

# Valerie Accetta

## Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION

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Virginia Commonwealth University	2013	MFA, Theatre Pedagogy
Otterbein University	2004	BA, Musical Theatre Pedagogy
University of Miami	1996-97	Musical Theatre Major

### ADMINISTRATION

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Head of Musical Theatre – Department of Theatre, University of Alabama at Birmingham,  
August 2013 – present

Provide leadership for all aspects of musical theatre in the Department of Theatre. I was hired to develop the new BFA Musical Theatre Program which launched in the fall of 2014. Responsibilities include designing and implementing the BFA curriculum, student recruitment, securing guest artists, interviewing adjunct instructors, student advising, directing productions and overseeing all musical theatre courses.

Head of Drama – Upper School, Campion School, Athens, GREECE, August 2007 - June 2011

Provide leadership for all production and drama-related activities for Grades 6-12. Responsibilities included designing curricula for middle and high school drama classes, overseeing all productions in the Upper School, student advising, oversight of additional drama teachers, organization of extra-curricular drama activities, securing guest artists and oversight of all student travel related to drama productions and workshops abroad.

## TEACHING

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Assistant Professor – Department of Theatre – University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Head of Musical Theatre: August 2013 - present

Courses Taught:

- THR 107 *Tap I*
- THR 205 *Beginning Performance Practicum*
- THR 258 *Musical Theatre I*
- THR 259 *Musical Theatre II*
- THR 261 *Musical Theatre Showcase I*
- THR 361 *Musical Theatre Showcase II*
- THR 461 *Musical Theatre Showcase III*
- THR 405 *Advanced Performance Practicum*
- THR 451 *Musical Theatre History and Script Analysis*
- HON 282 *What Makes a Musical: Memoirs, Muppets and More* (Honors College Seminar)

Guest Lectures (various topics related to musical theatre):

- Karla Koskinen – *Audition Technique* – “Musical Theatre Auditioning”
- Cliff Simon – *Scene Design II* – “Discussion of the musical, *Next to Normal*”

Adjunct Professor – Department of Theatre – Virginia Commonwealth University: January 2012  
– May 2013

Courses Taught:

- THEA 316 *Audition Technique*
- THEA 491 *Singing for the Actor*
- THEA 293 *Musical Theatre* – Class Accompanist and Vocal Coach
- THEA 414 *Senior Showcase* - Teaching Assistant

Guest Lectures (various topics related to theatre and movement):

- THEA 321 *Advanced Movement for the Actor II*, “Musical Theatre Movement”
- THEA 308 *History of the Theatre*, “Augusto Boal workshop”
- SPCH 321 *Speech for Business and Profession*, “Interview Techniques”

Guest Lecturer – St. Thomas University – Fredericton, NB, CANADA: Fall 2012

Guest Lectures:

- FNAR-2053 *Tonal Music: Harmony and Counterpoint I* – “Analyzing Rodgers and Hammerstein’s, ‘It Might As Well Be Spring’”
- ENGL-2213 *Drama Production I* – “Staging Musical Theatre duets”

Lecture (open to the public):

- “Jeanine Tesori, One of the Few: Female Composers in American Musical Theatre”

Head of Drama – Campion School – Athens, GREECE: 2006-2011

Courses Taught:

- IB (High school) Drama
- Drama – Year 6
- Drama – Year 7
- Drama – Year 8
- Music – Year 7

Additional Teaching Responsibilities:

- Private Voice Teacher
- Forensics Coach
- Choral Director

Private Voice Teacher – St. Catherine’s School – Athens, GREECE: 2006-2008

Drama Teacher – International School of Athens – Athens, GREECE: 2005-2006

Classes Taught:

- Drama – Grade 6-8

Irini Christou Dance Studio – Athens, GREECE: 2004-2005

- Musical Theatre Workshop – Classes in voice, musical theatre performance

Columbus Children’s Theatre – Columbus, Ohio: 2000-2004

- Intensive Musical Theatre Camp – Musical Theatre Song Study
- Park Street Players – Musical Director and Arranger

Private Voice Teacher – Thomas Worthington High School – Worthington, Ohio: 2001-2002

Ballet Met – Columbus, Ohio: 2000

- Summer Dance Camp – Acting and Improv Classes

## ACADEMIC DIRECTING/CHOREOGRAPHY

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### University of Alabama at Birmingham

<i>Hairspray</i>	2018	Co-director
<i>Working</i>	2017	Director
<i>Disney Cabaret Tour</i>	2017	Director/Choreographer
<i>A Little Night Music</i>	2017	Director
<i>Spring Awakening</i>	2016	Director
<i>Girls Rock Cabaret Tour</i>	2016	Director/Choreographer
<i>Avenue Q</i>	2015	Director
<i>Cinemagic Cabaret Tour</i>	2015	Director/Choreographer
<i>Urinetown</i>	2014	Director
<i>Disney Cabaret Tour</i>	2014	Director/Choreographer
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	2013	Choreographer

### Virginia Commonwealth University

<i>Avenue Q</i>	2012	Associate Director
<i>25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	2012	Assistant Choreographer
<i>Bar and Ger</i>	2011	Assistant Director

### Otterbein University

<i>You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown</i>	2005	Director
<i>Poof!</i>	2003	Director

### Campion School

<i>The Yellow Boat</i>	2011	Director
<i>Gypsy</i>	2010	Director/Choreographer
<i>The Hobbit</i>	2010	Director
<i>Godspell</i>	2009	Director/Choreographer
<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i>	2009	Director/Choreographer
<i>John Lennon and Me</i>	2008	Director
<i>Snoopy!!!</i>	2008	Director/Choreographer

### INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ATHENS

<i>Spoon River Anthology</i>	2006	Director
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## CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

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### PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING AND CHOREOGRAPHY

#### **Regional Theatre**

Weathervane Playhouse (Director)	<i>Pippin</i>	2018
Weathervane Playhouse (Director)	<i>South Pacific</i>	2017
Weathervane Playhouse (Director)	<i>Pajama Game</i>	2015
Weathervane Playhouse (Director)	<i>Oklahoma!</i>	2014
Virginia Repertory Theatre (Assistant Director to Patti D'Beck)	<i>The Producers</i>	2012
Riverside Dinner Theatre (Associate Director)	<i>Phantom</i>	2012
The Richmond Symphony (Assistant Choreographer to Patti D'Beck)	<i>The Soldier's Tale</i>	2012
Pioneer Theatre (LORT) (Assistant Choreographer to Patti D'Beck)	<i>Annie</i>	2011

#### **International Theatre**

Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Director/Choreographer; Edinburgh, SCOTLAND)	<i>Godspell</i>	2010
Dimarxiou Voulas (Director; Vouliagmeni, GREECE)	<i>Notes</i>	2007

#### **Children's Theatre**

Columbus Children's Theatre (Director)	<i>The Great Gilly Hopkins</i>	2003
Columbus Children's Theatre (Director)	<i>A Little House Christmas</i>	2001

### PRODUCING

University of Alabama at Birmingham	<i>Savage</i> (staged reading)	2018
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### REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST/VOCAL COACH

Arena Stage	<i>Mother Courage and Her Children</i> starring Kathleen Turner	2014
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## MUSICAL DIRECTION

Dane Peterson Series (Birmingham, AL)	<i>Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson</i>	2016
Henley Street Players (Richmond, VA)	<i>Julius Caesar</i>	2013
Virginia Commonwealth University	Pollack Society Event “Alumni All-star Gala”	2013 2012
US Embassy of Athens, GREECE	“Freedom Isn’t Free”	2006
Columbus Children’s Theatre	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> <i>Snoopy!!!</i>	2003 1995
Warehouse Theatre	“The Warehouse Cabaret”	2003

## PUBLICATIONS

*The Voice Teacher’s Cookbook* (2018) “Get the Best Ingredients: A Recipe for Recruiting”  
(Meredith Music, distributed by Hal Leonard Publishing)

*Studies in Musical Theatre* (2014) “Framing *The Bridges of Madison County*” (vol. 8 no. 2)

*Studies in Musical Theatre* (2014) “Muddy waters: the complexities of casting a musical about race” (vol. 7 no. 3)

## PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE

### **First National Tour**

*State Fair* Margy Frake Networks Tour

### **International**

*Pippin* Catherine Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland

*Acis and Galatea* Galatea Karolos Koun Theatre, Greece

*Trial by Jury* Angelina Karolos Koun Theatre, Greece

*Dido and Aeneas* Dido Karolos Koun Theatre, Greece

*The Magic of Musicals* Ingenue Chora Technon Theatre, Greece

**New York**

*Abie's Irish Rose* Rose Mary Jewish Repertory Theatre

*Suburban Dreams* Narrator, u/s Andrea with Daisy Eagan

*The Dialogue Btwn Men & Women* Dana Intar Theatre

**Regional**

*The Sound of Music* Maria Palace Theatre, OH

*Joseph...Dreamcoat* Narrator Palace Theatre, OH

*Once Upon a Mattress* Lady Larkin Fireside Dinner Theatre, WI

*Cinderella* Cinderella Galveston Island Musicals, TX

*You Can't Take it With You* Essie Weathervane Playhouse, OH

*Annie* Grace Weathervane Playhouse, OH

*Crazy for You* Irene Timber Lake Playhouse, IL

*Pump Boys and Dinettes* Prudie Cupp Timber Lake Playhouse, IL

*Damn Yankees* Gloria Thorpe Timber Lake Playhouse, IL

**Cabaret**

Short North Stage, OH "Impossible Possibilities" 2014

Dane Petersen Series, AL "Broadway Takes the Silvertron" 2014

Short North Stage, OH "The Best of Times" 2013

Short North Stage, OH "Our Favorite Things" 2012

Dublin Performing Arts Center, OH "Songs of Richard Rodgers" 2004

Columbus Children's Theatre, OH "A Summer Evening of Song" 2002

### **Staged Readings**

Hulsey Recital Hall, UAB                      *Natural Shocks*                      2018

### **Concerts**

Ft. Hayes Auditorium, OH                      “Voice of the City” (MC and guest soloist)                      2018

Liberty Church, OH                      “David Tolley Concert (guest soloist)                      2012-17

Secrest Auditorium, OH                      “David Tolley Concert” (guest soloist)                      2016

Columbus Children’s Theatre, OH                      “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala” (guest soloist)                      2013

Columbus Museum of Art, OH                      “Backstage Pass”                      2011 and 2010

Evangelical Church of Athens, Greece                      “The Messiah” (sop. soloist)                      2010

St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Greece                      “Mozart’s Missa in C” (sop. soloist)                      2009

South African Embassy, Greece                      “Glyndebourne in Athens” (sop. Soloist)                      2008

St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Greece                      “Works by Monteverdi” (sop. soloist)                      2008

Chalandri Performing Arts, Greece                      “Obama Inauguration Celebration”                      2008

Cholargos Cultural Center, Greece                      “Christmas Concert” (sop. soloist)                      2007

St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Greece                      “Works by Haydn” (sop. Soloist)                      2007

Campion School, Greece                      Annual Faculty Recital                      2006-2011

Chalandri Performing Arts, Greece                      “Freedom Isn’t Free”                      2005

### COMMERCIAL

Baptist Health                      Principal                      Stamp Ideas, LLC

### CASTING

Casting Associate for *Jolson* at the Jewish Repertory Theatre, NYC – 1999

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Estill International Voice Symposium (2017)

- Conference Panel – “Adventures in Shared Pedagogical Vocabularies in a BFA Actor Training Program”

Association of Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) (2017)

- Spectacles of the Sacred in Musical Theatre Panel – “How Sweet the Sound: The Privileging of Spectacle in *Amazing Grace*”

ATHE (2014)

- Session Coordinator and Conference Presentation – “The Dance Captain: A Dream Job or an Impossible One”

ATHE (2013)

- Bruce Kirle Memorial Emerging Scholars Panel– “Muddy Waters: Navigating Musical Theatre Historiography”

ATHE (2012)

- Panel Presentation – “The Theatre Artist as World Citizen: Exploring Study/Work Abroad Requirements for B.F.A. Programs”

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Actors Equity Association

Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (Associate Member)

Estill Voice Training System – certified Estill Master Trainer

Screen Actors Guild (Eligible)

Association for Theatre in Higher Education

National Association of Teachers of Singing

## PRESS COVERAGE

Fox 6 News (04/10/18)	“Hairspray at UAB” - <i>Good Day Alabama</i>
The Accepted Career Guide (08/2017)	“Career Arts Professionals”
Birmingham Parent (11/06/2017)	“Theatre UAB Presents the Musical ‘Working’”
Kaleidoscope (11/07/2017)	“Breaking Stereotypes: An Authentic Showing of Working Class”
Newark Advocate (06/28/2017)	“Weathervane taking audiences to 1940s South Pacific”
UAB News (06/13/2017)	“UAB arts faculty break out of the classroom this summer”
Broadway World Birmingham (04/13/2016)	“First Look at Theatre UAB’s ‘Spring Awakening’”
Kaleidoscope (03/31/15)	“‘Avenue Q’ Set for Success”
Fox 6 News (03/03/15)	“Avenue Q at UAB” - <i>Good Day Alabama</i>
UAB Magazine (Fall 2013)	“New Offerings in UAB’s College of Arts and Sciences”
UAB News (08/26/2013)	“Theatre UAB Welcomes New Head of Musical Theatre”
Columbus Dispatch (03/12/2013)	“Actors Play Out Ideas Written By Kids”
The Usher (12/21/2012)	“Meet the Talent from NYE at the Garden”

## WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

Columbus Children’s Choir (2018)

- 2-day Workshop Presentation – “Musical Theatre Intensive”

Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) (2018)

- Roundtable discussion moderator – “Professional Audition Roundtable – Thoughts from Behind the Table”

New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (2017)

- Workshop Presentation – “Musical Theatre Audition Masterclass”

SETC (2017)

- Workshop Presentation – “Preparing for College Musical Theatre Auditions”

Alabama Thespian Festival (2017)

- Workshop Presentation – “Preparing for College Musical Theatre Auditions”

ArtPlay (2016-18)

- Musical Theatre Intensive workshop - primary instructor

Clater-Kaye Studio (2016)

- Guest Artist – Musical Theatre Workshop

SETC (2016)

- Workshop Presentation – “Preparing for College Musical Theatre Auditions”

Haddin Forum, University of Alabama at Birmingham (2015)

- “Muddy Waters: The Complexities of Casting a Musical about Race”

SETC (2015)

- Workshop Presentation – “Preparing Students for College Auditions”

SETC (2014)

- Workshop Presentation – “Succeeding at College Musical Theatre Auditions”

Northeast Alabama Community College (2014)

- Masterclass – working with the company of *Les Miserables*

Arena Stage, *Mother Courage and Her Children* (2013)

- Workshop Accompanist and Vocalist – Director: Molly Smith

Pre-Broadway Workshop, *Amazing Grace* (2013)

- Workshop Accompanist and Vocalist – Director: Gabriel Barre

Goodspeed Opera House, *Amazing Grace* (2012)

- Workshop Accompanist and Vocalist – Director: Gabriel Barre

Capital University (2007 and 2001)

- Guest Artist – Audition technique master class

Otterbein University (2004)

- Guest Lecturer – Workshop discussing life on a National Tour.

Columbus Academy (1998)

- Guest Artist - Workshop discussing auditioning and living in New York.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

National Alliance for Musical Theatre, Writer's Residency Grant (*Savage*), 2018

Faculty Development Grant, UAB, 2017

Excellence in Directing Award (*A Little Night Music*), KCACTF Region IV, 2016

College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Humanities Grant, UAB, 2017

Excellence in Directing Award (*Spring Awakening*), KCACTF Region IV, 2016

Best University Production (*Spring Awakening*), Broadway World Birmingham Award, 2016

Excellence in Directing Award (*Avenue Q*), KCACTF Region IV, 2015

Best University Production (*Avenue Q*), Broadway World Birmingham Award, 2015

College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Humanities Grant, UAB, 2014

Mervyn H. Sterne Library Grant, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2014

KCACTF Region IV Faculty Directing Nomination (*Urinetown: The Musical*), 2014

Best Performance in a Musical (*The Music Man*), Critics Circle Award, 2004

Graduated Summa Cum Laude, Otterbein University, 2004

Presidential Scholarship, Otterbein University, 2002-04

NATS Competition, Miami, FL, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Musical Theatre, 1997

Travel Grant, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2012

Theatre Department Assistantship, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2012-13

## SERVICE

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### REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SERVICE

#### 2017-2018

- Chair, Musical Theatre Committee for Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC)

#### 2016-2017

- Vice Chair, Musical Theatre Committee for SETC
- Chair of College/University Division, Alabama Conference of Theatre
- Judged Scholarship Auditions at the Trumbauer Festival
- Judged College Night at the University of Montevallo

#### 2015-2016

- Vice Chair, Musical Theatre Committee for SETC
- Vice Chair of College/University Division, Alabama Conference of Theatre

#### 2014-2015

- Vetting Committee, Bruce Kirle Memorial Emerging Scholars Panel, ATHE

### SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

#### College of Arts and Sciences

- Curriculum and Educational Policies Committee, College of Arts and Sciences (2014-17)
- Search Committee, Executive Director for the Alys Stephens Center (2015-16)
- Search Committee, tenure-track Professor of Voice in the Department of Music (2018)
- Reader at commencement (2018)

#### Department of Theatre

- Head of Musical Theatre (2013-present)
- Advisor for BFA Musical Theatre majors (2013-present)
- Curriculum Committee (2013- present)
- Season Selection Committee (2013- present)
- Coached students for SETC auditions, Freshman Showcase, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (2013- present)
- Recruiting at Florida Theatre Conference, Southeastern Theatre Conference (2013-present)

- Faculty advisor for student individual studies (2013-present)
- Organized all musical theatre auditions on-campus and in Chicago (2013- present)
- Arranged Guest Artists: Michael Cassara, Louise Beard, Audrey Jones, Jon Caspian, Patti D'Beck, Eden Espinosa, Dominique Johnson, Joshua Holden, Nicolas Dromard, Annaleigh Ashford (2013-present)
- Taught workshops at local high schools (Florence High School, Chelsea High School, Hueytown High School, Corner High School, Huntsville High School, Shades Valley High School, Pelham High School – 2013-present)
- Accompanist for Freshman Showcase (2017)
- Chair of Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Musical Theatre Dance (2016-17)
- Arranged a group trip to the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, GA to see THE PROM (2016), BULL DURHAM (2014)
- NAST Reaccreditation Committee (2015-16)
- Teacher at CAPI (College Audition Preparatory Intensive, 2015)
- Spoke at UAB Scholars Day (2015)
- Judged Fight Song Competition for Homecoming Week (2015-16)