

# BRETT J. OLSON

## Curriculum Vitae

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

1200 E Broadway  
Columbia, MO, 65215  
573-442-2211  
BOlson@stephens.edu

3415 20<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Grand Forks, ND, 58201  
701-263-7754  
Brett.John.Olson@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

---

- 2017      **M.F.A., Acting**  
Department of Theatre & Dance  
Western Illinois University
- 2014      **M.A., Theatre Arts**  
Department of Theatre Arts  
University of North Dakota
- 2012      **B.A., Theatre Arts, *Cum Laude***  
Department of Communication Arts  
Minot State University

## RELATED TRAINING

---

- 2018      **Actor Combatant**  
Society of American Fight Directors  
Chicago, IL

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

---

- 2020-present    **Assistant Professor of Theatre**  
School of Creative and Performing Arts  
Stephens College
- 2018-2020      **Instructor of Performance**  
Department of Theatre Arts  
University of North Dakota
- 2017-2018      **Instructor of Performance, Full Graduate Faculty**  
Department of Theatre & Dance  
Western Illinois University

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

<b>Acting I</b>	Multiple Sections from Spring 2013 – Fall 2020
<b>Acting I: Online</b>	Summer 2020
<b>Acting II</b>	Fall 2019, Fall 2017
<b>Acting III</b>	Fall 2017
<b>Acting IV: Shakespeare</b>	Spring 2019
<b>Graduate Acting: Auditions</b>	Spring 2018
<b>Directing I</b>	Fall 2016
<b>Voice &amp; Movement I: Laban Movement Analysis</b>	Fall 2019
<b>Voice &amp; Movement II: Mask and Personification</b>	Spring 2020
<b>Voice &amp; Speech for the Actor: IPA &amp; Dialects</b>	Fall 2020
<b>Beginning Voice Techniques</b>	Spring 2018
<b>Advanced Voice Techniques</b>	Spring 2018
<b>Stage Combat: Unarmed</b>	Spring 2019
<b>Tap Dance</b>	Fall 2018
<b>Play Analysis</b>	Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015
<b>Introduction to Theatre Arts</b>	Fall 2019, Fall 2018
<b>Introduction to Theatre Arts: Online</b>	Spring 2020
<b>World Theatre History II</b>	Spring 2017
<b>Musical Theatre Studio (Co-Taught)</b>	Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018
<b>Biz of the Biz (Co-Taught)</b>	Spring 2020
<b>She Kills Monsters (Co-Taught)</b>	Spring 2020

## PERFORMING ARTS ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

---

### Associate Artistic Director, Minot State University Summer Theatre \*Contracted

2020	<i>The Sound of Music*</i>
2020	<i>Roal Dalb's Willy Wonka*</i>
2020	<i>The Game's Afoot (Unrealized due to COVID19 Pandemic)</i>
2020	<i>Something Rotten (Unrealized due to COVID19 Pandemic)</i>

### Associate Artistic Director, North Dakota Shakespeare Festival, Grand Forks, ND

2019	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
2019	<i>Macbeth: Unrehearsed</i>
2019	New Play Day: <i>Tag, You're It</i> by Kathleen Coudle-King
2019	New Play Day: <i>Second Hand Smoke</i> by Courtney Miller

## REPRESENTATIVE ACTING EXPERIENCE \*Contracted

---

2020	<i>Willy Wonka</i>	The Candy Man*	MSU Summer Theatre
2019	<i>Big Fish</i>	Edward Bloom	MSU Summer Theatre
2019	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Claudio	North Dakota Shakespeare
2019	<i>Macbeth: Unrehearsed</i>	Macbeth	North Dakota Shakespeare
2018	<i>Hairspray</i>	Corny Collins	Crossroads Repertory Theatre
2018	<i>War of the Worlds</i>	Ensemble	Crossroads Repertory Theatre
2017	<i>Anything Goes</i>	Billy Crocker	Playhouse Theatre Company
2017	<i>Young Frankenstein</i>	Frederick	Crossroads Repertory Theatre
2017	<i>Dr. Jekyll &amp; Mr. Hyde</i>	Dr. Jekyll	Crossroads Repertory Theatre
2017	<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	Boy (Peter)	Western Illinois University
2017	<i>Underground Caberet</i>	Ensemble	Western Illinois University
2016	<i>Circle Mirror Transformation</i>	Schultz	Western Illinois University
2016	<i>The Odd Couple</i>	Speed	Okoboji Summer Theatre
2016	<i>The Game's Afoot</i>	Felix	Okoboji Summer Theatre
2016	<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Mr. De Pinna	Okoboji Summer Theatre
2016	<i>Love</i>	Scott	Gorilla Tango Theatre
2016	<i>Julius Caesar Unrehearsed</i>	Cassius	Western Illinois University

2016	<i>The Wildy Party</i>	Sam	Western Illinois University
2015	<i>Somnia Mundi (Devised Piece)</i>	Co-Deviser	Western Illinois University
2015	<i>A Bright New Boise</i>	Will	Western Illinois University
2015	<i>The Music Man</i>	Marcellus	MSU Summer Theatre
2015	<i>Pretty Theft</i>	Joe	Western Illinois University
2014	<i>A Flea in Her Ear</i>	Chandebise	Western Illinois University
2014	<i>Big River</i>	Tom Sawyer	MSU Summer Theatre
2014	<i>Monty Python's Spamalot</i>	King Arthur	MSU Summer Theatre
2014	<i>See How They Run</i>	Lionell Toop	MSU Summer Theatre
2014	<i>Musical of Musicals</i>	Jitter/Bill	MSU Summer Theatre
2013	<i>A Chorus Line</i>	Don	University of North Dakota
2013	<i>Three Days of Rain</i>	Walker/Ned	University of North Dakota
2013	<i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	Jesus	MSU Summer Theatre
2013	<i>The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam...</i>	Chip Tolentino	MSU Summer Theatre
2013	<i>Shrek: The Musical</i>	Lord Farquaad	MSU Summer Theatre
2013	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Benedick	University of North Dakota
2012	<i>Urinetown: The Musical</i>	Lockstock	University of North Dakota
2012	<i>Crimes of The Heart</i>	Barnette Lloyd	University of North Dakota

### **DIRECTING EXPERIENCE \*Contracted**

---

2020	<i>The Sound of Music*</i>		MSU Summer Theatre
2019	<i>Elf the Musical</i>		Empire Theatre Company
2019	<i>Grace</i>		University of North Dakota
2019	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>		MSU Summer Theatre
2019	<i>Noises Off</i>		University of North Dakota
2018	<i>Seussical</i>		University of North Dakota
2018	<i>All in the Timing</i>		Starry Night Repertory Theatre
2018	<i>Race</i>		Western Illinois University
2018	<i>Sense &amp; Sensibility (AD)</i>		Western Illinois University
2017	<i>Time Stands Still</i>		Western Illinois University
2016	<i>Shooting Star</i>		Starry Night Repertory Theatre
2015	<i>Ugly (Devised Piece)</i>		Western Illinois University

2015	<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	MSU Summer Theatre
2014	<i>Rumors</i>	University of North Dakota
2013	<i>The Last Five Years</i>	University of North Dakota
2012	<i>Breaking Up is Hard to Do (AD)</i>	MSU Summer Theatre

### **FIGHT DIRECTION EXPERIENCE**

---

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

### **SCENIC DESIGN EXPERIENCE \*Contracted**

---

#### **Minot State University Summer Theatre, Minot, ND**

2020	<i>Sound of Music*</i>
2020	<i>Willy Wonka*</i>
2019	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>
2019	<i>Big Fish</i>
2019	<i>Cash on Delivery</i>
2019	<i>Mamma Mia</i>
2018	<i>Seussical</i>
2018	<i>Sister Act</i>
2018	<i>One Strange Night</i>
2018	<i>Bridges of Madison County</i>

2015            *The Music Man*  
2014            *See How They Run*  
2013            *Jesus Christ Superstar*  
2012            *Breaking Up Is Hard To Do*

## TECHNICAL DIRECTION EXPERIENCE

---

### Minot State University Summer Theatre, Minot, ND

2010-present    *30 productions over the course of ten years.*

### Department of Theatre Arts, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND

2020            *She Kills Monsters*

## PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

---

Olson, Brett. “Introduction to Unarmed Stage Combat,” Presenter & Workshop Leader, Fargo Highschool Theatre Festival, February, 2020.

Olson, Brett. “Vocal Production in Shakespeare,” Presenter, World Voice Day, University of North Dakota, April, 2019.

Olson, Brett. “Slap Happy: Intro to Unarmed Stage Combat,” Presenter & Workshop Leader, KC/ACTF Region III, Indianapolis, IN. January, 2018.

Olson, Brett and Young, Jeff. “Holistic Actor Training,” Co-Presenter, Graduate Research Conference, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Il. April, 2017.

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

## HONORS AND AWARDS

---

Certificate of Merit for Ensemble Performance of *Sweeney Todd*, KC/ACTF Region V. Department of Theatre Arts, Univeristy of North Dakota, 2019.

Certificate of Merit for Ensemble Performance of *Grace*, KC/ACTF Region V. Department of Theatre Arts, Univeristy of North Dakota, 2019.

Certificate of Merit for Direction of *Noises Off*, KC/ACTF Region V. Department of Theatre Arts, University of North Dakota, 2019.

Certificate of Merit for Direction of *Seussical*, KC/ACTF Region V. Department of Theatre Arts, University of North Dakota, 2018.

Acting Coach to Comedic Acting Award for *Drake Pough*, KC/ACTF Region III Department of Theatre & Dance, Western Illinois University, 2018.

Fellow and National Finalist Partner for Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship, KC/ACTF National Conference Department of Theatre & Dance, Western Illinois University, 2017.

Showcase of Invited Scenes for *Three Days of Rain*, KC/ACTF Region V. Department of Theatre Arts, University of North Dakota, 2013.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region V

- 2020 Production Respondent: *25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam Country Spelling Bee*, Lake Region State College
- 2020 Production Respondent: *Women of Troy*, Minnesota State University-Moorhead
- 2019 Preliminary Round Respondent: “Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship”
- 2019 Production Respondent: *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*, Dickinson State U.
- 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 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 Practive 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-present   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

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

---

**Movement and Combat Education, Chicago, Illinois**

2020            25<sup>th</sup> 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

**Yale University, Coursera**

- 2020 The Science of Well-Being

**Teaching Transformation and Development Academy, University of North Dakota**

- 2020 Leading for Change: Managing Outside the Lines
- 2020 Creating Video Content with YuJa
- 2020 Creating Social Interactions with VoiceThread
- 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

**22<sup>nd</sup> Dealing with Differences Institute, Western Illinois University**

- 2015 Speak Out, Step Up, Stand Together

**GRANTS**

---

**Faculty Travel Grant**

Olson, B., “Winter Wonderland Workshop: Movement and Combat Educators and Society of American Fight Directors.” The University of North Dakota, \$500 (January 2020).

**Arts ReGrant Program**

Olson, B. “North Dakota Shakespeare presents *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Macbeth: Unrehearsed*,” City of Grand Forks, \$3,750. (May 2019 – June 2019).

**Fine Arts and Humanities Scholarship Initiative**

Olson, B. “North Dakota Shakespeare presents *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Macbeth: Unrehearsed*.” University of North Dakota, \$13,500. (November 2019 - June 2020).

**Fine Arts and Humanities Scholarship Initiative**

Cherry, E., Olson, B. “Northern Lights International Touring Company.” University of North Dakota, \$13,500. (November 2019 - April 2020).

**Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity**

Olson, B. “Support for KC/ACTF Travel and Board.” University of North Dakota, \$1000. (January 2019)

**Faculty Travel Award, Western Illinois Department of Theatre & Dance**

Olson, B. “Support for *Anything Goes* Travel.” Western Illinois University, \$250. (October 2018).

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

<b>Phi Kappa Phi</b>	2016-Present
<b>Society of American Fight Directors</b>	2015-Present
<b>Intimacy Directors International</b>	2019-2020 (Dissolved)