

# Rachel Evans

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

[theatrerachel@gmail.com](mailto:theatrerachel@gmail.com)

## **MY OBJECTIVES**

- To give students the theatre education they need and deserve in order to realize their own human potential,
- To deepen my study of Mindfulness in Education and contemplative practices in higher education, and
- To participate actively in efforts for reform, research, and advocacy in theatre education through application of expertise, collaboration with stakeholders, and continued professional development

## **ACADEMIC PREPARATION**

**M.F.A. in Directing**, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh, 1998

**B.F.A. in Theatre/Performance**, Department of Drama and Dance, Hofstra University, 1989

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Assistant Professor of Theatre and Theatre Education Coordinator**, 2004 - present

Tenured with the Kean Theatre Conservatory and the School of Curriculum & Teaching, Kean University, Union, NJ

- Implemented new B.A. in Theatre with Theatre Certification, K – 12
- Collaborated with Union County for Performing Arts for dual credit freshman/senior year
- Served on Middle States Commission of Higher Education Steering Committee, 2009 – 2011
- Course development for Dance Minor
- General Education Committee, Chair, supervising compliance with NJ's 120cr. legislation
- University Planning Council, Member
- Theatre Education Assessment Coordinator
- Proficient in the requirements of the EdTPA
- Maintains teaching assignments in addition to Pre-Service Student-Teacher supervision:
  - *Methods of Teaching Secondary School Theatre*
  - *Topics in Theatre Education*
  - *Plays: On the Page & On the Stage*
  - *Creative Drama*
  - *Theatre for Young Audiences*
  - *Children's Theatre on Tour*
  - *Acting I*
  - *Theatre Criticism & Aesthetics*
  - *Transition to Kean/Freshman Seminar*

**Outside Item Writer (OIW)**, Educational Testing Service, 2018 – present

Item Writer and Item Reviewer for the Praxis Theatre Exam (5641) as member of the Praxis Theatre Standing Committee.

**Writing Chair (Theatre)**, National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS), 2010 – 2013

- Selected to represent Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) and American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE) in the development of the next generation of national standards in arts education
- reviewed research from The College Board and state arts education agencies
- contributed to the design of the standards' conceptual framework
- served on the Theatre Writers' selection committee

- o led 10 Theatre Writers through 2-year process of standards revision

**Performing Arts High School Theatre Instructor, 1999 - 2004**

Middlesex County Vocational & Technical High School, East Brunswick, NJ

- Inaugural instructor for performing arts high school for 5 years
- Curriculum development and program design in Theatre and Dance
- Co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities planned, executed, & supervised
- NJ Teacher Certification in Theatre, Speech/Drama and Vocational Arts/Dance

**Teaching Artist/Residencies, 2000 - 2008**

- Premiere Stages, Union, NJ
- Middlesex County Arts & Education Center, New Brunswick, NJ
- McCarter Theatre, Princeton, NJ
- New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark, NJ

**Additional Employment History**

Assoc. Director of Education/Outreach, 1997 –1999	George Street Playhouse, New Brunswick, NJ
Operations Manager, 1996 – 1997	Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, NJ
House Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, 1996	George Street Playhouse, NJ
Company Manager, 1995	Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, PA
Performance Coordinator, 1994	First Night Pittsburgh, PA
Theatre Events Coordinator, 1992 – 94	Department of Theatre Arts, U of Pittsburgh, PA

**INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS and PANEL PARTICIPATION**

*National Standards in the Arts: Whose Standards are They? Shared Paradigms and Priorities for Drama in Education*

**Panel at 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Drama/Theatre and Education Association (IDEA), Paris, France (2013)**

*Playwrights and the Role of the Audience: Taking Inventory in American TYA (2008 – 2010)* **Paper presentation at International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network (ITYARN), Malmö, Sweden, (2011)**

**NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS and PANEL PARTICIPATION**

*Health and Wellness II: Faculty*

**National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) Retreat for Administrators of Theatre Programs in Higher Education, Louisville, KY (2016)**

*Technology as a Teaching and Assessment Tool*

Conference on The Arts and Higher Education: Building Creative Partnerships and Assessing Program Impacts, **Baruch College** – Rubin Museum of Art Project (2014)

*Pecha Kucha and Pedagogy*

**NYC Arts Education Roundtable Kick-Off Event, American Airlines Theatre, NYC, NY (2013)**

*Empowerment from Abroad: **International Collaborations and Theatre for the Very Young***

Panel at American Alliance for Theatre and Education, Bethesda, MD (2013)

*Who is This Mr. Kucha and Why is He So Popular?*

**All Conference Event** at American Alliance for Theatre and Education, Bethesda, MD (2013)

*National Coalition for Core Arts Standards Update*

**All Conference Event** at American Alliance for Theatre and Education, Bethesda, MD (2013)

*The Future of Theatre for Young Audiences*

Panel at Forum on Professional Dutch Theatre for Young Audiences, **New Victory Theater** (2012)

**Theatre in Our Schools NYC:** Roundabout Theatre Company,

Presenter, *Applying 2011 Consumer Trends to Theatre Education Initiatives*, 2011

*Looking to the Future: National Expectations for Learning in the Arts*

Participant, **National Arts Education Task Force, State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education** (SEADAE), and **Council of Chief State School Officers** (CCSSO), Wash, DC, 2010

*Bird's Eye View of Theatre Education*

Panelist, **Framers of the Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in the Arts**, 2010

*Now is the Time: EdTA and Advocacy*

Co-presenter, **Educational Theatre Association Annual Conference**, New York, 2010

*Educational Outreach: Moving Theatre into the Community*

Panelist, **The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival**, University of the Arts, 2009

*SCASS Arts: State Collaborative on Assessing Student Standards*

New Jersey delegate/consultant for CCSSO:

- **The Perpich Center for Arts Education**, Minneapolis, 2008
- **State Collaborative on Assessing Student Standards**, Annapolis, 2008
- **Los Angeles Unified School District**, 2006 and 2007
- **Phoenix Unified School District** and **AZ Department of Education**, 2007 and 2008

*Calibrating Student Work (Theatre)*

Panelist at **The Stem: A National Conference on Arts Assessment in California**, Los Angeles, 2008.

*What Students Know and When They Know It: Assessment for the Theatre Arts Classroom*

Presenter, Educational Theatre Association **Professional Development Institute**, Chicago, 2008.

*Creating and Staying the Best: Pre-Professional and On-going Training of Theatre Educators*

Panelist, **Educational Theatre Association Conference**, Chicago, 2008

*Building a Cycle of Play Development: Faculty and Students Writing Original Plays for Young Audiences*

Co-Presenter, **American Alliance for Theatre & Education Conference**, Atlanta, 2008

*Contemporary Arts: Implications for Arts Education*

Panel Facilitator, **International Network of Schools for the Advancement of Arts Education**, Miami, 2006

*Audio Description for the Theatre: Sharing Performance with Patrons who are Blind & Visually Impaired*

Presented at **Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival**, Muhlenberg College, 2005

### **NATIONAL and NEW JERSEY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**Presenter**, Fall Conference, Speech & Theatre Association of NJ (2015)

*Folding Paper Airplanes Can Help You Become a More Active Actor*

*Mindfulness for the Theatre Educator*

**Consultant**, Review Team, Stuart Country Day School's Fine Arts Department, Princeton (2013)

Board of Directors, **Educational Theatre Association**, elected by national membership to support the \$5 million dollar not-for-profit professional organization of *4,000 theatre educators* and the parent organization of the International Thespian Society with *> 37,000 student members*

2008 – 2010: elected Board member

2010 – 2011: appointed Vice-President to finish an unexpired term left vacant by a resignation

Member of the **Arts Advocacy Day Twitter Team** (#TeamAAD11), Americans for the Arts, 2011

Member of the **#CreativeNJ Twitter Team**, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, 2011

EdTA Representative for the **Coalition for Theatre Education**, a unifying body for the American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE), Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), and Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), 2010.

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region II, 2005 – 2010

**Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship competition**: Assistant Coordinator (2005 – 2009) and Coordinator (2010)

Consultant, NJDOE to review **NJ Standards for Initial Teacher Preparation Programs** (Theatre), 2009

Consultant, NJDOE **NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards in Visual & Performing Arts**

Served on team to revised Theatre and VPA Standards to include 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, 2008 - 09

Grant Panel Reviewer, **United States Department of Education**, Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination, 2006 and 2005

NJDOE **Theatre Curriculum Consortium**: Participation for ten years in development of the NJ Theatre Exit Exam, (item development, item analysis, scoring, standard setting, etc.) a project of State Collaborative for Assessing Student Standards (SCASS) Arts, a national program of Council Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), 1999 – 2013

#### **Audio-Description of 25 Theatre Productions for Patrons with Visual Impairments**

Shakespeare Theatre of NJ

George Street Playhouse

Premiere Stages

The Theatre Project

Summit Playhouse

Kean University

#### **INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL WORKSHOPS, ADJUDICATIONS, & PRESENTATIONS**

##### **(alphabetical)**

American Alliance for Theatre and Education Conferences

Arkansas Thespian Festival

Colorado Thespian Festival

Educational Theatre Association Conferences

Georgia State Thespian Festival

International Theatre for Young Audiences Network

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

Maryland Thespian Festival

New Jersey Thespian Festival

New Jersey Department of Education

NJ Performing Arts Center

Northeast Thespian Festival  
New York Thespian Festival  
Rutgers University  
TYA/USA  
Utah Theatre Association Festival

**GRANTS, HONORS, and AWARDS**

Recipient, **2019 Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Service as Faculty**, Kean University, June 2019

Participant, **2016 Summer Session of the Association for the Contemplative Mind in Higher Education**, Smith College, August 2016

Residential Scholarship Award, **2015 Contemplative Practice in Higher Education**, Omega Institute for Holistic Studies, September 2015

Award, **Distinguished Service to Theatre Education, NJ Governor's Awards** in Arts Education, 2012

**Keynote Speaker**, Colorado Thespian Festival: *Trendwatching for Theatre Ed Consumers in 2011*, 2010

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region II, **Teaching Artist Recognition in Performance Studies**. January 2009.

**Ann Shaw Fellowship**, TYA/USA: A professional development grant to support attendance at ASSITEJ World Congress in Adelaide, Australia, 2008.

Designation as **Artist-in-Education** from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, 2006 – 09

**Surdna Foundation Arts Teachers Fellowship**, research at Stratford Festival of Canada, 2003

**Geraldine R. Dodge Fellow**, one of 25 outstanding NJ Alternate Route Teachers, 2000

Kean University **Untenured Faculty Research Initiative** grant for 6 credits of release time:  
*Towards Effective Theatre Assessment: Using NJ's Exit Exam to Create a National Model*

Kean University **Students Partnering with Faculty** grants:

SpF19: *Making One Play out of Ten for Kean's Theatre Conservatory:*

*Using August Wilson's Century Cycle to Build Empathy in High School Audiences*

SpF17: *"Scaling up" the Very Young Audience: Bringing Theatre and Mindfulness to Pre-School Children*

SpF16: *Theatre & Mindfulness for Preschoolers: Using Performance as Action Research for Interactive Contemplative Practices Onstage*

SpF13: *Creating Theatre for the Very Young (TVY): Taking Children Ages 2 – 5 on an "Emotional Journey of Delight"*

SpF07: *Building a Cycle of Play Development: Writing, Producing, and Publishing Original Plays for*

SpF06: *Young Audiences and Creating Children's Theatre: Writing an Original Play for Young Audiences*

Kean University **Quality First Initiative** grants:

*Building Student Retention in Theatre/Dance and Kean Players on Tour*

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Performance reviews published in issues of *Theatre Journal* as dated

<i>Company</i>	Gielgud Theatre, London, December 2019
<i>Saint Joan and Hamlet</i>	McCarter Theatre Center, April 2018
<i>Measure for Measure</i>	New Victory Theatre, December 2014
<i>Little House on the Prairie, the Musical</i>	Paper Mill Playhouse, May 2010
<i>Edward II</i>	The Shakespeare Theatre, October 2008
<i>Rabbit Hole</i>	Manhattan Theatre Club, March 2007
<i>Pericles</i>	The Shakespeare Theatre, October 2005

Evans, Rachel. *Radio Golf* (Performance Review of Two River Theatre Company, Red Bank, NJ), *August Wilson Journal*, pending Spring 2020

Evans, Rachel. *ASSITEJ Meets Down Under*, *TYA Today*, vol. 22, num 2, 2008: 22 – 25.

Evans, Rachel. *Describing the Details: Bringing Audio Description to Theatre Patrons with Visual Impairments*, *Stage of the Art* 18, no. 1 (Winter 2006): 10 – 12, 22.

Evans, Rachel. *Using Paper Airplanes to Experiment with Objectives and Tactics*. Chicago: Mid-America Theatre Conference Pedagogy Strand, 2006. CD-ROM.

EXAM ITEMS for SCASS-Arts: Although a non-traditional form of publication, the SCASS-Arts (State Collaborative on Assessing Student Standards) on-line item pool now holds more than 100 theatre assessment items (both selected and constructed response items) that I authored. Each item undergoes a blind, three-tiered review process before being accepted into the pool for use by SCASS-Arts' state members. NJ Department of Education used the pool and my items for versions of the Theatre Exit Exam administered since 2008. Students graduating from vocationally certified performing arts programs take this Exam as a graduation requirement.

## **ONLINE PUBLICATIONS**

Guest blogger for Americans for the Arts, 2010 - 2011: <http://blog.artusa.org/author/rachel-evans>

- *True Confessions Lead to New Resolutions: Technology and Pedagogy in Arts Education*
- *An Open Letter to Pre-Service Arts Educators*
- *Rachel's Top 10 Questions to Consider for Arts Education in 2025*
- *Students Will Be Able To... Advocate!*

Guest blogger for The Inspired Classroom, September 21, 2010: <http://www.theinspiredclassroom.com/>  
*No Free Rides: Assessment in Arts Integration*

Founder/Moderator for TweetChats on Twitter using #tweatre in observance of 2010 Arts in Education Week, September 2010

- *Theatre Citizenship: Teaching Students the Value of Advocacy*
- *"They Didn't Tell Me This!" Theatre Education Lessons Learned the Hard Way*
- *Arts in Education Happy Hour: Dreams for Theatre Education*

## **DIRECTING**

The Growing Stage, New Play-Reading Festival 2019, Netcong, NJ  
*Back Cover* by Emily Hageman

Kean University: Faculty Director for Kean Players on Tour and Children's Theatre on Tour  
*The Comedy of (Jersey) Errors*  
*Kindness* (mentor to student director)

*Ring-a-Ding-Ding*, a play for the Very Young  
*A Hairy Situation* (mentor to student directors)  
*And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank*  
*Still Life with Iris*

2014 NJ Playwright's Contest, William Paterson University, Paterson, NJ  
*Parallel Lives* by Adam Siegel

William Paterson University of New Jersey: Guest Director, 2004 - 2009  
*The Graceland Crusade*  
*Stop Kiss*  
*The American Plan*  
*Life, Death and Vermont*

Middlesex County Vocational & Technical High School, School of Performing Arts, 1999 - 2004

<i>Hamlet</i>	<i>Blithe Spirit</i>
<i>Twelve Angry Jurors</i>	<i>The Man Who Came to Dinner</i>
<i>All's Well that Ends Well</i>	<i>Riding the Rails</i>
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	<i>Blue Cubes</i>
<i>Antigone</i>	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
<i>King Lear</i>	

George Street Playhouse Education Department, 1998 – 1999  
 Classic Scenes from Plays and Novels: *Of Mice and Men* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*  
 Summer Theatre Program: *The Tempest*, *Theseus and the Minotaur*, *The Case of the Missing Necklace*

University of Pittsburgh  
*Execution of Justice* (Guest Director, 1995)  
*I am a Camera* (MFA Thesis, 1994)  
*Burn This*  
*Orchards*  
*Speed-the-Plow*

**PERFORMANCE (Representative Roles)**

<i>Last Night</i>	Amel	NJ Playwright's Contest
<i>Orville Station</i>	Janine	NJ Playwright's Contest
<i>Rigoletto</i>	Narrator	Kean Concert Artist Series
<i>Encore: A Kean Theatre Retrospective</i>	Presenter	Kean University Department of Theatre
<i>The Soldier Dreams</i>	Judy	Pride Theatre of NJ
<i>The Robber Bridegroom</i>	Marjorie/Chorus	Music Theatre North
<i>Horse of a Different Color</i>	Tweenie	Three Rivers Shakespeare festival
<i>Lion in Winter</i>	Alais	New Theatre at St. Francis College
<i>A Man for all Seasons</i>	Margaret	New Theatre at St. Francis College
<i>Death on the Nile</i>	Jackie	Cresson Lake Playhouse
<i>Joseph...Dreamcoat</i>	Mrs. Potiphar	Cresson Lake Playhouse
<i>The Curious Savage</i>	Fairy May	Cresson Lake Playhouse
<i>What the Butler Saw</i>	Geraldine	University of Pittsburgh
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Maria	Hofstra University
<i>The Great God Brown</i>	Margaret	Hofstra University
<i>No Exit</i>	Estelle	Hofstra University
<i>Company</i>	Cathy	Hofstra University

## **COSTUME DESIGN**

Costume Design for John Evans and Dancers, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University

<i>Here</i>	<i>ZenDala 19.20...</i>
<i>Zen Tangled</i>	<i>Twenty-nine Palms</i>
<i>Phases: Waxing and Phases: Waning</i>	<i>Hendrix</i>
<i>"50," a dance film</i>	<i>How Close is Next to Me</i>
<i>When You're Not Looking</i>	<i>Generous Undercurrent</i>
<i>Divisible</i>	<i>I Awoke Gasping</i>
<i>Red Hair is Better</i>	<i>Far as the Eye Can See</i>
<i>Latitude 161, Longitude 0</i>	<i>Farming in Sixes</i>
<i>and the sea shall give up its dead</i>	<i>HITCAT</i>
<i>Falling Lengthwise</i>	<i>I'm Getting My Second Wind</i>

With performances at the following venues:

New Brunswick Performing Arts Center, New Brunswick, NJ  
Victoria J. Mastrobuono Theatre, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
Loree Dance Theatre, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark, NJ  
Two River Theater Company, Red Bank, NJ  
Luciano Theatre, Cumberland County College, Vineland, NJ  
Nash Theatre, Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg, NJ

Costume Design and Consultation for additional choreographers:

Kyle Abraham	Pam Tanowitz	Ani Javian
Laura Peterson	Blair Ritchie	Keith A. Thompson
Aaron Ramos	Paul Ocampo	Christian von Howard
Jeff Friedman	Julia Ritter	Jessica C. Featherson

## **STAGE MANAGEMENT**

Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival, Pittsburgh, PA

**AEA:** *Taming of the Shrew, Merchant of Venice, Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, Steel/City, Comedy of Errors*

**ASM:** *The Tempest, Richard II, As You Like It, Othello*

Gargaro Productions, Pittsburgh, PA  
Theatre at Harwood Acres, Pittsburgh, PA  
University of Pittsburgh, PA  
Music Theatre North, Potsdam, NY  
American Stage Festival, Milford, NH

**AEA:** *A Chorus Line*

**AEA:** *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

**PSM:** *A Month in the Country, Happy End, The Oresteia*

**ASM and Props Assistant**

**SM internship, including out of town try-out for *Starmites***

## **PLAYWRITING**

*Day by Day: A Wilsonian Legacy* with Lucien Edme, Leanne M. Laurino, and David Rivera, Jr.

*Artie Pfeiffer and the Great Garden State*

Selection for the **Playwright's Slam at The Kennedy Center's New Visions/New Voices, 2008**

*Riding the Rails: Teenagers on the Move during the Great Depression*

*Nine Muses in One: The Life of Isadora Duncan*

*Think About It: Don't Drink and Drive*

*On the Piazza: Life with the Roosevelts on Sagamore Hill*



In association with **Manhattan Theatre Club's TheatreLink** distance-learning program to create collaborative new works over the Internet with theatre classrooms across the country:

*Down to a "T"*  
*Culture Shock*  
*Midnight Chimes*

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Member, The New Play-Reading Festival Selection Committee, The Growing Stage, 2018 – 19 and 2019 – 20, Netcong, NJ

Board of Directors, **Educational Theatre Association**, elected by national membership to support the \$5 million dollar not-for-profit professional organization of *4,000 theatre educators* and the parent organization of the International Thespian Society with *> 37,000 student members*.

2008 – 2010: elected Board member

2010 – 2011: **appointed Vice-President** to finish an unexpired term left vacant by a resignation

EdTA Representative for the **Coalition for Theatre Education**, a unifying body for the American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE), Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), and Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), 2010 – present

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region II, 2005 – 2010

**Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship competition:** Assistant Coordinator (2005 – 2009) and Region II Coordinator (2010)

Consultant, NJDOE Committee to review **NJ Standards for Initial Teacher Preparation Programs** (Theatre), 2009

Consultant, NJDOE **NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards in Visual & Performing Arts**  
Served on team to revised Theatre and VPA Standards to include 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, 2008 - 09

Co-Chair, NJDOE **Theatre Curriculum Consortium:** Participation for ten years in development of the NJ Theatre Exit Exam, (item development, item analysis, scoring, standard setting, etc.) a project of State Collaborative for Assessing Student Standards(SCASS –Arts), a national program of Council Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), 1999 - 2010

Grant Panel Reviewer, **United States Department of Education**, Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination, 2006 and 2005

### **Audio-Description for Patrons with Visual Impairments:**

Shakespeare Theatre of NJ

*The Rivals*  
*Macbeth*

*Illyria*  
*The Glass Menagerie*

George Street Playhouse

*Two Lives*  
*Last Five Years*  
*Address Unknown*  
*Lend Me a Tenor*  
*The Winning Streak*  
*Celadine*

*To Kill a Mockingbird*  
*Voices in the Dark*  
*After-Play*  
*Down the Garden Path*  
*Syncopation*

Premiere Stages

*Boy Gets Girl*

*Owed to My First Love*

Summit Playhouse

*The Miracle Worker*

The Theatre Project at Union County College

*Top Girls*

Kean University

*The Trojan Women*

*Ragtime*

*Two Rooms*

*Sideman*

*Hamlet*

*Servant of Two Masters*

**ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

Mindful Schools: *Mindfulness Fundamentals* (2013)

Mindful Schools: *Curriculum Training* (2014)

Mindful Schools: *Mindful Communication* (2016)

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

Association for the Contemplative Mind in Higher Education

Mindfulness in Education Network

Americans for the Arts

Educational Theatre Association (former VP/President-Elect, Board of Directors)

Theatre for Young Audiences/USA

American Alliance for Theatre & Education

Association for Theatre in Higher Education

ArtPride NJ

Speech and Theatre Association of NJ

The August Wilson Society