## MELISSA PENKAVA KOZA

## Costume Shop Manager & Production Coordinator

Wichita State University School of Performing Arts 1845 Fairmount St. #153 | Wichita, KS 67260 | Office: Wilner 201

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## EDUCATION

## MFA - Master of Fine Arts in Theatre, **Technical Design and Production**

The University of Memphis

Memphis, TN

2014

Concentration in Costume Design and Technology

Secondary Concentration in Lighting Design and Technology

THESIS: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

Director: Paul Revaz

**Bowling Green State University** 

Bowling Green, OH

BM - Bachelor of Music, Vocal Performance Theatre Minor

Graduated Cum Laude

North Ridgeville High School

North Ridgeville, OH

High School Diploma Dual Enrollment at Lorain County Community College, Elyria, OH

## THEATRICAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

#### Costume Shop Manager and Production Coordinator

Wichita State University

2018–Present

• Supervises the build/creation of costumes for all department productions.

Academic Years

- Manages and coordinates incoming rentals for departmental productions.
- · Prepares, checks out, and receives returns of outgoing rentals; invoices rental fees appropriately.
- Trains student employees with sewing skills in the costume shop.
- Plans and leads the costume construction process.
- Ensures timely deadlines are met.
- Maintains clear organization of costume stock and supplies.
- Performs routine maintenance and troubleshooting of sewing machines.
- Trains and supervises wardrobe crew during production weeks.
- Provides sewing and measurement demonstrations in Faculty Costume Designer's Practicum courses
- Coordinates adherence to budgets; tracks all costume area expenditures.

#### Costume Designer and Shop Supervisor

Saginaw Valley State University

2015-2016

• Supervised and designed costumes for all department productions.

Academic Year

- Managed and coordinated rentals as necessary (incoming and outgoing).
- Taught sewing skills in the costume shop; planned and lead the costume construction process.
- Scheduled and recorded lab hours in the costume shop for approximately 175 "Intro to Theatre" students each semester. Each student was required to put in at least three hours of work per production.
- Ensured timely deadlines were met.
- Maintained clear organization of costume stock and supplies.
- Performed routine maintenance and troubleshooting of sewing machines.
- Coordinated adherence to budgets.

## **Costume Shop Supervisor**

Rhodes College

2014-2015

• Supervised and advised students on the costume build for each season production.

Academic Year

- Managed students' weekly work schedules and workloads and ensured timely deadlines were met.
- Introduced beginning and advanced sewing techniques.
- Supervised work-study students and student volunteers.
- Assisted students with time management and transitioning to campus life.

Graduate Assistant The University of Memphis 2011-2014

• Supervised student workers and maintained a high standard of workmanship.

Academic Years

- Served as cutter/draper and led a stitching team.
- Constructed costumes for three collegiate seasons.
- Helped students foster a sense of pride in their work

Stitcher <u>Opera Theatre of Saint Louis</u> 2013 Season

- Stitched on a draping team run by Claudia Rodriguez
- Constructed several bustle gowns for *The Pirates of Penzance*.
- Constructed many yards of harlequin diamond patchwork fabric for the character of "Beppe" in *Pagliacci*.
- Completed alterations on garments as assigned.

## Stitcher/Costume Shop Assistant

**Bowling Green State University** 

2007-2011

• Assisted shop manager with stock maintenance and all projects as assigned.

Academic Years

• Worked independently to build costumes without detailed instructions.

Costume Assistant <u>The Huron Playhouse</u> 2009 Season

- Completed alterations on pulled and rented garments
- Styled hair and applied makeup.
- Ran and led wardrobe crew backstage.
- Planned and executed quick changes.
- · Maintained sewing machines.

## NON-THEATRICAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

## Bookkeeper, Marketing & Office Manager

Omaha Tree Service, Inc.

Oct. 2016-

• Handled daily bookkeeping and invoicing in Quickbooks and maintained accurate financial records.

Aug. 2018

- Provided excellent customer service at the front desk and over the phone.
- Monitored Accounts Receivable and issues monthly statements.
- Assured timely fulfillment of financial obligations and Accounts Payable.
- Computed and filed sales tax and heavy highway use tax returns.
- Updated social media accounts and maintained company website using Wordpress and cPanel.
- Provided office technical support for computers, mobile phones, copier/printer, networking, and file-sharing.
- Designed company order forms and marketing materials.
- Planned company marketing campaigns, events, and parties.
- Answered telephones (multi-line system) and relayed messages.

Editor Wordsmith Pros
• Edited and proofread mystery shopping reports for grammar, spelling, accuracy, and consistency.

Aug. 2013–

Aug. 2018

- Adjusted to variable workload to ensure deadlines are met.
- Coordinated with team leaders editing reports for Apple Inc.

Editor <u>Intellishop, LLC</u>

May 2010– Oct. 2010

- Proofread reports submitted by mystery shoppers before being sent to clients.
- Edited reports for correct spelling, grammar, accuracy, and consistency.

## Administrative Assistant

Five Star Technologies

May 2008– Aug. 2008

- Assisted in the organization of materials for trade presentations
- Answered phones and relayed messages
- Entered and maintained customer records and contact information
- Maintained supply stock and placed orders for replenishment.
- Collected and distributed daily postal deliveries.
- Booked travel arrangements for senior company members.

#### **Apparel Department Team Member**

<u>Jo-Ann Etc.</u>

Oct. 2005– Aug. 2007

- Sold, cut, and organized fabric
- Assisted customer with their creative sewing and craft projects.
- Led introductory scrapbooking classes.
- Ran in-store demonstrations of the Cricut cutter and other new products
- Taught summer kids' sewing camps.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor Wichita State University 2019-2020

THEA 180B, Practicum: Costume (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

Academic Year

 The companion course to THEA 253 (Costuming for the Stage and Film). This course provides instruction on introductory hand- and machine-sewing techniques and lab/backstage work on wardrobe crews.

THEA 380B, Practicum: Costume (Fall 2019)

• This course provides instruction on introductory hand- and machine-sewing techniques and backstage work on wardrobe crews. Students also produced a more advanced project for a show (in this case, a petticoat).

THEA 510, Design Project (Fall 2019)

• Independent study with Katie Goetz as she designed costumes for <u>Love Me</u>, or <u>Leave Me</u>. I mentored her through the design process and helped her set deadlines and expectations.

THEA 375B, Directed Projects in Costume Design & Construction (Spring 2020)

Independent study with Katie Goetz as she designed costumes for [title of show]. I mentored her
through the design process and guided her each step of the way. Encouraged self-reflection and
assessment.

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- Mentored students in theatrical and academic areas.
- Served as Faculty Advisor for 12 students.
- Graded assignments and assessed student progress.
- Uploaded course content to online course framework software for student and administrative access.
- Designed and implemented appropriate coursework.

## **Adjunct Instructor**

## Saginaw Valley State University

2015-2016

Academic Year

THEA 290, Intro to Costume Construction

• A course designed to take beginner sewers through the basics of hand- and machine-sewing and their uses in theatrical costuming. Students produced a sampler of hand- and machine-sewing techniques, a drafted and constructed body block, a rehearsal skirt, a period vest, and a garment of their choice.

THEA 390, Costume and Makeup Design

A course introducing students to the initial script and character analysis required for costume and
makeup design, as well as beginning rendering techniques. Student produced a set of renderings for a
show of their choice and had to present their designs and defend their choices to the class. Several
students completed the course under independent study.

THEA 128A, Introduction to Theatre

THEA 128B, Theatre in Performance (Communication Intensive)

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- Mentored students in theatrical and academic areas.
- Graded assignments and assessed student progress.
- Uploaded course content to online course framework software for student and administrative access.
- Designed and implemented appropriate coursework.

## **Costume Shop Supervisor**

Rhodes College

2014-2015

Academic Year

- Introduced beginning and advanced sewing techniques.
- Encouraged students to explore basic patterning and draping.
- Assisted students with time management and the transition to college and campus life.

# **Instructor** THEA 1610, Introduction to Theatre

The University of Memphis

2013-2014

Academic Year

- Gave an abridged overview of theatre history from the Greeks until modern times.
- Emphasized the importance and functions of the different roles in a theatrical production.
- Encouraged critical thought through writing true emotional and honest responses to live theatre
  productions.
- Organized a group project which began with the development of a script and culminated in a fully performed and designed scene.

The University of Memphis **Teaching Assistant** 2012-2013 Academic Year

THEA 1610, Introduction to Theatre

• Taught two to three lectures per semester.

• Assisted with grading papers and exams.

• Instructors of Record: John Yorke (Fall 2012); Brian Fruits (Spring 2013)

#### **Costume Shop Assistant**

**Bowling Green State University** 

2007-2011 Academic Years

• Instructed Intro to Theatre students on basic hand sewing techniques.

Assisted colleagues with decision making and problem solving.

• Guided new coworkers in their onboarding processes.

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY – COSTUME TECHNOLOGY & CONSTRUCTION

Costume Shop Manager; Cutter/Draper/Dyer/Crafts Artisan WSU School of Performing Arts

 The Search, Seussical, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare: Abridged, Comedy of Errors, L'enfant et les sortileges, Gianni Schicchi, Love Me or Leave Me, The Moors, Anything Goes, Thrilled to Announce, Cosi fan Tutte, [title of show], She Moved the Prairie, The Monty Hall Problem, Voices in the Void, [title of show], Keepers of the Flame, Love's Labor's Lost, Dance Concerts, The Scarlet Letter

2018-Present Academic Years

2014-2015

January

2011

Academic Year

Cutter/Draper/Stitcher (Overhire)

• An American in Paris

Wardrobe Supervisor

Proving Up

Wardrobe Assistant Opera Outdoors

**Costume Coordinator** 

· Off-season consultation and warehouse organization

Wardrobe Assistant & Dresser La Bohème

Wardrobe Assistant

Opera Outdoors

Costumer

• The Game's Afoot, SAFE, Terra Nova, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow **Costume Shop Supervisor** 

• Thebes, The Good Woman of Setzuan

Cutter, Draper, and Stitcher

**Costume Assistant** • The Marriage of Figaro

Wardrobe Assistant & Dresser • Rigoletto

• The Pirates of Penzance, Il Tabarro, Pagliacci, Champion (World Premiere) and The Kiss **Costume Assistant** 

Stitcher

 Don Giovanni **Costume Assistant** • Summer and Smoke

**Costume Coordinator** 

• Pelléas et Mélissande

Stitcher & Costume Assistant

Stitcher & Costume Assistant

**Music Theatre Wichita** May/June

2019

Opera Omaha April 2018

Opera Omaha August 2017

Opera Omaha June 2017

Opera Omaha November 2016

Opera Omaha September 2016

2015-2016 Saginaw Valley State University Academic Year

**Rhodes College** 

2011-2014 U of M Dept of Theatre & Dance • Three complete collegiate theatre seasons, including *The Phantom of the Opera*, Rosencrantz & Academic Years

Guildenstern are Dead, Medea, The Government Inspector, Arabian Nights, The Threepenny Opera, and more. U of M School of Music

November 2014

Opera Memphis October

2013

Opera Theatre of Saint Louis Spring Season 2013

> U of M School of Music April 2013

U of M School of Music November

2012 **Bowling Green State University** 2007-2011

• Four complete collegiate theatre seasons, encompassing more than 25 plays, musicals, and operas. Academic Years

**Bowling Green State University** 

The Huron Playhouse 2009 Season

• The Secret Garden, Over the River and Through the Woods, Our Town, The 1940s Radio Hour, A Grand Night for Singing

CREATIVE ACTIVITY – COSTUME DESIGN		
Mirette (Musical Theatre)  • Director: Wayne Bryan	Music Theatre Wichita	June 2021
She Moved the Prairie (Dance)  • Director/Choreographer: Cheyla Clawson Chandler	WSU School of Performing Arts	September 2020
<ul><li>L'enfant et les sortileges (Opera)</li><li>Director: Alan Held</li></ul>	WSU Opera Program	April 2019
<ul><li>Zoofari (Event)</li><li>Artistic Director: Kimberly Faith Hickman</li></ul>	Omaha Community Playhouse	September 2017
The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged) (Theatre) • Director: Randall Stevens	The Blue Barn Theatre	November 2016
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow (Theatre) • Director: Ric Roberts	SVSU Dept of Theatre	April 2016
Terra Nova (Theatre) • Director: Dr. Steven Erickson	SVSU Dept of Theatre	February 2016
SAFE (Theatre) • Director: Dave Rzeszutek	SVSU Dept of Theatre	November 2015
The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays (Theatre) • Director: Dr. Steven Erickson	SVSU Dept of Theatre	September 2015
<ul><li>Inherit the Wind (Youth Theatre)</li><li>Director: Ryan Kathman</li></ul>	Germantown Community Theatre	June 2015
The Good Woman of Setzuan (Musical Theatre) • Director: Leslie Barker	Rhodes College	February 2015
Company (Musical Theatre) • Director: Teddy Eck	Germantown Community Theatre	October 2014
Lament (Dance) • Choreographer: Al Bonner	Collage dance Collective	September 2014
Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead (Theatre)	U of M Dept of Theatre & Dance	April 2014
Director: Paul Revaz		
There is no Rose (Dance)  • Choreographer: Kevin Thomas	Collage dance Collective	December 2013
The Pillowman (Theatre) • Director: Teddy Eck	U of M Dept of Theatre & Dance	October 2013
Frankly Speaking (Dance)  • Choreographer: Darrell Grand Moultrie	Collage dance Collective	September 2013
The Play About the Baby (Theatre) • Director: Michael Bolinski	The Evergreen Theatre	August 2013
Peter Pan (Youth Theatre) • Director: Julie Reinbold	Germantown Community Theatre	July 2013
<ul><li>And the World Goes 'Round (Musical Theatre)</li><li>Director: Randall Stevens</li></ul>	U of M Graduate Theatre	February 2013
The Threepenny Opera (Musical Theatre) • Director: Mark Allan Davis	U of M Dept of Theatre & Dance	November 2012
<ul><li>Sleeping Beauty: KIDS (Youth Theatre)</li><li>Director: Julie Reinbold</li></ul>	Germantown Community Theatre	April 2012
Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom (Theatre)  • Director: Randall Stevens	U of M Graduate Theatre	March 2012
Bunnicula (Theatre) • Director: Kari-Anne Innes	BGSU Department of Theatre & Film	April 2011

Pelléas et Mélissande – Costume Coordinator (Opera)	BGSU College of Musical Arts	January	
<ul> <li>Director: Sean Cooper</li> <li>Iolanthe (Opera)</li> <li>Director: Jesse Koza</li> </ul>	BGSU College of Musical Arts	2011 November 2010	
Disposition (Film)  • Director: Kyle Pettijean	BGSU Department of Theatre & Film	October 2010	
Sāvitri (Opera)  • Director: Sean Cooper	<b>BGSU College of Musical Arts</b>	April 2009	
Albert Herring – Costume Coordinator (Opera)  • Director: Eric Gibson	BGSU College of Musical Arts	November 2008	
CREATIVE ACTIVITY – MAKEUP, HAIR & WIGS			
Designer – The Midtown Opera Festival  • Glory Denied, Les Mamelles de Tirésias, Dido and Aeneas Wig & Makeup Assistant	<u>Opera Memphis</u> <u>Opera Memphis</u>	May 2015 October	
Don Giovanni		2014	
AWARDS & RECOGNITION			
Nominee, Best Costume Design • Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead at the University of Me	The Ostrander Theatre Awards emphis	August 2014	
Winner, Best Costume Design • Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead at the University of M	The Fred Mertz Awards emphis	May 2014	
PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
<ul> <li>"Make a Thing with a Box of Junk"</li> <li>Co-presenter with Ed Baker.</li> <li>Invited students to create a scene and tell a story using hearing the students.</li> </ul>	WSU School of Performing Arts  ousehold "junk" and craft supplies (such as	September 2021	
toilet paper, coffee filters)  COVID-19 Community Outreach Project	Wichita, KS	Spring/Summer	
<ul> <li>Trained my seven student employees remotely to make for Wichita during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>Donated masks to Wesley Hospital, KVC Children's Psys Residential Community, along with smaller batches to off.</li> <li>All told, made and distributed approximately 1,000 fabricarea.</li> </ul>	chiatric Hospital, and The Timbers ner local recipients.	2020	
"Stereotypes are perfect, and broken, and perfect for brown Presented a Pecha-Kucha at "Wichita Art Chatter"		October 2019	
<ul> <li>Explored why stereotypes in character are some of the earthrough costuming, but also how they are problematic.</li> <li>Encouraged attendees to imagine how assumptions can be communication or effecting social change.</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Costuming the Character</li> <li>Explored character traits that are expressed and inferred</li> <li>Invited students to explore the traits most obvious to the</li> <li>Led a hands-on experience which allowed the students to office and household supplies.</li> </ul>	m.	September 2019	
<ul> <li>Behind the Curtain – LA BOHÉME</li> <li>Presented costumes from La Bohéme to Girl Scouts troop</li> <li>Discussed how costumes and fashion can express a lot al</li> <li>Encouraged creative exploration and self-expression</li> </ul>		October 2016	

#### Regional Design Area Respondent **KCACTF Region 3 Festival** January • Responded to designs in the costume area. 2016 • Delivered responses to student designers. Addressed effectiveness of design choices, materials selection, and appropriateness of suggested techniques. Design Area Instructor, Matilda Summer Camp **Germantown Community Theatre** Tune • Led the design class portion of each day's lesson for ages 5-7 and 8-12. 2015 • Adapted basic design principals to age-appropriate children's lessons. • Collaborated with other instructors to create projects that would support the final camp presentation. She Did What?! Female Contributions to Theatre History Southeastern Theatre Conference March Co-presenter with Kitty Devany, Sarah Matzke, Mandy Heath, and Meredith Melville. 2014 Discussed well- and lesser-known female contributions to theatre history. • Explored women's apparent "need to do it all." • Investigated ways to address inequality in the way history is typically presented. Acknowledged the difficulties present in the lives of theatrical men and women who want children. **Character Through Costuming** TN State Thespian Conference January • Explored character traits that are expressed and inferred through simple costume elements. 2013 • Invited students to explore the traits most obvious to them. • Led a hands-on experience which allowed the students to create their own costumes using basic office and household supplies. UNIVERSITY SERVICE WSU College of Fine Arts Search Committee - Academic Advisor December/January · Committee Chair: Sanya Wiles 2021-22 **Faculty Orientation Fellow** WSU College of Fine Arts Summer • Met with incoming students virtually as part of New Student Orientation. 2020 Advising Assessment Committee – CFA Advising Center WSU College of Fine Arts Summer Assisted CFA Advising center with their internal, self-assessment process according to the Council 2020 for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education's guidelines. **KCACTF Region 5 Festival Trip** WSU School of Performing Arts January Spearheaded the KCACTF trip/experience from the Theatre Tech/Design standpoint. 2020 Mentored several student Designers and Stage Managers for their presentations in the Design Expo. • Packaged, Transported, and Presented costumes from <u>The Moors</u> for recognition as part of the Costume Parade (Student Design – Emily Evans). Search Committee – Assistant Professor of Theatre, WSU School of Performing Arts 2019-2020 Costume Design Academic Year • Committee Chair: Sabrina Vasquez • Provided Costume Industry input for a vital position to our School. **Faculty Orientation Fellow** WSU College of Fine Arts Summer • Met with incoming students as part of New Student Orientation. 2019 • Met with parents as part of a panel of Faculty Fellows from across the University.

Emergency Hire – Interim Assistant Professor of Theatre,
Costume Design

WSU School of Performing Arts
2019

- Reached out to industry contacts to locate a one-year emergency hire position, outside of an official search process.
- Interviewed three candidates via phone and gave feedback to Director of the School of Performing Arts.

## MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) Costume Professionals for Wage Equity (CPfWE) 2013 — Present 2020 — Present

Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC)

2014 – 2015

## SPECIAL SKILLS

- **Computers:** Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator; Digital rendering using a tablet and touch-screen software; Microsoft Office Suite; QuickBooks; Photo editing; Social media; Wordpress, cPanel, 85 WPM typing speed; Online Course Management Software (Canvas, BlackBoard, Banner, eCourseware, DegreeWorks).
- **Personnel Management and Teaching:** Time management; Budgeting; Expenses Tracking; Delegation; Project Management; Supply/Stock Organization; Lesson Planning; Grading; Hands-on instruction; Lecture-based instruction.
- **Theatre & Sewing:** Garment construction; Machine and hand stitching; Alterations; Work with home and industrial sergers, irons and sewing machines; Draping; Flat patterning; Fabric modification and dyework; Corset-making; Jewelry and craft work; Theatrical makeup; Costume rendering with wet and dry media; Knitting; Crocheting; Embroidery.
- **Additional Training Received:** Working with first-generation college students; QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide awareness/prevention; FERPA; Title IX; Sexual harassment/abuse; Designing effective course materials; Genie Aerial lift safety training.