

# Joel W. Williams

## Professor of Theatre

### DEGREES

Master of Fine Arts	University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL	1982
Area of Focus - Directing for the Stage		
Bachelor of Science	Troy University, Troy, AL	1977
Area of Focus - Secondary Education in Speech and Theatre		

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY – FULL TIME POSITIONS POST GRADUATE

1992 – Present

Tenure Track Faculty, current rank Professor  
Appalachian State University, Boone, NC

1983 – 1992

Non-tenure Track Faculty, rank Assistant Professor  
LaGrange College, LaGrange, GA

1982 – 1983

Technical Director  
The Springer Opera House, Columbus, GA

### BRIEF SUMMARY OF WORK HISTORY

The Springer Theatre was an active community theatre, producing a season of five shows, housed in a restored Victorian Opera House. I worked with professional guest designers and coordinated the work of volunteers. Shows I worked were, *Sly Fox*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Picnic*, and *Play It Again, Sam*. I left to pursue my goal of teaching in an undergraduate liberal arts environment.

During my employment at LaGrange, the Theatre and Communications Department offered a BA and employed two full-time and two part-time faculty. Beyond a full teaching load, the typical year included four major productions plus a summer repertory program of three productions at nearby Callaway Gardens. The result was that I served in some artistic capacity on 70 theatre productions. I left in order to find an institution that recognized the MFA as a terminal degree and provided adjusted teaching load for creative activity.

During my service at Appalachian, the department has more than doubled in faculty and majors. As these changes have occurred I have attempted to adapt my contributions in ways that are productive and supportive to the department's mission and goals. As more specialized faculty have been hired, the demand for my skills as a generalist has lessened. In recent years beyond my teaching and creative activity, I have concentrated on professional development and service to professional organizations particularly the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and am on a path with KCACTF that will likely result in service as the Chair of Region IV. In addition to regular contributions to the department's co-curricular production program, I have engaged in professional development activities during summers resulting in significant contributions to 18 professional theatre productions. My service to the department during this time has included leading the National Association of Schools of Theatre self-study and editing the resulting document. I also continue to serve as the primary editor for the department's website.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY – PRIMARILY SUMMERS****The Barter Theatre, Abingdon, VA 2010 (May-August)**

Technical Director for The Barter Players & Scenic Designer for *Pinocchio*  
 Shop Carpenter for *Annie, Blue Sky Boys, Violet, & The Full Monty*

2009 Hiatus – Began writing a full-length script, *Promises*

**The Blowing Rock Stage Company**

2008 – Role of the minister in *Leading Ladies* (July)

2007 – Director of *Golf, The Musical* (June) & *The Christmas Bus* (December)

2006 – Role of father in *Beau Jest* (July)

2005 – Role of Eddie, the father, in *Lost in Yonkers* (June)

2000 – 2004 Hiatus – Taught summer classes

**Appalachian Summer Arts Festival**

Administered by the ASU Office of Cultural Affairs

1999 – Role of Mr. Pine in *Hisself* (a commissioned work by Romulus Linney)

1998 – Performed in a reading of *A Night at the Algonquin*

1997 – Performed in a staged reading of Romulus Linney's *Sassy*

1996 – Technical Director for *The Glass Menagerie\**

1995 – Technical Director for *Two Rooms\**

1994 – Technical Director for *Heathen Valley\**

\*Produced for the Festival by The Signature Theatre of New York

1993 Hiatus – Taught summer classes and acclimated to new position

1992 Hiatus – Relocated to Boone

**Summer Repertory at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA**

An extension of the academic program at LaGrange College

Three shows performed in a black box space

1984 – 1991

Scenic Designer and Technical Director for all shows

Selected titles include *Cinderella, Comedy of Errors, Tartuffe, Grease, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, The Odd Couple (Female), and Snow White Goes West*

Director for one of the three shows

Selected titles include *The Foreigner, Charley's Aunt, The Mousetrap, Luv, Black Comedy and Winnie the Pooh*

**Summer Stock as a graduate student**

1983 – Jenny Wiley Summer Music Theatre, Prestonsburg, KY

Scene Shop Foreman – worked build period only

*Annie, The Robber Bridegroom, Fiddler on the Roof*

1982 – Jenny Wiley – Production Stage Manager

*Music Man, Shenandoah, The Fantasticks*

1981 – *The Sword of Peace*, Snow Camp, NC

Technical Director

**Artist-in-Residence in Pike County Public Schools**

1979 – January – June Prior to beginning graduate studies

Employed by the Alabama State Council for Arts and Humanities

## SERVICE TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### United States Institute of Theatre Technology

An active member from 1992 – 1996

(Evolving job responsibilities shifted my focus to other organizations.)

In 1995 the department hosted the southeast regional meeting. I was responsible for implementing a database used for registration and reporting. I also served as the local media specialist securing labs, installing software for workshops and securing AV equipment for presenters.

### Southeastern Theatre Conference

2015 Participated in *State and National Arts Leaders Forum* by invitation of SETC Executive Director

2004 – 5 Member of By-Laws Committee

2004 Selected to participate in “Leadership Initiative”

2001 Presented “Promise and Problems of a Virtual Callboard”

1999 Presented “Theatre Superstitions”

### North Carolina Theatre Conference

2002 – 2006 Served as Board Member

During my tenure I formalized the board’s responsibility to coordinate a state festival for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and was designated as State Chair of KCACTF. I coordinated four state festivals in conjunction with the annual Fall Gathering of NCTC. A shift in focus to prioritize the state high school drama festival, a change in the annual dates for the Fall Gathering, and decreasing participation resulted in the dissolution of the state festival for KCACTF in 2006.

### Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

2015 (Pending Nat’l Committee approval in April) Appointed Vice-Chair of Region IV

2011 Named Region Coordinator for Devised Theatre Project an event held at the regional festival.

2009 – 2015 Served as Respondent Coordinator for North Carolina and Southern Virginia. I recruit and assign respondents to approximately 36 productions annually.

2006 - Present I serve as a respondent and provide verbal and written feedback to festival entries in North Carolina, Virginia, Upstate South Carolina and Eastern Tennessee and Eastern Kentucky and serve on the Regional Selection Committee.

2002 – 2006 Chair of State Festival.

## WRITING AND PUBLICATION

- *Promises* – a full-length play had a Professional Premiere at Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Mars Hill, North Carolina, June 2014
- *Promises* – produced by the Red Door Theatre in Union Springs, AL, August 2014
- *CADD for the Rest of Us*, NCTC News, 5 (Winter 1994), 4.
- *Convenient Caster Storage*, USITT-SE Quarterly Review, 10 (October 1994), 6.
- Book Review of *Senior Theatre Connections*, Bonnie L. Vorenberg (1999). Portland, Oregon: ArtAge Publications. Appearing in *The Southwest Journal on Aging*, 15(2)/16(1) 103.

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2014-15 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Commendation for Exemplary Service to Educational Theatre -- Devised Theatre Coordinator
- 2013-14 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Commendation for Exceptional Service to the Field
- 2013 Appalachian's production of *Promises* is selected for presentation at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region IV Festival
- 2012 *Promises*, Selected as winner of Southern Appalachian Theatre's ScriptFest.
- 2011 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Meritorious Achievement Award, Excellence in Direction
- 2011 National Partners of American Theatre Commendation for Mentoring of award winning student playwright, Jonathan Fitts
- 2011 *Promises*, Selected for reading in New Play Festival at Shorter College, Rome, GA
- 2010 Awarded Off Campus Scholarly Assignment to complete a full-length play.

**GRANTS**

- Fall 2013 – Served as primary investigator for a North Carolina Humanities Grant of \$2,000 with matching funds exceeding \$2000 that were contributed by Hayes School of Music, Department of Art, College of Arts and Sciences, and Appalachian Studies. I worked with faculty from Dance, Visual Art, and Music to coordinate the **North Shore Decoration Day Symposium** that included Dr. Alan Jabbour, retired Director of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, as a guest lecturer, panelist and Old Time Music fiddler. Additionally, Dr. Phillip Coyle, head of the Department of Anthropology at Western Carolina University and several local musicians and dancers were also featured. Complete details of the symposium events are archived online at [http://theatre.appstate.edu/events/series/North\\_Shore\\_Decoration](http://theatre.appstate.edu/events/series/North_Shore_Decoration)

**SELECTED ACADEMIC COMMITTEE WORK**

- 2014 – **Present** Chair of Department Events Committee
- 2011 – 2012 Team Leader for NAST reaccreditation and self-study editor
- 2007 – **Present** Theatre Liaison to Department Advisory Board
- 2006 – 2009 & 2014-**Present** - Chair of Department Policy and Procedures Committee
- 2008 – 2009 Chair of Search for Scenic/Lighting Designer
- 2007 – 2008 Chair of Search for Department Chair
- 2007 – 2008 Search for Dance Position
- 2000 – 2005 & 2010 - **Present** - Department Webmaster
- 2003 – 2005 College Commencement Committee
- 2002 – 2003 Search for BS Program Coordinator
- 2002 – 2003 Search for Scenic/Lighting Designer
- 2001 – 2002 Search for University Registrar
- 2002 – 2003 Search for College of Fine and Applied Arts Dean
- 2001 – 2005 College Technology Committee
- 2000 – 2001 Educational Support Sub-committee for Institutional Self Study
- 2000 – 2002 Chair of University Calendar Committee
- 2000 – 2001 Chair and Editor of Departmental Five-Year Planning Committee

**CO-CURRICULAR PRODUCTION HISTORY****Director**

<i>Tartuffe</i>		Fall 2014	ASU T&D
<i>Noises Off</i>		Fall 2012	ASU T&D
<i>First Year Showcase</i>		Fall 2011	ASU T&D
<i>The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putman County Spelling Bee</i>		Spring 2011	ASU T&D
<i>The Pursuit of Mr. Rockefeller</i>		Fall 2010	ASU T&D
<i>Servant of Two Masters</i>		Fall 2008	ASU T&D
<i>Moon Over Buffalo</i>		Spring 2007	ASU T&D
<i>And Other Stories</i>		Fall 2006	ASU T&D
<i>Freshman Showcase</i>		Fall 2006	ASU T&D
<i>The Good Woman of Setzuan</i>		Fall 2005	ASU T&D
<i>Scapino</i>		Spring 2005	ASU T&D
<i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i>		Spring 2004	ASU T&D
<i>Master Harold and the boys</i>		Fall 2003	ASU T&D
<i>Dearly Departed</i>		Fall 2002	ASU T&D
<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>		Fall 2001	ASU T&D
<i>A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum</i>		Fall 2000	ASU T&D
<i>The Miser</i>		Spring 2000	ASU T&D
<i>Noises Off</i>		Fall 1998	ASU T&D
<i>The Foreigner</i>		Fall 1997	ASU T&D
<i>The Robber Bridegroom</i>		Spring 1989	LaGrange
<i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i>		Spring 1988	LaGrange
<i>The Runner Stumbles</i>		Fall 1987	LaGrange
<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i>		Spring 1987	LaGrange
<i>Scapino</i>		Fall 1985	LaGrange
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>		Fall 1984	LaGrange
<i>Bus Stop</i>		Fall 1983	LaGrange

**Performer**

<i>The Last Night of Ballyhoo</i>	Adolf	Fall 2004	ASU T&D
<i>A Man for All Seasons</i>	Henry VIII	Spring 2004	ASU T&D
<i>Out At Sea</i>	Survivor	Spring 1993	ASU T&D
<i>Private Lives</i>	Victor	Spring 1990	LaGrange
<i>I Do! I Do!</i>	Michael	Spring 1989	LaGrange
<i>Talley's Folly</i>	Matt	Fall 1987	LaGrange

**Scenic Designer**

<i>Tartuffe</i>		Fall 2014	ASU T&D
<i>Big Love</i>		Spring 2012	ASU T&D
<i>The Elixir of Love</i>		Spring 2010	ASU Music*
<i>Amahl and the Night Visitors</i>		Fall 2009	ASU Music*
<i>Servant of Two Masters</i>		Fall 2008	ASU T&D
<i>Blithe Spirit</i>		Spring 2008	ASU T&D

<i>Pirates of Penzance</i>	Spring 2006	ASU Music*
<i>Proof</i>	Fall 2005	ASU T&D
<i>Marvin's Room</i>	Fall 2004	ASU T&D
<i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i>	Spring 2004	ASU T&D
<i>Die Fledermaus</i>	Spring 2003	ASU Music*
<i>The Reluctant Dragon</i>	Spring 2002	ASU T&D
<i>Impossible Marriage</i>	Spring 2001	ASU T&D
<i>Bus Stop</i>	Fall 1999	ASU T&D
<i>The Matchmaker</i>	Spring 1999	ASU T&D
<i>Hippolytus</i>	Spring 1997	ASU T&D
<i>True West</i>	Fall 1996	ASU T&D
<i>The Odd Couple</i>	Fall 1996	ASU T&D
<i>Mountain Memory</i>	Spring 1995	ASU T&D
<i>The Real Inspector Hound</i>	Spring 1993	ASU T&D
<i>The Music Man</i>	Spring 1991	LaGrange
<i>The Boys Next Door</i>	Fall 1990	LaGrange
<i>I Do! I Do!</i>	Spring 1990	LaGrange
<i>The Diviners</i>	Spring 1989	LaGrange
<i>The Madwoman of Chaillot</i>	Winter 1989	LaGrange
<i>Luv</i>	Fall 1988	LaGrange
<i>Agamemnon</i>	Spring 1988	LaGrange
<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	Winter 1988	LaGrange
<i>Talley's Folley</i>	Fall 1987	LaGrange
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Spring 1986	LaGrange
<i>Private Lives</i>	Fall 1985	LaGrange
<i>Shenandoah</i>	Spring 1985	LaGrange
<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	Fall 1984	LaGrange
<i>Crimes of the Heart</i>	Spring 1984	LaGrange
<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i>	Winter 1984	LaGrange
<i>Grease</i>	Fall 1983	LaGrange

\* Operas were produced in a recital hall with very limited resources and no fly space. They are listed to show collaboration with the School of Music not to tout design skill.

#### **Production Stage Manager and Liaison to School of Music**

<i>Kiss Me, Kate</i>	Spring 2014	ASU T&D
<i>Man of LaMancha</i>	Spring 1994	ASU T&D

#### **Technical Director**

I served as technical director for 7 of the 10 years I was at LaGrange  
I served as technical director for my first 3 years at Appalachian