

# BRENT HAZELTON

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## THEATER EDUCATOR

### **Professional Theater**

#### **Milwaukee Repertory Theater**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Artistic Internship Program Director  
Fall 2003 through Spring 2011

During my leadership of Milwaukee Rep's longstanding and mission-core Artistic Internship Program for emerging professional actors and directors (now known as the Emerging Professional Residency Program), I achieved significant, measurable growth resulting in the program quickly holding industry-leading status. I updated best practices and administered all aspects of this program, from nationwide recruitment of a twelve- to 20-member ensemble each season, to daily supervision, guidance, and training throughout the season, to post-internship professional placement. I continually expanded and sharpened program curriculum through careful, objective analysis of areas of strength and of those awaiting improvement. The actionable results of this analysis led to dynamic and sustained growth of all aspects of the program, as evidenced by strong increases in both quality and quantity of applications for admission, improvement in recruiting a higher level of artist to and sharply increasing diversity within each intern ensemble, and a dramatic increase in outgoing intern placement at high-level regional theaters and training programs.

The program now enjoys a widely-held reputation as one of two premiere internship programs in American regional theater, and one of the foremost vehicles for successful academic-to-professional transition in the industry. Milwaukee Rep leadership quickly came to view the intern ensemble under my leadership as a cohesive and flexible non-AEA corollary to the then-Resident Acting Company, capable of successfully fulfilling principal roles in addition to the duties of understudy and ensemble member, leading to increased diversity in production casting as well as significant budgetary relief relative to hiring union actors for roles now regularly successfully filled by interns.

As a facilitator of student learning, I structured program curriculum to focus on improving both artistic and personal skills as well as business awareness and career management through individually-targeted casting assignments, workshops, and regular one-on-one and group feedback. Dedicated to maximizing the potential of each intern, I provided respectful assessment and acknowledgment of each intern's evolving skills coupled with a clear articulation of goals, which led to achievable growth plans. Establishing this regimented structure for self-improvement allowed interns to not only take fullest advantage of the wide range of growth opportunities in Milwaukee Rep's demanding yet supportive ensemble environment, but engendered within them a facility for the honest self-analysis and goal setting essential to a lasting professional career.

#### Accomplishments:

- Increased and sustained long-term relationships with national training programs by 68%

- Increased and sustained number of internship applications received by an average of 56%
- Increased and sustained successful MFA-student recruitment to internship program by 59%
- Increased and sustained successful BFA-student recruitment to internship program by 62%
- Increased and sustained successful recruitment of interns of color from an average of 12% to 46%
- Increased and sustained rate of professional placement among outgoing interns from 36% to 91%
- Created and oversaw the establishment of all producing mechanisms for the Rep Lab short play festival exclusively featuring members of the Artistic Intern Company in the 2010/11 season (program ongoing)
- Created, programmed, and produced the now-annual Chicago Audition Showcase during the 2006/7 season (through the 2010/11 season), to increase awareness of and employment opportunities for outgoing Artistic Interns in the Chicago market (program ongoing)
- Created in 2004 in partnership with Ten Chimneys Foundation President Sean Malone (and oversaw through the 2010/11 season), “The Pays of Lunt and Fontanne: Play Readings at Ten Chimneys,” through which Artistic Interns presented for a paid public audience at Ten Chimneys four readings per season of notables plays from either the Lunts’ canon or that of their most well-known collaborators. As Artistic Director of this self-supporting, collaborative series, I programmed each season of readings with an eye toward both audience popularity and thematic and stylistic variety, as well as providing each intern with an opportunity to deepen existing skill set. I provided guidance to the Directing Interns for the two readings per season under their direction.
- Selected post-program theater employment for interns during my tenure as Artistic Internship Program Director included major roles in multiple productions and/or seasons with nationally- and regionally-leading institutions including: American Conservatory Theatre, Actors Theater of Louisville, Alley Theater, American Players Theater, Arena Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Court Theater, Dallas Theater Center, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Fifth Avenue Theatre, The Folger Theatre, The Goodman, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Hope Summer Repertory Theater, Indiana Repertory Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, Laguna Playhouse, Lookingglass Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, New York Fringe Festival, Northlight Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, PCPA Theaterfest, The Public Theatre, Riverside Theater, Riverside Theater Shakespeare Festival, St. Louis Black Rep, Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey, Silk Road Theater Project, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Syracuse Stage, Texas Repertory Theater, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Stage, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Victory Gardens, Virginia Shakespeare Festival, Virginia Stage Company, and Writers’ Theatre, among many others, as well as every producing organization in Milwaukee, including Bialystock and Bloom Company, Chamber Theater, First Stage Children’s Theater, In Tandem Theater, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Next Act Theater, Renaissance Theaterworks, Skylight Opera Theater, and Youngblood.
- Selected post-program graduate school placements for interns during my tenure as Artistic Internship Program Director included: American Conservatory Theatre, Brown University/Trinity Rep, Columbia University, Dell’Arte International, Florida State University/Asolo Repertory Theater, Harvard University/American Repertory Theatre, Illinois State University, University of California-Irvine, University of Delaware P/TTP, University of San Diego/Old Globe, University of Washington, and Yale University.

## Classroom Instruction

### University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Kenosha, Wisconsin  
Associate Lecturer  
Fall Semester, 2007

I developed and taught a two-credit elective lecture and discussion-based course that facilitated acting students' transitions from academic to professional theater. Topics included: the current obstacles facing emerging professional actors; goal-setting and determining successful internal motivation; practicing successful methods of cultivating accounts as a small business; audition technique and preparation, including casting practices across theater, film, television, and commercial industries; identifying an actor's type as a product for sale; proper format for resumes, headshots, websites, and other marketing materials; and a survey of various major and mid-major American regional markets.

### Carthage College

Kenosha, Wisconsin  
Associate Lecturer  
Fall Semester, 2007

I developed and co-taught (with Professor Neil Scharnick), a three-credit required lecture and discussion-based Senior Seminar course that facilitated seven academic theater students' transitions to professional theater across a wide variety of disciplines, including acting, directing, playwrighting, technical theater, and theater administration, as well as their commercial and on-camera equivalents. Topics included: the current obstacles facing emerging professionals; goal-setting and determining successful internal motivations; practicing successful methods of making contacts and cultivating accounts as a small business; proper audition and interview technique and preparation, including casting and hiring practices across theater, film, television and commercial industries; identifying an artist's type and specialties and treating those items as products for sale; proper format for resumes, headshots, websites and other marketing materials; and a survey of various major and mid-major American regional markets.

## Educational Participation

### University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Kenosha, Wisconsin  
Annually, 2005 – 2007

- Provide professional feedback for acting students' semester evaluations.

### Pius XI High School

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Annually, 2005 – 2007

- Provide professional feedback for theater students' semester evaluations.

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION: EDUCATIONAL

### Evaluations / Adjudications / Responses

#### **KC/ACTF Irene Ryan Region III Finals: Adjudicator**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
2007

## Master Classes / Workshops

### **Marquette University**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
2007

### **Carroll University**

Waukesha, Wisconsin

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
2007

### **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
2006

### **Stephen F. Austin State University**

Nacogdoches, Texas

Presenter: Audition Technique for Professional Theater  
2006

### **University of Wisconsin-Madison Wisconsin Theater Association Auditions**

Madison, Wisconsin

Presenter: Audition Technique for Professional Theater  
Annually, 2003 – 2005

## Lectures

### **Southern Methodist University**

Dallas, Texas

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
Annually, 2004 – 2011

### **Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts**

Santa Maria, California

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
Annually, 2004 – 2011

### **University of Illinois**

Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
Annually, 2004 – 2011

### **University of South Carolina**

Columbia, South Carolina

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
Bi-annually, 2004 – 2011

### **Cornell College**

Mt. Vernon, Iowa

Presenter: Alternative Careers in Theater—Arts Administration and Management

2004

**University of Iowa**

Iowa City, Iowa

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
2004

**Cornish College of the Arts**

Seattle, Washington

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
Annually, 2005 – 2011

**University of North Carolina**

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
2005 and 2010

**University of Utah**

Salt Lake City, Utah

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
Annually, 2008 – 2011

**University of Tennessee**

Knoxville, Tennessee

Presenter: Transitioning to Professional Theater  
2009

**Evaluations / Adjudications / Responses**

**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Respondent: Professional Theater Q&A Roundtable  
2006

**University of Wisconsin-Parkside**

Kenosha, Wisconsin

Respondent: Professional Theatre Q&A Roundtable  
2005

**University of Wisconsin-Parkside**

Kenosha, Wisconsin

Respondent: Post-Performance Q&A  
2004

**University of Wisconsin**

Madison, Wisconsin

Respondent: Mock Auditions for Acting Students  
2003

**Invited Auditor for Student Auditions**

**Marquette University**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Annually, 2002 – 2011

**Southern Methodist University**  
Dallas, Texas  
Annually, 2003 – 2011

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
Nacogdoches, Texas  
Annually, 2003 – 2011

**University of Illinois**  
Urbana-Champaign, Illinois  
Annually, 2004 – 2011

**Cornish College of the Arts**  
Seattle, Washington  
Annually, 2004 – 2011

**Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts**  
Santa Maria, California  
Annually, 2004 – 2011

**University of South Carolina**  
Columbia, South Carolina  
Bi-annually, 2004 – 2011

**University of Wisconsin-Parkside**  
Kenosha, Wisconsin  
Annually, 2004 – 2007

**University of North Carolina**  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
2004, 2005, and 2010

**University of Wisconsin-Whitewater**  
Whitewater, Wisconsin  
2004 and 2005

**University of Iowa**  
Iowa City, Iowa  
2004

**University of Utah**  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Annually, 2008 – 2011

**University of Tennessee**  
Knoxville, Tennessee  
2009