

# **Nik Whitcomb**

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## **EDUCATION**

**Creighton University** (Omaha, NE) **2015**

***Bachelor of Arts in Theatre***

*Concentration in Performance and Directing*

**Minor in Philosophy**

**Actors Theatre of Louisville** **2020 - 2021**

*Directing Apprentice*

**Goodman Theatre** (Chicago, IL) **2018**

*Casting Apprentice*

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### ***Administrative Experience***

**Bag&Baggage Productions**

**Current**

### ***Artistic Director***

- *Collaborate with a full time staff of six to enact the mission, vision, and values of Bag&Baggage.*
- *Develop and maintain an annual budget in collaboration with the Managing Director.*
- *Steward the artistic vision of Bag&Baggage Productions and The Vault.*
- *Liaise with city, county, state, and Federal officials to insure support for all arts & culture in the city of Hillsboro.*
- *Artistic Producer of Bag&Baggage five show main season.*
- *Curate and produce additional entertainment and cultural events for The Vault.*
- *Oversee fundraising efforts and draft grant proposals as needed.*
- *Advise on development and execution of marketing, community engagement, audience development, and education initiatives.*
- *Grow and maintain meaningful relationships within the community of Hillsboro and Washington County.*
- *Connect with local and national artists to identify spaces for potential collaboration.*
- *Serve as an active voting member on the Bag&Baggage Board of Directors.*

**Black Theatre Coalition (BTC)****Current****Program Director**

- *Develop partnerships with Broadway producers, general management companies, marketing agencies, and other non-acting departments for placements of Fellows, Apprentices, & Observers.*
- *Strategize the overall development of BTC to expand outside of the New York and Broadway market.*
- *Maintain relationships with partnered organizations as well as Fellows & Apprentices in the program.*
- *Expand the enrichment and continued success aspects of BTC and curate meaningful programming & networking events for participants.*
- *Manage all recruitment efforts for Fellowships, Apprenticeships, and other employment opportunities presented by partner organizations.*
- *Develop and maintain the budget for the Programming department in collaboration with the Executive Director.*
- *Monitor the programmatic financial operations within the company (donations, invoicing, Fellow/Apprentice payments, and other transactions)*
- *Represent the Black Theatre Coalition at events, fundraisers, conferences, and career fairs.*
- *Assist in program development and management for the BTC/Broadway Across America Regional Fellowship with the John Gore Organization.*

**House of Afros, Capes, & Curls (Omaha, NE)****Entertainment & Community Strategist****Current**

- *Assist in idea generation and execution for all House events.*
- *Strategize potential partnership for the House in Omaha and beyond.*
- *Draft press releases for House events as needed.*
- *Host in-person and online panels & events for The House.*

**Omaha Theater Company for Young People (The Rose)****2020 - 2021****Broadway at The Rose Manager**

- *Manage day-to-day operation of The Rose Studios for Youth Artists, a 27,000 square-foot arts training facility.*
- *Maintain finances for all Broadway at The Rose programming including The Dance Lab, the Rose Brigade, and all on and off site classes.*
- *Act as production & house manager for all workshops, sharings, and performances in the 200 seat performance venue in the studios.*
- *Serve on a number of committees to support EDI and communication improvement areas across the company.*

### **Producing**

**UNOTheatre/Megan Ann Rasmussen Productions** **2022**  
*Associate Producer - Heaven Come Home Workshop*

**With A Machete Productions** (Chicago, IL) **2020 - Now**  
*Creative Producer & Casting Director - Hildegard: The Ruppertsberg Tour*

**The Union for Contemporary Art** (Omaha, NE) **2020 - 2021**  
*Production Manager - Pursuing Legacy*

**Puppeteers of Color Social** (Chicago, IL) **2018 - 2019**  
*Founder/Artistic Producer*  
*Facilitated the creation of space and provided resources to a cohort of puppeteers of color from across the country to increase visibility of BIPOC puppeteers. Curated, marketed, and produced a two-room puppetry event called "Nasty, Brutish, & Short".*

### **Directing**

**The Twenty-Sided Tavern** **2022 - Now**  
*Resident Director*

**Benson Theatre** **Spring 2022**  
*Director/Choreographer - Choir Boy*

**Actors Theatre of Louisville** **Fall 2020**  
*Co-Director/Facilitator - Now Becomes Then (World Premiere)*

**Omaha Theatre Company for Young People** **Fall 2019**  
*Director/Co-Choreographer - Ella Enchanted: A New Musical*

**Collaboraction Theatre Company** (Chicago, IL) **Winter 2018**  
*Director - When The Snow Melted Down In Chicago (World Premiere)*

**The Theatre School at DePaul** (Chicago, IL) **Spring 2018**  
*Director - A Black Body In Space And Time*

***Full Directing, Performing, & Teaching Experience Available Upon Request***

## **Casting**

**Paskal Rudnicke Casting, Inc.** (Chicago, IL)

**2018 - Now**

### **Casting Associate**

- *Manager of Northlight Theatre (LORT D) casting process for two consecutive seasons.*
- *Coordinated non-actor (or "Real People") audition searches for three commercial campaigns (US Bank, AT&T, Swedish American Hospital).*
- *Assist in running auditions and completing booking paperwork for major television and film projects working for clients such as Marvel/Disney +, AMC, HBO Max, Amazon Prime, Comedy Central, and MarVista Entertainment.*

### **Freelance Casting Director**

**2018 - Now**

*The Pretenders (Short Film - Chicago)*

*Coterie Theatre (Alice's Wonderland)*

*Bluebarn Theatre (Red Summer, King Lear, Buffalo Women)*

*Organic Theatre Company (Melancholy Play & The Memo)*

*Haven Chicago (Director's Haven - 2 seasons & Titus Andronicus)*

*Pride Films & Plays (Summer Play Festival 2018 & After Glow)*

## **Residencies**

**I AM DANCE** (Omaha, NE)

**2021**

*Led theatre classes across various topics including ensemble, acting tools, story structure, scenic design, and musical theatre dance for dance students ages 4-18.*

**The Stillwell Institute For Contemporary Black Art** (Chicago, IL)

**2019**

*Conceived and devised a theatrical movement and music piece called [TO THE SEA](#).*

**Quincy Community Theatre** (Quincy, IL)

**2016**

*Planned and taught 2 creative drama classes for students ages 6-10, 1 creative drama class for students on the autism spectrum, and 1 on-camera acting class for students in middle school while performing the role of Eddie Souther in "Sister Act the Musical".*

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**THE COME UP with Nik Whitcomb** 2020 - Now  
**Creator/Host/Editor**

*Moderate a series of discussions with working artists and activists about the power of creative work and what it looks like to enact social change in tangible ways.*

**The League of Excellent\Extraordinary Negroes** 2020 - Now  
**Contributor & Guest Moderator**

*Participate in critical discussion review series about tv, film, and blerd culture.*

**House of Afros, Capes, & Curls - AfroCon (Omaha, NE)** 2020 - Now  
**Master of Ceremonies/Moderator/Panelist**

**Roosevelt University, Chicago College of Performing Arts** 2019 - 2020  
**Guest Lecturer**

*Led acting workshops and spoke about equity, inclusion, and access in casting.*

**The Theatre School at DePaul University (Chicago, IL)** 2019 - 2020  
**Panelist**

*Attended the end of the year mini showcase and workshopped scenes with students.*

**Interlochen Arts Academy (Interlichen, MI)** 2019 - 2020  
**Panelist**

*Panelist for Senior Agency Showcase.*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**Stage Directors & Choreographers Union** 2021 - Now  
**Associate Member**

**The Union for Contemporary Art** 2016 - Now

*Advisory Committee - The Shirley Tyree Theater*

*Core Ensemble Member - Performing Arts Collective*

**The Stillwell Institute for Contemporary Black Art** 2019 - Now  
**Education Coordinator**

**American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE)** 2020 - 2022

*Mentor - Leaders of Color Institute*

*Distinguished Play Committee*

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

**American Theatre Magazine**

*Theatre Worker You Should Know*

**April 2020**

**Omaha Entertainment & Arts Award**

**2016** - Winner: *Best Supporting Actor (Musical, Caroline or Change)*

**2020** - Winner: *Best Musical & Best Choreography (Director & Co Choreographer, Ella Enchanted)*

**Theatre Arts Guild (Omaha, NE)**

**2016**

**2016** - Winner: *Best Featured Actor (Musical, Caroline or Change)*

**Omaha Theater Company for Young People**

**2015 - 2016**

*Artistic Fellowship*

## **REFERENCES**

**Denise Chapman, Producing Artistic Director**

*Union for Contemporary Art (Omaha, NE)*

[denise@u-ca.org](mailto:denise@u-ca.org)

(402) 660-7428

**Carla Stillwell, Founder/Executive Director**

*The Stillwell Institute for Contemporary Black Art*

[thestillwellinstitute@gmail.com](mailto:thestillwellinstitute@gmail.com)

(773) 575-4334

**Jamillah Hinson, Curator & Facilitator**

*Freelancer/Collaborator*

[jhinson09@gmail.com](mailto:jhinson09@gmail.com)

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**Jorge Silva, Managing Director**

*Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts*

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