# Tommy lafrate

• Curriculum Vitae •

3 Murray Street, Binghamton, New York 13905 401-523-1010 • tjiafrate@gmail.com

## **EDUCATION**

M.F.A. Directing	Western Illinois University	2012
B.A. Theatre & B.A. Physics	Rhode Island College	2005

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

Binghamton University	Spring 2022
Director of invited production	2020
Binghamton University	Fall 2018
Best Direction in Musicals in Professional	2016
Theaters, Infinity Theatre Company's	
SDC Directing Award	2012
Directing Fellow	2012
H.O.P.E. (Honoring our Professors' Excellence) teaching award	2012
Kaleidoscope Theatre's	2009
Departmental award for excellence in physics	2005
	Director of invited production  Binghamton University Best Direction in Musicals in Professional Theaters, Infinity Theatre Company's  SDC Directing Award Directing Fellow H.O.P.E. (Honoring our Professors' Excellence) teaching award Kaleidoscope Theatre's

### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### Academic

Binghamton University, Theatre Department, Binghamton, NY

Director of Musical Theatre & Associate Prof. of Theatre, tenured 2021-present Director of Musical Theatre & Asst. Prof. of Theatre, full-time/tenure-track 2015-2021

Beijing Dance Academy, Department of Musical Theatre, Beijing, China

#### Tommy lafrate • Curriculum Vitae • Page 2 of 10

### **TEACHING**

#### Courses Taught

Binghamton University Theatre 207: Actor Training I - Basic Processes

2016-2021 Theatre 208: Acting I 2019-2020 Theatre 223: Dance Technique I: Tap 2020 Theatre 289(G): Multiculturalism in the American Musical 2021 Theatre 219/289(O): Broadway for Beginners 2016-2022 Theatre 308: Intermediate Acting - Scene Study I 2016 Theatre 389(O): Techniques of Musical Theatre 2015-2021 Theatre 497: Independent Study - Musical Theatre Accompaniment/Vocal Coaching 2016 Theatre 497: Independent Study - Musical Theatre History & Performance 2020 Theatre 489(O): Advanced Techniques of Musical Theatre 2017-2018 Theatre 597: Independent Study - Techniques of Musical Theatre (graduate level) 2016 Theatre 597: Independent Study - Adv. Techniques of Musical Theatre (grad. level) 2017

Beijing Dance Academy Third year students,

#### Tommy lafrate • Curriculum Vitae • Page 3 of 10

Mike Meaney, M.A. candidate, asst. dir.	2017
Chelsea French, M.A. candidate, directing	2016
Aaron Penzel, Summer Schol. & Artists Pgm., Musical Theatre Performance in China	2016
Matthew Pedersen, Summer Schol. & Artists Pgm., Musical Theatre Perf. in China	2016

#### Academic (secondary)

The MET High School, Providence, RI: Cameron Marcotte, theatre administration, publicity, and directing at Kaleidoscope Theatre. Two days/week for eight mos.

Clinton Showboat, Clinton, IA: ran intern program, educating 18 high school students 2010 about the mechanics and practice of professional theatre.

### **CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP**

Direction: Professional

Tri-Cities Opera, Binghamton, NY , 2018-2020

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# Tommy lafrate • Curriculum Vitae • Page 4 of 10

Direction: Academic Binghamton Univ. Theatre Dept.	,			2015-2022
	KCACTF Reg. II),		invited production,	
	,			
Binghamton Univ. Music Dept. (opera)		,	,	2018-2020
Austin Peay State Univ. Theatre Dept.				2022
Carthage College, China tour				2016
Radford Univ. Theatre Dept.			,	2012-2015
Western Illinois Univ. Theatre Dept.	,	,	,	2009-2012
KCACTF Reg. III, directing program	attended 2012 na Directing Fellow)		egional winner, val as SDC	2012
Music Direction				
Kennedy Center, Washington, DC	KCACTF Musical Anniversary Conc due to COVID-19)	ert (2020 f		2019-2022
Festival 56, Princeton, IL				9 4

# Tommy lafrate • Curriculum Vitae • Page 8 of 10

Youth Employment in the Arts  To fund summer internships for four local high school students To fund summer internships for four local high school students To fund summer internships for four local high school students	\$4,500 \$6,000 \$6,000	2022 2019 2019
Walmart To fund children's programming, including To fund free production of To fund free production of	\$1,000 \$1,000 \$2,500	2022 2019 2018
Arts Midwest To fund special event featuring The Michigan Momsemble	\$2,500	2022
Princeton, Illinois Chamber of Commerce To fund general operations for theatre	\$1,750	2022
Community Foundation of Central Illinois To fund free production of To fund children's programming, including	\$5,000 \$5,000	2022 2021
Omni Arts  To fund theatre camp and lighting equipment for free production of	\$1,000	2018
Grants received through Kaleidoscope Theatre The Paul's Foundation To record the production for classroom use to address bullying in secondary schools	\$3,000	2007
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts  To fund new backdrop for and  To fund orchestral accompaniment tracks for  To fund new costumes for 2003 summer season	\$2,000 \$1,500 \$2,500	2007 2006 2003

#### Tommy lafrate • Curriculum Vitae • Page 9 of 10

- Responsibilities: maintaining the artistic integrity of Showboat productions, workshops, and camp; casting/hiring and managing employees; season selection; publicity/promotional appearances; overseeing the education of interns (local teenagers).
- Under tenure as Producing Artistic Director, company reversed financial trends and in 2013 enjoyed its most financially successful year in over a decade.

#### Artistic Director, Kaleidoscope Theatre, Cranston, RI

Artistic Director, 2005-2008; Assistant Artistic Director, 2003-2005; Office Manager 2000-2003

- Non-profit semi-professional touring company specializing in theatre for young audiences.
- Range of performers included local professionals, actors with developmental disabilities, college theatre majors, children from toddlers through high school, and, in one special case, a sheep.
- The canon: 20+ fairytale musicals, four murder mysteries, and five educational productions, all of which tour to venues throughout the Northeast.
- Company awarded "Rhode Island's Best Children's Theatre," Rhode Island Monthly, 2005.
- Responsibilities: enhancing artistic integrity of all productions; managing 100+ full- and part-time employees; handling administrative concerns and technological outreach (website, blogs).

#### Music Assistant, Goodspeed Musicals, East Haddam, CT

Music Assistant, 2006

- Goodspeed has been awarded two special Tony Awards for contributions to musical theatre. Their music department consisted of two full-time employees: resident musical director Michael O'Flaherty, and an assistant who works on all productions.
- Responsibilities included: serving as liaison between on- and off-site music department members; helping ensure musical excellence per music directors' instruction; programming keyboards.
- Worked with such industry professionals as Stephen Schwartz, Richard Maltby, Jr., Marsha Norman, Gary Griffin, Gordon Greenberg, Nell Benjamin, Warren Carlyle, Steven Oremus, et al.

### **SERVICE**

Professional	Organizations	Q. Artc.	Administration.
Professional	Organizations	& AILS	Administration

Musical Theatre Educators' Alliance, Regional Director of Mid-Atlantic Region	2020-present
Conference selection Committee	2022
Literature & Policies Committee	2021-present
Kennedy Center Amer. Coll. Theatre Festival, Reg. II, Mus. Theatre Intensive, Coord.	2017-present
Festival 56, Princeton, IL, Producing Artistic Director	2018-2022
Clinton Area Showboat Theatre, Clinton, IA, Producing Artistic Director	2010-2014
Kaleidoscope Theatre, Cranston, RI, Artistic Director	2000-2008
Goodspeed Musicals, East Haddam, CT, Music Assistant	2006

Academic Service: Binghamton University

University Service

Coordinated video performances for Harpur's 70th Anniversary 2020

## Tommy lafrate • Curriculum Vitae • Page 10 of 10

2015-present
2015-present
2015-present
2015-present
2020-2021
2020
2020
2019-2020
2016, 2019
2017-2018
2017-2018
2017
2015-2017
2015-2016