

Carly O'Brien (she/her/hers) – Curriculum Vitae

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Education

Texas State University (San Marcos, Texas)

2015-2018

Master of Fine Arts, *Directing*

Thesis Project: *Perfect Pie*, Directing the play for the Department of Theatre and Dance 2017-2018 Season

- Acting with Lauren Lane
- Directing with Dr. Charles Ney, Michael Rau, Tom Dugdale
- Masterclasses with Ethan McSweeney, Tina Packer, Geoffrey Nauffts, Sheryl Kaller
- New Works Developed: *Alcott* by Adam Szymkowitz, *No. 6* by TJ Young (world premiere in 2016, published in 2017 by Samuel French), *White House Boys* by TJ Young, *Letters from The Underworld* (Devised), *Some Overwhelming Question* by Leah Knoble, *Akashic Permutations* by Sidney Rushing (world premiere in 2016), *Every Waiting Heart* by Lauren Ferebee

Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, Oklahoma)

2010-2012

Master of Arts, *Theatre*

Creative Component Project: *columbinus*, Directing the play for the Department of Theatre 2011-2012 Season

- Acting with Matthew Tomlanovich
- Directing with B. Peter Westerhoff
- Masterclasses with Catherine Fitzmaurice, Jodi Jinks, Elizabeth Zurn, Sharla Cowden, Rebekah Scallet
- New Works Developed: *Would You Like Guys With That?* by John Michael Colgin (world premiere in 2011)

Oklahoma Christian University (Edmond, Oklahoma)

2006-2010

Bachelor of Science, *Theatre Performance* (Minor in Music)

Capstone Project: *Two Rooms*, Directing the play for the Department of Theatre 2009-2010 Season

Awards and Honors

2022 – Teaching Excellence Award

East Central University (Ada, OK)

2022 – Academic Leadership Fellows

UCO Educator's Leadership Academy (Edmond, OK)

2018 – *White Gleaming Beach* – Best of Fest selection – Wildcard

FronteraFest – Hyde Park Theatre (Austin, TX)

Academic Appointments

East Central University (Ada, Oklahoma)

2019-Present

Assistant Professor of Theatre

- Courses taught:
 - Theatre in Life (in-person 16-weeks and online 8-weeks)
 - Acting I (in-person and blended)
 - Acting II (in-person and blended)
 - Theatre History After 1800 (in-person and blended)
 - Theatre History Before 1800 (in-person)
 - Play Analysis (in-person)
 - Play Directing (in-person and blended)
 - Introduction to Theatre Studies (in-person)
 - Marketing Techniques (in-person)
- Departmental Service
 - Recruitment Events – College Fairs, Majors Fairs
 - Search Committees – Director of the School of Fine Arts, Assistant Professor of Audio and Video
 - Teaching Excellence Award Committee
 - Excellence in Academic Advising Committee

Director of Theatre

- Administrative Responsibilities
 - Major Advisor
 - I advise students in the Theatre program, both Theatre and Musical Theatre concentrations.
 - Curriculum
 - During the Spring of 2020, I worked to overhaul the curriculum for the Theatre program. The previous curriculum had not been updated for 20+ years and did not reflect industry standards or trends in academic theatre for other comparable BA programs of ECU's size. There was also carryover from the previous department that Theatre was housed in (Communication and Performance Studies), so my adjustments addressed that shift. My curriculum and degree modifications were proposed to OSRHE in the Spring of 2021 and approved in July 2021.
- Creative Responsibilities
 - Season Selection
 - Directing (2 plays a year)

- COVID-19 caused a shift in our production season. Instead of producing two full productions, I found a Zoom play festival called *Alone, Together* for the fall of 2020, and formed The Shakespeare Ensemble at ECU to study Shakespeare through performance in the spring of 2021.
 - *Alone, Together*: This production was made up of one-acts that my directing students and I directed, while I also acted as producer, Zoom expert, and editor. Auditions, rehearsals, and performances were done completely over Zoom, where they were also recorded. These plays were edited together and accessible for 3 days, where they were viewed by 150 people (the equivalent of selling out a weekend in ECU's Chalmers Theatre) from around the country.
 - The Shakespeare Ensemble at ECU: Instead of producing a streaming Zoom play, I formed an acting company interested in studying Shakespeare through performance and text analysis. We studied scenes from *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Love's Labour's Lost* before filming a one-shot, multicamera performance of the latter in the woods outside the Elk's Lodge in Ada. The recording of the scene can be found [here](#).

Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, Oklahoma)

2018-2019

Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre Studies (Theatre History and Dramatic Literature)

- Courses taught:
 - Theatre History Before 1800
 - Theatre History After 1800
 - Diverse American Drama
 - Introduction to Staged Entertainment
- Creative Workshops/Master Classes Taught (Extra-Curricular):
 - Ensemble & Embodiment

Weekend-long intensive workshop in acting, focusing on understanding, building, and generously contributing to an ensemble. This introductory workshop taught techniques from Viewpoints and The Style to undergraduate theatre majors, and was based on my experience working with Lauren Lane. In addition to ensemble work, the workshop also explored embodiment and characterization by giving actors tools to connect to their bodies through movement and physicalization. Through this workshop, the students were offered a nonlinear approach to character development and ensemble, which is a helpful supplement to the acting training they receive in the theatre curriculum at Oklahoma State University.

Guest Lectures

2018-2019

- *Sneaking up on Shakespeare* (The English-Speaking Union) – Scholar's Lecture on *Macbeth*

I prepared a lecture on the context and critical issues in *Macbeth* and presented it to a group of secondary English and Language Arts teachers during a two-day professional development workshop sponsored by The English-Speaking Union. The objective of the workshop was to provide secondary instructors with the necessary tools to incorporate Shakespeare into their English and Language Arts curricula. My lecture focused on The Scottish Curse (as a way of framing the play in an exciting way for junior high and high school students) and the performance of masculinity and femininity in the world of *Macbeth*.

- Bishop McGuinness High School, Guest Speaker

Because of my involvement in *Sneaking up on Shakespeare*, I was invited to give my *Macbeth* lecture to a group of 120 high school sophomores at Bishop McGuinness High School in Oklahoma City. I adjusted the lecture to make it more age-appropriate, capitalizing on The Scottish Curse and the fact that the scheduled visit fell shortly before Halloween.

Nexus Musical Theatre Intensive

2017-2018

Acting Instructor

Nexus is a two-week intensive musical theatre summer camp for high school juniors and seniors, held on the campus of Texas State University. As instructor of acting, I taught 60 students the Ensemble & Embodiment curriculum outlined above, with an emphasis on movement and ensemble. I also incorporated monologue workshops, as the camp is largely focused on college audition preparation.

Showcase Director

As showcase director for Nexus, I was in charge of staging musical numbers (30-60 students) for the end-of-camp showcase, as well as piecing together musical, dance, and vocal numbers into a cohesive narrative. I also oversaw the rehearsal and tech process for this event.

Professional Development

2021-2022 – UCO Educator's Leadership Academy (Edmond, OK)

Sessions:

Communication and Cultural Climate (Irene Kovala, Ed.D.)

New Programs and Continuous Improvement (David Wendler, Ph.D.)

Planning and Budgeting (Lee Johnson, Ph.D., CPA)

Understanding the Basis of Accountability (Michael W. Westerfield, Ph.D.)

2020 – Institute for Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, Tulsa Community College (Tulsa, OK)

Sessions:

Culturally Responsive Teaching Strategies for Educators (Dr. Lisa Delpit)
Understanding Intersectionality: Re-imagining Education (Dr. Jane Irungu)
The Window of Tolerance (Adriana Alejandre)
Teaching Practices that Uniquely Connect Students (Dr. Roberto Rubalcaba)
Becoming a Cultivator of Equity (Dr. Paul Gorki)
Microinterventions: Disarming a Microaggression (Dr. Derald Wing Sue)

Professional Affiliations and Service

- **Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC)** – Associate Member
- **Oklahoma Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain** – Artistic Advisory Panel – Theatre (2023-2025)

Conferences Attended

- **Texas Educational Theatre Association Academic Symposium (2018)**
Presented “Battle of the Sexes: Evil Women in Modern Drama”
- **Ninth Annual International Research Conference for Graduate Students (2017)**
Presented “Battle of the Sexes: Evil Women in Modern Drama”
- **Frontiers and Borders: Oklahoma State University Annual Humanities Conference (2012)**
Presented “The Times They Are A-Changin’: Resurrecting Greek Dramas”
- **American Collegiate Theatre Festival (2016)**
Competed in the Student Directing Initiative through the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC)

Stage Directing Credits (Professional)

<i>The Prom</i> – Assistant Director (upcoming)	Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma (OKC, OK)	2023
<i>Dupe</i> (New Work – Development and Zoom reading)	Heckle Her Productions (remote)	2021
<i>Denim Doves</i>	American Theatre Company (Tulsa, OK)	2019
<i>White Gleaming Beach</i>	Hyde Park Theatre (Austin, TX)	2018
<i>The Immigrant</i> (Staged Reading/New Work – Young Playwrights for Change)	ZACH Theatre (Austin, TX)	2017
<i>Chalk in the Rain</i> (New Work – Native American New Play Festival)	Oklahoma City Theatre Company	2013

Stage Directing Credits (University)

<i>Covid and Relationships</i> (upcoming) (New Work – Development and staged reading)	East Central University	2023
<i>Almost, Maine</i> (upcoming)	East Central University	2023
<i>Elektra</i>	East Central University	2022
<i>Intermission</i>	East Central University	2021
<i>Alone, Together</i> (Zoom production)	East Central University	2020
<i>The Nerd</i>	East Central University	2019
<i>True West</i>	Oklahoma State University	2019
<i>Perfect Pie</i>	Texas State University	2017
<i>The Marriage of Bette and Boo</i>	Texas State University	2017
<i>stoning mary</i>	Texas State University	2016
<i>This Property is Condemned</i>	Texas State University	2016
<i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i> (Assistant to Neil Patrick Stewart)	Texas State University	2016
<i>Radium Girls</i>	Oklahoma Baptist University	2015
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Oklahoma Baptist University	2014
<i>Blind Date/A Marriage Proposal</i>	Oklahoma Christian University	2014
<i>The Dining Room</i>	St. Gregory's University	2014
<i>Opera Scenes</i> (Selections from <i>La Cenerentola</i> , <i>Il Matrimonio Segreto</i> , <i>Lakme</i> , <i>Ruddigore</i> , <i>Amahl and the Night Visitors</i> , <i>Atalanta</i> , and <i>Die Entfuhrung aus dem Serail</i>)	Oklahoma Christian University	2014
<i>The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood</i>	St. Gregory's University	2014
<i>The Odd Couple</i>	St. Gregory's University	2013
<i>Opera Scenes</i> (Selections from <i>Cosi fan Tutte</i> , <i>Street Scene</i> , and <i>La Traviata</i>)	Oklahoma Christian University	2013
<i>'night, Mother</i>	Eagle Theatre Company Alumni	2012
<i>columbinus</i>	Oklahoma State University	2011
<i>Two Rooms</i>	Oklahoma Christian University	2010

Acting Credits

<i>Two Rooms</i> – Ellen Van Oss	St. Gregory's University	2013
<i>Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol</i> – The Bogle	Oklahoma City Theatre Company	2012

<i>Measure for Measure</i> – Duke Vincentio	Oklahoma State University	2011
<i>The Cover of Life</i> – Kate Miller	Oklahoma Christian University	2009
<i>The Jungle Book</i> – Pramiti/Chakori	Oklahoma City Theatre Company	2008
<i>Electra</i> – Messenger	Oklahoma Christian University	2007

Scenic Design

<i>Elektra</i>	East Central University	2022
<i>stoning mary</i>	Texas State University	2016
<i>Chalk in the Rain</i>	Oklahoma City Theatre Company	2013
<i>columbinus</i>	Oklahoma State University	2011
<i>Two Rooms</i>	Oklahoma Christian University	2010

Professional References

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