

UCM THEATRE AND DANCE GUEST ARTISTS **2024-2025**

BRANDI SPURLING (SAGE CULTURE CO) - GUEST SPEAKER TIME MANAGEMENT AND TEAM BUILDING - AUGUST 28, 2024



BRANDI SPURLING (SHE/HER) AND HER HUSBAND, CHRIS, HAVE CALLED COLUMBIA HOME FOR TEN YEARS. SHE'S BEEN INTRIGUED BY THE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES SHE'S EXPERIENCED IN A BROAD LIST OF INDUSTRIES SHE'S FOUND HERSELF IN. SO, SHE LET THAT INSPIRE HER MASTER'S IN STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP STUDIES, WHERE SHE FOCUSED ON GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN THE WORKPLACE BEFORE GRADUATING IN 2017. NOW, SHE'S ENJOYING WHAT A LITTLE CURIOSITY, BROAD INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE, AND AN EVER-CHANGING WORKING WORLD CAN DO TO HELP PEOPLE WORK BETTER TOGETHER.

BRANDI RECEIVED HER BA IN THEATRE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI IN 2013 AND WE ARE THRILLED TO HAVE HER BACK ON CAMPUS FACILITATING THIS WORKSHOP FOR OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS!

FUNDING PROVIDED BY DLII'S SPEAKER SERIES GRANT.

JUSTIN BARRON & TIPSYPARD KC - SHE KILLS MONSTERS DND GAME NIGHT- SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

JUSTIN BARRON (HE/HIM) HAS SPENT THE BETTER PART OF A DECADE PLAYING MAKE BELIEVE. HIS CAREER IN THE ARTS HAS TAKEN HIM TO MANY UNEXPECTED PLACES BUT IT ALL BEGAN BACK IN 2014 UPON GRADUATING FROM UCM WITH A BFA IN MUSICAL THEATRE. SOON AFTER, JUSTIN BEGAN A JOURNEY THAT WOULD LEAD HIM TO THE STAGES OF HEART OF AMERICA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, UNICORN THEATRE, COTERIE THEATRE, KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE, CREEDE REPERTORY THEATRE, AND MANY MORE. HIS PASSION FOR PERFORMANCE, DIRECTING, AND WRITING BLEND OVER INTO A NEW CAREER PATH WHEN HE SUDDENLY FOUND HIMSELF WITHOUT A JOB DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC, A PATH THAT WOULD LEAD HIM TO BEGIN TIPSYPARD KC.



JUSTIN DISCOVERED TABLETOP ROLEPLAYING GAMES (TTRPGS) BACK IN 2015 WHILE DOING SUMMER STOCK THEATRE BUT HAD NO IDEA IT COULD BECOME MORE THAN JUST A HOBBY. HOWEVER, DURING THE PANDEMIC, HE STARTED BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF THEATRE FRIENDS WHO FOUND JUST AS MUCH JOY AND CATHARSIS IN ROLEPLAYING AS HE DID. TOGETHER, HE AND HIS TEAM RAN A SLEW OF DIVERSE GAMES, LEARNING NEW SYSTEMS AND BUILDING THEIR NETWORK. IN 2023, JUSTIN DECIDED TO MAKE IT OFFICIAL AND STARTED TIPSYPARD KC, A SMALL BUSINESS START-UP FOCUSING ON SHARING THEIR LOVE OF TTRPGS WITH FOLKS ALL AROUND THE KC AREA. IN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF BUSINESS, THEY'VE GROWN A GREAT COMMUNITY OF GAMERS THROUGH PUBLIC EPIC TTRPG EVENTS AS WELL AS PRIVATE IN-HOME PARTIES. JOIN THE NEXT EVENT OR BOOK THEM FOR YOUR PARTY AT

WWW.TIPSYPARDKC.COM!

FUNDING PROVIDED BY DLII'S SPEAKER SERIES GRANT



RYAN BERNSTEN - NEW PLAY FESTIVAL GUEST PLAYWRIGHT - OCTOBER 2024



RYAN (HE/HIM) STUDIED PLAYWRITING AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY AND RECEIVED HIS MASTER'S DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. HIS PLAYS HAVE BEEN PERFORMED INTERNATIONALLY: ONSTAGE, ATLANTIC – A COLLABORATION WITH THE ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND AND HIS ALMA MATER NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY – WON CRITICAL ACCLAIM AT EDINBURGH FRINGE AND DREAM TICKET (PLAYERS THEATRE, OFF-BROADWAY) WON THE NY FRINGE EXCELLENCE AWARD AND WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE HUFFINGTON POST AND TIMEOUT. OTHER CREDITS INCLUDE WE ARE BLOOD (WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE, OLATHE CIVIC THEATRE, KANSAS CITY PUBLIC THEATRE, ANGELS THEATRE COMPANY, SCREENCRAFT STAGE PLAY COMPETITION FINALIST; JEWISH THEATRE PROJECT PLAY COMPETITION SEMIFINALIST); BAD PRESS (CHERRY LANE THEATRE); THE NEW ORDER (WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE, KANSAS CITY HORROR PLAY FESTIVAL, CORKSCREW THEATRE FESTIVAL, OXFORD UNIVERSITY DRAMATIC SOCIETY BEST PLAY FOR VOICES); NOVEL (THE ARTS ASYLUM, KANSAS CITY PUBLIC THEATRE, CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION). AT OXFORD, HE RECEIVED A DISTINCTION FOR HIS NARRATIVE NONFICTION ACCOUNT OF HIS AMERICAN TRAVELS TO ALL 50 STATES, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED AS 50 STATES OF MIND: A JOURNEY TO REDISCOVER AMERICAN DEMOCRACY IN 2023. LEVERAGING HIS EXPERIENCE INTERVIEWING MAYORS, GOVERNORS, AND VOTERS, RYAN IS AN INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER, EXPLORING HOW WE CAN HAVE MORE EFFECTIVE CONVERSATIONS AND USE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TO MAKE CHANGE. RYAN IS A CONTRIBUTOR FOR THE INFATUATION AND HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE KANSAS CITY STAR, USA TODAY, THE FULCRUM, AND THE OXFORD POLITICAL REVIEW, AND WORKED WITH CONAN AND THE ONION. YOU MAY HAVE SEEN HIM CHATTING WITH HELEN MIRREN AS A SLYTHERIN CONTESTANT ON THE QUIZ SHOW HARRY POTTER: TOURNAMENT OF HOUSES HOSTED BY HELEN MIRREN ON MAX. RYAN HAS WON WEBBY AND GOLD TELLY AWARDS WITH THE TREVOR PROJECT CREATIVE TEAM WHERE HE OVERSEES STORYTELLING STRATEGY TO END SUICIDE AMONG LGBTQ+ YOUNG PEOPLE.



FUNDING PROVIDED BY DLII'S SPEAKER SERIES GRANT.

EMMA CARTER - NEW PLAY FESTIVAL GUEST PLAYWRIGHT - OCTOBER 2024

EMMA CARTER (SHE/HER) HAS WORN MANY HATS, INCLUDING THOSE OF OF PLAYWRIGHT, ACTRESS, TEACHING ARTIST, PRODUCER, PODCASTER AND PROFESSIONAL DUNGEON MASTER.

SHE HOLDS A BFA IN THEATRE ARTS WITH A MINOR IN MUSIC FROM STEPHENS COLLEGE. SHE SPENT FOUR YEARS AS A MEMBER OF THE MIDWEST DRAMATISTS, AND HER WORKS HAVE BEEN READ AND PRODUCED IN NUMEROUS VENUES AROUND THE KC AREA.

MOST RECENTLY, HER PLAY "BESTIES" RECEIVED A STAGED READING AS PART OF KANSAS CITY PUBLIC THEATER'S 2024 THEATER LAB PLAY FEST. PAST PRODUCTIONS INCLUDE "AMERICAN HORROR STORY," WHICH WAS FEATURED IN THE 2022 KC HORROR PLAY FESTIVAL, AND "WICKED CREATURES," WHICH RECEIVED A FULLY REALIZED PRODUCTION BY THE CONFLUENCE THEATER COMPANY IN 2019. VISIT WWW.EMMAKARTER.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



SELBY MARKSBURY - SHE KILLS MONSTERS GUEST PROJECTIONS DESIGNER - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

SELBY MARKSBURY (THEY/THEM) IS A PROJECTIONS DESIGNER FROM RAYMORE, MISSOURI. THEIR RECENT DESIGN CREDITS INCLUDE WORKING, YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS LIVE!, AND RIDE THE CYCLONE WITH SPINNING TREE THEATRE. IN ADDITION TO THEIR DESIGN WORK, THEY MOONLIGHT AS A POET AND DIGITAL ARTIST. SELBY IS AN AVID PROPONENT OF THE ARTS, AND FEELS LUCKY TO BE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADD THEIR VOICE TO SUCH AN IMPORTANT MEDIUM.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY DLII'S SPEAKER SERIES GRANT & MERIDITH HARMON SAUER GUEST ARTIST SERIES



HEATHER NISBETT-LOEWENSTEIN & STONELION PUPPET THEATRE

AM AHL GUEST ARTIST PUPPETRY - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

FOUNDING ARTISTIC AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HEATHER LOEWENSTEIN STARTED STONELION PUPPET THEATRE THIRTY-TWO YEARS AGO WHEN SHE DISCOVERED PUPPETRY MELDED PERFORMANCE AND DESIGN INTO ONE BIG LUMP OF FUN THAT COULD COMMUNICATE COMPLEX IDEAS AND MESSAGES IN A WAY THAT TRADITIONAL THEATER COULD NOT. SHE HAS PASSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND THE NEED TO TEACH THE NEXT GENERATIONS ABOUT PROTECTING OUR WORLD'S WATER SYSTEM WHICH IS TRANSLATED INTO ALL OF HER COMPANY'S WORK.

SHE HAS PRODUCED, DIRECTED, DESIGNED PERFORMED AND/OR WRITTEN OVER ONE HUNDRED FULL SCALE PRODUCTIONS FOR SPT. DIRECTORIAL AND DESIGN CREDITS INCLUDE FOUR YEARS OF GIANT ILLUMINATED PUPPETS IN PUPPETS A GLOW-GO ANNUALLY REACHING 15,000 AREA CITIZENS. FOR FIFTEEN YEARS MOTHER'S DAY FOR MOTHER EARTH WOWED AUDIENCES AND GREW TO BE THE LARGEST FREE COMMUNITY FAMILY ART EVENT IN THE MIDWEST, WHERE THE PUBLIC ACTUALLY HELPS PARTICIPATES IN CREATING THE GIANT PUPPETS...ALL FOCUSED ON CLEAN WATER. SHE WAS THE PUPPET DESIGNER AND PERFORMER THAT HELPED LOCAL KANSAS CITY PUBLIC TELEVISION WIN A REGIONAL EMMY FOR "BARK PARK PLACE" IN 2001. HER PRODUCTION OF "BACKYARD BUGGIN" FOR POINT DEFIANCE ZOO AND AQUARIUM WON THE AMERICAN ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (AZA) AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN 2006 AND IN 2011

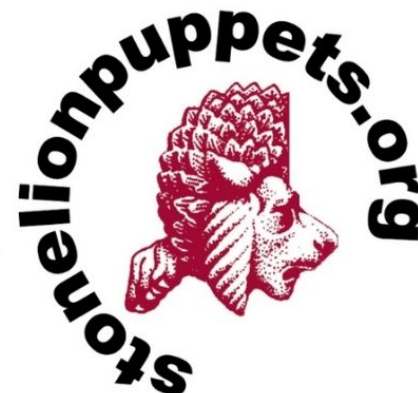
HEATHER WAS GIVEN THE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NON-PROFIT BY KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. SHE WAS AWARDED THE LIGHTON PRIZE AS TEACHING ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2016.

SHE HAS WORKED AS A US STATE DEPARTMENT SPONSORED ARTIST FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS TRAINING TEACHERS AND THE COMMUNITY TO USE ART TO PROTECT OUR PLANET AND REDUCE PLASTIC IN FIJI, LAOS, VIETNAM, UKRAINE, ISRAEL, KENYA AND NEXT YEAR UGANDA.

HER PERFORMANCES HAVE BEEN A REGULAR PART OF PROGRAMMING AT THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART (KANSAS CITY, MO) CRYSTAL BRIDGES ART MUSEUM (BENTONVILLE, AR) THE KEMPER MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (KANSAS CITY, MO) AND THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE (WASHINGTON D.C.) AND LAST YEAR AT THE MIDWEST TRUST CENTER. HER WORK WITH SPT HAS ALSO BEEN SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS IN THE UNITED STATES. LAST YEAR STONELION UNDER HER DIRECTION GAVE 247 PERFORMANCES AND WORKSHOPS.

CURRENTLY SHE IS WORKING ON A COLLABORATION WITH THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY TO CREATE AN ORIGINAL GIANT PUPPET PLAY CELEBRATING WATER TO DEBUT THE SPRING OF 2026.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY DLII'S SPEAKER SERIES GRANT & JIM & JEANNE MCDOWELL FUND IN THEATRE & DANCE



POWELL BRUMM - DR. SEUSS'S THE CAT IN THE HAT

GUEST SCENIC DESIGNER & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

POWELL BRUMM (HE/HIM) IS A SCENIC DESIGNER AND FABRICATOR BASED IN KANSAS CITY. ORIGINALLY FROM TUCSON, ARIZONA, HE RECEIVED HIS MASTER OF MUSIC DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, AND AN ARTIST CERTIFICATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI KANSAS CITY. AS A DESIGNER, HE HAS WORKED WITH THE UMKC CONSERVATORY, MOST NOTABLY FOR THEIR PRODUCTION OF PUCCINI'S *SUOR ANGELICA*. MR. BRUMM CURRENTLY WORKS WITH THE KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE AS THEIR MATERIALS COORDINATOR, AND HAS ACTED AS THE ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR FOR OPERA IN THE OZARKS FOR THE PAST TWO SEASONS. IN ADDITION TO WORK BACKSTAGE, HE ALSO MAINTAINS AN ACTIVE PERFORMING SCHEDULE IN OPERAS AND RECITALS, WITH PERFORMANCES WITH THE LYRIC OPERA OF KANSAS CITY CHORUS, LAWRENCE OPERA THEATRE, AND CLASSICAL MUSIC EXPRESS AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

FUNDING BY DLII'S SPEAKER SERIES GRANT AND THE MERIDITH HARMON GUEST ARTIST SERIES

