

ERNEST F. BRIGGS IV

(612) 481-9053

ernest.briggs@gmail.com

Member of AEA

SAG AFTRA Member

Website: www.ernestbriggs.com

EDUCATION:

Masters of Fine Arts – Acting
University of Florida
May 2017

Bachelors of Arts
University of St. Thomas
Majors: Secondary Education/Social Studies & History
May 2007

Associates of Arts
The American Academy of Dramatic Arts
May 2012

FELLOWSHIPS:

2019 Park Square Directing Fellow

2020 Guthrie Theater Theater Management Fellow

2022 Warner Brothers Discovery Access Early Career Bootcamp Fellow

WORK EXPERIENCE

Visiting Assistant Professor

Gustavus Adolphus College

August 2025-Present

As an Acting Professor I taught courses in World Theater Analysis, performance level 1 and 2, improvisation, and directing. Also directed a devised theater production for Performance Level 2 class and directed the production of *The Secret in the Wings*. I incorporate my belief of open, honest and genuine communication to help everyone in the class or production feel comfortable and welcome no matter their background. I bring this belief into performances and working with actors in scenes and teaching acting methods.

Independent Contractor

October 2018 – Present

Most recently worked as an actor with Pangea World Theater, completed the world premiere of Larissa Fasthorse and Ty Defoe's *FOR THE PEOPLE* at the Guthrie Theater, recently was a director/producer/writer for *Mixed Blood's* 12x12 Community Project and I am the current Artistic Director for Turtle Theater Collective. I have been working as an acting teacher with the Guthrie Theater in the Community Engagement programs, as a director for the fall/winter production at Minneapolis Roosevelt High School and as a Director Mentor for the Roosevelt Theater program. Previously have worked in the areas of actor, director, acting coach, acting/directing teacher and teaching artist.

Visiting Assistant Professor

September 2021 - May 2022

Gustavus Adolphus College

Taught courses on Social Justice Theater, Improv and Activism and a Performance Intensive which also led to directing a mainstage production. Class discussions were regarding different types of social justice theater, discussed different examples of social justice theater from the world stage and how to use improv to help develop social justice theater. Secondly, taught a J-Term Performance Intensive course that resulted in the staged production of *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. The course explored the issues and concepts of love, betrayal, guilt, redemption, free will, fate and our own human ideal of forgiveness found within the play. In the

Spring, I taught an improv and activism course that taught the students how to use improv rules and fundamentals to create scenes for activism.

Associate Artistic Director
Steppingstone Theatre

September 2017 – October 2018

At SteppingStone I handled public relations for the Main Stage shows including cultivating relationships with local news outlets and digital content creators, securing interviews with local news outlets; drafting press releases and providing materials for marketing purposes. Collaborated with staff to design and execute marketing strategies including digital, print, social media, earned and paid media methods. I assisted with the education program sales; obtaining sponsorships and donor relations. I coordinated and managed the Box Office and Front of House, which included managing employees, recruiting volunteers, and being a liaison between the theater and specific stakeholders such as ASL interpreters, AD, and groups like Project Success. Maintenance of SteppingStone grant management; created a grant database for past and current grants, and a timeline schedule for future grants.

Literature Teacher

June 2017

University of Minnesota, Upward Bound Vision Quest

Taught a literature course for the Upward Bound Vision Quest summer camp. Used theatrical plays to discuss the themes of the play and how those themes are still relevant to today's society.

Production Assistant – Intern
Park Square Theatre

January 2017 – April 2017

This internship was a requirement for my Master's program with the University of Florida. During the internship I assisted with scheduling auditions, securing play rights for upcoming productions, provided scripts to casts and assisted in the organization and managed Park Square's annual general theatre auditions that took place over two weekends.

Graduate Assistant

August 2014 – December 2016

University of Florida

As a Graduate Assistant I taught the following courses: entry level improvisation; Oral Interpretation of Literature (a course that uses acting techniques to improve public speaking skills), and was a teaching assistant for Theatre Appreciation where I lead weekly breakout discussion sessions. I taught my entry-level improvisation with an emphasis on acting and good scene work to create good short form improv. In the fall of 2016, I was nominated and was awarded a Graduate Assistant Teaching Award at the University of Florida.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2017 University of Florida's Graduate Teaching Award, Dean's List Phi Alpha Theta (National History Honor Society) Park Square Theatre Directing Fellowship (2019), Guthrie Theater - Managing Director fellowship (2020), Warner Brothers Discovery Access Early Career Bootcamp Fellow (2022)

LICENSURE: MN State licensure grades 5-12 in social studies, concentration in history

TEACHING ARTIST WORK EXPERIENCE

Guthrie Theater - Education - Instructor I teach workshop courses for the Guthrie Theater Education Department, Acting for indigenous performers, Indigenous beginning acting, scene study and On-Camera Intensive for indigenous performers.

Indigenous Youth Acting Workshops

I teach workshops for Native youth within the Twin Cities with the Ikidowin Youth Program. I also travel to Minnesota Reservations to hold acting workshops there for the youth. Summer 2025 taught an acting summer residency in collaboration with Pangea World Theatre with the participants of the Ikidowin Youth Program, teaching devised theater and creating a production with the students to perform at the end of the residency.

Perseverance Theater - STAR Program Instructor

I taught a 2 hour workshop class with 6th to 12th graders over a three week period about how to write material for yourself as a performer and how to perform it in a radio broadcast format with characters and proper vocal technique, which was broadcast on Alaskan Public Radio Station.

University of Florida, Intro to Improv & intermediate Improv Instructor

As a graduate student at the University of Florida, I was the Intro to Improv instructor along with other theater department courses as assigned. I taught the basic improv methods and rules. I utilized acting techniques and methods to teach the students how to create a good scene. I start with the basics of creating a good scene instead of focusing on making a scene funny to help develop the students' acting techniques that later will assist in creating good scene work in an improvisational act.

Park Square Theatre – Immersion Day Instructor

I taught a one-hour workshop on different movement techniques that can be used to create a character. I worked with 6th – 8th grade students. The movement techniques included an introduction to the use of the imaginary body by leading with different body parts to create characters, pulling from people in our lives to recreate a walk or movement, and an animal study of different animals to create a character of different energy and movement.

New Native Theatre Acting Workshops Instructor

I taught several workshops that focused on teaching various different acting techniques including Stanislavsky, Chekhov, Practical Aesthetics, monologue workshops, audition preparation, and the business of acting. Attendees ranged from high school students to Adults.

Shakopee Mdewankanton Sioux Future Stars Program

This program uses storytelling structure and Red Eye Tableau Teaching strategy. The strategy taught students how to explore storytelling structures to tell their own stories. I worked with 1st – 3rd Graders

Arts for Academic Achievement & MPS Office of Indian Education

This program used the Red Eye Tableau Strategy to help improve the literacy of students. I worked with Middle School Students on a specific text and explored the text using Tableau (statue) storytelling with scene work and the creation of new stories and ways of expressing the material artistically and understanding the material for grades 5th-12th grade.

Directing Credits

<i>Native Joy 10 Minute Play Festival</i>	Director	Macalester College
<i>Brontide (2024)</i>	Co-Director	Nimbus Theatre Company
<i>12x12 Mixed Blood Project (May 2023)</i>	Director	Mixed Blood Theater
<i>Those Among Us (2023)</i>	Director	Turtle Theater Collective
<i>This Way Yonder (2022)</i>	Director	Turtle Theater Collective
<i>Puffs (2022)</i>	Co-Director	Roosevelt High School
<i>The Last Days of Judas Iscariot (2022)</i>	Director	Gustavus Adolphus College
<i>Christmas of Swing (2021)</i>	Assistant Director	History Theater
<i>The Thanksgiving play (2020)</i>	Assistant Director	Great River Shakespeare
<i>Beyond The Rainbow (2019)</i>	Assistant Director	History Theatre
<i>The River Becomes Sea (2018)</i>	Director	Nimbus Theatre Company
<i>Cocaine (2017)</i>	Director	Minnesota Fringe Theatre
<i>Redemption (2017)</i>	Assistant Director	Nimbus Theatre Company

Acting Selected Regional Theater:

Rhinoceros	Beringer	Pangea World Theatre Dir. Dipankar Mukherjee
Homo Dramatics	Words	Pangea World Theatre Dir. Dipankar Mukherjee
Hecuba	Polymestor	Pangea World Theatre Dir. Dipankar Mukherjee
For The People	Levi Mitchell	Guthrie Theater Dir. Michael John Garces
Returning to Haifa	Said	Pangea World Theatre Dir. Dipankar Mukherjee
This Way Yonder	Uncle Wooten	Turtle Theater Collective Dir. Ernest Briggs
The Labyrinth & the Minotaur	Pirithous	Wonderlust Productions Dir. Leah Cooper
Cottagers and Indians	Arthur	PICT Classic Theatre Dir. Vanessa Vivas
The New Adventures of Super Indian	General Bear/various	Native Voices at the Autry Dir. Arigon Starr & Olivis Espinosa
Sueno	Clotaldo	Pangea World Theater Dir. Leslie Ishii
Stories from the Drum	Various	Guthrie Theater Dir. Larissa FastHorse & Ty Defoe
Ripcord	Scotty	Sidekick Theatre Dir. Tim Stolz
What Would Crazy Horse Do?	Calvin	Turtle Theatre Collective Dir. Brian Joyce
Autonomy	Tour Guide	Mixed Blood Theatre Dir. Jack Reuler
Coco's Barrio: Cinco de Mayo	Ensemble	Teatro Del Pueblo Dir. Al Justiano
Skin of Our Teeth	Announcer	Park Square Thea/GF Prod. Dir. Joel Sass

Gloria	Lorin	Mixed Blood Theatre <i>Dir. Lavina Jadhvani</i>
Noises Off	Frederick Fellowes	Artistry Theatre <i>Dir. Ben McGovern</i>
Puffs	Various	Tilted Windmills Theatricals <i>Dir. Kristen Parker</i>
GAS	Cheo	South Coast Repertory <i>Dir. Bart Delorenzo</i>
Bride on the Rocks	Lloyd	South Coast Repertory <i>Dir. Hal Landon Jr.</i>
Tales along the Minnesota Trail	Grandfather Bear	History Theatre <i>Dir. Richazrd D. Thompson</i>
Red Ink	Various	Mixed Blood Theatre <i>Dir. Sarah Rasmussen</i>
Jackie & Me	Branch Rickey, various (u/s/p)	Children's Theatre <i>Dir. Marion McClinton</i>
Sarita, the Frowning Immigrant	The Man/Blogger	Teatro Del Pueblo <i>Dir. Harry Waters Jr.</i>
Redemption	Shawn Williams	Nimbus Theatre Co <i>Dir. Mitchell Frasier</i>

Acting Selected Filmography:

Unholy Communion	Ron Grafton	Farnam Street Limited IV LLC
<i>Downtown Owl</i>	Owen Peterson	Sony
<i>Ode For Leviticus</i>	Young Leviticus	<i>Ode For Leviticus</i> LLC
<i>Sold Out (2021)</i>	Supporting	SOLD OUT LLC
<i>Nina of the Woods (2020)</i>	Supporting	Axis Mundi Productions
<i>Homemade</i>	Supporting	Wheelhouse Creative
To Say Goodbye	Supporting	Winter State Entertainment
The Jingle Dress	Supporting	Lodge Pole Films
Thin Ice	Featured	Werc Werk Works Productions
Atarax (web series)	Supporting	New Joco. Productions

Writer:

Ogichidaa	Writer	MN History Society
Giiwe	Writer	MN History Society
SPAZ	Writer/Performer	In development
Music and Memories	Writer	In development
Dinner Date (Short film)	Co-Writer	Weak Sauce Productions
Solitary (Short film)	Co-Writer	Weak Sauce Productions
Kiwi Strawberry (Short film)	Co-Writer	Cold Lake Productions

Education/Training:

University of Florida (**Masters of Fine Arts**)

Kevin Marshall (Stanislavsky & Chekhov); Kathy Sarra (Alexander Technique); Yanci Bukovec (Voice & Speech); Dr. Ralf Remshardt (Theatre Theory); Dr. Mikell Pinkney (Shakespeare); Dr. Judith Williams (Styles); Christina Garland (Stage Combat/Movement); Dr. David Young (Creative Process)

American Academy of Dramatic Arts: (Los Angeles Campus)

Judith Bohannon (Uta Hagen), Theresa Hayes & Jamie Nichols (Movement), Brenda Beck (Voice & Speech/Dialects), Perry Hart (Musical Theatre), Misako Tsuchiya (Alexander Technique), Alex Billings (Viewpoints), Timothy Landfield (Meisner), Michelle Gossett (Eric Morris)

*South Coast Repertory Professional Actor Training Program:

JoAnn Denust CSA (Stage Auditions), Hisa Takakawa (Shakespeare), Karen Hansel (Styles/Scene Study), Hal Landon Jr (Chekhov Technique)

Brave New Workshop (**Improv Performance Level 1 – 3**)

Basic Pass in Rapier & Dagger and Unarmed by the SAFD