

# Josh Bernaski

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## ARTS ADMINISTRATION

### **Artistic Director / Tour Manager; The Connecting Routes Project, Chicago, IL; September 2019 - Present**

- Founder of a new touring arts collective that strives to unite American communities through shared storytelling.
- Building partnerships with communities in the tri-state Chicagoland area, connected by Metra regional rail lines, to organize free performances in non-traditional performance spaces (ex. libraries, museums, parks). Future plans include a tour on Amtrak's Southwest Chief (Illinois to California), expanded tour routes / programming.
- Organizes tour venues and travel plans; fundraising (crowdfunding, grants, sponsorships); stage manages productions; organizes and hosts Round Trip: Virtual Story Circles (monthly nationwide outreach program).

### **Assistant Stage Manager; Theatre at the Center, Munster IN; July 2017 - August 2017**

- Worked on production of *The Tin Woman*, as both an understudy and Assistant Stage Manager.
- Set-up and cleaned for rehearsals and performances, assisted in prop lists and staging notes, contact point backstage for all actors, and assisted the creative team throughout rehearsals and tech.

### **Box Office Manager; A Stoop on Orchard Street, Philadelphia, PA; August 2012 - December 2012**

- Coordinated and managed Will-Call ticket booth for the Nashville-based production of *A Stoop on Orchard Street*, which ran for five months at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Old City, Philadelphia.
- Processed walk-up through an online ticketing system; audience services; completed daily sales reports.

### **Associate Company Member / Theatre for Youth Administrative Assistant / Teaching Artist; Playhouse on the Square, Memphis, TN; September 2010 - July 2011**

- Performed in 5 main-stage productions, and toured an educational show.
- Researched and designed each production's classroom Study Guide; co-facilitated and co-directed the Teens in Theatre performance group and Summer Conservatory classes; facilitated in-school workshops.
- Organized volunteer event at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN. Arranged a free performance of our touring children's show at the hospital for patients.

### **Company Management Apprentice; Disney's *The Lion King* National Tour, Washington D.C.; June 2008**

- Shadowed "Gazelle" Company Manager, Alan Kosher, throughout opening week as tour transferred from Tampa, FL, to Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center for an extended engagement.
- Observed running operations of professional theater administration including: tour company move-in and office installation; coordinating travel logistics; payroll; communications with Disney Executives (Marketing and Technical) and *Lion King* staff (Director Julie Taymor, Stage Management, Dance Captain, Resident Director).

### **Artistic Intern; Arden Theatre Company, Philadelphia, PA; May 2008 - September 2008**

- Worked directly with Artistic Director, Terrence J. Nolen, and Artistic staff to cast the '08 - '09 season.
- Scheduled auditions with local actors and NYC agencies, audition monitor / reader (local & NYC), misc. admin.

### **Co-Founder / Managing Director; Insomniak Theatre Company, Nazareth, PA; April 2006 - March 2008**

- Leader of Lehigh Valley theatre company producing innovative and thought-provoking theatre for the region.
- Responsible for communications with artists, fundraising, public relations, advertising, misc. admin.
- Produced first-ever Greek Theatre Festival in local park. Refurbished an amphitheater for evening performances of *Oedipus Rex*, arranged parade from town center to venue, organized festival events.

## TEACHING ARTISTRY (Selected)

### **Mock Trial Witness (Actor), Kirkland & Ellis LLP / KITA, Chicago, IL; January 2018 – Present**

- Performed as witnesses in Kirkland & Ellis' nationally-renowned Kirkland Institute for Trial Advocacy (KITA) Mock Trial program. The largest, most comprehensive program among law firms, this two-day training provides associates with a hands-on opportunity to practice critical trial skills and receive real-time feedback.
- Responsible for studying witness testimonies to create realistic characters, to then perform / improvise live for a simulated mock trial, interacting with associates acting as lawyers for the fictional case.
- Met with associates beforehand for preparatory meetings; provided feedback upon request at trial.
- Have worked 2 yearly conferences, playing 5 different witnesses. Invited back due to excellent reviews.

### **Teaching Artist / Actor; Artspot Educational Theatre, Buenos Aires, Argentina; January 2013 – July 2019**

- Performed original musicals for English language learners in grades K-12 and universities; traveled to 14 countries throughout the Middle East, South America, Asia, and Central America; have performed in 5 tours.
- Welcomed and interacted with our student audiences, entertaining them and practicing conversation skills in English. In addition to the performance, we set-up and break-down our scenery and technical elements, loading and unloading our transportation vehicle at each venue.
- Facilitated workshops to hundreds of teachers and students throughout Taiwan and in Shanghai, China. Workshops illustrated how to integrate drama games into lessons to inspire creativity in the classroom.
- Expanded organizational travel planning skills, foreign language knowledge and group communication skills.

### **Teaching Artist; Emerald City Theatre, Chicago, IL; July 2018 – August 2019**

- Facilitated creative drama, musical theater summer camps and in-school workshops with students ages 3-13. Directed and choreographed the final show presentations; and led the children through all aspects of their day.
- Summer Camp sessions were themed around: *Moana*, *Frozen*, *Freaky Friday*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Grease*.
- Facilitated after-school theater programs, led post-show discussions and workshops with students.

### **Company Member / Teaching Artist; Roxy Regional Theatre, Clarksville, TN; January 2012 - Present**

- Designed and facilitated monthly theater classes at Fort Campbell, working with home-schooled students ages 5-17 living on the Army base. Classes focused on ensemble building, creating characters, elements of theater, stage directions and terminology.

## PERFORMANCE (Selected)

### TOURING THEATER

<i>Galileo (Argentina &amp; Uruguay)</i>	Cosmos Green	Artspot Educational Theatre / Lulu Bordalejo
<i>Freya (Colombia &amp; Mexico)</i>	Erik	Artspot Educational Theatre / Lulu Bordalejo
<i>The Tower (Middle East &amp; Asia)</i>	Giovanni	Artspot Educational Theatre / Lulu Bordalejo
<i>The Legend of Tex (South America)</i>	Alan	Artspot Educational Theatre / Lulu Bordalejo
<i>The Main Street Kids' Club (Tennessee)</i>	Toby	Playhouse on the Square / Jordan Nichols

### CHICAGO THEATER

<i>The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe</i>	Angelo / Policeman	First Folio / Skyler Schrempp
<i>Mr. Popper's Penguins</i>	Admiral Drake / Puppeteer	Lifeline Theatre / Paul S. Holmquist
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	u/s Jacob Marley / Bob Cratchit	Drury Lane / Paul Calcagno
<i>Richard III</i>	Lord Lovell / Ensemble / u/s	The Shakespeare Project / Peter Garino
<i>Helgi Comes Apart (Reading)</i>	Helgi	Akvavit Theatre / Tyler Skafgaard
<i>Hamlet</i>	Captain / Ensemble / u/s	The Shakespeare Project / J.R. Sullivan
<i>Reality Theatre</i>	Ensemble	Trap Door Theatre / Emily Lotspeich
<i>Watercolors (Workshops)</i>	Forest / Brick	Aaron Davidson / Dan Plehal
<i>The Tin Woman</i>	u/s Jack / ASM	Theatre at the Center / Linda Fortunato
<i>Charlotte's Web</i>	u/s Templeton / Gander (perf.)	Drury Lane / Scott Weinstein

## REGIONAL THEATER

<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	Slim	Maples Rep. (MO) / Brandon McShaffrey
<i>Go, Dog. Go!</i>	MC Dog	Nashville Children's Theatre (TN) / Peter Vann
<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	Seymour Krelbourn	Maples Rep. (MO) / Brandon McShaffrey
<i>She Loves Me</i>	Georg Nowack	Myers Dinner Theatre (IN) / Jeremy Littlejohn
<i>The Andrews Brothers</i>	Patrick Andrews	Temple Theatre (NC) / Peggy Taphorn
<i>Ragtime</i>	Henry Ford	Playhouse on the Square (TN) / Dave Landis
<i>A Year with Frog and Toad</i>	Toad	Roxy Regional Theatre (TN) / John McDonald
<i>Plaid Tidings</i>	u/s Smudge / Frankie	Walnut Street Theatre (PA) / Larry Raben
<i>Forever Plaid</i>	Sparky	Roxy Regional Theatre (TN) / Tom Thayer
<i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i>	Linus	Roxy Regional Theatre (TN) / Ryan Bowie
<i>Candide</i>	u/s Maximillian	Arden Theatre Co. (PA) / Terrence J. Nolen
<i>Peter Pan</i>	Nana / Pirate	Playhouse on the Square (TN) / Dave Landis
<i>My Fair Lady</i>	Jamie / Ensemble	Maples Rep. Theatre (MO) / Peter Reynolds
<i>From Up Here</i>	Kenny Barrett	The Circuit Playhouse (TN) / Irene Crist
<i>Into the Woods</i>	Wolf / Cinderella's Prince	Roxy Regional Theatre (TN) / Tom Thayer
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Demetrius	Roxy Regional Theatre (TN) / Ryan Bowie
<i>The Wedding Singer</i>	Robbie Hart	Roxy Regional Theatre (TN) / Tom Thayer
<i>Joseph...Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>	Napthali	New Candlelight Theatre (DE) / Sonny Leo
<i>Spring Awakening</i>	Georg	Roxy Regional Theatre (TN) / Tom Thayer
<i>Footloose</i>	Willard	Playhouse... Square (TN) / Shorey Walker

## UNIVERSITY THEATER

<i>Cabaret</i>	Clifford Bradshaw	Temple University / Brenna Geffers
<i>Hedda Gabler</i>	George Tesman	Temple University / Felipe Vergara
<i>The Darker Face of the Earth</i>	Louis LaFarge	Temple University / Charles Dumas
<i>The Devils</i>	Mannoury	Temple University / David O'Connor
<i>Our Lady of 121st Street</i>	Gail	Temple University / Doug Wager

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**Temple University, Philadelphia, PA**, B.A. Theater; Magna Cum Laude, Dean's List, 2005-2009

**Playhouse on the Square, Memphis, TN**, Associate Company Member, 2010-2011

**Theatre Unspeakable, Chicago, IL**; Ensemble 2018-2019; Physical Theatre Devising Class: Marc Frost, 2019

**Shakespeare**: Larry Yando, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; Susan Hart & Jeffrey Carlson, Chicago, IL, 2018-2020

**Puppetry**: Noah Ginex, Chicago, IL, 2015; Robert Smythe Philadelphia, PA, 2010

## HONORS AND AWARDS

**Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events Grant**, The Connecting Routes Project, Chicago, IL, 2019

**Ostrander Award Nomination**, "Footloose," Memphis, TN; 2011

**Irene Ryan Regional Finalist**, "Hedda Gabler," Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, 2009

**Eagle Scout Award**, Boy Scouts of America, September 2005

## ADDITIONAL ARTISTIC EXPERIENCES

**Photographer, jbernhoto**: DSLR portrait, landscape, travel photography (Instagram:@j.bern.photo), 2018-2021

**Overhire Tech Crew: Drury Lane Oakbrook**, Chicago, IL, 2019; **First Folio**, Chicago, IL, 2019

**Tour Guide, Absolutely Chicago Segway Tours**, Chicago, IL, 2014-2019

## SKILLS

Conversational Spanish, Microsoft / Google Office, Canva / social media marketing, adapts easily, well traveled, dependable time management, extensive customer service, physically fit (can lift 50 lbs), US License / Passport