BRETT JOHN OLSON

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Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

2017 **M.F.A., Acting, 4.0 GPA**
Department of Theatre & Dance
Western Illinois University

2014 **M.A., Theatre Arts, 4.0 GPA**
Department of Theatre Arts
University of North Dakota

2012 **B.A., Theatre Arts, C*um Laude***
Department of Communication Arts
Minot State University

Continuing Education

2022-Present **On-Camera Acting**
The Freeman Studio
New York City, New York

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

2023-present **Instructor of Theatre (Online)**
Conservatory for the Performing Arts
Stephens College

2020-2023 **Assistant Professor of Acting**
Conservatory for the Performing Arts
Stephens College

2018-2020 **Instructor of Performance**
Department of Theatre Arts, College of Arts & Sciences
University of North Dakota

2017-2018 **Visiting Instructor of Performance, Full Graduate Faculty**
Department of Theatre & Dance, College of Fine Arts & Communication
Western Illinois University

PERFORMING ARTS ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

2020-2021 **Associate Artistic Director, Minot Summer Theatre,** Minot, ND

Roal Dalh's Willy Wonka

The Game's Afoot

Something Rotten

Virtual Closing Cabaret

Virtual Improv Show: Minotables

Virtual Play in a Day

Virtual Legacy Series

Virtual Opening Cabaret

2019 **Associate Artistic Director, North Dakota Shakespeare,** Grand Forks, ND

Much Ado About Nothing

Macbeth: Unrehearsed

New Play Day: *Tag, You're It* by Kathleen Coudle-King

New Play Day: *Second-Hand Smoke* by Courtney Miller

STAGE ACTING EXPERIENCE

2009-2021 **Minot Summer Theatre,** Minot, ND

William Gillette, *The Games Afoot*

Edward Bloom, *Big Fish*

Marcellus, *The Music Man*

Tom Sawyer, *Big River*

King Arthur*, Monty Python's Spamalot*

Lionell Toop, *See How They Run*

Jitter/Bill, *Musical of Musicals*

Jesus, *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Chip Tolentino, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
Lord Farquaad, *Shrek: The Musical*
Harry Witherspoon, *Lucky Stiff*
Leslie, *Love, Sex, and the IRS*
Ensemble, *Crazy For You*
George, *The Drowsy Chaperone*
Frederick, *The Pirates of Penzance*
Ensemble, *My Fair Lady*
Gideon, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*
Eric Sheridan, *Unecessary Farce*
Dean, *All Shook Up*
Ensemble, *Sweet Charity*
Joseph, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

2020 **Fort Totten Little Theatre,** Devils Lake, ND
Drew, *Rock of Ages*

2019 **North Dakota Shakespeare,** Grand Forks, ND
Claudio, *Much Ado About Nothing*
Macbeth, *Macbeth: Unrehearsed*

2017-2018 **Crossroads Repertory Theatre,** Terre Haute, IN
Corny Collins, *Hairspray*
Ensemble, *War of the Worlds*
Frederick, *Young Frankenstein*
Dr. Jekyll, *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*

2017 **Stephens College,** Columbia, MO
Billy Crocker, *Anything Goes*

2014-2017 **Western Illinois University,** Macomb, IL
Boy (Peter), *Peter and the Starcatcher*
Ensemble, *Underground Caberet*
Schultz, *Circle Mirror Transformation*

Cassius, *Julius Caesar Unrehearsed*
Sam, *The Wild Party*
Co-Deviser, *Somnia Mundi*
Will, *A Bright New Boise*
Joe, *Pretty Theft*
Chandebise, *A Flea in Her Ear*

2016 **Gorilla Tango Theatre,** Chicago, Illinois
Scott, *Love*

2016 **Okoboji Summer Theatre,** Okoboji, IA
Speed, *The Odd Couple*
Felix, *The Game's Afoot*
Mr. De Pinna, *You Can't Take It With You*

2012-2014 **University of North Dakota,** Grand Forks, ND
Don, *A Chorus Line*
Walker/Ned, *Three Days of Rain*
Benedick, *Much Ado About Nothing*
Lockstock, *Urinetown: The Musical*
Barnette Lloyd, *Crimes of The Heart*

2009 **Western Plains Opera Company,** Minot, ND
Ensemble, *Die Fledermaus*

FILM & TELEVISION ACTING EXPERIENCE

2024	*Before They Kill Again S1 E3*	Co-Star	ID NETWORK
2024	*National Ad Campaign*	Voice Over	GREATER THAN GAMES
2024	*A Complete Unknown*	Background	SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES
2024	*The Burden of Change*	Supporting	REELARC STUDIOS
2024	*Ties That Choke*	Lead	CULTURE PRODUCTIONS
2024	*Chords & Canvas*	Supporting	REELARC STUDIOS
2024	*The Naughty Vegan*	Supporting	REELARC STUDIOS

2024	*Beat Bobby Flay*	Background	FOOD NETWORK
2023	*Loopers (Pilot)*	Series Regular	DELI FRESH MEDIA
2023	*The Veil*	Lead	REELWORKS
2023	*American Sports Story S1 E1*	Background	FX
2023	*Simple*	Lead	REELARC STUDIOS
2023	*Fourth Amendment*	Lead	REELARC STUDIOS
2023	*Insistent*	Lead	REELARC STUDIOS
2023	*And Just Like That S2 E4*	Background	HBO MAX

STAGE DIRECTION EXPERIENCE

2024	*Barefoot in the Park*	Okoboji Summer Theatre
2024	*Boeing, Boeing (Assistant Director)*	Stephens College
2022	*Curtains Up: A Celebration of the Work*	Stephens College
2022	*The Bald Soprano*	Stephens College
2021	*Sunday, Sunday (Advising Director)*	Stephens College
2021	*Almost, Maine*	Stephens College
2021	*A Como Home Companion*	Stephens College
2020	*"Allies:" A Virtual Cabaret*	Stephens College
2020	*The Case of the Crushed Petunias*	Stephens College
2020	*Legacy Series*	Minot Summer Theatre
2019	*Elf the Musical*	Empire Theatre Company
2019	*Grace*	University of North Dakota
2019	*Beauty and the Beast*	Minot Summer Theatre
2019	*Noises Off*	University of North Dakota
2018	*Seussical*	University of North Dakota
2018	*All in the Timing*	Starry Night Repertory Theatre
2018	*Race*	Western Illinois University
2018	*Sense & Sensibility (Assistant Director)*	Western Illinois University
2017	*Time Stands Still*	Western Illinois University
2016	*Shooting Star*	Starry Night Repertory Theatre
2015	*Ugly*	Western Illinois University
2015	*Little Shop of Horrors*	Minot Summer Theatre

2014	*Rumors*	University of North Dakota
2013	*The Last Five Years*	University of North Dakota
2012	*Breaking Up is Hard to Do (Assistant Director)*	Minot Summer Theatre

FIGHT DIRECTION EXPERIENCE

2021	*Sunday, Sunday*	Warehouse Theatre Company
2021	*The Games Afoot*	Minot Summer Theatre
2020	*She Kills Monsters (Unrealized, COVID 19)*	University of North Dakota
2020	*Sweeney Todd*	University of North Dakota
2019	*Macbeth: Unrehearsed*	North Dakota Shakespeare
2019	*The Spitfire Grill*	University of North Dakota
2018	*Sense & Sensibility*	Western Illinois University
2016	*The Game's Afoot*	Okoboji Summer Theatre
2016	*You Can't Take It With You*	Okoboji Summer Theatre
2014	*See How They Run*	Minot Summer Theatre
2012	*Urinetown: The Musical*	University of North Dakota
2012	*Crimes of The Heart*	University of North Dakota
2012	*Crazy For You*	Minot Summer Theatre
2011	*Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*	Minot Summer Theatre

TECHNICAL THEATRE EXPERIENCE

2012-2021 **Resident Scenic Designer, Minot Summer Theatre,** Minot, ND

9 to 5

Roal Dalh's Willy Wonka

The Game's Afoot

Beauty and the Beast

Big Fish

Cash on Delivery

Mamma Mia

Seussical

Sister Act
One Strange Night
Bridges of Madison County
The Music Man
See How They Run
Jesus Christ Superstar
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do

AWARDS & HONORS

Film Festivals

2024 Official Selection for *Loopers*, New York International Film Awards for *Loopers*
2024 Official Selection for *Loopers*, East Village New York Film Festival
2024 Official Selection for *Ties That Choke,* YoFi Festival
2024 Official Selection for *Ties That Choke*, Triborough Film Festival
2024 Official Selection for *Ties That Choke*, North Film Festival
2024 Official Selection for *Ties That Choke*, International New York Film Festival
2024 Official Selection for *Ties That Choke*, Fresh Black Film Festival
2023 Official Selection for *The Veil,* Reelworks Film Festival

Stephens College

2022 Teacher of the Year Nominee, Stephens College
2021 Certificate of Merit for Ensemble Performance of *Almost, Maine,* KCACTF Region V

University of North Dakota

2019 Certificate of Merit for Ensemble Performance of *Sweeney Todd*, KCACTF Region V
2019 Certificate of Merit for Ensemble Performance of *Grace,* KCACTF Region V
2019 Certificate of Merit for Direction of *Noises Off,* KCACTF Region V
2018 Certificate of Merit for Direction & Choreography of *Seussical*, KCACTF Region V
2014 Musical Theatre Acting Intensive Finalist, KCACTF Region V
2014 Showcase of Invited Scenes of *Three Days of Rain,* KCACTF Region V
2014 Certificate of Merit for Ensemble Performance of *Three Days of Rain,* KCACTF Region V
2014 Irene Ryan Nominee, KCACTF Region V

2013 Invited Production for *My Generation,* KCACTF Region V

2013 Certificate of Merit for Ensemble Performance of *Urinetown,* KCACTF Region V

2013 Irene Ryan Nominee, KCACTF Region V

Western Illinois University

2017 Irene Ryan Fellow and Finalist Partner, KCACTF National Conference

2017 Irene Ryan Finalist Partner, KCACTF Region III

2017 Irene Ryan Nominee, KCACTF Region III

2016 Certificate of Merit for Ensemble Acting of *The Wild Party,* KCACTF Region III

2015 Irene Ryan Nominee, KCACTF Region III

Minot State University

2012 Irene Ryan Finalist, KCACTF Region V

2012 Irene Ryan Nominee, KCACTF Region V

2011 Certificate of Merit for Ensemble Acting of *Almost*, *Maine,* KCACTF Region V

2011 Certificate of Merit for Lighting Design of *A Doll's House*, KCACTF Region V

2011 Irene Ryan Nominee, KCACTF Region V

2010 Irene Ryan Nominee, KCACTF Region V

2009 Irene Ryan Nominee, KCACTF Region V

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region V

2022 Preliminary Round Respondent: "Musical Theatre Intensive"

2021 Production Respondent: *Much Ado About Nothing,* Truman State University

2021 Production Respondent: *Climate Change Theatre Action,* UM - Columbia

2021 Production Respondent: *Zanna Don't!,* University of South Dakota

2021 Preliminary Round Respondent: "Musical Theatre Intensive"

2020 Production Respondent: *25th Annual Putnam Country Spelling Bee*, Lake Region State

2020 Production Respondent: *Women of Troy,* Minnesota State University-Moorhead

2019 Preliminary Round Respondent: "Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship"

2019 Production Respondent: *A Gentlemen's Guide*… Dickinson State University

2019 Production Respondent: *She Kills Monsters,* Bismarck State College

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region III

2018 Preliminary Round Respondent: "Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship"

UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Department of Theatre, Belhaven University

2024 Guest Jury Respondent

Conservatory for the Performing Arts, Stephens College

2021-2022 Faculty Advisor: Warehouse Theatre Company

2020-2022 Committee Member: Stephens College Curriculum Committee

2020-2023 Committee Member: Ad-Hoc Performing Arts Season Selection Committee

2020-2023 Committee Member: Ad-Hoc Performing Arts Community Agreement Committee

2022 Recruiter: Illinois High School Theatre Festival

2021 Recruiter: Texas Thespian Festival

2021 Recruiter: Hickman Highschool "Improv Day"

2021 Committee Member: Search for Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre

2020-2021 Manager: Virtual Performances

Department of Theatre Arts, University of North Dakota

2018-2020 Manager: Social Media and Departmental Website

2018-2020 Committee Member: Ad-Hoc Season Selection

2019 Committee Member: Search for Instructor of Theatre (Dance/Performance)

2019 Recruiter: Musical Theatre Combined Auditions, New York City, NY

2018 Recruiter: NDEA/MEA Open House

2018 Committee Member: Ad-Hoc High-Impact Practice Assessment

2018 Committee Member: Ad-Hoc Double-Major Recommendation

Department of Theatre & Dance, Western Illinois University

2017-2018 Member: Graduate Program Assistantship Assignment Committee

2017-2018 Member: Grade Appeals Committee

2017-2018 Member: Mainstage Season Selection Committee

2017-2018	Member: Ad Hoc MFA Directing Program Committee
2016-2017	Member: Search Committee for Chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance
2017	Recruiter: "Discover Western" Academic Fair
2016	Recruiter: "Discover Western" Academic Fair
2015	Performer: Performing Arts Society Gala

COMMUNITY/SECONDARY SCHOOL SERVICE

Empire Theatre Company, Grand Forks, North Dakota

2019-2020 Member: Board of Directors

North Dakota High School Activities Association

2020	Adjudicator: Fargo Public Schools Theatre Festival
2019	Class B One-Act Play Competition Judge: Region III Festival
2018	Class B One-Act Play Competition Judge: Region III Festival
2012	Class B One-Act Play Competition Judge: Region III Festival
2012	Class B One-Act Play Competition Judge: Region VII Festival

Illinois High School Theatre Festival

2016 Respondent: Madcap Alice Project, Moline High School, Moline, IL

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Acting

Acting I: Introduction to Acting	Multiple Sections 2013-2022
Acting II: Meisner Technique	Spring 2022, Fall 2019, Fall 2017
Acting III: Characterization	Fall 2017
Acting IV: Shakespeare	Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2019
Acting VII: Naturalism & Realism	Spring 2022, Spring 2021
Graduate Acting: Auditions	Spring 2018

Directing

Directing I	Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2016
Directing II	Fall 2021
Directing III	Spring 2021

Devising (Co-Taught)	Spring 2020

Voice & Movement

Voice & Movement I	Fall 2019
Voice & Movement II	Spring 2020
Dialects	Fall 2021, Fall 2020
Beginning Voice Techniques	Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2018
Advanced Voice Techniques	Spring 2018
Stage Combat: Unarmed	Spring 2019
Movement for the Actor	Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Theory & Criticism

Play Analysis	Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015
Dramatic Literature	Fall, 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Spring 2021
Shakespearean Literature	Fall 2022
Pulitzer Prize Winning Plays	Spring, 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023
Introduction to Theatre Arts	Spring 2022, Fall 2019, Fall 2018
World Theatre History I	Fall 2022
World Theatre History II	Spring 2023, Spring 2017

Musical Theatre

Tap Dance	Fall 2018
Musical Theatre Studio (Co-Taught)	Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018
Biz of the Biz (Co-Taught)	Spring 2020

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Casting Networks

2023 Getting Started with Casting Networks

Actors Equity Association

2022 Equity 101

Empire Arts Center

2019 Shoshana Bean Masterclass

2018 Laura Osnes Masterclass

Movement and Combat Education, Chicago, Illinois

2020 25th Annual Winter Wonderland Workshop

Society of American Fight Directors, Chicago, Illinois

2020 Skills Proficiency Renewal, Rapier & Dagger
2020 Skills Proficiency Renewal, Unarmed
2018 Actor Combatant Certification
2018 Skills Proficiency Test, Sword and Shield
2016 Skills Proficiency Test, Rapier & Dagger
2015 Skills Proficiency Test, Unarmed

Teaching Transformation and Development Academy, University of North Dakota

2020 Leading for Change: Managing Outside the Lines
2020 Pronouns and Gender for Academic Writing, Surveys, and Teaching
2020 Developing Your Voice to Advocate for Others: Lessons From Theatre
2020 Interacting with Students in Blackboard (Blogs, Wikis, and Discussion Boards)
2020 Introduction to Creating Blackboard Tests
2020 Introduction to Blackboard Grade Center
2020 Blackboard Getting Started
2020 Zoom Getting Started
2019 OmniUpdate Web Content Management Training

Intimacy Directors International

2019 The Pillars of Intimacy

22nd Dealing with Differences Institute, Western Illinois University

2015 Speak Out, Step Up, Stand Together

GRANTS

North Dakota Council on the Arts

2020 "Individual CARES Grant," Minot State University, $1000

Faculty Travel Grant

2020 "Winter Wonderland Workshop: Movement and Combat Educators and Society of American Fight Directors," University of North Dakota, $500

Arts ReGrant Program

2019 "North Dakota Shakespeare presents *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Macbeth: Unrehearsed,"* City of Grand Forks, $3,750

Fine Arts and Humanities Scholarship Initiative

2019 "North Dakota Shakespeare presents *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Macbeth: Unrehearsed*." University of North Dakota, $13,500

Fine Arts and Humanities Scholarship Initiative

2019 "Northern Lights International Touring Company." University of North Dakota, $13,500

Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity

2019 "Support for KC/ACTF Travel and Board." University of North Dakota, $1,000

Faculty Travel Award

2017 "Support for *Anything Goes* Travel." Western Illinois University, $250

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Stephens College Conservatory for the Performing Arts

2024 "Pillars of Intimacy," Presenter & Workshop Leader

Hickman Highschool Department of English

2021 "Introduction to Long Form Improv," Presenter & Workshop Leader

Fargo Highschool Theatre Festival

2020 "Introduction to Unarmed Stage Combat," Presenter & Workshop Leader

World Voice Day, University of North Dakota

2019 "Vocal Production in Shakespeare," Presenter

KCACTF Region III, Indianapolis, IN

2018 "Slap Happy: Intro to Unarmed Stage Combat," Presenter & Workshop Leader

Graduate Research Conference, Western Illinois University

2017 "Holistic Actor Training," Co-Presenter with Jeff Young

Proquest, LLC

2014 Olson, Brett J. Simon in Performance: *The Analysis and Direction of Rumors,* Ann Arbor, MI

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Actors Equity Association (AEA)	2021-Present
Stage Directors and Choreography Society (SDC)	2020-Present
Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA)	2020-Present
Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD)	2015-Present