

JIM BRAY

Teaching Assistant Professor of Dramatic Art, UNC Chapel Hill

MFA Acting, Kent State University

BFA Musical Theatre, East Carolina University

AEA

jamesbentonbray@gmail.com

www.JimBray.net

Education

- 2018** Kent State University, MFA Acting, Alpha Psi Omega
- 1999** East Carolina University, BFA Musical Theatre, Outstanding Achievement in Musical Theatre
- 1996-98** East Carolina University, 2-year Meisner Technique, Professor Don Biehn

Experience

- 2023** Stephens College- Visiting Professor, Summer Performing Arts Intensive
- 2022-2023** East Carolina University- Assistant Teaching Professor, Professional Acting
- 2022** Stephens College- Visiting Professor, Summer Performing Arts Intensive
- 2018-2023** University of Northern Iowa- Assistant Professor of Theatre, Acting
- 2015-2018** Kent State University- MFA in Acting for the Returning Professional
- 2017-present** Certified Meisner Instructor- True Acting Institute/Larry Silverberg
- 2000-present** Professional Actor (Actor's Equity Association), Director
- 2020-present** Intimacy Director

Classes Taught

- 2023** **Stephens College Conservatory for the Arts, Columbia, MO**
Acting I, Summer Performing Arts Intensive (Meisner Intensive)
- 2022-2023** **East Carolina University School of Theatre & Dance, Greenville, NC**
THEA 2010- Professional Acting I (Meisner-Studio I), Fall 2022
THEA 3010- Professional Acting III (Meisner- Studio III), Fall 2022
THEA 2020- Professional Acting II (Meisner- Studio II), Spring 2023

THEA 3020- Professional Acting IV (Meisner- Studio IV), Spring 2023
THEA 4010- Advanced Master Class in Acting- Styles, Fall 2022
THEA 1000- Introduction to Theatre (Global Course Design), Fall 2022
THEA 2010- Introduction to Acting II, Spring 2023
THEA 3060- Advanced Acting II, Spring 2023

2022

Stephens College Conservatory for the Arts, Columbia, MO

Acting I, Summer Performing Arts Intensive (Meisner/Chekhov)

2018-2022

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

THEA 3127- Acting Studio II, Spring 2022
THEA 1030- Acting, Spring 2022
THEA 3125- Acting Studio I, Fall 2021
THEA 3120- Acting Styles, Fall 2021
THEA 1030- Acting, Fall 2021
THEA 3127- Acting Studio II, Spring 2021
THEA 3186- Studies in Digital Theatre Performance, Spring 2021
THEA 2060- Production Studies: Theatre for Social Change, Spring 2021
THEA 3120- Acting Styles, Fall 2020
THEA 3125- Acting Studio I, Fall 2020
THEA 1030- Acting, Fall 2020
THEA 1030- Acting, Spring 2020
THEA 3120- Acting Styles, Fall 2019
THEA 1030- Acting, Fall 2020
THEA 1030- Acting, Fall 2019
THEA 3125- Acting Studio, Fall 2019
THEA 3125- Acting Studio, Spring 2019
THEA 1020- Introduction to Playscripts, Spring 2019
THEA 2012- Movement for the Actor, Fall 2018
THEA 1020- Introduction to Playscripts, Fall 2018

2015-2018

Kent State University, Kent, OH

THEA 21095- Meisner Technique, 2018
THEA 11303- Art of Acting, 2016
THEA 11000- Art of Theatre (Web course) Summer, 2017
THEA 11000- Art of Theatre, Fall 2017

THEA 11000- Art of Theatre, Spring 2017
 THEA 11000- Art of Theatre, Fall 2016
 THEA 11000- Art of Theatre, Spring 2016
 THEA 11000- Art of Theatre: Fall 2015
 Musical Theatre Performance IV (Assistant Teacher), 2016
 Musical Theatre Performance III (Assistant Teacher), 2016
 Scene Study for the Actor (co- teacher), 2016
 Musical Theatre Performance III (Guest Teacher), 2017
 Character and Scene Study, I (Guest Teacher), 2018

2017

Houde School of Acting, Cleveland, OH

Meisner-based Scene Study & private coach

2010–2013

The Calhoun School, New York, NY

Theatre Movement Instructor, 2012

Substitute Teacher, 2010-2013

Directing/Creative Experience

| | |
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| <i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i> | Okoboji Summer Theatre |
| <i>Last Stop on Market Street</i> (Associate Director) | ECU School of Theatre & Dance |
| <i>We.Are.HereStory</i> (Faculty Mentor) | ECU School of Theatre & Dance |
| <i>Cinderella</i> (Director, Intimacy Direction) | Theatre UNI Cedar Falls, IA |
| <i>Blood at The Root</i> (liaison for guest director) | Theatre UNI Cedar Falls, IA |
| <i>Kinky Boots</i> (Associate Director) | Weathervane Theatre Whitefield, NH |
| <i>#ENOUGH Plays about Gun Violence</i> (Director, Producer) | National |
| <i>*Dream With Me</i> (Conceived, Director) | |
| * 2021 George Floyd grant from UNI | Theatre UNI Cedar Falls, IA |
| <i>You Can't Take It With You</i> (Director, Intimacy Direction) | Theatre UNI Cedar Falls, IA |
| <i>¡Representas Nos, Por Favor!</i> (Content Advisor) | Theatre UNI Cedar Falls, IA |
| <i>*Anything You Can Do, I Can Do...? A Cabaret</i> | Theatre UNI Cedar Falls, IA |
| (Conceived, Co-Director) | COR, Waterloo, IA |
| *Awarded 2019 Research Fellowship from UNI | |
| <i>Amadeus</i> (Period Movement) | Oster Regent Theatre Cedar Falls, IA |
| <i>Hunchback of Notre Dame</i> (Movement Consultant) | Theatre Cedar Rapids, Cedar Rapids, IA |
| <i>I Rise: A Black History Celebration</i> | Theatre UNI Cedar Falls, IA |
| (Director & Choreographer) | |
| <i>Legacy of Light</i> (Period Movement) | Theatre UNI Cedar Falls, IA |

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| <i>*The Stonewater Rapture</i> (Director) | Kent State University, OH |
| *2017 Best Student Director | |
| *2017 Best Student Show | |
| <i>Forever Plaid</i> (Director & Choreographer) | Arundel Barn Playhouse, ME |
| <i>A Night at the Oscars: A Cabaret</i> (Director) | Secret Cellar, Kent, OH |
| <i>*The Three Little Pigs</i> (Director & Choreographer) | Forestburgh Playhouse, NY |
| *Winner of 2012 Twiggy Award Best Children's Show | |
| <i>*And the Oscar Goes to...</i> (Director) | Forestburgh Playhouse, NY |
| *Winner of 2011 Twiggy Award Best Cabaret | |
| <i>Gershwin</i> (Director) | Forestburgh Playhouse, NY |
| <i>Broadway Now</i> (Director) | Forestburgh Playhouse, NY |
| <i>Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Equity</i> (Director) | Kent State University, OH |
| <i>Side Show</i> (Assistant Director) | Kent State University, OH |
| <i>Steel Magnolias</i> (Associate Director) | Mt. Tabor High School, NC |
| <i>Damn Yankees</i> (Choreographer) | Mt. Tabor High School, NC |
| <i>Bus Stop</i> (Casting) | Aurora Community Theatre, OH |
| <i>Trippin'</i> (Casting w/ Disney Theatricals) | Aaron Davis Hall, NYC |

Selected Acting Experience

International

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|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| <i>Grease Das Musical</i> | Doody | Wolfgang Bocksch Productions |
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Touring

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| <i>Ferdinand the Bull</i> | Ferdinand | TheatreWorks/USA |
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New York

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>T.V. Time!</i> | Man 3 | Laurie Beechman Theatre |
| <i>It's Karate, Kid! The Musical</i> | Daniel | Zipper Theatre |
| <i>Rattlesnake</i> | Billy | Workshop Theatre Company |
| <i>Jitterbug</i> | Vincent "Mad Dog" | National Black Theatre |
| <i>Baggage Claim</i> | "Ownership" | MCS/Times Square Arts Center |
| <i>The Great Pretender</i> | Daisy | On Que/The Great Pretender, LLC |
| <i>And/Or</i> (Ben Rimalower, Dir.) | 3/Y | Dixon Place Theatre |
| <i>Trippin'</i> (Daniel Beatty, Dir.) | Bumble Wanna Bee | Aaron Davis Hall |
| <i>Blood Drive</i> | Donor | Barrington Stage |
| <i>Fallen Angel</i> | Lucifer | Bay Street Theatre |

Regional (selected)

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| <i>ELF (director, Eric Woodall)</i> | Mr. Greenway/Santa | The North Carolina Theatre |
| <i>A New Brain</i> | Richard | Jennie T. Anderson Theatre |
| <i>33 1/3 A New Musical</i> | Older Jules/Father | Dobama Theatre |
| <i>Next to Normal</i> | Dr. Madden/Dr. Fine | Porthouse Theatre |
| <i>Allegro</i> | Dr. Joe Taylor | Musical Theatre Project, Cleveland |
| <i>The Music Man</i> | Charlie Cowell | Cain Park |
| <i>Footloose</i> | Cowboy Bob/Wes | Porthouse Theatre |
| <i>Sister Act</i> | Joey | Porthouse Theatre |
| <i>Zorba!</i> | Manolakas | The Musical Theatre Project |
| <i>Young Frankenstein</i> | Igor | Forestburgh Playhouse |
| <i>Laughter on the 23rd Floor</i> | Milt | Forestburgh Playhouse |
| <i>*Avenue Q</i> | Nicky/Trekkie | Forestburgh Playhouse |
| *Twiggy Award Best Supporting Actor | | |
| <i>Chicago</i> | Amos | Forestburgh Playhouse |
| <i>Man of La Mancha</i> | Sancho Panza | Forestburgh Playhouse |
| <i>The Producers</i> | Leo Bloom | Weathervane Repertory Theatre |
| <i>Hairspray</i> | Corny Collins | Weathervane Repertory Theatre |
| <i>Sweeney Todd</i> | Tobias | Weathervane Repertory Theatre |
| <i>Bat Boy</i> | Bat Boy | Weathervane Repertory Theatre |
| <i>Forever Plaid</i> | Jinx | Wayside Theatre |
| <i>Plaid Tidings</i> | Jinx | Surflight Theatre |

Educational (graduate school)

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| <i>*Macbeth</i> | Macbeth | Kent State University |
| *APO Award for Best Leading Actor | | |
| <i>*Little Women</i> | Professor Baher | Kent State University |
| *2018 Broadway World nominee Best Actor in a Musical | | |
| <i>Irena's Vow</i> | Rokita | Kent State University |
| <i>Bus Stop</i> | Dr. Lyman | Kent State University |
| <i>Side Show</i> | The Boss | Kent State University |

Film/Television

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| <i>Born This Way</i> | Adam | NCSA Thesis Film |
| <i>Ghost Car (upcoming)</i> | Bruce | Unicorn & Unicorn Productions |
| <i>The Virus Dialogues #4</i> | Glenn | True Acting Institute |

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| <i>Be the Sun (upcoming)</i> | Saulie | Larry Silverberg, producer/director |
| <i>The Anonymous Lives of John & Jane</i> | Stan | Web Series |
| <i>Strangers with Candy</i> | Skating Bully | Comedy Central |

Recordings

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| <i>Womyn in Three, Concept Album</i> | Sir | Caren L. Tackett |
| <i>Sympathy Jones</i> | Tick Tock | Asiwome Belle Music (ASCAP) <i>(Music by Masi Asare)</i> www.sympathyjones.com |
| <i>It's Karate, Kid!</i> | Daniel | www.itskaratekidthemusical.com |

Master Classes/Workshops Taught

Summer Performing Arts Intensive (Meisner)

Stephens College, Summer 2023

Spoken Word Workshop

Black Makers Theatre Guild, East Carolina University, Fall 2023

Monologue Workshop

East Carolina University, Fall 2023

Summer Performing Arts Intensive (Meisner/Chekhov)

Stephens College, Summer 2022

Musical Theatre Workshop

University Northern Iowa, 2021

Michael Chekhov Workshop

Wisconsin Thespian Festival, 2020

Michael Chekhov Workshop (assistant to Fabio Polanco)

University Northern Iowa, 2019

Michael Chekhov Workshop

University of Northern Iowa, 2018 Thespian Festival

Michael Chekhov Workshop (assistant to Fabio Polanco)

Kent State University, 2018

Improv for Entrepreneurs

Kent State University, 2018

Meisner Technique

Kent State University, 2018

Monologue Technique

Kent State University, 2017

Nursing Simulation Workshops- Lead

Kent State University, 2017-2018

Cold Reading Technique

Porthouse College Academy, Summer 2016

Audition Technique

Porthouse High School Academy, Summer 2016

Presentations

“Theatrical Intimacy and Meisner Technique” Jim Bray, Laura Rikard & Kim Shively

ATHE Conference: Driving Toward Connection, 2020

“Remote Roundtable: Driving Research Through Student Collaborations”

ATHE Conference: Driving Toward Connection, 2020

“Meisner in Musical Theatre”

ATHE Conference: Scene Changes, Orlando 2019

“Flipping the Script on Performance Juries”

ATHE Conference: Scene Changes, Orlando 2019

Nursing Symposium: *“Transgender Medical Care”*, Akron, October 2017- writer, director, actor

Graduate Research Symposium: *“Action, and Movement through Crisis: Investigating Character Building within Larry Kramer’s The Normal Heart”*, Kent State University, April 2017

Community Outreach & Events

Pitt County Day of Theatre @ ECU SoTD

Instructor- Acting with Chekhov and Clown

North Carolina Theatre Conference College Day,

Adjudicator and recruitment, November 2022

NC Youth Arts Community Arts Festival, Greenville, NC

Clowning class and recruitment, October 2022

Michael Chekhov Workshop

Wisconsin Thespian Festival, 2020

Michael Chekhov Workshop

Grundy Center High School, IA 2019

University of Northern Iowa

Lynn Nottage Q & A event (facilitator)

Adjudicator at Iowa Thespian Festival, 2021

Dream With Me, 2021

Black History: A Musical Journey, 2020

Representa Nos Por Favor! 2019

Anything You Can Do, I Can Do...? 2019

Adjudicator at Iowa Thespian Festival, 2019

Adjudicator at Iowa Thespian Festival, 2018

Kent State University

Director of *A Night at the Oscars: A Cabaret* - fundraising event for the Senior Musical Theatre class showcase, November 22, 2016.

Interview/Monologue Workshop for Undergraduates, 2017

Monologue Workshop sponsored by MTSO, 2017

Private coaching in Audition/Acting through Song Technique, 2015-2018

Joe's Pub, NYC

Featured Soloist, *Raise the Roof*: A fundraiser for The Weathervane Repertory Theatre, 2013

The Duplex, NYC

Featured Soloist, *Cabaret for a Cure*, 2013

Forestburgh Playhouse, Forestburgh, NY

Company Manager, 2011

N.C. State Grange Youth Team

Team Leader

Cooperative Leadership Council of North Carolina

Winner of Thad Eure Leadership Award and designated speaker at Cooperative Council National Convention, Washington, D.C.

Medical Park Hospital, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Volunteer

Committees, University Citizenship & Service

East Carolina University

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| 2022-present | ECU Cinema Guild, co-advisor |
| 2022-present | ECU SoTD Performance Committee |
| 2022-present | ECU SoTD Black Makers Theatre, co-advisor |
| 2022-present | ECU SoTD Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee |
| 2022-present | ECU SoTD Recruitment Committee |
| 2022-present | ECU SoTD Intimacy Committee |

University of Northern Iowa

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| 2021-2022 | College of Arts and Humanities Faculty Senate |
| 2020-2022 | Theatre UNI Equity and Anti-Racism Task Force- Founder and Chair |
| 2020 | Mentor and private coach for TCUTA auditions |
| 2020 | Mentor and private coach for UPTA auditions |
| 2019-2022 | Advisor and founder of UNI Multicultural Theatrical Society |
| 2019 | Mentor and private coach for UPTA auditions |
| 2018-2022 | Performance Committee |
| 2018-2022 | Season Selection Committee |
| 2018 | Freshman welcome and outreach |
| 2018 | Season audition adjudicator 2018-2019 season audition adjudicator |
| 2018-2022 | UPTA screening adjudicator |
| 2018 | Student trip coordinator: Iowa Repertory Stage Co. production of <i>Fun Home</i> |

Kent State University

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| 2016-2017 | Graduate Student Forum in Theatre, Vice President |
| 2017-2018 | Graduate Student Forum in Theatre, Treasurer |
| 2017-present | Alpha Psi Omega |
| 2017-2018 | Season Selection Committee |
| 2017-2018 | Student Production Board |
| 2015-2018 | Graduate Studies Committee |
| 2016-2017 | Black Box Series |
| 2016 | Curriculum Committee |
| 2015-2016 | Production Committee, |
| 2015-2018 | Mentor/private coach Audition Technique/Acting Through Song technique |

Continued Training & Workshops

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| 2022 | TV/Film Workshop with Jack Plotnick |
| 2022 | Anti- Racist Theatre: A Level Up Course w/ Nicole Brewer |
| 2022 | Mosaic: Prevent Discrimination and Harassment Together: Faculty & Staff |
| 2020-2022 | Theatrical Intimacy Education: Intimacy Training, Laura Rikard, Chelsea Pace. Forty-two hours: <i>Consent in the Acting Classroom, Foundations of Race, Intimacy and Consent, Working with Trans and Non-Binary artists, Best Practices, Intimacy Choreography, Studio Techniques, Casting and Policy.</i> |
| 2021 | Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) |

2020 The Pandemonium Studio- Three-week, fifty-hour Advanced Teacher Training in Clown, Chris Bayes

2020 “The Moving Frame”, Screen Acting Intensive for Teachers, Welker White & Damian Young. Twelve-hour Workshop.

2020 “Moment Work Level 1”, Barbara Pitts McAdams, Tectonic Theatre Project

2020 IDC Professionals- Intimacy Direction + COVID-19

2020 Musical Theatre Educators Alliance Webinar; Teaching Online w/ Sheri Sanders

2020 “We are the Canon” Anti-Racist Pedagogy, Dr. Daphnie Sicre & Professor Karl O’Brien

2020 Anti-Racist Theatre: A Foundational Course with Nicole Brewer

2020 Black Acting Methods-A Conversation with Freddie Hendricks, The Hendricks’ Method, Freddie Hendricks, Dr. Sharrell Luckett

2020 Black Acting Methods- Meeting of the Minds: Hip-Hop Theatre Pedagogy Pioneers, Professors Rickerby Hinds & Kashi Johnson

2020 Black Acting Methods- Black Actors and Mental Health, Dr. Jonathan Mathis Lassiter

2020 Black Acting Methods- Diversifying Approaches to Acting with Dr. Sharrell Luckett and Crash Acting

2018 Viewpoints – Anne Bogart, SITI Co. Master Classes

2017 True Acting Institute, One hundred and eight-hour Meisner Certificate Teacher Training – Larry Silverberg

2016 The Funny School of Good Acting - Clown Intensive, Christopher Bayes

2015–2018 Michael Chekhov Technique – Fabio Polanco

2014 Barrow Group Theatre Company – Monologue Performance, Lee Brock

2014 The Queen’s Studio – Shakespeare, Jodie Lynne McClintock,

2014 Atlantic Theatre Company - Monologue Technique, Karen Kohlhaas

2014 Stairwell Shakespeare – Sam Gibbs

2013 Maggie Flanigan Studio - Meisner Scene Study Intensive, Maggie Flanigan

2007–2012 Matthew Corozine Studio - Scene Study based in Meisner Technique

2003–2004 Upright Citizen’s Brigade- Level 1: Dannah Feinglass, Level 2: Brian Huskey

1996–1998 East Carolina University - Full 2-year Meisner Technique, Don Biehn

Voice & Speech

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|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2015–2018 | Lessac, Courtney Brown |
| 2001–2002 | Anat Keidar, NYC |
| 2000 | Ron Shetler, Shetler Studios, NYC |

Honors & Scholarships

Honors

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|-------------|---|
| 2021 | Awarded “George Floyd Fund,” (<i>Dream With ME</i>), University of Northern Iowa |
| 2021 | Nominee: “UNI Outstanding Teacher Award”, University of Northern Iowa |
| 2020 | Nominee: “MWOne UNIQue Academic Advising Award”, University Northern Iowa |
| 2020 | Nominee: “Advisor of the Year Award”, Multicultural Theatrical Society, Student Leadership Awards |
| 2020 | CHAS Dean Travel Fund; research in producing large scale musicals for audiences on the autism spectrum and with differing abilities |
| 2019 | Research Fellowship, “ <i>Anything You Can Do, I Can Do...?</i> ”, University of Northern Iowa |
| 2019 | First Year Friendly Professor, University of Northern Iowa |
| 2018 | Alpha Psi Omega Outstanding Student Performer, Kent State University |
| 2017 | Alpha Psi Omega Best Overall Student Production- <i>The Stonewater Rapture</i> |
| 2017 | Alpha Psi Omega Best Director- <i>The Stonewater Rapture</i> |
| 2017 | Alpha Psi Omega Best Leading Actor- <i>Macbeth</i> |
| 2016 | Alpha Psi Omega Outstanding Student Performer, Kent State University |
| 2016 | Alpha Psi Omega Outstanding Newcomer Award, Kent State University |
| 2012 | Twiggy Award- Outstanding Children’s Show, <i>The Three Little Pigs</i> |
| 2011 | Twiggy Award- Outstanding Cabaret, <i>And the Oscar Goes to...</i> , FB Playhouse |
| 2010 | Twiggy Award- Best Supporting Actor, Avenue Q- Nicky/Trekkie, FB Playhouse |
| 1999 | Outstanding Achievement in Musical Theatre, East Carolina University |
| 1995 | Honorable Mention in Acting, North Carolina Theatre Conference |
| 1994 | 1 st place winner: National, Regional & State “Sign-a-Song” Competition |

Scholarships

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| 2018 | Erin Myers Memorial Scholarship, Kent State University |
| 2016 | R. Eugene Jackson Scholarship, Kent State University |
| 2015–2018 | Kent State University Full Scholarship for Returning Professionals MFA |

Professional Organizations

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| 2021-present | MICHA (Michael Chekhov Association) |
| 2020-present | National Alliance for Acting Teachers |
| 2020-present | ATHE- Theatre for Social Justice -Member at Large (2020) |
| 2020-present | ATHE- Black Theatre Association |
| 2019-present | ATHE- Acting Focus Group |
| 2019-present | ATHE- Association for Movement Instructors |
| 2017-present | Alpha Psi Omega |
| 2001-present | Actor's Equity Association |
| | Theatre Development Fund |
| | Southeastern Theatre Conference |
| | Human Rights Campaign |

References

Steve Taft, Ph.D.

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Jennifer Hemphill

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Nicole Lewis

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Lisanne Shaffer-Dickerson

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Theatre Education and Theatre for Youth
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