

# Saffron A. Henke

Assistant Professor, Miami University

Artistic Associate, Working Group Theatre

Artistic Director, The Brink Theatre Co.

Please note: If access to the full C.V. is desired, please contact [saffronhenke@gmail.com](mailto:saffronhenke@gmail.com), and I will send immediately

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## EDUCATION

### ACADEMIC DEGREES

2001	Master of Fine Arts, Drama (Acting)	University of Washington
1996	Bachelor of Arts, Theatre Arts	University of Iowa
1992-94	The Theatre School	DePaul University

### CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

2008	Teaching Artist training for the LAUSD	Center Theater Group
2005	Post graduate work on Greek Theatre, Hydra Greece	UC-Davis

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### TEACHING

#### Faculty Positions

2014	Assistant Professor of Theatre, Acting & Directing	Miami University
2012	Adjunct Faculty, Voice and Diction	St. Ambrose University
2010	Adjunct Faculty, Acting	Cornell College
2009-11	Theatre Faculty, Movement	Chicago High School of the Arts
2007-09	Adjunct Faculty, Movement	Univ. of Southern California
2007	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Theatre Education	University of Iowa
1999	Instructor of Record, Acting	University of Washington
1999-present	Numerous workshops/guest instructor sessions	various

#### Professional Teaching

2010-13	Voice, text and acting coach	Riverside Summer Festival, IA
2009	Guest instructor, with professional actors	Mara Casey Acting Studio, LA
2008-09	Ongoing guest instructor for professional company	A Noise Within Theatre, LA
2008	Session Instructor	Center Theatre Group, LA
2002-04	Teaching Artist	Oregon Shakespeare Festival

### ADMINISTRATION

2010-14	Associate Director, Grant Wood Art Colony	University of Iowa
2007-11	Coordinator and Head Teacher	Englert School of the Arts
2004-07	Program Head/Education Director	Sacramento Theatre Company

### ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

2014-present	Artistic Director	The BRINK Theatre Co.
2004-07	Artistic/Education Director, STC-2	Sacramento Theatre Company

### ACTING

See "Creative Achievement" for partial professional film, TV and theatre credits, access to complete materials, photos and reviews at [www.saffronhenke.com](http://www.saffronhenke.com)

2009-present	Artistic Associate, <a href="http://workinggrouptheatre.org/collaborators/">http://workinggrouptheatre.org/collaborators/</a>	Working Group Theatre
2004-08	Artistic Associate, Resident Company Member	Sacramento Theatre Company
2002-04	Resident Company Member	Oregon Shakespeare Festival

### DIRECTING

See "Creative Achievement" for partial listings (academic and professional), access to complete materials, photos and reviews at [www.saffronhenke.com](http://www.saffronhenke.com)

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## CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT - PERFORMANCE & DIRECTING

**DIRECTING:** I have directed a broad spectrum of plays across style and genre. This is an overview of my work. For complete materials, photos, and reviews, please go to [www.saffronhenke.com](http://www.saffronhenke.com).

### **Professional**

#### **Lady Macbeth and Her Pal, Megan by Megan Gogerty**

- *An original solo performance. In development since May 2016, was performed with a full production and run February – March 2017 at Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, IA. Pre- and subsequent tour dates planned throughout IA, VA, FL and the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, UK, August 2017. For ongoing updated tour list: ([www.ladymacbethshow.com](http://www.ladymacbethshow.com)).*

#### **Variations on an (Original) Theme: a Suite in Eight Movements by Tricia Park**

- *An original solo performance. In development, performed at RHINOfest, January 2017, Chicago, IL. Workshopped January 2017 with ongoing development planned.*

#### **This Is Our Youth by Kenneth Lonergan**

- *Full production of Kenneth Lonergan's "caustic, cruel and compassionate" 1996 play. This production was a site-specific performance which converted a community member's living room into a New York City studio apartment. The show ran for three performances, The Brink Theatre Company, May 2016, Oxford, OH.*
- **The K of D** by Laura Schellhardt, July 2011, Riverside Theatre
- **Bugsy Malone** book by Alan Parker, Music by Paul Williams, July 2009, Englert Theatre
- **The Heretic Mysteries** by David Bridel, May 2009, LA Theatre Ensemble – Asst. Director
- **The Tale (Greek Myths for Young Theatre)** by Tommy Smith, Music by Michael McQuilken, Fall 2005 & Fall 2006, Summer 2007 STC-2, Sacramento, CA and Greece, EU
  - This commissioned, original full musical production toured Greece and was featured in the Mioulia Festival on the island of Hydra in Summer of 2007
- **The Pale Fire Project**, August 2003, Last Feast Productions, Black Swan Theatre
  - This was an independent project I created with twelve actors while at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. A movement based, new piece combining *Hamlet* by Shakespeare, and *Pale Fire* and *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov.

### **Academic**

#### **The Flick by Annie Baker**

- *Full production of Aaron Posner's 2013 Pulitzer Prizewinning play. Miami University, September 2017, Oxford, OH.*

#### **Stupid Fucking Bird by Aaron Posner**

- *Full production of Aaron Posner's 2013 MacArthur award winning original adaptation of Anton Chekhov's The Seagull. Miami University, October 2017, Oxford, OH.*

#### **Hollins Performance Showcase**

- *A final performance of scene work for a public audience showcasing the graduating students in the New Play Performance Certificate Program. Hollins University's Playwright's Lab, July 2016, Roanoke, VA.*

#### **Avenue Q, Music and Lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, Book by Jeff Whitty**

- *Full production of the Tony award winning musical. Miami University, April 2015, Oxford, OH.*

**Les Liaisons Dangereuses**, by Christopher Hampton, October 2012, St. Ambrose University

**In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)**, by Sarah Ruhl, April 2012, Cornell College

**Bookwings (see publications)**, March 2012 & 2013, University of Iowa

**Global Express (with the International Writing Program), October 2011 and 2012, University of Iowa,**

- *A selection from which was performed in conjunction with an event for Nobel laureate, Wole Soyinka*
- Metamorphoses**, by Mary Zimmermann, January 2011, Augustana College (see review)
- L'Histoire du Soldat (The Soldier's Story)** by Kurt Vonnegut, Asst. Dir. to George De La Pena, June 2013, Music IC

**No Fish in the House** by Paul Kalina, Asst. Dir. to Paul Kalina, June 2013, University of Iowa

**The Bock-eye (a new adaptation of Euripides "The Bacchae")**, by Tommy Smith, January 2013, Augustana College

**Women in the Shadow: Frauen im Schatten** (devised piece), by Saffron Henke and cast, October 2010, Coe College

**ACTING:** the below credits reflect my last three years of acting work. I am a member of the Actor's Equity Association with over 80 professional credits, including international work. For complete materials, photos, and reviews, please go to [www.saffronhenke.com](http://www.saffronhenke.com).

#### FILM & TELEVISION:

**The Seagull**, Irene (Arkadina), Dir. Carol MacVey

*The Seagull*, feature film. Iowa City, Iowa. Principal photography completed, September 2015. I played a lead role (Arkadina/Irene) in a film version of Chekhov's play of the same name. Projected release: 2018.

#### THEATRE:

**Merry Wives of Windsor**, Mistress Ford, Richmond Shakespeare Festival, June 2017

**Cymbeline**, The Queen, Richmond Shakespeare Festival, June 2017

*Merry Wives of Windsor and Cymbeline* by William Shakespeare - Richmond Shakespeare Festival, June 2017, Richmond, IN. <http://www.richmondshakespearefestival.org>

**Relativity**, Margaret Harding, Riverside Theatre, April 2017 <https://riversidetheatre.org/relativity>

**Saidah**, Kirsten, Hollins New Play Festival, July 2016

**Take 81**, Azalea, Hollins New Play Festival, July 2016

*Saidah* by Jennifer Hoyt – *Tidwell and Take 81* by Liesl Ehmke – Hollins New Play Festival, July 2016, Roanoke, VA. A month long development and rehearsal process culminating in a weekend-long festival with national guests and visibility. In conjunction with my work as a faculty member at the Hollins University summer programs (<https://www.hollins.edu/academics/graduate-degrees/playwriting/summer-2016-events/>)

**BLISS (Or Emily Post Is Dead!)**, Maddie (Medea), Moving Arts Theatre Company, May 2016

*BLISS (Or Emily Post Is Dead!)* by Jami Brandli – Moving Arts Theatre Company, May 2016 Los Angeles, CA. A week long workshop culminating in a two night reading.

**DES MOINES**, Marta, Iowa Writer's Workshop, March 2016

*DES MOINES* by Denis Johnson – Iowa Writer's Workshop Residency, March 2016, University of Iowa. A two-week workshop, developing a new play and culminating in a multiple performance run. Denis Johnson is an acclaimed writer of fiction, nominated twice for the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction and recipient of the National Book Award.

**The Kreutzer Sonata**, The Wife, Notre Dame Univ., November 2015

*The Kreutzer Sonata* by Jennifer Fawcett – Notre Dame University, November 2015, Notre Dame, IN.

**Absolute Happiness**, Clara and Robert Schumann, WGT/ Music IC, June 2015

*Absolute Happiness* by Jennifer Fawcett – Working Group/Music IC, Englert Theatre, June 2015, Iowa City, IA.

**Love Letters**, Melissa Gardner, Riverside Theatre, June 2015

*Love Letters* by A.R. Gurney – Riverside Theatre, June 2015, Iowa City, IA.

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#### PUBLICATIONS

**Script**, "Bookwings, A Virtual Drama". Christopher Merrill and Ashley Davidson, eds. University of Iowa: 91<sup>st</sup> Meridian Books in association with International Writing Program, 2015.

- A collection of plays and poems included in the Bookwings project. I directed one poem and 3 plays in a video performance exchange with Russia and China. I am cited and thanked as a collaborator
- Book Review**, *Voice into Acting: Integrating voice and the Stanislavski approach* by Christina Gutekunst and John Gillett. *The Voice and Speech Review* expected publication, March 2017.
- Quality Indicators: Invited to contribute by Book Review Editor, Kate Glasheen. The VSR is the only scholarly journal that exclusively publishes work about voice and speech training for stage, film, TV and Radio. Published tri-annually.

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#### PRESENTATIONS

**Presenter:** *“Risk Taking and the Authentic Self”*. Witching Hour Festival, Iowa City, IA, October 2017. Co-presenter—Kristy Hartsgrove-Mooers

**Presenter/Panelist:** *“The Struggle is Real: Teaching and Working with New Generations in the Craft of Acting”*. Association for Theatre in Higher Education International Conference, Las Vegas, NV, August 2017. Co-presenters – Matthew Mastromatteo, Long Island University, and Ellen Mareneck, Bronx Community College

**Presenter:** *“New Play Development Across Disciplines.”* South Eastern Theatre Conference, Lexington, KY, March 2017. Co-presenters— Todd Ristau, Hollins University and Neil David Seibel, Auburn University.

**Presenter:** *“Creative Risk: Exploring This Generation’s Relationship to Creative Risk and Personal Challenge”*. National Lilly Conference on College Teaching, Miami University, November 2016.

**Presenter/Participant:** *“Acting with SAVI: a new method for choosing actions.”* Association for Theatre in Higher Education National Conference, Chicago, IL, August 2016. Main Presenter - Julia Guichard, Miami University. Other participants – Anne Marie Pinero, University of Iowa, Amy Chaffee, and Shannon Holmes, SoMo Theatre.

**Presenter:** *“The Creative Risk Project: Exploring This Generation’s Relationship to Creative Risk and Personal Challenge”*. Alumni Teaching Scholar’s Symposium, Miami University, April 2016.

**Presenter:** *Semi – Final Feedback Session*. Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Division 7, Denver, February 2016. Co-presenter— Don Williams, Stella Adler Acting Studio, Los Angeles, CA.

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## PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

### Professional Organizations and Memberships:

- ATHE (Association for Theatre in Higher Education)
- VASTA (Voice and Speech Teacher’s Association)
- AEA, (Actor’s Equity Association, the primary union for professional stage actors. Member since 2004)
- SAG eligible (Screen Actor’s Guild, the primary union for professional screen actors)
- Yoga Alliance certified Yoga Therapist and Instructor, Registered Yoga Therapist 200 hours
- SAFD certified (Society of American Fight Directors) Stage Actor Combatant in Rapier & Dagger, Quarterstaff and Unarmed

### Honors:

2016 Center for Teaching Excellence Commendation

2016 *E. Phillips Knox Teaching Award (Nominee)*  
Established to recognize excellence and innovation in undergraduate teaching at Miami University.

2016 *Excellence in Career Development Award (Awarded)*  
Awarded by the student affairs division, this award recognizes faculty who actively support the development of the Miami University career community, forge career-related partnerships and provide exemplary direct delivery of career development services to undergraduate students.

2005 *Theatre Honorarium Award for Emerging Artists*  
Awarded by the Princess Grace Foundation- an elite honor for emerging artists, included a cash award of \$2000 <https://www.pgfusa.org/award-winners/browse/alphabetically/h/>

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## TEACHING EVALUATIONS

*“It is clear that Professor Henke has a carefully considered vision for theatre pedagogy. Her assignments...lead to cathartic experiences that were validating for the beginning actors, as they acknowledged and affirmed their own stories which were shared with their peers. Rather than initially teaching specific skills, her first priority in this class was to create an environment in which personal exploration, and respect for their own emotions and those of their peers would be established. It was clear during the span of my observations that these goals were being met which allowed the students to become more free and vulnerable in performance.”*

*In the more advanced course, Professor Henke’s background as an actor was respected by the students. Her critiques of the student performances were astute and helpful. The community she has begun to building her beginning acting class has already ignited a spark of excitement that is palpable among the theatre students. I feel the theatre students are privileged to engage with such a visionary mentor as Saffron Henke.”* – Peer review of teaching, Miami University

*“Professor Henke is by far the best acting professor I have ever (had). Not only is she extremely talented and expressive but she is also dedicated and hardworking. I absolutely think I have become a better actress because of her (and it wasn't easy). She has pushed us to be the best we can be and given us assignments to help us outside the classroom when preparing for a monologue, scene, etc. She has created an inclusive, friendly, supportive environment making students feel comfortable and ready to work. She doesn't direct us, she gives us ideas to try and make us think of new ways to improve our acting skills. Because she doesn't just direct us to change something, it gives us freedom to change and try new things until we can figure it out ourselves with her guidance.” – Spring 2015*

*“Taking this class with Saffron has changed the way I look at acting. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to hone my craft with someone as knowledgeable, patient, talented, and dedicated as her. I look forward to seeing how the class changes and how the theatre department develops with her insight and leadership. I came into this course with high hopes and I left with a honed and developed skill set, and a mentor.” – Fall 2016*

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**REFERENCES (letter available immediately for those marked \*)**

\***Kelly Quinnett** – Professor & Head of Acting, University of Idaho, 208-885-5017, [kellyq@uidaho.edu](mailto:kellyq@uidaho.edu)

\***Todd Mc Nerney** - Associate Professor, College of Charleston, 843-953-7735, [mcnerneyt@cofc.edu](mailto:mcnerneyt@cofc.edu)

\***Anne Marie Nest Pinero** – Assistant Professor, University of Iowa, 319-353.2405, [annemarie-nest@uiowa.edu](mailto:annemarie-nest@uiowa.edu)

\***Silas Munro** – Assistant Professor, Otis College of Art and Design,

**Kyle Haden** - Assistant Professor, Carnegie Mellon University/Artistic Director, Ashland New Play Festival, 646-320-9823, [khaden@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:khaden@andrew.cmu.edu)

**Katelyn Wood** – Assistant Professor, University of Virginia, 434-924-8508, [katehalewood@gmail.com](mailto:katehalewood@gmail.com)

**Megan Gogerty** – Core Faculty/Lecturer, Hollins University/University of Iowa, 319-384-3286, [megan-gogerty@uiowa.edu](mailto:megan-gogerty@uiowa.edu)