

# JESSICA CHIPMAN



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## EDUCATION

MFA in Theatre (Directing), University of Idaho, 2021

MA in Theatre Production, Central Washington University, 2010

BA in Writing and Rhetoric, *cum laude*, Northwestern College, 2002

BA in English (Secondary Education), *cum laude*, Northwestern College, 2002

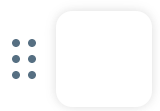
Minor, Theatre and Speech, Northwestern College, 2002

## CURRENT

Founding Artistic Director, Wild Gem Theatre Company, Alexandria, Minnesota

## SPECIALTY INTERESTS AND COMPETENCIES

Directing, playwriting, acting and movement, devised theatre, theatre arts education



## DIRECTING

- Godspell*, by Schwartz and Tebelak. Wild Gem Theatre Company, 2025 (Upcoming).
- Eurydice*, by Sarah Ruhl. Great Theatre, 2025 (Upcoming).
- Neighbour Rosicky*, by Willa Cather, adapted by Jessica Chipman. Alexandria Area High School, 2024.
- Mamma Mia*, by Johnson, Andersson, and Ulvaeus. Alexandria Area High School, 2023.
- The Lovely Bones*, by Bryony Lavery. Alexandria Area High School, 2023
- Chicago*, by Kander and Ebb. Alexandria Area High School, 2022).
- Tiny Beautiful Things*, by Nia Vardalos based on the book by Cheryl Strayed. Fire Pit Prod. / Lakes Area Theatre, 2022.
- Trousers*, by Jessica Chipman (under pseudonym Helen Jones). Alexandria Area High School, 2022.
- Little Women the Broadway Musical*, by Dickstein, Howland, and Knee. Alexandria Area High School, 2021.
- Machinal*, by Sophie Treadwell. Alexandria Area High School, 2021. Live digital/streaming.
- Yerma*, by Federico Garcia Lorca, adapted by Jessica Chipman. Alexandria Area High School, 2020.
- Cinderella*, by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Alexandria Area High School, 2019.
- Antigone and Ismene*, by Jessica Chipman (under pseudonym Dorian Taft). Alexandria Area High School, 2019.
- Legally Blonde*, by O'Keefe, Benjamin, and Hach. Alexandria Area High School, 2018.
- Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, by Moises Kaufman. Alexandria Area High School, 2018.
- Tuck Everlasting*, by Shear, Federle, Tysen, and Miller. Samuel French pilot school production.  
Alexandria Area High School, 2017.
- ICARUS*, by Jessica Chipman (under pseudonym J.L. Sheridan). Alexandria Area High School, 2017.
- Footloose*, by Snow, Pitchford, et al. Alexandria Area High School 2016.
- Monty Python's SPAMALOT*, by Idle, et al. Alexandria Area High School, 2016.
- The Cripple of Inishmaan*, by Martin McDonagh. Alexandria Area High School, 2016
- Mary Poppins*, by Sherman, Sherman, and Drewe. Alexandria Area High School, 2015.
- Precious Bane*, by Meryl Friedman. Alexandria Area High School, 2015.
- Our Town*, by Thornton Wilder. Alexandria Area High School, 2014.
- Thoroughly Modern Millie*, by Scanlan, et al. Jefferson High School, Alexandria, 2014.
- ARGONAUTIKA*, by Mary Zimmerman. Jefferson High School, 2014.
- Moon Over Buffalo*, by Ken Ludwig. Jefferson High School, Alexandria, 2013.
- OKLAHOMA!*, by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Jefferson High School, Alexandria, 2013.
- Spring Awakening*, by Frank Wedekind, trans. Ziegler, adapted by Chipman. Jefferson High School, Alexandria, 2013.

## DIRECTING, CONT'D

*Almost, Maine*, by John Cariani. Jefferson High School, Alexandria, 2012

*Pandora and Freya*, by Jessica Chipman. Jefferson High School, Alexandria, 2012.

*Harvey*, by Mary Chase. Mount Pleasant Community High School, 2011.

*A Thousand Cranes*, by Kathryn Schultz Miller. Mount Pleasant Community High School, 2010.

*The Laramie Project*, by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theatre Project. ACTORS Theatre, Ames, Iowa, 2009.

*When Scott Comes Home*, by Jeff Barker. Algona Community Alumni Players, 2008.

*Noises Off*, by Michael Frayn. Algona High School, 2008.

*Fiddler on the Roof*, by Bock, Harnick, and Stein. Algona High School, 2007.

*Romeo and Juliet*, by William Shakespeare. Algona High School, 2007.

*The Philadelphia Story*, by Philip Barry. Algona High School, 2006.

*The Miracle Worker*, by William Gibson. Algona High School, 2006.

*The Curious Savage*, by John Patrick. Algona High School, 2005.

*My Fair Lady*, by Lerner and Loewe. Algona High School, 2005.

*The Foreigner*, by Larry Shue. Algona High School, 2004.

*The Diary of Anne Frank*, by Goodrich and Hackett. Algona High School, 2004.

## PLAYWRITING

*Neighbour Rosicky*. Full-length with one-act adaptation, 2024. One act debut: Alexandria Area High School, MN, 2024..

*Trousers*. Full-length with one-act adaptation, 2022. One act debut: Alexandria

Area High School, MN, 2022. "Star" rating at MSHSL One Act Play Festival, 2022.

*Waves Waves Waves*. Full-length. 2021. Austin Film Festival Playwriting Competition Semi-Finalist, 2021.

*You Can Unmute*. Full-length designed for live digital/streaming. 2021. Professional reading, University of Idaho, summer 2021.

*Hope Not Nope*. A short Christmas pageant play. Commission: Faith Lutheran Church, Spencer, Iowa. Debut: Faith Lutheran Church, Spencer, Iowa, 2020.

*Yerma*. One-Act Adaptation from Garcia Lorca. Debut: Alexandria Area High School, MN, 2020. "Star" rating at MSHSL State One Act Play Festival, 2020.

*Antigone and Ismene*. One-Act. Debut: Alexandria Area High School, MN, 2019. "Star" rating at MSHSL State One Act Play Festival, 2019.

## PLAYWRITING, CONT'D

*Icarus* (originally under pseudonym J.L. Sheridan). One-Act. Debut: Alexandria Area High School, MN, 2017. Published by Eldridge Plays and Musicals.

*Proposal, Conjoyned, Denver, Fourth Grade Girl Pact, Him and Her, Kite*. All ten-minute plays. Debuts: Project 1440, Alexandria Area High School (various directors), 2013-2016.

*Neighborhood Sampling*. Full-length. Staged reading at Central Washington University under working title *The Braves One*. Debut: Jefferson High School, Alexandria, Minnesota (Tyler Carlson, Director), 2013. Published by Next Stage Press.

*Spring Awakening*. One-Act adaptation from Wedekind (trans. Ziegler). Debut: Jefferson High School, Alexandria, Minnesota, 2013.

*The Boy Who Done That Talk*. One-Act. Commissioned by West High School, Waterloo, Iowa, 2011.

*Trojan Women*. One-Act adaptation from Euripides. Debut: Mount Pleasant Community High School, Iowa, 2011.

*99 Balloons*. One-Act. Debut: Mount Pleasant Community High School, Iowa, 2011. Outstanding Performance Selection, All-State Speech Festival, IHSSA, 2011.

*Why People Cry While They Chop Onions*. One-Act. Debut: Northwestern College, 2010.

*Billy Butler and the Art of Kissing*. One-Act. Commissioned by West High School, Waterloo, Iowa, 2010. Outstanding Performance Selection, All-State Speech Festival, IHSSA, 2010.

*Play in Bounds*. One-Act. Debut: Parkland Drama, Cranbrook, British Columbia, 2009 (Mary Hamilton, Director). National Finalist Entry, Heideman Award, Actors Theatre of Louisville, 2010.

*The Mark of Cain*. One-Act. Debut: Algona High School, Iowa, 2008. Outstanding Performance Selection, All-State Speech Festival, IHSSA, 2008.

*Pandora and the Sickle Moon*. One-Act. Debut: Algona High School, Iowa, 2007. Outstanding Performance Selection, All-State Speech Festival, IHSSA, 2007. Published by Eldridge Plays and Musicals.

*Medea*. One-Act adaptation from Euripides. Debut: Algona High School, Iowa, 2006. Subsequent performances, Sentinel High School, Missoula, MT. Outstanding Performance Selection, All-State Speech Festival, IHSSA, 2006.

*Two Guys and a Waitress*. One-Act. Debut: Northwestern College, 2000.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Teaching Artist and Co-founder**, Wild Gem Theatre Company. Lead workshops and coaching sessions for young people and adults. 2024-present.

**Theatre Arts and English Language Arts Instructor**, ISD 206 (Alexandria, Minnesota). Wrote, developed, and taught theatre curriculum for students in grades 7-12: emphasis on acting and movement, devised theatre, musical theatre, history of western theatre. Teach elective ELA courses such as Philosophy. 2011-2024.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE, CONT'D

**Theatre Director**, Alexandria Area High School (formerly Jefferson High School), ISD 206 (Alexandria, Minnesota). Direct mainstage productions. Advise student-produced play and improvisation team, fund-raise, recruit students, advise student crew. 2011-present.

**Theatre Director**, Mount Pleasant High School (Iowa). Produced and directed mainstage productions. Recruited students, fund-raised, developed curriculum. 2010-2011.

**Speech Team Director**, Mount Pleasant High School (Iowa). Initiated and developed extra-curricular competition speech program. Coached team to All-State Festival performances. 2010-2011.

**English Language Arts Instructor**, Mount Pleasant High School (Iowa). Taught courses in American literature and British literature. 2010-2011.

**Theatre Director**, Algona High School (Iowa). Produced and directed mainstage productions. Recruited students, fund-raised, developed curriculum. 2003-2008.

**Speech Team Director**, Algona High School (Iowa). Developed extra-curricular competition theatre/speech arts program. Coached team to All-State Festival performances and state sweepstakes trophy in Individual Events. 2003-2008.

**English Language Arts Instructor**, Algona High School (Iowa). Taught courses in Speech, Cinematic Cavalcade, English 10, and Creative Writing. 2003-2008.

**Student Instructor**, GEN 101 Introduction to Christian Liberal Arts, Northwestern College, 2001 (Dr. Joonna Trapp).

## ACTING

Amanda, *You Can Unmute*. Wild Gem Theatre Co, 2024.

Ensemble, *The Vagina Monologues*. Dynamo Creative, 2019.

Donna Sheridan, *Mamma Mia!*. The Andria Theater, 2019.

Narrator, *Every Brilliant Thing*. Alex Shockley Productions, 2018..

Martha, *The Secret Garden*. The Andria Theater, 2012.

Amanda, *The Glass Menagerie*. Algona Alumni Players, 2006.

Eulalie Shinn, *The Music Man*. Countryside Community Players, Algona, Iowa, 2004.

Naomi, *Naomi in the Living Room*. Northwestern College, 2001.

Berthe, *Pippin*. Northwestern College, 2001.

Black V Improvisation Team. Northwestern College, 2021-2022

Philia, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Brickstreet Theatre, 1999.

## COSTUME DESIGN

*Trousers*, by Jessica Chipman. Alexandria Area High School, 2022.

*Machinal*, by Sophie Treadwell. Alexandria Area High School, 2021.

*Yerma*, by Federico Garcia Lorca, adapted by Jessica Chipman. Alexandria Area High School, 2020.

*Antigone and Ismene*, by Jessica Chipman. Alexandria Area High School, 2019.

*Legally Blonde*, by O'Keefe, Benjamin, and Hach. Alexandria Area High School, 2018.

*Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, by Moises Kaufman. Alexandria Area High School, 2018.

*Tuck Everlasting*, by Shear, Federle, Miller, and Tysen. Alexandria Area High School, 2017.

## AWARDS

Outstanding Theatre Educator Award, Region 5. National Federation of High Schools. 2023-2024.

Wells Fargo Award of Excellence and "Star" rating, Minnesota State High School League One Act Play Festival. *The Lovely Bones*, by Bryony Lavery. 2023. (Directing.)

Wells Fargo Award of Excellence and "Star" rating, Minnesota State High School League One Act Play Festival. *Trousers*, by Jessica Chipman. 2022. (Directing.)

Minnesota Theatre Educator of the Year, Minnesota Educational Theatre Association (META), 2021. (Education.)

Austin Film Festival Playwriting Award Semifinalist, *Waves Waves Waves*, 2021.

Wells Fargo Award of Excellence and "Star" rating, Minnesota State High School League One Act Play Festival. *Machinal*, by Sophie Treadwell. 2021. (Directing.)

Selection, Minnesota State High School League State One Act Play Judge Panel, 2021 (Critique.)

Recipient, Lake Region Arts Council Individual Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant (Playwriting), 2020-2021.

Edinburgh Fringe Festival High School Selection (American High School Theatre Festival), Summer 2021 (Directing).

Recipient, Educator's Scholarship, National Willa Cather Center. 2020 (Education.)

Wells Fargo Award of Excellence and "Star" rating, Minnesota State High School League State One Act Play Festival. *Yerma*, by Federico Garcia Lorca. 2020. (Directing.)

Best Performance in a Musical for the role of "Donna" in *Mamma Mia!*, Andria Awards, 2019. (Acting.)

Wells Fargo Award of Excellence and "Star" rating, Minnesota State High School League State One Act Play Festival. *Antigone and Ismene*, by Jessica Chipman. 2019. (Directing.)

## AWARDS, CONT'D

Samuel French High School Pilot Production, *Tuck Everlasting*. Alexandria Area High School, 2017 (Directing.)

Outstanding Performance or Production, Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Education Program,  
2017-2018, 2014-2015. (Directing.)

Wells Fargo Award of Excellence and “Star” rating, Minnesota State High School League State One Act Play Festival.  
*Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, by Moises Kaufman. 2018. (Directing.)

Minnesota State High School League One Act Play Section 8AA First Place. *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of  
Oscar Wilde*, by Moises Kaufman. 2018. (Directing.)

Wells Fargo Award of Excellence and “Star” rating, Minnesota State High School League State One Act Play Festival.  
*ICARUS*, by Jessica Chipman. 2017. (Directing.)

Minnesota State High School League One Act Play Section 8AA First Place. *ICARUS*, by Jessica Chipman. 2017.  
(Directing.)

Outstanding Achievement in Musical Theatre, Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Education Program, 2016. (Directing.)

Minnesota State High School League One Act Play Section 8AA First Place. *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, by Martin  
McDonagh. 2016. (Directing.)

Minnesota State High School League One Act Play Section 8AA First Place. *Precious Bane*, by Meryl Friedman. 2015.  
(Directing.)

Best Vocal Solo for “Hold On.” Andria Awards. 2013. (Acting.)

National Finalist, Heideman Award. Actors Theatre of Louisville, 2010. (Playwriting.)

Favorite Teacher Selection, Iowa Governor’s Scholar Recognition Luncheon, 2007.

Finalist, Educator of the Year. Algona Community School District, 2007.

Recipient, Richard Riggelman Young Speech Coach Award. Iowa High School Speech Association, 2004.

Recipient, Faculty English Award. Northwestern College, 2002.

First-place Fiction Award, Northwestern College Spectrum, 2002.

## APPOINTMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Mentor, Minnesota Theatre Educators and Directors. Perpich Center for Arts Education, Golden Valley, Minnesota.  
2021-present.

Independent Contractor, Theater Curriculum Writing Exemplars. Perpich Center for Arts Education. Golden Valley,  
Minnesota. 2020-present.

## APPOINTMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS, CONT'D

Regional Arts Teacher-Leader, Perpich Center for the Arts, Golden Valley, Minnesota, 2019-present.

State of Minnesota Department of Education License (Folder No. 462621): K-12 Theatre Arts; 5-12 Communication Arts/Literature, 2011-present.

Minnesota State High School League One Act Play Advisory Committee, 2019-present.

Alexandria Area High School Coaches/Advisors/Directors Leadership Team, 2018-present.

Judge, Minnesota State High School League One Act Play, 2012-present.

Freshman Academy Advisory Team, Alexandria Area High School, 2013-2014.

Communication Theatre Association of Minnesota (CTAM) Board of Governors, 2011-2015.

Alexandria Area Arts Association (Andria Theatre) Education Committee, 2012-2014.

Judge, Iowa High School Speech Association, 2003-2008.

Curriculum Development and Alignment Committee, Algona Community School District, 2003-2008.

Student Problem-Solving Committee, Algona Community School District, 2003-2008.

District Officer, Iowa High School Speech Association, 2007.

English Club President, Northwestern College, 2001-2002.

## PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

Directing Through Metaphor and Movement. Communication Theatre Arts Minnesota (CTAM) Annual Conference, 2021, 2022.

Lakes Country Arts Educator Purposeful Pause, RAT-L Network, Perpich Center for Arts Education, 2021.

"Here's What Happens When You Fall in Love with Tuck Everlasting," *Breaking Character* (web).

Concord Theatricals, 2018.

Theatre Program Growth and Development, Iowa High School Speech Association Coaches Convention, 2008.

Interpretive Reading Theatricality and Selection, Iowa High School Speech Association, 2007.

Theatrical Games and Warm-up Activities, Iowa High School Speech Association Coaches Convention, 2007.





## **RELATED COURSEWORK**

- TH 503 Survey of Theatre History and Literature (Elena Hartwell)
- TH 510 Study in Dramatic Literature (Elise Forier)
- TH 520 Exploring Drama in the Classroom (Elise Forier)
- TH 533 Stage Combat for Teachers (George Bellah III, Society of American Fight Directors)
- TH 540 Graduate Directing I (Michael Smith)
- TH 544 Acting Styles Application (Mindy Logan)
- TH 511 Analysis and Criticism (Parisa Joyce)
- TH 530 Playwriting (Elise Forier)
- TH 534 Improvisational Techniques (Kari Van Auken)
- TH 541 Graduate Directing II (Brenda Hubbard)
- TH 545 Voice and Dialects (Michael Smith)
- TH 565 Creative Costuming (Scott Robinson)
- TH 539 Directing and Teaching Young Actors (Elise Forier)
- TH 542 Musical Theatre Directing (Terri Brown)
- TH 568 Lighting Techniques (Christina Barrigan)
- TH 571 Design Methodology (Mark Haniuk)
- THE 504 Brecht and Boal (Sarah A. Campbell)
- THE 512 Graduate Directing Studio (Craig A. Miller, David Lee-Painter)
- THE 522 Advanced Studies in Theatre (Jesse Dreikosen)
- TH 526 MFA Playwriting Workshop (Robert Caisley)

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

- Race and Equity Workshop, Penumbra Theater via Perpich Center for Arts Education, 2020
- Moment Work, Tectonic Theatre Project via Perpich Center for the Arts, 2020.
- Curriculum Development and Instruction Strategies, Mary Beth Crowder-Meier, 2012-2017.
- Broadway Teachers Workshop, Broadway Teaching Group, New York City, 2016



## REFERENCES

### **David Lee-Painter**

*Professor of Performance, University of Idaho*

Theatre Arts Department

University of Idaho

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### **Stephanie Lien Walseth**

*Theatre Teaching Specialist, Perpich Center for Arts*

*Education*

Perpich Center for Arts Education

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### **Jackson Grove**

*Professional Choreographer and Actor*

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### **Robert Caisley**

*Theatre Department Chair and Head of Dramatic*

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