Current as of Summer 2024:

Sara Becker

Voice & Text Coach, Director, and Educator

(she/hers)

E-mail: beckers@uncsa.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

American Players Theatre, Spring Green, Wisconsin

(2004, 2005, 2011-2014, 2016- to present)

Director of Voice and Text (2018-present) Voice and Text Coach (2005, 2011, 2012-2014, 2016-2018) Apprentice Acting Company Development Training (2013, 2014) Assistant Vocal Coach to Susan Sweeney (2004):

Responsibilities include:

- Leadership and hiring of high-level staff of Voice and Text department,
- Collaboration with directors on how the language of the play is used,
- Designed training curriculum for Apprentice Company (2013, 2014, 2018-2019, 2022),
- Taught vocal usage and language to Apprentice Company (2013, 2014, 2018-2019, 2022),
- Created Assistant Voice and Text position to train future coaches,
- Research and compilation of accent and dialect material,
- Helping the actors to fully realize the language through private work sessions and attending runs,
- Working with actors on the basics of healthy vocal usage.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, Oregon

(2007-2010, 2012, 2016)

Voice and Text Director: Hamlet (2016)

As You Like It (2012)

Throne of Blood, American Night (2010)

Don Quixote, Much Ado about Nothing (2009)

Assistant Voice and Text Director under David Carey (2012)

Assistant Voice and Text Director under Andrew Wade (2008)

Assistant Voice and Text Director under Scott Kaiser, Head of Voice and Text (2007, 2008):

Responsibilities at this Tony award winning classical repertory company include:

- Consultation with actors on meaning, pronunciation, scansion, imagery, rhetorical devices, vocal production, speech style, and the integration of company Alexander work,
- Taught sessions of weekly skills class for acting company,
- Collaboration on script development in rehearsals,

- Providing feedback and support to meet the vocal challenges of an 1200 seat amplificationfree house,
- Private coaching with members of the acting company.

TEXT/VOCAL/DIALECT COACHING

2024

Guthrie Theatre, MN

A Brittle Glory: The Henriad Three Play Cycle

Joe Haj, dir.

Richard II

Henry IV part I and II

Henry V

<u>Great Lakes Theatre/Idaho Shakespeare Festival/Lake Tahoe Shakespeare</u>

(co-production) **Dialect Coach:**

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Terri McMahon, dir.

American Players Theatre, WI

King Lear

Tim Ocel, dir.

2023

American Players Theatre, WI

Romeo and Juliet Merry Wives of Windsor John Langs, dir. Terri McMahon, dir.

A Contemporary Theatre, ACT

Seattle, WA

A Christmas Carol

John Langs, dir.

2022

American Players Theatre, WI

Hamlet Love's Labour's Lost James Devita, dir. Brenda Devita, dir.

2021

American Players Theatre, WI

The Taming of the Shrew An Illiad

Shana Cooper, dir. John Langs, dir.

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Cymbeline

Marti Lyons, dir.

2020

American Players Theatre, WI and PBS Wisconsin "Out of the Woods" Series 2020

Julius CaesarStephen Brown-Fried, dir.CymbelineMarti Lyons, dir.Overruled (GB Shaw)Kiera Fromm, dir.Dark Lady of the Sonnets (GB Shaw)Kiera Fromm, dir.Swan Song (Chekhov)Kiera Fromm, dir.Turn of the ScrewJames DeVita, dir.

Voice and Text Team:

The Cannon Project Various directors

Clarence Brown Theatre

Hamlet John Sipes, dir.

2019

American Players Theatre, WI

A Lovely Sunday for Creve CoeurRobynn Rodriguez, dir.MacbethJames Devita, dir.Book of WillTim Ocel, dir.

Clarence Brown Theatre

King Charles III John Sipes, dir.

The Alley Theatre, TX

Twelfth Night Jonathan Moscone, dir.

2018

American Players Theatre, WI

The Recruiting OfficerBill Brown, dir.Measure for MeasureRisa Brainin, dir.Exit the KingTim Ocel, dir.

AD Players, TX

Dialect Coach:

Best of Enemies Kim Tobin, dir.

Lillies of the Field

Kevin Dean, dir.

2017

Sheboygan Arts Center, WI

The Unexpected Man Laura Gordon, dir.

American Players Theatre, WI

Three SistersBill Brown, dir.A View from the BridgeTim Ocel, dir.A Flea in Her EarDavid Frank, dir.The Unexpected ManLaura Gordon, dir.

Moody Center for the Arts, TX

An Illiad Rob Kimbro, dir.

Classical Theatre Company, TX

Mrs. Warren's Profession Julia Traber, dir.

2016

American Players Theatre, WI

Endgame Aaron Posner, dir.
Arcadia James Bohnen, dir.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Hamlet Lisa Peterson, dir.

2015

Illinois Shakespeare Festival, IL

Love's Labour's Lost Curt Tofteland, dir. Richard II Robert Quinlin, dir.

Classical Theatre Company, TX

Henry V Julia Traber, dir.

2014

American Players Theatre, WI

The Importance of Being Earnest Bill Brown, dir.

Travesties Bill Brown, dir.

Playmakers Rep, NC

Private Lives Sean Daniels, dir.

<u>2013</u>

American Players Theatre, WI

All My Sons Bill Brown, dir.

2012

American Players Theatre, WI

The Admirable Crichton Ken Albers, dir.
Shakespeare's Will Brenda DeVita, dir

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

As You Like It Jessica Thebus, dir

Assistant Voice and Text Director under David Carey:

Henry V Joseph Haj, dir.

The Alley Theatre, TX

The Seagull Gregory Boyd, dir

2011

American Players Theatre, WI

Cure at Troy David Frank, dir.

The Alley Theatre, TX

Ether Dome Michael Wilson, dir. Pygmalion Anders Cato, dir

2010

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

American Night Jo Bonney, dir.

Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) New Wave Festival and the Oregon

Shakespeare Festival

Throne of Blood Ping Chong, dir.

Guthrie Theatre, MN/ The Acting Company, NY

Co Voice and Text Director:

Romeo and Juliet Penelope Metropulos, dir.

2009

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Much Ado About NothingKate Buckley, dir.Don QuixoteLaird Williamson, dir.

Clarence Brown Theatre

Love's Labour's Lost John Sipes, dir.

Milwaukee Repertory Theatre

Pride and Prejudice JR Sullivan, dir.

Guthrie Theatre, MN/ The Acting Company, NY

Co Voice and Text Director:

Henry V Davis McCallum, dir.

2008

Colorado Shakespeare Festival

Resident Voice and Text Coach:

Henry VIII Jim Simmons, dir.

Love's Labor LostGavin Cameron-Webb, dir.The Three MusketeersCarolyn Howarth, dir.MacbethLynne Collins, dir.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Assistant Voice and Text Director under Andrew Wade:

Clay Cart Bill Rauch, dir.

A Midsummer Night's Dream Mark Rucker, dir..

Assistant Voice and Text Director under Scott Kaiser:

Fences Leah C. Gardiner, dir Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter Jessica Thebus, dir.

Milwaukee Repertory Theatre

I am my Own Wife John Langs, dir.

Madison Repertory Theatre, WI

Fully Committed Trevin Gay, dir.

2007

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Romeo and Juliet Bill Rauch, dir.

Madison Repertory Theatre, WI

Talley's Folly
Anna Christie
Richard Corley, dir.
Richard Corley, dir.

2006

Madison Repertory Theatre, WI

I am my own Wife Roger Bennington, dir.

2005

American Players Theatre, WI

The Play's the Thing
Tartuffe
David Frank, dir.
David Frank, dir.

Madison Repertory Theatre, WI

Moon for the Misbegotten (assistant) Richard Corley, dir.

2004

American Players Theatre, WI

Voice and Text Assistant to Susan Sweeney:

Playboy of the Western WorldDavid Frank, dir.London AssurancePeter Amster, dir.Twelfth NightBill Brown, dir.CymbelineKate Buckley, dir.

ACADEMIC VOCAL/TEXT/DIALECT COACHING

University of North Carolina School of the Arts

As You Like It (Taub Musical)

If Pretty Hurts, Ugly...*

Roe

Acadia Barrengos, dir.

All's Well that Ends Well

Andy Paris, co-dir.

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One Act Evening
The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner Quin Gordon, dir.
The Miser
Jason Bohon, dir.
Top Girls
A Midsummer Night's Dream
The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls
Carl Foresman, dir.
Abigail Holland, dir.
Cameron Knight, dir.
Scott Zigler, dir.

*dialect assistant

University of Houston Selected Shows include:

Man and Superman James Bonan, dir. Animal Farm Bill Brown, dir. Keith Byron Kirk, dir. Fuente Ovejuna Beaux Stratagem Adam Noble,dir. Philadelphia Story Carolyn Boone,dir. The Crucible Gus Kaikkonen,dir. Our Lady of 121st St. Keith Byron Kirk, dir. Richard III Jack Young, dir. Rocky Horror Paul Hope, dir.

Big Love Leslie Swackhamer, dir.

Rice University Shepherd School of Music

Die Fledermaus Edward Berkeley, Stage director

Richard Bado, Conductor

University of Wisconsin-Madison

The RoverTony Simotes, dir.Pride and PrejudiceBarbara Clayton, dir.Lucky StiffTony Simotes, dir.Last Night at BallyhooNorma Saldivar, dir.

Edgewood College, WI

Cabaret Phil Martin, dir.

Verona Area High School, WI

Noises Off Steve Nibbe, dir.

Academic Teaching Experience

University of North Carolina School of the Arts

(2019-present)

Associate Professor of Voice, Speech, Dialects and Verse

Courses Taught:

Voice and Speech Sophomore Fall and Spring Shakespeare Junior Fall and Spring Speech Sophomore Section 1 Fall Special Topics Senior Spring: Advanced Shakespeare

Departmental service include:

- Chair of Casting and Season Selection
- Career Development Grant Committee
- Benchmarking Committee
- Student Workload Committee
- Housing Appeals Committee
- Faculty advisor on multiple projects
- Provost's Panel for Recruitment (2020)
- Member of Guest Director and Choreographer Handbook Committee (2021)
- Chair of the High School Drama Search Committee (2022)
- Member of the Combat Drama Search Committee (2023)
- Member of the Dean of Drama Search Committee (2023/2024)
- Ongoing departmental advising with an average of ten drama majors

University of Houston, School of Theatre and Dance

(2009-2018)

Head of BFA Acting (2014-2018) Head of Performance Area (2013-2018) Associate Professor of Voice and Shakespeare (2016-2018) Assistant Professor of Voice and Shakespeare (2009-2016) Visiting Professor of Voice and Shakespeare (2009)

Courses Taught:

Graduate Voice Spring Graduate Shakespeare Fall Sophomore Voice Fall and Spring Junior Shakespeare Fall and Spring Sophomore Accents and Dialects Spring

Responsibilities include:

- Designing and Teaching a two-semester arc of Shakespeare actor training for BFA Acting Majors,
- Designing and Teaching Advanced Voice and Text class to BFA Acting Majors,
- Designing and Teaching a three-semester arc of Voice and Heightened Text for MFA Acting tract,
- Designing and Teaching BFA Speech, Phonetics and Dialects class,
- Directing regularly for Main Stage Theatre Season,
- Providing production vocal coaching support to Main Stage Theatre Season,
- Tracking and mentoring BFA and MFA actors,
- Recruiting and Auditioning of incoming graduate and undergraduate students through multi-city focused initiative.

University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Arts and Sciences

(2003-2006)

Guest Instructor (2006)

Teaching Assistant (2003-2006):

- Guest Instructor of Advanced Acting: Shakespeare,
- Curriculum Designer and Instructor of Intermediate Voice Training,
- Curriculum Designer and Instructor of Introduction to Voice,
- Instructor of Introduction to Acting,
- Vocal coached Summer Theatre productions and an undergraduate main stage show,
- Coached international students on dialect reduction using Edith Skinner work,
- Developed mentor relationships and advised undergraduates,
- Designed and facilitated undergraduate audition workshops,
- Authored and Defended Thesis: "Vocal Coaching in the University Setting, a process paper on Pride and Prejudice"

DIRECTING

Professional:

Now This Ashland New Play Festival, 2016
Love's Labour's Won* Illinois Shakespeare Festival, 2015

Henry IV, part I Ms. Representing Shakespeare Workshop, 2015

Austin, TX

Academic:

All's Well That Ends Well (co-dir.) North Carolina School of the Arts, 2022 Henry V** North Carolina School of the Arts, 2020

Twelfth Night	University of Houston, 2018
Julius Caesar	University of Houston, 2017
La Bete (Workshop)	University of Houston, 2016
Intimate Apparel	University of Houston, 2016
The Miser ***	University of Houston, 2015
As You Like It	University of Houston, 2013
War of the Worlds	University of Houston, 2011
All's Well That Ends Well	University of Houston, 2010
Now This*	University of Houston, 2010

Universal Language University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2006
The Shape of Things University of Wisconsin- Madison, 2004

Hedgerow Playreading Series Hedgerow Theatre, PA, 2002-2003

*World Premiere

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**Available on Apple Podcasts https://tinyurl.com/mwzsh4ya

***World Premiere Translation

NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT

Cymbeline

American Players Theatre, WI

2020-2021

Co-adapted with Marti Lyons an eight person all female identifying telling of Shakespeare's play. Multiple workshops culminated in a premier at American Players Theatre in 2021, and ongoing licensed to Julliard Creative Classrooms

Love's Labor's Won

Illinois Shakespeare Festival, IL

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, OR

Black Swan Lab for New Works

2012-2016

Co-creator alongside of Scott Kaiser of this sequel to Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost. Written in verse, to be workshopped at the 2012 Black Swan Lab for the Development of New Plays.

Throne of Blood

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, OR

2010

Contributed to Script Workshops in the development of this world premier adaptation of Kurosawa's epic film, together with Obie Winner Ping Chong. This traveling production opened at Oregon Shakespeare Festival before traveling to BAM: The Brooklyn Academy of Music.

American Night

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, OR

Fall of 2009-Spring 2010

Collaborated on the development of this project with Chicano/Latino performance group, Culture Clash. It was rehearsed and performed with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival as part of their US History Cycle Playwright Commission Initiative, and later traveled to LaJolla Playhouse, Denver Center, and others.

Don Quixote

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, OR

2009

Participated in the development of Pulitzer Prize-nominee Octavio Solis' adaptation of the epic novel; the first new play to be premiered in the outdoor stage in the seventy five year history of the organization.

The Only Thing

Madison Repertory Theatre, WI

2006-2007

Performed and participated in the refinement of Oscar-winner Eric Simonson's play from a two week workshop process through to its world premiere. This project later evolved into the Broadway show, *Lombardi*.

Once Upon a River

Hedgerow Theatre, PA

2002

Dramaturged, co-wrote and performed this elementary school outreach performance project on Pennsylvania history. Through grant seeking to private foundations, helped to find the funding to enable schools to visit the theatre for performances.

ACTING CREDITS

The Nerd	Tansy	Madison Repertory Theatre (Tony Simotes, dir)
The Only Thing	Eva	Madison Repertory Theatre (Richard Corley, dir)
Moon for the Misbegotten	Josie Hogan (u/s)	Madison Repertory Theatre, WI (Richard Corley, dir)
Love's Labor Lost	Princess of France	Montana Shakespeare in the Parks (Shawn Douglas, dir)

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Winter's Tale	Paulina	Montana Shakespeare in the Parks	(Joel Jahnke, dir)

Misalliance	Lina Szczepanowska	Chamber Theatre, WI	(Mark Lococo, dir)
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Trojan Woman	Helen of Troy	Hedgerow Theatre, PA	(Penelope Reed, dir)
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Hypolita	Hedgerow Theatre, PA	(Penelope Reed, dir)
Tales from Poe	Mary	Hedgerow Theatre, PA	

Blithe Spirit	Edith	The Public Theatre, ME (Christopher Schario, dir)
Henry IV, parts I and II	Lady Northumberland	Theatre at Monmouth, ME (Barbara Bosch, dir)
A Midsummer Niaht's Dream	Helena	Theatre at Monmouth. ME

Romeo and Juliet	Nurse	Expanded Arts, NY
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Moth	Pulse Theatre Ensemble, NY
All's Well That Ends Well	Stewart	The Shakespeare Theatre (CAI), DC (PJ Paparelli, dir)
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Helena	Upstart Crow Theatre Company, VA
The Actor's Nightmare	Ellen Terry	River Rep at Ivoryton Playhouse, CT
Amadeus	Katherina Cavalieri	Everyman Theatre Company, MD

WORKSHOPS TAUGHT

Professional:

- First Stage Milwaukee, 2023
 - o "Acting is like....-Active image making in Shakespeare"
- First Stage Milwaukee, 2022
 - o "Working with the Stage on Stage"
- American Players Theatre, 2021
 - o "APT Play Talk Cymbeline"
 - Hosted question and answer session with Shakespeare scholar Dr. Valerie Wayne
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4iWKDPYses&t=678s

- Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF), 2020
 - "Shaken and Stirred" Zoom Member Cocktail Hour
 "Inside an Actor's Process- A Look at Richard III"
 with Davis McCallum and Mark Bedard
- VASTA Mentorship Committee Webinar, 2020
 - o "Negotiating Contracts" Panel Member
- STATERA National Conference, 2019
 - o Presenter: "Small Practices that Encourage Collaboration"
- Texas Educational Theatre Association Conference (TETA),
 - Master Teacher, "A Kinesthetic approach to teaching Shakespeare" (2019, 2018)
- American Players Theatre, WI
 - Member of Apprentice Company Development Team (2022, 2019, 2018, 2014, 2012)
 - Head of Apprentice Company Development (2013)
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival, OR
 - o Multiple Acting Company Development Workshops (2010-2012)
- Door Shakespeare Company, WI
 - "Bravely Speaking Shakespeare's Text" Series of workshops to Intern Company (2012)
- Lakefront Brewery, WI
 - o "Great Big Healthy Voice Usage!" Workshops to Tour Guides (2017)

Academic:

Forsyth Country Day School

"Approaching Shakespeare's Poetry in Twelfth Night"

Mount Tabor High School, Winston-Salem, NC

One week residency in AP English Class (2021)

"Shakespeare in New Mediums: Henry V as Podcast"

"Midsummer Night's Dream"

Illinois State University, IL

"Vowing in Shakespeare" Master class (2014)

University of Houston School of Theatre & Dance

On-site MFA and BFA Audition Workshops (2010-2017)

Rice University Shepherd School of Music, Opera Department, TX

"Acting on the language" Mini-semester, 6-session workshop to Doctorial Opera Students (2012)

Texas Thespians Conference, TX

"The Sonnet Box: Romeo and Juliet" six sessions of hour-long workshops to High School Drama Students (2011)

Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts in Dallas, TX

"Two Households: The Where, When, Why and How" workshop (2010)

University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI

"The Audition Monologue" (2006)

PUBLICATION

Playscripts:

Cymbeline: an all-female adaptation

By Marti Lyons and Sara Becker

Licensed for use by Julliard Creative Classroom, a division of the Julliard School

Professional Journal:

"A Review of *Shakespeare's Wordcraft*, by Scott Kaiser." *VSR: Voice and Speech Review* (Issue 6, Summer 2009).

Webcontent:

Hagopian, Antony. The URTA Q&A with Sara Becker (Weblog post 2013) https://urtablog.wordpress.com/2013/10/16/the-urta-qa-with-sara-becker/

Podcast Guest Interviews:

Rooms and Reckonings (2020)

Magazine Interviews:

"Back to School After a Year of Hard Lessons, by Daniella Ignacio" American Theatre Magazine (November 16th, 2021). https://tinyurl.com/3wsjnmpb

VOICEOVER Credits

NPR (*To the Best of Our Knowledge*)

MCI

EMC Arts

Hellenbrand Water

Farm and Fleet

T-Mobile

Credit Union National Association (CUNA)

Salvation Army

Dubuque Bank & Trust

JobCo

Arizona Bank & Trust

Riverside Community Bank

Chevy Chase Bank

American Girl

Demco

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

MFA – Acting (2006)

Voice/Text/Dialect training under Susan Sweeney

Fordham University, New York, NY

BA – Theatre Performance (1999)

Voice training under Sarah Felder, Kate (nee Wilson) Mare, Elizabeth Smith

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

"3A Equity Framework"

"The Power of Perception"

Sarah Bellamy at Penumbra Center for Racial Healing, 2021

"Whose Shakespeare?: Exploring Race and Shakespeare in 2020"

Ayanna Thompson with Elm Shakespeare Company, CT

"Decolonizing Speech and Actor Training"

HB Studios, NY (2020)

Amy Mihyang Ginter, Jacqueline Springfield, Joy Coronel, Josh Moser

"Theater Voice & Speech Training Methods for Working with Gender-Diverse Clients"

Chicago Voice Center (2020)

Diane Robinson

Patsy Rodenburg, "The Right to Speak"

Three Day Workshop Michael Howard Studios; New York, NY (2020)

Mental Health First Aid Certified

Through National Council of Behavioral Health 8 Hour certification (2019)

Richard Armstrong "Extended Vocal Technique" New York, NY

Weekend Workshop with Richard Armstrong (2012)

Roy Hart Centre Artistique International Malérargues, France

October Month Long Intensive with Carol Mendelsohn, Saule Ryan (2008)

Five-day workshop with Carol Mendelsohn, Saule Ryan (2005)

Fitzmaurice Voice Workshop San Francisco, CA

5-day workshop Catherine Fitzmaurice, Saul Fitzmaurice, Cynthia Bassham (2007)

Shakespeare Theatre DC Academy for Classical Acting Washington, DC

Summer Intensive: Michael Kahn, Floyd King, Philip Goodwin, Catherine Weidner, Kate Wilson, Hal Holbrook, Brad Allen Waller, Christopher Cherry (1999)

AWARDS

Ross M. Lence Teaching Excellence Award University of Houston Awarded 2014 Provost Travel Grant for Faculty Development University of Houston Awarded 2013

Roy Hart Theatre Scholarship Centre Artistique International Roy Hart Awarded 2008

Gertrude Johnson Scholarship for Excellence in Voice University of Wisconsin-Madison Consecutive winner 2004, 2005

Helen Herman Scholarship for Excellence in Theatre University of Wisconsin-Madison Winner 2005

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Voice & Speech Trainer's Association, Inc. (VASTA) STATERA Women in the Arts
North Carolina Theatre Arts Educators (NCTAE)
Texas Educational Theatre Association (TETA)
Actor's Equity Association (AEA) must-join status
Screen Actor's Guild (SAG)

SKILLS

Strong Proficiency in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) Advanced Yoga Practices (Bikram, Vinyasa, Ashtanga and Hatha) Proficiency in Stage Combat (All weapons and hand-to-hand) Dance (Alvin Ailey American Dance Center School)

Epi-Pen: trained in usage

Volunteer Work

NAMI- National Alliance on Mental Illness