showcase/Portfolio

The Pennsylvania State University 2014–2020

- Assistant Teaching Professor of Theatre, Co-coordinator of dance
 - Primary students include around 48 Musical Theatre BFAs and 25 BS Dance Majors, with some Acting BFAs and Dance Minors. Duties include 4/5 teaching load, academic advising, directing/co-directing NYC senior industry showcases, directing productions, choreographing for mainstage

productions, directing/choreographing the President's Tailgates and other university service events, and service on the diversity and undergraduate curriculum committees.

Courses Taught:

- Acting
- Intro to Jazz, and Beginning Jazz
- Sophomore Studio—Song Analysis and Musical Scene Study
- Musical Theatre Dance Styles and Auditions
- Advanced Jazz
- Senior Studio—New York Industry Showcase
- Independent Study—special topics include how to swing, assist, dance captain, partner, and build skills as a dance instructor

CAP21 Conservatory/NYU Tisch School of the Arts

2003-2014

- Adjunct Instructor, Dance Coordinator, Admissions Assistant, Student Advisor, Director and Choreographer
 - Employment spanned all programs leading up to the transition to Molloy College: NYU (Tisch) BFA, Two-year Professional Conservatory, CAP21's Pre-College and Professional Summer Training Programs, and the Cayuga pre-college program. Duties included: average 2/2 teaching load, student and faculty advising, scheduling and hiring of faculty, admissions processing, senior showcases, choreography for mainstage productions, and direction of studio projects.

Courses Taught:

- Dance Classes
 - All levels Jazz/Theatre Dance
 - Beginner Tap
 - Beginner and Intermediate Ballet
 - Song and Dance
- Senior Industry Practicum—choreographer and industry advisor on 9 programmatic Senior Showcases

Selected Performance Experience:

BROADWAY

<i>Evita</i>	Ensemble	Dir. Michael Grandage Chor. Rob Ashford
<i>How to Succeed...</i>	Swing/Assist. Dance Captain	Dir./Chor. Rob Ashford
<i>Billy Elliot</i>	Ensemble (u/s Tony)	Dir. Stephen Daldry Chor. Peter Darling

<i>The Little Mermaid</i>	Swing (u/s Prince Eric, Jetsam)	Dir. Francesca Zambello Chor. Stephen Mear
<i>Curtains</i>	Swing/Assist. Dance Captain (u/s Johnny)	Dir. Scott Ellis Chor. Rob Ashford
<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Colin	Dir. Susan H. Schulman Chor. Michael Lichtefeld

NATIONAL TOUR

<i>Billy Elliot</i>	Ensemble (u/s Tony)	Dir. Stephen Daldry Chor. Peter Darling
<i>White Christmas</i>	Ensemble	Dir. Walter Bobbie Chor. Randy Skinner
<i>Evita</i>	Ensemble	Dir. Hal Prince Dir./Chor. Larry Fuller

OFF BROADWAY

<i>Anyone Can Whistle</i>	Ensemble	Dir./Chor. Casey Nicholaw
<i>My Big Gay Italian Wedding</i>	Gregorio/Choreographer	Dir. Teresa Cicala
<i>Apartment 3A</i>	Tony	Dir. Valentina Fratti

Selected Directing/Choreography Credits:

OFF BROADWAY

<i>My Big Gay Italian Wedding</i>	Choreographer	St. Luke's Theatre
<i>Boys Just Wanna Have Fun</i>	Choreographer	The Actor's Playhouse

OTHER

<i>Spring Awakening</i>	Director/Choreographer	Maverick Theatre Company
<i>Moving Forward</i> (World Premiere)	Director	The University of Texas at Arlington
<i>Results Will Vary*</i>	Director/Co-Creator	Penn State University - New Student Orientation
Penn State Senior Industry Showcase (6 total)	Director/Choreographer, or Co-Director	New York City
<i>Cabaret</i>	Director/Choreographer	Penn State University

<i>A Little Night Music</i>	Choreographer	Penn State Centre Stage
<i>Paint Your Wagon</i>	Assistant to Director - Josh Rhodes	The MUNY
<i>Men on Boats</i>	Director	Penn State Centre Stage
<i>Hands on a Hardbody</i>	Choreographer	Penn State Centre Stage
<i>Constellations</i>	Director	Penn State University
Penn State Halftime Show	Choreographer	Beaver Stadium - Penn State vs Ohio State Football
<i>Kiss of the Spider Woman</i>	Choreographer	Penn State Centre Stage
<i>Rotterdam</i>	Director	Penn State University
<i>Elektric (World Premiere)</i>	Director	NuMusical Festival
<i>Truth Moves</i>	Director/Choreographer	Penn State University
<i>Be More Chill</i>	Choreographer	Penn State Centre Stage
<i>110 in the Shade</i>	Choreographer	Penn State Centre Stage
<i>Something Wicked This Way Comes</i>	Co-Director	NuMusical Festival
<i>Women Front and Centre</i>	Director/Creator	NuMusical Festival
<i>Dogfight</i>	Choreographer	Penn State Centre Stage
NYU/CAP21's Industry Showcases	Choreographer/Advisor	New York City
Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade	Choreographer	NBC
<i>On the Town</i>	Choreographer	CAP21 Mainstage
<i>Urinetown</i>	Choreographer	CAP21 Mainstage
<i>StinkyKids the Musical</i>	Choreographer	Vital Theatre Company
<i>Children of Eden</i>	Choreographer	CAP21 Mainstage
<i>The Brain that Wouldn't Die: in 3D</i>	Choreographer	NY Musical Theatre Festival
<i>The A List</i>	Choreographer	Bravo TV
MTV Woodie Awards	Choreographer	MTV

Florida Teacher of the Year Awards	Choreographer	Universal Studios
<i>Book of Secrets</i>	Choreographer/Creator	Edinburgh Fringe Festival
National Educators Association	Choreographer	Walt Disney World

Leadership Experience

Broadway Donation 2013-Present

- Co-Founder/Artistic Director, Teacher
 - Artistic direction of Broadway Donation, a non-profit organization that provides weekly donation-based dance classes and workshops to musical theatre professionals working in New York City. Duties include scheduling, hiring teachers, publicity, promotion, training and managing staff, and strategic planning.

S.T.A.T.E. Summer Program 2017, 2018, 2019

- Coordinator of Dance, Jazz/Ballet Instructor
 - Coordination of Penn State Musical Theatre's two week pre-college program. Duties include scheduling dance classes, creating curriculum, hiring dance faculty, reviewing applicants, and leveling around 35 accepted students.

The Pennsylvania State University 2014-2018

- Co-Coordinator of Dance
 - Coordination of dance classes for BFA Musical Theatre and BS Dance Majors. Duties included relaying information between the Heads, faculty, staff and students, scheduling, developing and implementing curriculum, reviewing and auditioning applicants, assessing and placing students, academic advising, and collaborating with other dance faculty. Students total 48 BFA Musical Theatre Majors and 25 Dance Majors.

NuMusical Theatre Festival 2015, 2017

- Associate Artistic Director, Director/Choreographer
 - Associate direction of the NuMusical festival, a 2-4 week festival in conjunction with Centre County Artsfest that workshops and performs new musicals. Duties included finding/contacting authors of new works, season planning, budgeting, casting, directing, consulting with authors on their work, directing, choreographing, and promotional events.

Musiktheater Bavaria 2014-2016

- Head of Musical Theatre, Dance and Acting Instructor
 - Heading the musical theatre studio of a 4 week intensive in Oberaudorf, Germany. Duties included creating/implementing the dance and acting curriculum, recruiting students, directing 3 public concerts each summer,

class and rehearsal scheduling, selecting and supervising Musical Theatre faculty, choreographing, and teaching daily acting and dance classes for both the opera and musical theatre studios. Students totaled around 8 musical theatre students and 15 opera students.

CAP21 Conservatory

2013-2014

- Dance Department Coordinator, Admissions Assistant, Teacher
 - Coordination of the two year professional training program and the summer pre-college and professional programs. Duties included revising dance curriculum, hiring and managing 20 dance faculty members, observing classes, monitoring students level and progress, reviewing grades, annual faculty reviews, student advising, mediating conflicts, recruiting, reviewing and processing applications, running auditions and placements. Students totaled around 46 two-year certificate students and 80 summer program students.

Other Teaching Experience:

Broadway Donation	Theatre Dance, Swing Masterclasses	2013-Present
Summer University Theatre Experience	College Audition Prep	2019
Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts	Swing Masterclass	2019
Showa University of Music (Tokyo, Japan)	Guest Artist	2015, 2017
Joop Den van den Ende Academy (Hamburg, Germany)	Audition Prep	2015
Broadway Dance Center	Jazz/Theatre Dance	2013-2014
Musiktheater Bavaria (Oberaudorf, Germany)	Acting, Dance, Head of Musical Theatre	2002, 2012-2016
Chattanooga High School Center for the Performing Arts	Song Analysis Masterclass	2013
Annie's Playhouse	Song Analysis Masterclass	2013
Theatre Arts Center	Dance, Movement and Acting	2009, 2010
Broadway Connection	Song Analysis and Dance Masterclasses	2009-2010
NYU Graduate Acting	Guest Dance Instructor	2005
Act III Acting Studios	Acting/Scene Study/Musical Theatre	2000, 2001

Publications

Musical Theatre: A Handbook of Practical Exercises 2020

- Selected by Digital Theatre+ to author an online handbook of 15 exercises to bring together techniques from the three areas of musical theatre. This handbook introduces and reinforces the vocabulary needed for teachers and students who wish to gain a clear process for learning a monologue, song, or dance. There is a consistent narrative that carefully helps young artists trust their own instincts and experiences when first interacting with dramatic material. Digital Theatre + is an online educational subscription website used by over three million students at 2,000 academic institutions in over 80 countries.

Swinging on Broadway: Understudying the Ensemble in Musical Theatre 2015

- Part “how-to” and part stories from the best Swings on Broadway, Swinging on Broadway educates future Swings and theatre enthusiasts on what it takes to be a Swing. Research includes over 100 interviews with Swings from such shows as the original *West Side Story*, *Starlight Express*, *Carrie*, *Wicked* and *The Book of Mormon*, as well as interviews with industry professionals like Rob Ashford, Jerry Mitchell and Susan Stroman (who also wrote the foreword for the book). Published on October 22, 2015 by Bloomsbury/Methuen Drama. ISBN-10: 1472590015

Creative Research:

*Results will Vary** 2017-2020

- Director and co-creator of a 40 minute musical sketch comedy show that works in conjunction with Penn State’s New Student Orientation. All incoming University Park students, around 8,200 total, see this interactive theatre performance, which helps prepare students for their first few weeks on campus. Topics include diversity/inclusion, campus resources, responsible drug/alcohol consumption, and consent. Duties include co-creating/writing, budgets, hiring, casting, mentoring, editing, and upkeep of the show over ten weeks of the summer.

Capsid: A Love Song 2017

- Artist in Residence for a four week exhibition in support of research of HIV narratives in contemporary culture. This project was panel selected and funded by the Borland Space Project. Four public events were hosted in the space, including two interdisciplinary panels on art, science and the history of HIV, a reading of the 2017 Lambda–nominated work *Capsid* by the author/scientist Joseph Osmundson, and a theatrical staging and presentation of *Capsid: A Love Song*. Research/duties included proposal submission, creating a budget, acquiring additional funding for

the author's campus visit, creating public programming, researching the history of HIV (in art, activism, pop culture and literature), researching the biology of the virus, creating a public gallery space that displays this artistic research, and directing a theatrical workshop of *Capsid*.

Conference Papers

Creating Space for Queer and Questioning Students 2019

- Paper Presentation - National Dance Education Organization
 - Current dance pedagogy and career-based ideology are proving problematic for this generation of young theatre artists. This paper addresses best practices for supporting queer, trans* and questioning students, such as adjusting delivery of curricular content, adding more inclusive repertoire, and staying up on LGBTQA+ vocabulary. The paper explores how to avoid the use of coded or binary language while giving feedback to students, and examines the pressure that exists for students to conform to narrow definitions of masculinity and femininity in the field of dance and musical theatre.

University Service

The University of Texas at Arlington

Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusion Committee - Member 2020-Present

Curriculum Committee - Member 2020-Present

COLA Research Awards Committee - Member 2020-Present

Women and Gender Studies Working Group - Member 2020-Present

Penn State:

LGBTQA+ Theatre Alliance - Faculty Advisor 2015-202

Diversity Committee - Member 2014-2020

Penn State Students for Diversity - Faculty Advisor 2016-2018

Academic Advisement for MT and Dance majors 2014-2018

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee - Member 2015-2017

CAP21/NYU:

Student and Faculty Advisor 2010-2014