

Alison Morooney

Director, Choreographer, Educator

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EDUCATION

MFA Theatre, Directing for the Musical Theatre Stage, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, (anticipated graduation) 2022.

Monograph: *The Wild Party* by Andrew Lippa 2021

Advisor: Susan H. Schulman

Studied under: Dr. Jeanmarie Higgins, Dan Riddle, Laura Robinson, Dr. Susan Russell, John Trainor, Dr. Malcolm Womack, Rick Lombardo

Certificate in Business: Fundraising and Advancement, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA 2022

BFA Musical Theatre, Pennsylvania State University, 2012.

DIRECTING AND CHOREOGRAPHY

Professional Directing

Cole: a Musical Revue

Assassins

Cinderella (2013 R&H)

Pump Boys and Dinettes

Gentleman's Guide...

Mary Poppins

The Red Mill

Pippin

Thoroughly Modern Millie

Bells Are Ringing

Okoboji Summer Theatre, 2023

College Light Opera Company, 2022

College Light Opera Company, 2022

Okoboji Summer Theatre, 2022

College Light Opera Company, 2021

College Light Opera Company, 2019

College Light Opera Company, 2019

College Light Opera Company, 2018

College Light Opera Company, 2018

College Light Opera Company, 2017

Professional Choreography

Life Could Be a Dream

She Loves Me

Sweet Charity

I Love You You're Perfect...

Anne Healy

Ron Fassler

Erin Speer

Cary Libkin

Music Dir. Michael Rafter

Priscilla Beach Theatre Company, 2019

Priscilla Beach Theatre Company, 2020

[Cancelled due to COVID-19]

Penn State Centre Stage, 2017

Penn State Centre Stage 2011

Assistant Work

<i>Secret Garden</i>	Assistant to the Director	Opera Australia, 2020 [Postponed due to COVID19]
<i>Funny Girl</i>	Directing Observer	Broadway, 2022
<i>For the Record: The Brat Pack</i>	Directing/Choreography Associate	Norwegian Cruiseline, 2016
<i>American Idiot</i> (National Tour)	Assistant to the Choreographer	Worklight Productions, 2013

Academic Directing/Choreography

Undergraduate Work

<i>Altar Boyz</i>	Assistant Dir./Chor. Steven Brotebeck	Penn State Centre Stage, 2011
<i>Kiss Me Kate</i>	Assistant Dir./Chor. Steven Brotebeck	Penn State Centre Stage, 2011
<i>I Love You Because</i>	Director/Choreographer	Pennsylvania State University, 2012
<i>High School Musical</i>	Director/Choreographer	Pennsylvania State University, 2010

Graduate Work

<i>Selections from Myths and Hymns</i>		Pennsylvania State University, 2020 [Canceled due to COVID-19]
<i>Songs of Protest</i> (a devised film piece)		Penn State Centre Stage Virtual, 2020
<i>Sea Wall</i>		Penn State Centre Stage, 2021
<i>24 Hour Playwriting Festival</i>		Pennsylvania State University, 2021
<i>The Wild Party</i>		Penn State Centre Stage, 2021

Professorial Work

<i>Little Women</i>		Wilkes University, 2022
<i>Lord of the Flies</i> (all female version)		Wilkes University, 2023 [Canceled due to campus security risk]
<i>Rent</i>		Long Island Musical Theatre Festival, 2023
<i>Carousel</i>		Wilkes University, 2023 (upcoming)
<i>Fun Home</i>		Wilkes University, 2024 (upcoming)

Professional Pre-Production Work

Waitress, Brooks Atkinson Theatre, Broadway. Lorin Latarro, Diane Paulus, Sara Bareilles, 2015.

Chess, Kennedy Center Concert. Lorin Latarro, Michael Mayer, 2018.

Merrily We Roll Along, Roundabout Theatre Company, Off-Broadway. Lorin Latarro, Noah Brody, Alexander Gemignani, 2018.

PERFORMANCE

Beehive - Alison

Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival, Dir. Brett Smock, 2018

A Christmas Story - Ensemble

Gateway Playhouse, Chor. Mara Newberry Greer, 2017

For the Record: The Brat Pack - Ensemble/Standby Basket-Case, Princess/Show Captain

Norwegian Cruise Lines, Dir. Anderson Davis, 2016

Ever After - Swing

PaperMill Playhouse, Dir. Kathleen Marshall, 2015

Nice Work if You Can Get It - Swing/understudy Billie Bendix/Dance Captain

Worklight Productions National Tour, Dir. David Eggers, 2014/15

American Idiot - Ensemble/understudy Whatshername, Extraordinary Girl, Heather/Dance Captain

Worklight Productions International Tour, Dir. Johanna McKeon, Chor. Lorin Latarro, 2013/14

American Idiot - Swing/understudy Heather/Dance Captain

Worklight Productions International Tour, Dir. Johanna McKeon, Chor. Lorin Latarro, 2012/13

Professional Development

Affiliations

Stage Directors and Choreographer's Union, Associate Member

Actor's Equity Union Member

Musical Theatre Educators' Alliance Member

Training

Anti-Racist Theater Training with Nicole Brewer. Completed weekend long training learning how to build an anti-racist practice, including practices in improving harm reduction, container setting, and accessibility. Fall, 2020.

The Center for Pedagogy in Arts and Design, College of Arts and Architecture Teaching Certification.

Completion of training and professional development in the art and craft of teaching. The Pennsylvania State University. May, 2020.

Theatrical Intimacy Education Best Practices Seminar. Completed six-hour training for staging intimacy in a theatrical setting. Included boundary work and best practices in the rehearsal room. August, 2021

Anti-Racist Theatre Training with Nicole Brewer. Seminar completed with faculty and students at Pennsylvania State University School of Theatre. Spring, 2021

Robert McKee Story Drives Seminar. Completed twelve-hour course on the structure of story telling for film and theatre. April, 2021

Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies: Introduction to Laban Movement Analysis Workshop. Completed a four-day intensive exploring the components of Laban Movement Analysis-Body, Space, Effort, and Space. Focused on how to apply these principles to dance and theatre training. June, 2023

Teaching

THE 100 Approach to Theatre – Wilkes University, Fall & Spring, 2022-current.

Lecture and discussion-based class designed for non-theatre majors at the university to fulfill general education requirements. The course goals are to give students a general but working understanding of the theatrical arts. Upon finishing the course, they are able to analyze works of theatre as they relate to the social, political, and historical contexts in which they are created and experienced.

THE 493 Senior Capstone – Wilkes University, Spring 2023-current.

Collaboration with Chair of the department, Jon Liebetrau. Rewrote this course to better support graduating students' transition into the professional environment. Provided modes of assessment for faculty as well as mentoring for students.

THE 298 A Movement and Styles for the Stage – Wilkes University, Fall 2023.

Studio course introducing students to several methods of movement analysis and creation including Laban Movement Analysis, Frantic Assembly methods, and Theatrical Intimacy Education principles. Course goal is to create stronger pathways between acting/intention and physical movement. Includes and Honors section of this course which provides students in the Honors College to receive credit with a special research project.

THE 298 B Acting the Song II – Wilkes University, Fall 2023.

Designed and taught this studio-based performance class for advanced students pursuing their BFA in musical theatre. Students develop techniques to prepare a principal role in a musical through rigorous script and character analysis and performance. Initially a special topics course, it is now formally a part of the BFA curriculum.

THE 394 A Business of the Theatre/Auditions – Wilkes University, Spring 2023.

A seminar and studio hybrid course to support the professional development of musical theatre majors. This course prepares students for the transition into the professional environment by practicing audition techniques, building an online presence, and discussing important topics like networking, taxes, and regional opportunities.

THE 198 A Acting the Song I – Wilkes University, Fall 2022.

Designed and taught this studio-based performance class for advanced students pursuing their BFA in musical theatre. Students develop techniques to analyze and perform musical pieces both as soloists and as part of a scene. Initially a special topics course, it is now formally a part of the BFA curriculum.

THE 398 A Musical Theatre History – Wilkes University, Fall 2022.

Designed and taught this seminar course that detailed the history of musical theatre's form and content in the context of the social and political history of the United States.

MUS 113 Musical Theatre Performance for the Actor -- Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2020/2021

Designed and taught this course for third year students pursuing their BFA in Acting. The course goals were to connect students' acting training to the genre of musical theatre, and provide them with skills they need to be competitive professionals in an audition and rehearsal room setting.

THEA 596 Musical Theatre Performance Studio -- Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2019.

Team taught with Susan H. Schulman, and Graduate students in musical direction. Coaching undergraduate musical theatre students in song performance in both solo and group work. Included the supervision of an undergraduate student in choreography. Culminated in a performance that was co-directed, choreographed, and conceived by all teachers.

Supervision and Mentorship

Undergraduate Director Supervision-Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2020

Advised Theatre B.A. student Riley Herman looking for an introductory experience in directing. She received hands on experience serving as my assistant director for my studio project, a song cycle, *Selections from Myths and Hymns*. She assisted me in pre-production, notated blocking, helped me refine and perfect the piece, and completed several administrative tasks.

Undergraduate Director Supervision—Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2021

Advised B.A. Theatre Studies student Elena Sgouros as my assistant director on *The Wild Party*. An advanced student, she assisted me in pre-production, took notes in meetings and rehearsals, and developed a strong understanding of the production in order to run separate and simultaneous rehearsals as needed.

Undergraduate Playwright Advisor—Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2022

Advised undergraduate student playwright in the premiere New Works Festival at Penn State. Managed rehearsals and performance, and mentored the playwright through a first reading of her original one act play. Together we facilitated collaboration and incorporated input from student actors and an undergraduate design student to specify and clarify the play.

Assistant Teaching

THEA 100 The Art of Theatre- Pennsylvania State University, 2019-2020.

Teaching Assistant to Dr. Jeanmarie Higgins and Dr. Malcolm Womack. Lecture style general education class for non-theatre majors. Give students a broad scope understanding of Theatre as an art form, and what its significance is in our world. In addition to lectures and assignments students are expected to participate in an online discussion platform, mediated by all teachers and teaching assistants. Independent lectures given on directing and choreography.

THEA 530 Rehearsal Methods- Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2020.

Teaching Assistant to Susan H. Schulman to transform the studio class to an online format due to COVID-19. Designed a new syllabus and wrote new coursework to fulfill the goals of the course: undergraduate performance students learn how to be an effective collaborator in the rehearsal room for straight plays. By practicing the act of rehearsal, the students get concentrated repetition and real time feedback about the work that happens before the performance. We explore various performance styles and stage layouts to exercise versatility.

THEA 434 Introduction to Directing – Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant to Richard Bieber. Instructing advanced students within the School of Theatre in the craft of directing for the stage. Assisted in developing a new course design and syllabus.

THEA 112 Introduction to Musical Theatre, Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant to Richard Biever. A course for non theatre majors, it discusses Musical Theatre performance practices, its history, and examines contemporary trends. Duties include assessment of classroom activities and written papers, curating live performances for the classroom, and management of online discussion forum.

THEA101N Performance and Society — Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2021.

Teaching Assistant to Dr. Jeanmarie Higgins. Lecture style course positioning the study of performance as an interdisciplinary endeavor, drawing from sociology, anthropology, and literature as well as visual art, dance, and music.

Publications and Presentations

Presenter, Women and Gender Studies Conference at King's College and Wilkes University, 2023. *A Female Presenting Lord of the Flies: A Case Study in Performing Gender on the University Stage.*

Presenter, South Eastern Theatre Conference, 2023. *Collaborative Choreography in the Rehearsal Process.*

Presenter, Comparative Drama Conference, 2021. *How the Broadway Television Commercial Shifted the Power from the Critic to the Consumer.*

Book Chapter, *50 Key Musicals: Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.* 2021.

Podcast, *What I Don't Know Yet: Research in Performance.* A series of interviews with various artistic professionals about their practice and research. The episodes were used as teaching materials for a general education in theatre studies at Pennsylvania State University.

Journal Article Prompt: A Journal of Theatre, Theory, Practice, and Teaching. Volume 1, Issue 1, August 2020. *Teaching Theatre with Things. Rehearsing Thread: Staging.*

Journal Article Prompt: A Journal of Theatre, Theory, Practice, and Teaching. Volume 2, Issue 1, August 2021. *Ruins: Albert and Bianca's Final Round.* Direction of a one-minute audio play that was written in response to a 'ruined' scenic model.

Presenter, ATHE Pre-conference Panel on Directing. *Staging Protest: How Theatricalizing Revolution During a Global Pandemic Became a Revelation in Directing Practice.* August 2021.

Grants and Awards

Susan Browning Theatre Scholarship, Pennsylvania State University, 2012. \$2,000. Awarded to graduating seniors in the School of Theatre demonstrating academic excellence and outstanding commitment through active participation in School of Theatre productions.

Graduate School Travel Grant, Pennsylvania State University 2020. \$2,400. Funds for travel to complete a directing and choreography internship with Susan H. Schulman and Michael Lichtefeld at Opera Australia. [Cancelled due to COVID-19.]

Helen Manfull Award for Academic Excellence in Graduate Studies, Pennsylvania State University, 2021.

Service, Invited Talks, Master Classes

Service

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force
The College Light Opera Company, 2021-Present

Search Committee, Associate Professor of Directing
Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2022

School of Theatre Student Advisory Board Member
Pennsylvania State University 2019-2022.
Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Chorus and Voice
Wilkes University, Spring 2023

Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Bands
Wilkes University, Spring 2023

African-American and Africana Studies Minor Working Group
Wilkes University, Present

MTEA Journal Contributing Editor
Musical Theatre Educators' Alliance, Present

Guest Lecturer

Theatre Career Development, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Fall 2023
Guest Lecturer for Professor Alyssa Ridder. Discussed and advised on professional experiences in the touring and cruise ship industries for advanced theatre students with diverse sets of interests.

Advanced Jazz, Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2020.

Beginning Tap, Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2020.

Women in Theatre, Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2020
Taught with peer Jennifer Delac, devised a class teaching how a director interprets a script for the benefit of an ideal spectator. We discussed the importance of a feminist voice in order to include a diverse audience when directing. We then practically explored the variety of choices a director has to reach her audience with a predetermined piece of a scene work.

Introduction to Directing, Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2021
Guest lecturer for Dr. John Trainor. Supervised a devised original movement piece over zoom.

Invited Talks and Workshops

American Idiot Choreography Master Class, The Hartt School at The University of Hartford, 2013. For undergraduate students in conjunction with touring production at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center.

American Idiot Choreography Audition Master Class, Pennsylvania State University, 2013. Giving graduating students a mock-audition experience.

Nice Work if You Can Get It Choreography Master Class, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2015. For undergraduate students in conjunction with touring production at The Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Nice Work if You Can Get It Choreography Master Class, Dayton Live, Dayton, OH, 2015. For high school and undergraduate students in theatre in conjunction with touring production at the Benjamin & Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center.

American Idiot and Performer Wellness Talk, Pennsylvania State University, 2017. Invited talk with a group of undergraduates in rehearsal for their production of *American Idiot*. Discussed approaching the show, specifically how to maintain physical and vocal health during rigorous rehearsal and performance process.

'Life of a Traveling Performer', College Light Opera Company "Off the Clock" Lecture Series, 2017

'Color Conscious Casting and the History of Yellow-Face in Entertainment', College Light Opera Company "Off the Clock" Lecture Series, 2018

Telling Stories Through Movement Workshop, College Light Opera Company. Working with non-dancers to become confident and creative in story-telling with their bodies in space in preparation for their summer stock season. 2018

A Director's Process, College Light Opera Company "Off the Clock" Lecture Series, 2019.

Collaborative Choreography Workshop, Pennsylvania State Thespians Conference. 2022

Youth Outreach

You Better Work! Musical Theatre Summer Intensive, Berea, OH, 2010 & 2011. Dance Instructor and Audition Coach preparing pre-college students to audition for University Musical Theatre programs.

SOL Children's Theatre Summer Camp, Boca Raton, FL, 2011. Dance Instructor and Choreographer. Culminating in two productions, including one original piece written in collaboration with the Camp Director. Also supervised student choreographers.

American Idiot Choreography Workshop, Johnathon Dayton High School, Springfield, NJ 2016. Coached students and advised the director and choreographer of the premier high school production of *American Idiot*. This was a trial production working towards the development and licensing of a school friendly version of the show.