

Professor of Theatre  
School of Communication, Film & Theatre  
Department of Theatre  
University of North Georgia

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## ELISA CARLSON, M.F.A.

EDUCATION	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Master of Fine Arts, Acting	1987
	Professional Theatre Training Program (PTTP) <small>Program later moved to U of Delaware.</small>	
	Florida State University, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Acting	1984

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

### ***Semester Length Study***

Acting for the Camera, Drama Inc., Atlanta	2023
Alexander Movement Technique, Decatur Healing Arts, Atlanta	2011
Yoga Movement Technique, Minnehaha Yoga, Minneapolis	2009
Catherine Fitzmaurice Voice Method, Musical Theatre Works, New York	1994
Acting, Speech, Movement for Theatre, H.B. Studio, New York	1983

### ***Workshops and Seminars***

Tectonic Project Method, SETC	2020
Commedia Dell'arte, James Ivey	2014
Lecoq Movement Training, GTA	2013
Physical Theatre, Clowning, Cirque, Live Action Set Theatre	2013
Michael Chekhov Technique, SETC	2012
Audiobook Narration Technique, ListenUp Audio, Atlanta	2012
Tina Landau, Viewpoints Method, TCG	2007
Mark Rylance, Shakespeare in Performance, Globe/Guthrie Theatre	2006
Patsy Rodenburg Voice and Text Intensive, Michael Howard Studio, NYC	2001
Mark Lamos, Speaking Shakespeare, Hartford Center Stage, CT	1993

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING

<b>University of North Georgia</b> <i>Professor, Department of Theatre</i>	2010-Present
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### **Courses Currently Taught**

Dynamic Instrument (Voice I and Movement I)  
Voice II (vocal production and phonetics)  
Voice III (dialects and text)  
Voice IV (audiobook/voiceover/animation voicing)  
Acting V (classic scene work)  
Suzuki Movement  
Theatre History I

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### **Additional/Previous Courses Taught**

Movement I, II  
Senior Seminar  
Directing I

### **Teaching in Production: UNG/The Gainesville Theatre Alliance**

Duties beyond directing and acting include leading group warm ups and workshops in elevated language and dialects, talking with the public about the play, monitoring back stage etiquette, recommending and recruiting guest artists, mentoring student designers, technicians and actors. 200 or more student contact hours per production.

Mainstage Director: *Pygmalion, Living Out, Men on Boats, Much Ado About Nothing, Antigone, Twelfth Night, The Importance of Being Earnest, A Midsummer Night's Dream.*

Discovery and Touring Productions Director: *Henry V, The Wilson Project, Fuente Overjuna, Oedipus, The Nightingale Rose, Shakespeare on Tour, Macbeth.*

Professional Actor: *The Glass Menagerie, The Grapes of Wrath, Much Ado About Nothing.*

### **University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Program** 2002-2010

*Professional Appointment, Department of Theatre Arts and Dance*

### **Courses Developed and Taught**

Speech and Voice I and II	Freshman Level
Speech and Voice III and IV	Sophomore Level
Period Styles	Senior Level
Dialects	Senior Level

### **Teaching in Production**

Director/Adaptor: *Children of Oedipus, A Shaw Afternoon, Overruled, Orestes*

Voice, Speech, Dialects and Text Coach: *Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, Our County's Good, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Othello, As You Like It, Antigone, Our Town and A Midsummer Night's Dream.*

### **Emory University**

1997-2002

*Lecturer, Department of Theater Studies*

### **Courses Taught**

Voice and Speech I

### **Teaching in Production/Theater Emory**

Director: *Love's Labor's Lost*  
Professional and Student Cast.

Theater Emory Voice, Speech, Dialects and Text Coach (for professional/student casts): *As You Like It, An Enemy of the People, The Lion and the Jewel, Pillars of Society, Edward II, Ah Wilderness, The Tempest, Brecht Cabaret, The Beckett Project, Jersey City, American Wake, The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek.*

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS GIVEN

StoryReady/Georgia Tech: <i>Authentic Expression</i>	2023
Southeastern Theatre Conference: <i>Atlanta Film Industry Panel</i>	2020
Georgia Theatre Conference: <i>Dialects for Theatre and Film</i>	2017
Agnes Scott College: <i>Shakespeare for High School Students</i>	2017
The Guthrie Experience: <i>Contemporary Speaking</i>	2016
Georgia Theatre Conference: <i>Dialects for Theatre and Film</i>	2015
Theatre Macon: <i>British Dialects</i>	2015
Womanetics: <i>Your Authentic Voice</i>	2015
The Dramatists Guild/Atlanta Chapter: <i>The Playwright's Voice</i>	2014
Clayton State University: <i>Dialect Skills</i>	2013
Clayton State University: <i>Movement in the Theatre</i>	2013
Live Action Set Theatre: <i>Voice Work for Physical Theatre</i>	2013
The Woodward School: <i>Character Movement</i>	2013
The Woodward School: <i>Dialect Skills</i>	2012
American Player's Theater Professional Apprentice Program: <i>Speaking in Classic and Contemporary Plays and Vocal Health</i>	2011
Georgia Shakespeare Will Power Ensemble: <i>British Dialects</i>	2011
Southeastern Theatre Conference: <i>Be Your Own Dialect Coach</i>	2011
Georgia Theatre Conference: <i>Be Your Own Dialect Coach</i>	2010
The Children's Theater Professional Apprentice Program: <i>Primary Colors: Voice Work for Children's Theatre</i>	2010
The Guthrie Experience: <i>Vocal Health</i>	2009
The Guthrie Theater: <i>Contemporary Plays: Harold Pinter</i>	2009
The Guthrie Theater: <i>Contemporary Plays: Allison Moore</i>	2008
Florida State University: <i>Speech for Classic and Contemporary Plays</i>	2005
The Guthrie Theater: <i>Speaking Shakespeare on the Thrust Stage</i>	2004
The University of Alabama/Tuscaloosa One Week Residency: <i>Shakespeare in Performance</i>	2001
Alliance Theatre Intern Program: <i>Voice and Text for Classic Plays</i>	1995-1999
Emory University: <i>Speaking Shakespeare</i>	1996
Actor's Express Intern Program: <i>Voice and Shakespeare</i>	1996-1998
Georgia State University Players: <i>British Dialects</i>	1995
Columbia University: <i>Speaking Through the Tempest</i>	1995
The Mint Theatre/NYC: <i>Speaking Shakespeare</i>	1993
Theatre Academy Helsinki: <i>Suzuki Movement Demonstration</i>	1987
ICT Conference (Katohi, Greece): <i>Suzuki Movement for Greek Plays</i>	1986

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## SERVICE University of North Georgia/College of Arts and Letters

Faculty Senate	2021-2023
Diversity Committee	2021-2022
College Promotion and Tenure Committee	2018-2020
College Curriculum Committee	2017-2019
Film Department Search Committee	2016
College Curriculum Committee	2014-2016
General Faculty Board, University Press of North Georgia	2014-2016
Standing Committee for Student Affairs	2012-2013

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## Department of Theatre

Advisor, GTA Students of Color Alliance	2020-Present
Edited and Co-created new GTA Guest Artist Handbook	2019
Advising BFA and BA performance majors.	2014-Present
Providing connections to multiple guest artists and visiting experts.	2010-Present
Multiple days of student/faculty conferences each semester.	2010-Present
Multiple days of student recruitment events each semester.	2010-Present
BFA Acting Program Committee.	2012-Present
Movement Position Search Committee.	2016
Organizer of Alliance Theatre senior spring introductory auditions.	2014-Present
Graduate school auditions coach, seniors and alumni.	2010-Present
Compiling and maintaining a list of best graduate programs for seniors.	2010-Present
Coaching student auditions for professional work and apprenticeships.	2010-Present
Mentored student produced productions and projects.	2010-2014

## Service to the Profession

Tenure Portfolio Review/Theatre Professor Candidates	2022/2023
Board Member of the Atlanta Artist Relief Fund	2020-2022
The Kilroys: Reader/Recommender for yearly national list of plays authored by a trans, nonbinary, and/or woman writer	2019
Board Member of the Jo Howarth Newnan Foundation for the Performing Arts, serving women in the arts over age 50.	2017-2021
Wrote peer review of the textbook "Voice Onstage and Off" by Robert Barton and Rocco Dal Vera, Routledge Press, London.	2014
Organized series of free Acting Shakespeare workshops at Georgia Shakespeare and The Shakespeare Tavern	2014-2016
Mentored mid-career professional voice and text coach Allison Hetzel (Associate Professor of Voice, U. of Alabama) during the Georgia Shakespeare season.	2011
Created opportunities at the Guthrie Theater to mentor beginning professional voice and speech coaches/teachers.	2004-2010
Actor's Express Theatre Artistic Director Search Committee.	1999

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## RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING: PROFESSIONAL THEATRE, FILM & MEDIA

### **Voice, Speech, Dialects and Text Coaching for the Professional Theatre**

<b><u>The Alliance Theatre Company, Atlanta</u></b>	1997-Present
<i>Darlin' Cory, Becoming Nancy, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Flamingo Grill, Shakespeare in Love, Crossing Delancey, Sheltered, The Temple Bombing, Too Heavy for Your Pocket, The Magic Negro, Disgraced, Steel Magnolias, Edward Foote, Harmony, The Geller Girls, Good People, Ghost Brothers of Darkland County, I Just Stopped By to See the Man, A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur, Jar the Floor, Sleepwalkers, The Book of Ruth, Art, A Christmas Carol (6), A Moon for the Misbegotten, Hearts, Light Up the Sky, God's Man in Texas, Chess, He Looks Good in a Hat, Shadowlands, Heartbreak House, Aida: Elaborate Lives, Crumbs From the Table of Joy, The Sum of Us, Burning Patience, Arcadia, The Old Settler, Medea, Beast On the Moon, Valley Song, Romeo and Juliet</i>	
<b><u>The Alley Theatre, Houston, Texas</u></b>	2018-2019
<i>The Cake, Crimes of the Heart</i>	

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<b><u>The Resident Ensemble Players, Newark, Delaware</u></b>	2019
<i>Woman in Mind</i>	
<b><u>The Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, Minnesota</u></b>	2016/2002-2010
<i>Disgraced, M. Butterfly, Dollhouse, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures, Tiny Kushner, Shadowlands, Pen, The Secret Life of Constance Wilde, Boats on a River, Lost in Yonkers, The Glass Menagerie, Major Barbara, Intimate Apparel, Shadow Language, Sex Habits of the American Woman, A Christmas Carol (4), Oedipus, She Loves Me, A Body of Water, The Night of the Iguana, Crowns, Romeo and Juliet, Pirates of Penzance, The Chairs, Mrs. Warren's Profession, Wintertime, Six Degrees of Separation</i>	
<b><u>American Players Theatre, Spring Green, Wisconsin</u></b>	2011
<i>The Taming of the Shrew, The Glass Menagerie</i>	
<b><u>The Minnesta Opera, Minneapolis, Minnesota</u></b>	2007
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	
<b><u>The Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota</u></b>	2004-2008
<i>Iqbal, Romeo and Juliet, Lost Boys of Sudan, Anon(ymous), Snap Shot Silhouette</i>	
<b><u>The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, Oregon</u></b>	2002
<i>Playboy of the West Indies</i>	
<b><u>The Georgia Shakespeare Festival</u></b>	1998-2014
<i>The Importance of Being Earnest, Noises Off, The Odyssey: A Journey Home, Metamorphoses, The Cherry Orchard, Coriolanus, Much Ado About Nothing (2), The School for Wives, Cymbelline, Amadeus, The Winter's Tale, Julius Caesar, Twelfth Night, Tartuffe, Richard II, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet, The Comedy of Errors, Saint Joan, Romeo and Juliet, Henry IV, Part One, The Miser, Measure for Measure, The Tempest, School for Scandal, Othello, The Bourgeois Gentleman, Troilus and Cressida, The Country Wife, King Lear</i>	
<b><u>Actor's Express</u></b>	1997-2002
<i>the doll plays, The Wooden Brecks, Beautiful Thing, The Illusion, Loot, Fefu and Her Friends, The Mystery of Irma Vep, Handler, The Devils, A Doll's House, Wonderful Town, The Birthday Party, The Misanthrope, Twelfth Night</i>	
<b><u>Theatrical Outfit</u></b>	2021/1996-2002
<i>The Island, Hard Times, The Magician's Nephew, Our Town, The Blood Knot, The Real Thing, Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Story</i>	
<b><u>Off-Broadway, New York City</u></b>	1994-1995
<i>New Dramatists, Southern Belle</i>	
<i>The Mint Theatre, The Time of Your Life</i>	
<b><i>Theatre Directors</i></b> of coaching projects include Kenny Leon, Jerry Mitchell, Rob Melrose, Chris Coleman, Theresa Reebeck, Susan Booth, Michael Grief, Judith Ivey, Tinashe Kinese, Ruben Polendo, Ethan McSweeney, Joe Dowling, Daniel Aukin, Tim Ocel, Tony Taccone, Jackson Gay, Marcela Lorca, Peter Brosius, Michael John Garces, Greg Banks, Margaret Bordelon, Jimmy Maize, Kimberly Senior, David Caitlin and David Bell.	

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*Theatre Actors* coached include Phylicia Rashad, Francis McDormand, Michael Learned, Edward Hermann, Jessica Vosk, Kenny Leon, Stephen Spinella, Harriet Harris, Linda Emond, Stephen Ashfield, Brian D'arcy James and the Resident Companies of APT, Alley, Guthrie, The REP, CTC and Georgia Shakespeare.

*World Premieres* coached include those by Tony Kushner, Ellen McLaughlin, Naomi Izuka, Barry Manilow/Bruce Sussman, Ricky Ian Gordon/Michael Korie, Jireh Holder, Stephen King/John Mellencamp, Julie Marie Myatt, Jimmy Maize and Robert Schenkkan.

## **Voice, Speech, Dialects and Text Coaching for Film & Television**

<b><u>KINDRED, Disney/ABC</u></b>	2022
On-Set Dialect coach for one episode.	
<b><u>WILL TRENT, Disney/ABC</u></b>	2022
On-Set Dialect coach for Ramón Rodríguez in title role of pilot.	
<b><u>STRANGER THINGS, Netflix</u></b>	2021/2015-2016
Dialect coach for leading actor Charlie Heaton in season one of series. Dialect coach for guest star Joseph Quinn in season three.	
<b><u>BURDEN, 101 Studios</u></b>	2018
Dialect coach for Garrett Hedlund and Andrea Riseborough in this feature, directed by Andrew Heckler.	
<b><u>FIRST MAN, Paramount</u></b>	2018
Dialects and historic voices prep and on-set coach for multiple actors including Ryan Gosling, Claire Foy, Ciaran Hines and Jason Clarke in this feature directed by Academy Award winner Damien Chazelle. *Ryan Gosling nominated for Best Actor Critics Choice Award *Claire Foy nominated for Best Supporting Actress Golden Globe.	
<b><u>A DARK PLACE, Amazon</u></b>	2018
Dialect coaching for Andrew Scott and cast in this feature, directed by Simon Fellows and produced by Gareth Ellis-Unwin.	
<b><u>BABY DRIVER, Sony</u></b>	2017
Dialect coach for Ansel Elgort and Lily James in this feature, directed by Edgar Wright. *Ansel Elgort nominated for Best Actor Golden Globe	
<b><u>SOUTHSIDE WITH YOU, Miramax</u></b>	2016
Coached Tika Sumpter as Michelle Obama in this feature, directed by Richard Tanne.	
<b><u>BILLY LYNN'S LONG HALFTIME WALK, TriStar Productions</u></b>	2016
Dialect prep for all Atlanta actors for this Ang Lee film.	
<b><u>COAT OF MANY COLORS, NBC</u></b>	2015
Dialect prep with leading child and adult actors including Rick Schroder for this film directed by Stephen Herek.	
<b><u>CONSTANTINE, NBC</u></b>	2014
Dialect coach for one episode.	

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<p><b><u>SELMA, Plan B/Pathe/Paramount Pictures</u></b></p> <p>Dialects and historic voices prep and on-set coach for more than 30 actors including Tom Wilkinson, David Oyelowo, Martin Sheen, Carmen Ejogo, Tessa Thompson, Common and Lorraine Toussaint in this feature directed by Ava DuVernay. *2014 Best Picture Oscar nominee.</p>	2014
<p><b><u>THE GOOD LIE, Imagine Entertainment</u></b></p> <p>African Dialects/Dinka language coach of child and adult actors, directed by Phillipe Falardeau.</p>	2013
<p><b><u>SABOTAGE, Brentwood Productions</u></b></p> <p>Dialect coach for Olivia Williams and Sam Worthington, directed by David Ayer.</p>	2013
<p><b><u>STEEL MAGNOLIAS, Lifetime</u></b></p> <p>Dialect consultant. Directed by Kenny Leon, starring Queen Latifah, Alfre Woodard and Phylicia Rashad.</p>	2012
<p><b><u>ANA'S PLAYGROUND</u></b></p> <p>Created and coached language for this non-profit film about the effects of war on children, written and directed by Eric Howell. *Short-Listed for the 2010 Academy Award for Best Live-Action Short Film.</p>	2010
<p><b><u>SWEET LAND, Beautiful Productions</u></b></p> <p>Dialect and foreign language coach for this feature film starring Alan Cumming, Elizabeth Reaser and Ned Beatty, directed by Ali Selim. *Elizabeth Reaser nominated for Best Actress Independent Spirit Award</p>	2004
<p><b><u>IN MY LIFE, NBC Pilot</u></b></p> <p>Dialect consultant.</p>	2002
<p><b><u>HAMLET, Hallmark/Spare Room Productions</u></b></p> <p>Voice and Shakespearean text coach for film directed by Campbell Scott and Eric Simonson, featuring Campbell Scott as Hamlet, with Blair Brown, Jamey Sheridan, Denis O'Hare, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Roscoe Lee Browne.</p>	2000

### **Professional Audiobook Narration**

20+ titles from 2011 to present include:

- Breathless* by J.P. Smith (Brilliance Audio)
- My Summer with George* by Marilyn French (Knopf)
- The Mindful Parent* by Charlotte Peterson (Skyhorse)
- Pets in America* by Katherine Grier (UNC Press)
- Growing in Love and Wisdom* by Susan Stabile (Oxford University Press)
- Marriage Markets* by Carbone and Cahn (Oxford University Press)
- High Tech Trash* by Elizabeth Grossman (Shearwater)
- Money Doesn't Grow on Trees* by Neale Godfrey (Simon & Schuster)

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## Professional Acting

40+ Roles from 1988 to Present Include:

*Woman and Scarecrow* Aris Theatre

*The Book of Will* Theatrical Outfit

*Ghost-Writer* Theatre-in-the-Square

*Shadow Language* The Guthrie Theater

*As You Like It* The Strange Capers (MN)

*The Complete Sonnets* Classical Actors Ensemble (MN)

*The Grapes of Wrath, Merlin!, Marco Polo* Alliance Theatre

*Candida, Sailing to Byzantium, Life is a Dream, Reckless, Good Person* Actor's Express

*Back to Methuselah, The Master Builder, A Kind of Alaska, The Flying Hours* Theater Emory

*Richard II* Georgia Shakespeare

*Hamlet* Hallmark Television

*Blithe Spirit* StageWest, Springfield

*What I Meant Was* Company One, Hartford

*The Sampling Heart* Samuel French Festival, NYC

*The Guiding Light* CBS Television

*As You Like It* The Shakespeare Theatre, D.C.

*Pretty Girls Aren't Smart* Horizon Theatre

*The Two Gentlemen of Verona* Atlanta Shakespeare

*Runar and Kyllikki* Tampere Theatre, Finland

*Antigone* International Classical Theatre Company/Greece and Cyprus: Oiniades Ancient Theatre, National Theatre of Cyprus, Kuriom Ancient Theatre, Paphos Ancient Theatre.

*The Comedy of Errors, Unsinkable Molly Brown* Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival

**Actor in New Play Workshops and Staged Readings:** Lincoln Center, Guthrie Theater, Alliance Theatre (multiple), The Playwright's Center, Horizon Theatre, Theater Emory.

*Member of Actor's Equity Association, 1989-2020.*

## Directing for the Professional Theatre

*Barton Field*, Refuge Theatre/Seven Stages 2019

*Shakespeare in Love*, Assistant Director, Alliance Theatre 2017

*The Book of Will*, staged reading, Theater Emory 2016

*Moxie*, Theatrical Outfit (*featuring Danielle Deadwyler*) 2016

*The Nightingale Rose*, Working Title Playwrights Woolson Lab 2015

*Moxie*, Alliance Theatre Reiser Lab 2014

*The Guys*, Theatrical Outfit (*starring Jasmine Guy*) 2013

*Infinite Country*, Theater Emory Brave New Workshop 2011

*The Complete Sonnets Festival*, Classical Actors Ensemble of Minneapolis 2010

*Much Ado about Nothing*, Shakespeare on the Cape at Provincetown Theater 2007

*Folio Shakespeare*, staged readings, High Museum of Art 1997



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## Interviews and Commentary

### Radio

[“City Lights” WABE Atlanta/NPR, 2019](#)

Interviewed by Lois Reitzes about acting in Irish playwright Marina Carr’s *Woman and Scarecrow*.

[Georgia Public Broadcasting/NPR, 2016](#)

Interviewed by morning host Celeste Headley on southern dialect performance in musicals.

[“Two Way Street” Georgia Public Broadcasting/NPR, 2015](#)

Interviewed by Bill Nigut regarding *SELMA* film dialect coaching process.

[“City Lights” WABE Atlanta/NPR, 2013](#)

Interviewed with actress Jasmine Guy by Lois Reitzes regarding direction of *The Guys* for Theatrical Outfit.

### Print/Web

[VoyageATL 2019](#)

Interview given about voice, dialect, directing and acting work for theatre and film.

[Southern Theatre Magazine/SETC, 2016](#)

Interview about voice and dialect coaching as a profession for theatre and film.

[St. Paul Pioneer Press 2007](#)

Subject of feature article by Dominique Papatola.

[www.elisacarlsondialects.com 2019-Present](#)

Professional Website

[IMDB Page](#)

Official Listing of Film Credits

### Recordings

[Radio Interviews, 2013-2019](#)

All radio interviews (listed above) archived and available on NPR websites.

[Film Coaching, 2000-Present](#)

All film and television dialect work (listed pages 7-9) archived and available on studio-released DVDs.

[PS Classics, 2008](#)

Dialect coach of original cast recording of Gordon’s opera *The Grapes of Wrath*.

[Accents of the American South, Volume Two, by Gillian Lane-Plescia, 1998](#)

Contributed sample to this widely-used theatrical dialect CD.

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## GRANTS AND AWARDS

### Suzi Bass Award Nominations: Atlanta’s Professional Theatre Awards

Best Ensemble of a Play, <i>The Book of Will</i> , Theatrical Outfit	2018
Outstanding World Premiere of <i>Moxie</i> , Theatrical Outfit	2016
Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play, <i>Ghost-Writer</i> , Theatre-in-the-Square	2012

### Reiser Atlanta Artists Grant: Woodruff Arts Center

Inaugural recipient of this award. Grant provided fully-funded workshop and research weeks at the Alliance Theatre as Director and Dramaturge of <i>Moxie</i> by Brian Kurlander & Lane Carlock.	2014
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### Guthrie Theater

Travel grant for study of George Bernard Shaw plays in production.	2006
Travel grant for study of Molière plays in production.	2003

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**University of Minnesota**

Faculty Development Grant in Dramatic Writing

2004

**Professional and Academic Memberships**

American Association of University Professors

Southeastern Theatre Conference

Theatre Communications Group

Georgia Theatre Conference G.R.E.A.T. Fellow