

Morgan M. Benson

Curriculum Vitae

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Base: Los Angeles, CA

Education

Master of Fine Arts

Minnesota State University, Mankato – Acting 2022

Bachelor of Arts,

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall - Theatre Arts 2018

Employment

Publicity Manager, Sky Pilot Theatre Company, Los Angeles 2025

Los Angeles, California

Served as Publicity Manager at Sky Pilot Theatre Company.

- Design and publicize production posters.
- Manage and create social media content on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok.
- Conduct video interviews with the cast and crew.
- Manage production branding and aesthetics.

Graduate Assistant, Minnesota State University, Mankato 2019-2022

Mankato, Minnesota

Served as Graduate Assistant for the Department of Theatre and Dance.

- Instruct undergraduate level acting course.
- Teaching Assistant for undergraduate acting, speech, stage dialects, and theatre history courses. Teach lessons and develop assignments under advisor supervision.
- Advise and mentor undergraduate actors.
- Costume shop stitcher. Work with designers to fit and build production costumes.

Box Office Manager, Minnesota State University, Mankato 2019-2022

Mankato, Minnesota

Served as Box Office Manager for the Department of Theatre and Dance.

- Steward donor relationships.
- Train and oversee all box office employees.
- Create employee schedules for weekly and performance shifts.
- Coordinate and lead employee meetings.
- Care for theatre and dance patrons at the box office window. Serve incoming and outgoing phone calls and emails.
- Sell theatre and dance tickets through the online software, "AudienceView."
- Oversee daily safety and security operations.

Children's Theatre, Southwest Minnesota State University 2019-2021

Marshall, Minnesota

Served as Director, Musical Director, and Choreographer.

- Director Junior production of *Madagascar* in 2021.

- Musical Director for the 2020 musical theatre revue.
- Choreographer from 2019-2021 for all musical theatre pieces.
- Work with over 60 children in producing a theatrical production.
- Disperse production posters and advertise on social media.
- Lead warm-ups and play theatre games.
- Practice open communication with parents and guardians

Fine Arts Teacher, *Russell, Tyler, Ruthton Middle and High School*

2018-2019

Tyler, Minnesota

Served as a long-term Substitute Fine Arts Teacher at the middle and high school

- Teach classes in Photography, Painting, Drawing, Sculpting, Printmaking to 7th-12th graders
- Give lectures, facilitate discussions, and lead activities.
- Observe and evaluate student progress and achievement.
- Keep attendance records.
- Order and maintain art supplies.
- Foster a supportive and inclusive classroom.
- Provide assignment guidance and feedback.

Publicity Manager, *Southwest Minnesota State University*

2016-2018

Marshall, Minnesota

Served as a Publicity Manager for the Theatre Department

- Dispersed production posters around campus, town, and surrounding towns.
- Take cast and crew headshots for each production.
- Collect and edit individual program biographies for cast and crew in production.
- Manage publicity budget and report at weekly theatre faculty meetings.
- Revise production posters. Create and revise production programs.

Actor Intern. *Black Hills Playhouse*

2017

Custer State Park, South Dakota

Served as an Intern at the Black Hills Playhouse

- Act in the summer productions.
- Build and paint props and set pieces, and construct costumes for each production.
- Perform House Manager duties during performances.

TEACHING

University Instruction

2025

Chekhov Technique Workshop at Southwest Minnesota State University

2023

Meisner Technique Workshop at Southwest Minnesota State University

Chekhov Technique Workshop at Southwest Minnesota State University

2020-2022

THEA 101: Acting for Everyone (5 sections) at Minnesota State University, Mankato

2019-2022

THEA 612: Advance Theatre Speech I teaching assistant at Minnesota State University

THEA 613: Advanced Theatre Speech II teaching assistant at Minnesota State University

2021

Meisner Technique Workshop at Minnesota State University, Mankato

Acting Styles and Techniques at Minnesota State University, Mankato

2020

Stage Dialects I teaching assistant at Minnesota State University, Mankato

Stage Dialects II teaching assistant at Minnesota State University, Mankato

Global Theatre History teaching assistant at Minnesota State University, Mankato

Feldenkrais Method Workshop at Minnesota State University, Mankato

Theatre Speech teaching assistant at Minnesota State University, Mankato

High School Instruction

2020 & 2022

Theatre Games and Warm-Up Workshop at Minnesota State University, Mankato

2019-2021

Theatrical Choreography Workshop at Marshall Area Stage Community

Auditioning Workshop at Marshall Area Stage Community

Acting Workshop at Marshall Area Stage Community

2018-2019

Russell, Tyler, Ruthton Middle and High School Long-Term Substitute Art Teacher

2017

Improv Workshop at Marshall Area Public Schools

2016

2nd Grade Acting Workshop at Marshall Area Public Schools

Additional Service to Departments

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

- Representative and spokesperson for the Theatre Department at the Student Activities Meeting allowing funding to the department.
- Drama Club President in 2018, Treasurer in 2017, and member in 2016.
- Improv Troupe Captain in 2017 and member in 2016.
- Perform as the entertainment at the University Gala in 2017 and 2018.
- Model for a Fashion History workshop in 2017 and AirBrush Makeup workshop in 2016.

Minnesota State University, Mankato

- Perform as the entertainment at the 2021 University Gala.
- Participated in the interview committee for the 2020 new theatre faculty member.

PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

Acting – Regional

<i>Chicago</i>	Velma Kelly	Marshall Area Stage Company
<i>Mamma Mia</i>	Donna Sheridan	Marshall Area Stage Company
<i>Unnecessary Farce</i>	Billie Dwyer	Black Hills Playhouse
<i>Grease</i>	Cha-Cha	Black Hills Playhouse
<i>Young Frankenstein</i>	Ensemble	Black Hills Playhouse
<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i>	Dr. Einstein	Lake Benton Opera House
<i>Urinetown</i>	Cop	Lake Benton Opera House
<i>Barefoot in the Park</i>	Mrs. Banks	Highland Summer Theatre
<i>PAS DE DEUX</i>	Wind	SkyPilot Theatre, LA
<i>Buddies</i>	Erica	SkyPilot Theatre, LA
<i>Godspell</i>	Telly	Conundrum Theatre, LA

Acting – Academic

<i>Connie and Loretta</i>	Connie Smith	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Hay Fever</i>	Myra Arundel	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>H. M. S. Pinafore</i>	Ensemble	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Arms and The Man</i>	Raina Petkoff	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Mrs. Dashwood	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Angel Street</i>	Elizabeth	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Silent Sky</i>	Annie Cannon	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Going to See The Elephant</i>	Mrs. Nichols	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>Shakespeare in Love</i>	Mistress Quickley	Minnesota State University, Mankato

<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	Adelaide	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>One Man, Two Guvnors</i>	Rachel Crabbe	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>How to Talk Minnesotan</i>	Lucy Humde	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>Into The Woods</i>	Baker's Wife	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Penelope Sycamore	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>The Tempest</i>	Caliban	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>The Near- Sighted Knight...</i>	Princess	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>Hamlet</i>	Multiple roles including Hamlet and Laertes	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>Rumors</i>	Cassie Cooper	Tracy Area High School

Acting – Film and Television

T-Mobile	Service User	Sky Candy Productions
<i>The Wendigo</i>	Maya	Student Film
<i>The Family Plan</i>	Kickboxer	Apple Studios
<i>Black Spartans</i>	Go-Go Dancer	Cory Wharton
<i>Caught Up</i>	First Team STAND-IN	Tyler Perry Series
<i>Caught Up</i>	Sorority Friend	Tyler Perry Series
<i>Dreamer</i>	Shelby	Gene Halverson Productions
<i>Our Why</i>	Girlfriend	Ananda Dunlap Productions
<i>Surfer Love</i>	Marg	No Way Theatre
Abdo, Eick & Meyers	TV Commercial Voiceover	True Facade Pictures
<i>Farmer of The Year</i>	Extra	Yellow House Films
MSU Software Training Video	Student	MSU Tech Services

Direction and Choreography

<i>Heart's Desire</i>	Director	Minneota Public Schools
<i>A Little Murder Never ...</i>	Director	Lake Benton Opera House
<i>The Nerd</i>	Director	Tracy Area High School
<i>State Fair</i>	Director and Choreographer	Tracy Area Arts
<i>Chicago</i>	Choreographer	Marshall Area Stage Company
<i>Mamma Mia</i>	Choreographer	Marshall Area Stage Company
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Choreographer	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>Madagascar Jr.</i>	Director and Choreographer	Marshall Community Children's Thea.

Children's Theatre	Director	Marshall Community Services
Children's Theatre	Music Director & Choreographer	Marshall Community Services
High School Workshop	Acting Instructor & Choreographer	Southwest Minnesota State University
<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	Director and Choreographer	Southwest Minnesota State University

Costume Construction

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Black Comedy, Cloud 9, Nocturn, Mamma Mia, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, A Doll's House, Shakespeare in Love, Arsenic and Old Lace, Newsies, The Musical, Tartuffe

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

Into the Woods, The Tempest, The Near-Sighted Knight and the Far-Sighted Dragon, Boeing Boeing, How To Talk Minnesotan

Artistry Theatre, Bloomington

Shrek

Black Hills Playhouse, Custer

Young Frankenstein, Grease

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd, State Fair

Lake Benton Opera House, Lake Benton

A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody

Costume Design

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Black Comedy, Atreus

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd, State Fair

Lake Benton Opera House, Lake Benton

A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody

Hair and Makeup Design

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

The Crucible

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Dialect Coach

Minnesota State University, Mankato

H.M.S Pinafore

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Set Construction

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

The Near-Sighted Knight and Far-Sighted Dragon, The Tempest, Into The Woods, Boeing Boeing, You Can't Take It With You, How To Talk Minnesotan, Guys and Dolls.

Black Hills Playhouse, Custer

Peter and the Starcatcher, Young Frankenstein, Grease.

Lake Benton Opera House

Urinetown: The Musical, A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody, Arsenic and Old Lace.

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Set Design

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

Guys and Dolls

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Lake Benton Opera House

A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd

Properties Person

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

The Tempest, Guys and Dolls, How To Talk Minnesotan, You Can't Take It With You, Into The Woods, Hamlet.

Black Hills Playhouse, Custer

Peter and the Starcatcher, Young Frankenstein, Grease, Unnecessary Farce.

Interact Center for Performing Arts, Bloomington

We're Still Here

Lake Benton Opera House

A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody, Arsenic and Old Lace.

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd, State Fair.

Marshall Area Stage Community

Chicago, Mamma Mia.

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Producing

Sky Pilot Theatre, Los Angeles

Buddies

Stage Management

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

Boeing Boeing

Light Design

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Sound Design

Tracy Area Arts

The Nerd

Minneota Public Schools, Minneota

Heart's Desire

Collegiate Courses

Stage Dialects (Spring 2021 & 2022)

Study and perform Standard British, Cockney, Irish, Scottish, Brooklyn, and American Southern dialects. Write out all performance monologues using the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Acting Styles (2021)

Study, workshop, and perform ritual, ancient Greek tragedy, comedy/farce, and Theatre of the Absurd acting.

Theatre Theory and Criticism (2021)

Study and discuss Aristotle, Augusto Boal, Bertolt Brecht, Pierre Corneille, Madame de Staël, Václav Havel, Horace, Bharatanatyam, Zeami, Castelveto, Philip Sidney, Giambattista Guarini, Felix Lope de Vega, François Hédelin, abbé d'Aubignac, John Dryden, Friedrich Nietzsche, Emile Zola, August Strindberg, Maurice Maeterlinck, Gordon Craig, Bernard Shaw, Antonin Artaud, and Gotthold Ephraim Lessing.

Global Theatre History (2021)

Study and lead short lessons covering 20th century Western theatre, West African Griots theatre, Kutiyattam Sanskrit theatre, Kathakali performers, Rab'inal Achi Guatemalan dance-play, Noh theatre, Native American Clown Dancers, Mali Bamana Puppets, Indian Storytelling and Puppet Theatre, Kabuki theatre, Chinese Opera, Chinese Shadow Play, Bunraku, Nigerian Yoruba Folk Opera, 1800s Industrialism, and 1700s Age of Enlightenment.

Theatre Movement (2020-2022)

Ballet and Dance Partnering for Theatre: salsa, waltz, jazz, ballroom. Yoga with focus toward Susanna Barkataki's book, "Embrace Yoga's Root: Courageous Ways to Deepen Your Yoga Practice."

Acting in Masks (2021)

Study and perform with Neutral, Basic, and Character masks.

Act Scene Studies (2020)

Analyze scripts and characters. Perform, rehearse, and workshop short scenes.

Theatre History (2016, 2017, 2020)

Read classical works and plays. Study and lead short lessons covering theatre poets, philosophers, and practitioners and theatre of Asia, India, China, Japan, Ancient Greece, Egypt, and Rome, and Medieval theatre, the Middle, Dark and High Middle ages, the Italian renaissance, and the Elizabethan Renaissance.

Dramaturgy (2016, 2020)

Completed dramaturgical protocols for *Ruined* by Lynn Nottage, *The Cost of Living* by Martyna Majok, and *Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe,

Advanced Acting Techniques (2017, 2020)

Study, workshop, and perform short scenes from published plays and musicals. Focusing on Chekhov and Stanislavski acting methods and techniques. Participate in exercises such as neutral acting, animal/character acting, mind-body connection, and other character exploration exercises.

Acting for Camera and Radio (2018, 2020)

Rehearse and perform short TV scripts in front of camera. Create commercial voiceover reel.

Directing (2018)

Analyze scripts, hold auditions and rehearsals, develop direction promptbook, cast and direct short scenes.

Stage Combat (2019)

Train and perform hand combat, sword, rapier & dagger, quarterstaff choreography.

Theatre Speech (2019, 2020)

Learn portions of the International Phonetic Alphabet and apply to proper speaking techniques. Speech training and performance focusing on a variety of vocal qualities, and techniques regarding vocal time, tone, tension, volume, and overall dynamism.

Musical Theatre Acting (2019)

Perform ballads, character, comedy, dramatic, classical, and partner songs.

Theatre Research (2019)

Examining theatre and its impact on the contemporary world.

Stage Management (2017)

Practice and study stage management techniques.

Scenic Design (2017)

Design and create miniature models for a variety of plays and musicals.

Costume Construction (2017)

Learn and practice costume constructions basics including hand and machine sewing, surging, fabric printing and dying, and working with costume designers.

Stage Makeup (2017)

Practice a variety of stage makeup techniques to alter appearance including age, weight, facial hair, along with fake blood, cuts, and bruising effects. Create and designed facial prosthetics. Additional make-up looks including, mosaic, Egyptian, Kabuki, and animal.

Film & TV Appreciation (2017)

Study and explore different movie and television genres.

Sound Design (2017)

Design and create a variety of sounds for multiple plays and musicals.

Costume History/Design (2018)

Study Western theatre history. Read and design costumes from classical plays.

Stagecraft (2016)

Learn and practice set building techniques using a variety of construction tools.

Survey of World Music (2016)

This course explores the music of the world's people. Emphasis is on non-Western traditions. American musical cultures explored through Native and African American traditions. Examine the various sounds, patterns, and structures of music from around the globe. Students experience various repertoires, styles, and genres of music and consider the effects of the media on globalization of music culture.

Additional Academic Research

Philip Sydney and his "Defense of Poesy"

Research paper exploring the concept that poetry is superior to philosophy or history.

Antonin Artaud and the Theatre of Cruelty

Research paper exploring the concept of originality.

Decolonizing Theatre

Research paper regarding the colonial structure that is present in today's American theatre with examples including Shakespeare, cultural commodity, and the tokenization of casting and production of "identity" plays. Decentralization is a powerful strategy moving towards decolonization.

SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference

- Presented at 2017 research conference. Research exploring, "Vogue Cover Makeup From 1967 To Present."
- Presented at 2016 research conference. Research including *Doctor Faustus* dramaturgy and a

presentation titled, "The World of Doctor Faustus."

Additional Training

Acting for the Camera Workshop	Isiah Whitlock Jr.
Acting in Film & Improv Workshops	Kevin Crowley
Chanhassen Training Camp	Chanhassen Dinner Theatre
<i>-Studied acting, Shakespeare, dance, lighting, music, and costume design.</i>	
14 years of dance	Tracy Dance Studio and Tracy Area High School
<i>-Tap, jazz, contemporary, ballet, and high kick.</i>	
6 years of voice training	Tracy Area High School Choir (2yrs Chamber Choir)
1 year of stage combat training	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>-Rapier, dagger, broadswords, hand combat, stunt work</i>	
1 year of vocal dialect training	Minnesota State University, Mankato
<i>-Irish, Scottish, Southern American, Brooklyn, NY, British, Cockney</i>	
<i>-Proficient in the international phonetic alphabet.</i>	
MSU, Mankato voice lessons	Christina Smith
8 years of percussion training	Tracy Area High School Band
6 years of piano playing training	Shannon Benson – Tracy, MN piano instructor

Honors and Awards

- Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 5 – Irene Ryan Scholarship Nominee for *Hay Fever* 2021, *Silent Sky* 2020, *You Can't Take It With You* 2017, and *The Tempest* 2016
- Obtained Bachelor of Arts Degree with Magna Cum Laude Honors
- Member of SMSU 2017 Homecoming Court
- Tracy Area High School 2015 Homecoming Queen
- Member of the 2015-2018 SMSU Mentor Scholarship Program
- Obtained SMSU Theatre scholarships including, the Excellence in Theatre, University Gala, and Alpha Psi Omega
- SMSU 2015-2018 Dean's List
- SMSU 2017 Drama Club President.

References

Matthew Caron, M.F.A.

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