

# Matthew Gutschick

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## Theater For Young Audiences Experience

**Artistic Director, Omaha Theater Company (The Rose):** Omaha, NE (September 2012-Present)

- Artistic and educational leader of \$3.5M professional theater for young audiences with an audience of more than 120,000 attendees and conducting more than 1,050 workshops in more than 150 schools. Key features:
  - Production season includes nine mainstage productions in a 910 seat historic theater, and two Pre-K productions in a 140 seat black box theater. AEA Special Appearance Contract and IATSE overhire utilized.
  - The Rose has a radical dedication to accessibility, most noticeable in a membership program that removes price as a barrier to attendance for most families. Most pay an average of \$70 for four tickets to seven shows.
  - Every Single Child program gives every grade school age child a meaningful theatrical education experience every year of their schooling. Any Title I school participates for free. Almost 40,000 students served through this program.
  - Two focused education departments- Broadway at The Rose (musical theater) and Drama at The Rose (creative drama) departments serving more than 2,000 young people with out of school classes and camps.
  - Major educational outreach includes a queer youth troupe, a devising troupe of teen women, a troupe that devises work around the topic of race and racial identity, regular guest visits to local children's hospital, robust course offerings for individuals with disabilities, intensive single-school at a time curriculum infusion program that teaches public school instructors how to use creative drama in the classroom, and production camp partnership with Native Indian Centered Education Program of Omaha Public Schools.
  
- Work in partnership with managing director to guide all major strategic and operational functions. Report directly to the Board of Directors, serving as a public voice for the theater in the media and with donors.
  
- Led strategic planning process in collaboration with managing director, board, and full time staff of 25, including alignment/execution phase over past three years, with major accomplishments:
  - Developed and implemented an artistic vision that sees The Rose creating theater with extraordinary local and national artists to produce an exceptional array of stories that represent the diversity of Omaha's young people. New play development program engaging nationally-renowned playwrights Y York, Amelia Roper, Victoria Stewart, Suzanne Maynard Miller, Greg Taylor, Elena Araoz, Mary Kathryn Nagle, and playwright-in-residence Brian Guehring.
  - Distinguished guest artists include Justin Townsend (OBIE Award for Sustained Excellence in Design), Jesse Jou (Classical Fellowship for Directors of Color, Drama League), Kit McKay (Founder, Parallel 45), Jennifer Zeyl (Intiman Theatre Ensemble Member), Adam Rowe (Art Director, *Dexter, Parks&Recreation*).
  - Developed and produced nine world premieres including *Grocer's Goblin & The Little Mermaid*, *Zen Ties*, *Pete the Cat*, *Buffalo Bill's Cowboy Band*, *Leo Lionni's Frederick*, *Palette of Possibility*, and *Sherlock Holmes & The First Baker Street Irregular*. World premieres have gone on to have at least twelve professional productions.
  - Commended by Lark Play Development Center for producing seasons that represent values of equity and diversity. Four playwrights currently under commission are on the Kilroys List.
  - Created holistic audience engagement program designed to deepen impact of each theater piece for all audiences utilizing lobby activities, pre-show context setting, and post-show conversation tools for parents/teachers.
  - Guided education curriculum review and revision process that aligned creative drama based program with musical theater technique training program. The Rose Brigade musical theatre troupe won *Playbill Magazine's* youth service award in 2015 at the Junior Theatre Festival.

- Expanded into early childhood programming utilizing productions and classes, including a devised production led by Gretta Berghammer (AATE past president) integrating Pre-K audiences with students who have Autism.
- Built weekly recreational therapy drama classes for students with developmental disabilities in partnership with Munroe-Meyer Institute, created ongoing partnership with Iowa School for the Deaf, began offering dance classes to complement theater classes already in place for students with Autism.
- Deepened outreach programming, including a three year residency with internationally celebrated artist Daniel Beaty (*Knock Knock, Emergency*, Obie Award Winner, NAACP Theater Award for Best Solo Show). First year (2015) focused on the impact of gang violence on Omaha and engaged multiple human service partners. Utilized workshops and culminated in an original play performed by current and former gang members as well as at risk youth and mothers of victims. Second year expands to two focus areas including teen pregnancy, and the psychological effects of youth incarceration.
- Completed the final stages of a \$6M capital campaign.
- Built reserves large enough to cover 3 months of operating expenses. Created board-approved policy for reserve use and replenishment.
- Created staff leadership training program utilizing individual coaching and the adoption of a culture action plan.
- Over three years of leadership:
  - 19% membership growth, with sell outs the past two seasons
  - increased overall attendance by 27%
  - increased earned revenue by 32%
  - increased contributed revenue by 28%
  - increased class/camp enrollment 21%
  - Omaha Entertainment Award nominations grew from 3 in 2012 to 19 in 2015

**Fellow, Children's Theatre Company:** Minneapolis, MN (2010)

- Developed long term pricing plan to increase accessibility by removing price as a barrier for potential buyers.
- Assisted Artistic Director Peter Brosius on productions of *500 Hats of Bartholemew Cubbins*, and *A Christmas Story*.

**Director of Intermediate Repertory Theatre, Interlochen Center for the Arts:** Interlochen, MI (2010-2012)

- Produced and directed production experience for intermediate campers, including student/staff selection and placement as well as production management.
- Oversaw 33% enrollment growth over three summers.

**Artistic Director, Children's Theatre of Winston-Salem:** Winston-Salem, NC (2008-2009)

- Oversaw all activities of Equity roadhouse hosting nine productions for young audiences a season from companies like ArtsPower and TheatreWorks. Served more than 11,000 students and families annually. Led a staff of 12 contractors.
- Created Teacher Council and Parent Council to increase engagement. Grew annual giving by 150%.
- Increased production capacity. Added summer camp programming, which increased education revenue by more than 25%. Increased programming flexibility for the main stage season by producing two shows in-house in 2009.
- Paid down outstanding Children's Theatre Board debt within first year as its Artistic Director.
- Introduced mix of audition based and pay-to-play opportunities for the education department. Over 72% of students participated in a production experience complementing classroom work between 2008-2009. Developed public school partnership for special education class.

**Education Director, Twin City Stage:** Winston-Salem, NC (2007-2008)

- Orchestrated operational merger between Twin City Stage and Children's Theatre of Winston-Salem to utilize synergies for strengthening cross dimensional programming and production capacity between the two organizations.
- Oversaw 11% revenue growth, 16% enrollment growth, helped win NCTC Theatre of the Year Award.
- Taught acting classes for students grades K-12 between 2002-2009. Topics included: Improvisation, Radio Plays, Fantasy, The Method, Meisner, Playwriting, Magic and Narrative.

## Other Professional Experience

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### **Adjunct Faculty Member, University of Nebraska-Omaha:** Omaha, NE (2013-Present)

- Developed and teach *Mission and Strategy for Arts Organizations* as part of Master of Public Administration and graduate Theater programs.

### **Managing Director, Yale Cabaret:** New Haven, CT (2011-2012 Season)

- Curated and developed 18 productions, operate a 75 seat restaurant, oversaw marketing, contracting, budgeting, and development, for a completely graduate student-run theatre.
- Set contributed revenue record (in Yale Cabaret's 44 year history) and produced largest operating budget surplus on record.
- Increased pass sales by 22%, revenue per customer by 18%, kitchen revenue by 12% over prior season. Performed in Young Jean Lee's *Church* and Mac Wellman's *Dracula*.

### **Associate Producer, Yale Institute for Music Theatre Contest:** New Haven, CT (Summer 2011)

- Worked directly with Artistic Director Mark Brokaw to produce workshops of three new musicals.

### **Associate Managing Director, Yale Repertory Theatre:** New Haven, CT (Spring 2011)

- Negotiated and executed contracts for mainstage season and commissions for Yale Center for New Theatre.
- Managed \$1.6 million artistic budget.
- Directed season fiscal planning for FY2012.

### **Co-Founder, Magicmouth Theatre:** Chicago, IL (2006-Present)

- Directed, co-wrote and produced *Awakening*, a blend of grand illusion and theatrical narrative. Co-wrote and acted in follow-up, *Rubber Doves*, which toured internationally.
- Led fundraising efforts for development of *Awakening*, including winning Chambers Fund Grant and Kauffman New Business Plan Competition award. Featured in *Entrepreneur* magazine (2006).

## Education

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### **Yale School of Drama:** New Haven, CT, Class of 2012

Master of Fine Arts in Theater Management

- Authored business school style case study on Seattle Children's Theatre
- Rebranded *Theater* magazine with managing editor Tom Sellar
- Recipient of **George C. White Award** for demonstrated appreciation of arts throughout the world, curiosity about cultural heritage, and respect for creative production management. Given to one graduating MFA candidate in the School of Drama.

### **Lincoln Center Directors Lab:** New York, NY Class of 2010

### **Wake Forest University:** Winston-Salem, NC, Class of 2006 (Magna Cum Laude)

Bachelor of Arts in Communication/Theater, Graduate of Calloway Business Management Program

### **Babcock Graduate Business School:** Winston-Salem, NC 2006-2007

Took second year MBA classes as part of **Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Fellowship**

## Theatrical Training

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**Performance Classes:** Tim Miller, Lynn Book

**Poetry in Performance:** Dr. Maya Angelou

**Directing:** Robert Woodruff

**Playwriting:** Paula Vogel, Ken Prestininzi

### **School at Steppenwolf, Steppenwolf Theatre Company:** Chicago, IL

**Viewpoints:** Tina Landau, Kim Rubenstein

**Meisner:** Amy Morton

**Stanislavski:** Luda Lopatina

**Improv:** Sheldon Patinkin

**Acting:** Rondi Reed, K. Todd Freeman

**Mime:** James Dodding

## Selected Directing Experience

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PETER AND THE STARCATCHER	<i>Rick Elice, Wayne Barker</i>	The Rose	2015
MARY POPPINS THE MUSICAL	<i>Julian Fellowes Richard Sherman</i>	The Rose	2015
CYRANO	<i>Jo Roets, Edmond Rostand</i>	Parallel 45	2015
A CHRISTMAS STORY THE MUSICAL	<i>Benj Pasek, Justin Paul, Joseph Robinette</i>	The Rose	2014
BALLOONACY	<i>Barry Kornhauser</i>	The Rose	2014
ROBIN HOOD	<i>Greg Banks</i>	The Rose	2013
THE SPARROW (Youth Production)	<i>Chris Matthews Jake Minton</i>	Interlochen Center For the Arts	2012
TWELFTH NIGHT (Youth Production)	<i>William Shakespeare</i>	Interlochen Center For the Arts	2011
CHRISTMAS STORY (Assistant Director)	<i>Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown</i>	Children's Theatre Dir: Peter Brosius	2010
500 HATS OF BARTHOLOMEW CUBBINS (Assistant Director)	<i>Dr. Seuss Adapted: Tim Mason and Hiram Titus</i>	Children's Theatre Dir: Peter Brosius	2010
AMERICAN GYPSY (Co-Directed)	<i>Ben Whiting</i>	NY Fringe Festival/ MagicMouth Theatre	2010
ANON(YMOUS) (Youth Production)	<i>Naomi Izuka</i>	Interlochen Center For the Arts	2010
WUTHERING HEIGHTS: A ROMANTIC MUSICAL	<i>Paul Dick</i>	Mint Theater/Passaj (NYC)	2010
ENCHANTED LANDS (Youth Production)	<i>Matt Gutschick</i>	Children's Theatre of Winston-Salem	2009
TRUMPET OF THE SWAN	<i>Joseph Robinette</i>	Reynolda House Museum	2008
AWAKENING	<i>Matt Gutschick and Ben Whiting</i>	MagicMouth Theatre	2006

**Directing Honors and Awards:** *New Yorker* "Goings on About Town" (WUTHERING HEIGHTS); "boldly envisioned...exquisitely conceived" (Theatrescene.net, WUTHERING HEIGHTS); Best of Fringe Award (AMERICAN GYPSY); "the most eloquent statement about the transformative power of art that I have seen" (NYtheatre.com, AMERICAN GYPSY); "Inspires audiences of all ages" (*GoTriad* magazine, AWAKENING); "better than Copperfield" (*ArtView* magazine, AWAKENING)

## **Plays**

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### **ONE STOP**, ten-minute

Horse Trade Theater Group (NYC) 2012

### **RADIO ELI**, full length

Dixon Place (NYC, workshop) 2011

### **RED BALLOON**, full length

Tri-State Actors Theatre 2011

### **THE INCREDIBLE FLYING MACHINE**, full length

Horse Trade Theater Group (NYC, reading) 2012

Wordsmyth Theatre (workshop) 2010

Reverie Productions (NYC, workshop) 2010

Awards: *Hangar Theatre Lab Company Finalist, Reverie Productions Playwriting Contest Finalist*

### **ENCHANTED LANDS**, full length children's play

Twin City Stage/ 2009

Children's Theatre of Winston-Salem

Forsyth Academy 2009

Theatre Tryon 2009

### **THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER**, full length children's play, adaptation

Twin City Stage/ 2009

Children's Theatre of Winston-Salem

### **WHACKED FAIRY TALES**, full length children's play

Twin City Stage/ 2008

Children's Theatre of Winston-Salem

### **RUBBER DOVES**, one act with magic (co-writer)

MagicMouth Theatre/ International Tour 2008

Chicago City Lit (Magic Chicago) 2008

The Warehouse 2008

Awards: *New Horizons Playwriting Competition Winner*

### **AWAKENING**, full length with magic (co-writer)

MagicMouth Theatre/ 2006

National Tour

Awards: *Chambers Award, Kauffman Foundation Fellowship*