



## CAVORT 2016 SPEAKERS & BIOS

### HUMANA FESTIVAL 101

**Zan Sawyer Dailey**, Associate Director at Actors Theatre of Louisville, coordinates artistic resources and personnel, including casting, for over 25 productions and readings annually. She supervises departments involved in education and community outreach, professional theatre training, special events and festivals, casting and company management. Zan is a Master Teacher for the Apprentice Company at Actors Theatre, and is frequently invited to do master classes at universities and conferences across the country. At the University of Louisville she teaches audition technique and business protocol; and she annually offers workshops in acting that are open to anyone in the community. She has a BA in Theatre Arts from Butler University and an MFA in Arts Administration from Florida State University.

**Erin Meiman**, Festival & Events Manager at Actors Theatre of Louisville, has over 15 years in arts administration and project management experience. She has worked for a variety of organizations including the Cincinnati Ballet, The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center, Be The Change, Inc. and Boston College's Band Program. A native of Columbus, OH, Erin has a BA from Miami University and an MBA from Northern Kentucky University.

**Paul Werner**, Production Manager at Actors Theatre of Louisville, started there in 1997. He spent ten years as the Lighting Supervisor before making the transition to the Production office. In 2008 Paul became the Assistant Production Manager and was promoted to Production Manager in 2013. During his tenure at Actors, Paul has designed lighting for all of the Humana Festival Ten Minute plays from 2000-2008 and several apprentice Humana productions.

**Meredith McDonough**, Associate Artistic Director at Actors Theatre of Louisville, is directing *This Random World* and *Coffee Break* in the 40<sup>th</sup> Humana Festival of New American Plays. At Actors Theatre she has directed *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Dot*, *The Last Five Years*, *Noises Off*, *The Whipping Man*, *brownsville song (b-side for tray)* and *The Delling Shore*. Previously, McDonough was the director of new works at TheatreWorks in Palo Alto, Calif., where she directed the world premiere musical *Triangle*, as well as *Upright Grand*, *Auctioning the Ainsleys*, *Silent Sky*, *Now Circa Then*, [title of show] and *Opus* (Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards: Best Director and Best Production). Other San Francisco credits include *A Steady Rain* at Marin Theatre Company and *The Lily's Revenge* and *Another Way Home* at The Magic Theatre. Regionally, favorites include the U.S. premiere of Lucy Kirkwood's *NSFW*, *Fair Use* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), *Eurydice* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *The Book Club Play* (Dallas Theater Center) and the D.C. premiere of the musical *Summer of '42*. In New York City, McDonough has developed work with Roundabout Theatre Company, Atlantic Theater Company, Keen Company and Ars Nova. She was the associate artistic director of The Orchard Project, was the new works director for the National Alliance for

Musical Theatre, and currently serves on the board of Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. McDonough received her B.S. from Northwestern University and her M.F.A. from University of California, San Diego.

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST ARTS ADVOCATES**

**Christen Boone**, President & CEO of the Fund for the Arts in Louisville, KY, served in leadership roles for some of the country's most treasured cultural institutions before joining the Fund for the Arts. She has raised nearly \$250 million for regional nonprofit organizations including Actors Theatre of Louisville, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta and Cincinnati's Fine Arts Fund. Christen worked at Actors for six years, and then served as Director of the Greater Louisville Project. Moving to The Parklands of Floyds Fork, she led the efforts to raise more than \$120 million to build one of the nation's largest new urban parks. She later served five years on Actors' Board of Directors and now serves on the national Private Sector Council for the Americans for the Arts as well as and locally on the board of the Governors Scholars Program and Foundation. She was recognized as a 40 Under 40 leader by Business First, and as Volunteer of the Year by SafePlace Services.

**Todd Lowe**, president and founder of the investment advisory firm Parthenon LLC, was previously senior vice president of J.J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons, Inc. Lowe joined the board of the Kentucky Arts Council in 2005 and was elected chair that same year. He is a board member and past president of Actors Theatre of Louisville, and is immediate past chair of the board of trustees for The Speed Art Museum. He co-chaired capital campaigns for the Speed Art Museum and Actors Theatre of Louisville, raising \$62 million and \$13 million, respectively. Lowe is a recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (Louisville) as well as the James S. Welch, Sr. Fund for the Arts/Stoll Keenon Ogden Leaders Award. He currently serves as chair of the South Arts governing board and is a member of the boards for Louisville Public Media (chair), Kentucky College of Art and Design at Spalding University, and Fund for the Arts. Nationally, he serves on the board for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, a group that works closely with both SAAs and the NEA.

### **CREATURE FEATURE OR LEARNING EXCITEMENT?**

**Marsha Coplon** is Director of Education at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Though her mother claims she has been melodramatic all of her life, Marsha Coplon did not start out working toward a career in the world of theatre. However, in her 16 years as a special education teacher, Marsha used theatre in her classroom as well as keeping it as a consistent presence in her life. In 1994 Marsha joined Syracuse Stage as their Director of Educational Services. During her 4 years there, in addition to working with teachers and students attending the productions, Marsha had the opportunity to serve as adjunct faculty at Syracuse University working with education and drama majors on using theatre to teach classroom curriculum. She also co-directed a University touring show for children and made her professional acting debut as a dead body for 20 minutes. In June of 1998, Marsha moved to St. Louis to become The Rep's first Director of Education. In 2001, the Webster University Education Department began using Marsha as a guest speaker and team teacher for their undergraduate pre-teacher and graduate level teacher training programs. In spring of 2009 she became an adjunct faculty member for the Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts teaching Theatre Appreciation to non-theater majors. Marsha holds a BS (teaching) in special education, an MAT in communication arts and has done 30 graduate hours in criminology/delinquency prevention.

**Jane B. Jones** is in her first full season as Education Director and her sixth season at Actors Theatre of Louisville. At Actors, Jones has taught playwriting to middle and high school students, acted as Literary Manager of the New Voices Young Playwrights Contest, and helped develop the theatre's lobby enrichment initiative. In 2012, Jones's short play, "Dress Up", was produced in the A/I Tens and she was commissioned to write "TMI: a sex-ed puppet show" for Squallis Puppeteers. Jones is an MFA candidate in Playwriting at Spalding University; she graduated cum laude from Smith College with a BA in Theatre.

### **A PEEK BEIND THE CURTAIN OF "WONDROUS STRANGE"**

**Michael Legg**, Director of the Apprentice/Intern Company, is in his ninth season at Actors Theatre of Louisville, where he's directed world premieres of plays by A. Rey Pamatmat, Laura Jacqmin, Dan Dietz, Kyle John Schmidt, Marco Ramirez, Carmen Herlihy, Jennifer Haley, and Allison Moore, among others. Legg serves as a guest artist at several universities, including the University of Idaho, Ohio University, and Texas Tech University. He also teaches for and works extensively with the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival and serves as the Artistic Director of the WildWind Performance Lab in Texas, where he's developed new plays by Brian Quijada, Eva Suter, Brian Bauman, and Joshua Conkel, among others. Legg holds an M.F.A. in acting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is a proud member of the Actors Equity Association.

### **John Rooney**, Asst. Dir. of the Apprentice/Intern Company

John Rooney is the assistant director of the Apprentice/Intern Company. At Actors Theatre: Director for Rules of Comedy in the Humana Ten-Minute Plays, and Anthropology Section and Rules of Comedy in The Tens. Assistant director for The Glory of the World, The Christians and The Edge of Our Bodies. His play The Q&A was produced in The Tens, 2015. He is also a proud alumni of Actors Theatre's Intern Company. Regional Theatre: Associate Director for The Christians at Playwrights Horizons, assistant director for Teddy Ferrara at Goodman Theatre and script supervisor for numerous shows at Steppenwolf Theatre, including The Qualms, Head of Passes, The March and Three Sisters. He has worked as director and producer at a number of Chicago theatres including, About Face Theatre, American Theater Company, Collaboration and Walkabout. Additional Credits: Previously he was the associate artistic director of Red Tape Theatre and is a current company member of Dog and Pony Theatre Company in Chicago. He received his B.F.A. in theatre arts from The Theatre School at DePaul University.

### **HUMANA FESTIVAL PLAY INSIGHTS**

**Amy Wegener** (moderator) is the Literary Director at Actors Theatre, where she heads the literary department and coordinates the selection process for the Humana Festival of New American Plays. In 15 seasons with Actors and four as Literary Manager at the Guthrie Theater, she has worked as a dramaturg on more than 100 productions and workshops of new plays and classics. Recent Humana Festival credits include world premieres by Charles Mee, Jordan Harrison, Erin Courtney, Lisa Kron, Courtney Baron, Molly Smith Metzler, and (this year) Sarah Ruhl. She has co-edited 15 published anthologies, and holds degrees from Princeton and Northwestern.

**Hannah Rae Montgomery** is the Resident Dramaturg at Actors Theatre of Louisville, where most recently she's worked on Laura Jacqmin's *Residence* and Hansol Jung's *Cardboard Piano* in this year's Humana Festival. Other dramaturgy credits at Actors include *4000 Miles*,

*Luna Gale, At the Vanishing Point, The Mountaintop, and True West* in the Brown-Forman Series; and the world premieres of *That High Lonesome Sound, Remix 38, Cry Old Kingdom, The Delling Shore, and How We Got On* in the Humana Festival of New American Plays. Montgomery holds a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College and an M.F.A. from Yale School of Drama.

**Jenni Page-White** is the Literary Manager at Actors Theatre of Louisville, where she is completing her first season. Her dramaturgy credits at Actors include the world premieres of *Wellesley Girl* and *This Random World*. Previously, she was the Literary Associate at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, where her credits included *The Fundamentals; Okay, Bye;* and *The Birthday Party*. She holds a B.F.A. from the University of Oklahoma and an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa.

### **MAKING THE ARTS ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE**

**Toby Roberts** is Manager of Access Services for the Kentucky Center for the Arts. After 20 years of customer service experience in the private sector and 12 years in nonprofit patron services, he now leads the award winning Access Services program. This program provides a full calendar of accessibility services including American Sign Language, Caption Theater, Mobility Access, Audio Description, Alternate Format Materials (Braille and Audio programs), Image for the Ear Audio Described Art Tour and Sensory-Friendly Performances. The Kentucky Center has been awarded the Excellence in Accessibility Leadership Award from The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Audio Description Project Achievement in AD Award from The American Council of the Blind. We are a founding member of the LEAD Conference, and The Kentucky Center provides statewide access consulting and accommodations for several other Louisville entertainment venues.

**Allison Hammons** is the Director of Volunteer and Audience Relations at Actors Theatre. She oversees over 850 volunteer ushers and all front of house operations including patron relations, emergency preparedness, House Managers and Coat Check attendants. She coordinates all access services offered to patrons including large print programs, assistive listening devices, sign interpretation, and alternative seating along with caption service and audio description (both in conjunction with the Kentucky Center for the Arts). Additionally, she is the staff liaison to Actors Associates, volunteers in service to Actors Theatre. Previously, she managed the theatre's Outbound Sales Program. She has a B.A. in Music from the University of Georgia. She has been with Actors Theatre since 1987.