

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES



Lauren Shouse is the Assistant Professor of Theatre Directing at Middle Tennessee State University and works as a freelance director in Chicago and Nashville. Most recently, she was the Associate Artistic Director at Chicago's Northlight Theatre where she directed their new works program called Interplay. In her four years with the company, she helped develop over 10 new plays through staged readings, workshops, and world premiere productions. Some favorites include *Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberley* by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon (named by American Theatre Magazine as one of the top produced plays in America in 2018 and winner of Joseph Jefferson award for best new play), *Faceless* by Selina Fillinger (nominated for Joseph Jefferson Award for best new play), *Landladies* by Sharyn Rothstein (loosely based on New York Times best seller *Evicted*), and *Shining Lives the*

Musical, adapted from Melanie Marnich's play by Jessica Thebus.

Lauren was also the co-founder and director of the Ingram New Works Lab and Festival at Nashville Repertory Theatre. She designed a laboratory for new play development in which emerging local and regional playwrights could work closely with seasoned professionals to develop scripts over a year. The process culminated in a public staged reading festival. In her four years in this position, she nurtured new works by nationally recognized playwrights such as John Patrick Shanley, David Auburn, Steven Dietz and Victoria Stewart. She also directed over 20 staged readings of new work by local and regional playwrights. The Ingram New Works Program has gone on to national acclaim and Lauren remains affiliated as a freelance director of new plays. Lauren also co-founded Ten Minute Playhouse, a company that produced short plays by local playwrights in Nashville.

As a freelance director, Lauren has been involved in multiple new play development processes that led to world premieres. Some of the most notable include: *Something Clean* by Selina Fillinger which went on to great critical acclaim in New York and Lauren is credited in the published play script as the original director; *Long Way Down* by Nate Eppler which was nominated for American Theatre Critics Association Steinberg New Play Award in 2011 and won a First Night Award for best new play, and the Chicago premiere of *The Cake* at Rivendell Theatre in which she was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award for best director.

In 2017, Lauren helped develop a new play program with the prestigious National High School Institute at Northwestern University. She co-taught a two week new play development class where high school playwrights workshopped their plays with high school actors. The class culminated in a public staged reading festival. Lauren has returned each summer to teach this class and direct the festival (except for 2020 which was cancelled due to the pandemic).

Her other recent directing credits include: *What We're Up Against* at Compass Theatre, *The Legend of Georgia McBride* at Northlight Theatre, *A Doll's House*, *Nice Girl* and *Betrayal* at Raven Theatre; *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Avenue Q*; *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn*; *Superior Donuts*, and *A Christmas Story* at Nashville Repertory Theatre, the world premiere of *Religion and Rubber Ducks* with Ovvio Arte; *Parallel Lives*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Last*

Five Years and *Chess in Concert* with Street Theatre Company; the world premiere of *Rear Window* at Chaffin's Barn Theatre, and *Sylvia Plath's 3 Women*. Before moving to Nashville, Lauren lived in London, UK and worked with Producer/Director Hugh Wooldridge. Her work abroad includes: Production Executive for *The Night of 1000 Voices* (celebrating John Kander and Fred Ebb and starring Joel Grey with Avenue Q) at The Royal Albert Hall; Production Executive of *An Evening with Michael Parkinson* at The Theatre Royal - Windsor, Children's Director/Assistant to the Director of *A Gift of Music*, and Assistant Director of *The Night of 1000 Voices* at The Odyssey Arena in Belfast, Ireland. Lauren holds an MA in Performance studies from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill where she adapted and directed *The Time Traveler's Wife*. She received her MFA in theatre directing at Northwestern University where she directed *Stop Kiss*, *Eurydice* and *In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play*. In Chicago, Lauren also worked with Steppenwolf Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Route 66, The Gift Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, and Stage Left Theatre.



Kate Goodwin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Middle Tennessee State University. Since joining the faculty in 2017, she has undertaken the formal training and mentoring of student stage managers as well as collaborated on the redesign and implementation of the Theatre Education cognate. Kate graduated from MTSU in 2000 with a B.S. in Theatre (Teacher Licensure) and taught Theatre for six years at the Nashville School for the Arts, the fine arts magnet high school in Nashville, TN. In 2003, she became chair of the Theatre Department, leading a team of three Theatre teachers, creating curriculum for advanced courses, and directing and producing at least two of the five productions each academic year. In 2006, Kate left NSA to pursue an MFA in Stage Management at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. During the three years at UIUC, Kate stage managed Theatre,

Opera, and Dance productions, production stage managed the 2008 Summer Studio summer repertory season, and coordinated and managed Krannert Center events including the 2008 Technology Summit, the bi-annual Ellnora Guitar Festival (2007, 2009, 2011), and Anne Bogart's SITI Company 2009 residency. In 2007, she assisted in an early workshop of what would become Moises Kaufman's *33 Variations*, hosted by the Krannert Center. In her final year of graduate school, Kate divided her time between finishing the MFA program in Urbana-Champaign and touring with the The Builders Association's production of *Continuous City* which completed its new play development at the Krannert Center before launching into an international production season, performing at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, LaJolla Playhouse, the Salamanca Festival (Spain), the Luminato Festival (Toronto), and Metropolis Festival (Denmark) among others.

In 2010, Kate joined Voices of the South Theatre Company in Memphis, TN, as Company Stage Manager and Director of Education and Touring. Central to the VOTS mission is "creating, producing, and performing theatre from diverse Southern perspectives", of which new play development is a critical component. While at Voices of the South, Kate collaborated as stage

manager on three new works written by then-Artistic Director Jerre Dye--*Self-Rising*, *Hold Fast*, and *Cicada*--and supervised the VOTS interns in creating the annual Theatre for Young Audiences pieces. *Cicada*, which won Dye the Award for Dramatic Literature from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, went on to have its Chicago premiere with Route 66 Theatre Company. In addition to her work with VOTS, Kate also taught Stage Management at the University of Memphis in 2010 and 2011.

In 2012, Kate became the Production Manager for Lexington, KY's SummerFest, coordinating and overseeing three seasons of outdoor summer repertory theatre, and in 2014, Kate co-founded AthensWest Theatre Company, operating under an SPT Tier 3 Actors Equity agreement. For the next three years, she served as Production Manager for the company, coordinating the production logistics for its three-show seasons. Kate also served on the board of The Girl Project, an arts-in-activism initiative for female-identifying middle and high schoolers in Central Kentucky. Each year, The Girl Project created and performed a production based on the experiences of each new class of girls, and Kate helped produce and stage-managed those productions in 2015, 2016, and 2017. While in Lexington, Kate also taught on the faculties of Asbury University, Eastern Kentucky University, Centre College, and Kentucky State University.

In addition to Kate's current faculty commitments and contributions at MTSU, she is a free-lance stage manager and production manager. She recently collaborated with Nashville Shakespeare Festival's production of *Julius Caesar*, and has returned to Lexington each season to continue to consult on AthensWest productions. She is also the Chair for the Theatre Division for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts.



Sharyn Rothstein is an award-winning playwright and television writer, whose plays and musicals have been produced around the country, as well as internationally. In addition to developing a one hour drama for Bravo, Sharyn was a writer and Consulting Producer for the USA hit legal drama *SUITS* for five years. She is currently developing a one-hour drama with Heydey Films for Apple TV Plus.

Sharyn's play *By The Water* was first produced by Manhattan Theater Club and Ars Nova and was the recipient of the American Theater Critic's Association Francesca Primus Prize. Her play *All The Days* was produced at the McCarter Theater Center, directed by Emily Mann. She is currently working on a theater commission from Manhattan Theater Club, as well as a stage adaptation of the beloved film *Hester Street*. Her drama *Landladies* premiered last winter at Northlight Theater, her comedy *Tell Me I'm Not Crazy* premiered this summer at The Williamstown Theater Festival, and her play *Right To Be Forgotten* premiered at Washington

DC's Arena Stage this fall. Several of her plays have been published by Dramatists Play Service, Inc, and she is a four-time recipient of the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award.

She holds an MFA in dramatic writing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and a Masters in Public Health from Hunter College, with a concentration in Urban Health. She teaches television writing at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and lives in Maine with one husband, two kids, two cats and a mountain of laundry.