***Curriculum Vitae***

# Dr. JAMES MICHAEL MILLER

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## EDUCATION

**Concordia College**, Moorhead, MN. B.A. 1979
Majors: Speech Communication Theatre Arts, English
GPA: 3.8 Summa Cum Laude, CREDO honors program
Senior Project: Wrote, Directed, Designed and Acted original full length play, *Good Night Sweet Prince*, a sequel to Hamlet.

**University of Maine**, Orono ME. M.A. 1981
Area: Theatre
GPA: 4.0
Thesis: "Harnessing the Sphinx: The Brand Event on Stage. A new adaptation and production of Ibsen's Brand." Directed, Designed, Adapted and acted role of Ibsen.

**Southern Illinois University, Carbondale** IL. Ph.D. 1985
Area: Speech Communication, Theatre specialization
GPA: 4.0
Dissertation: "Epic Ibsen: A Production Model for Emperor and Galilean." Analysis, Adaptation and Design for stage version (unrealized)

## TEACHING and EMPLOYMENT

1985-2012 **University of Wisconsin-Stout** Dept. of Speech Communication, Foreign Languages, Theatre and Music
*1985-1987 Lecturer (non tenure track) *Designer and Technical Director*
*1987-2012 Assist/Assoc/Full Professor (tenured 1993) *Director of Theatre* (1987-2006)
THEA 232 Introduction to Theatre (live and online)
THEA 334 Contemporary Theatre (live and online)
THEA 336 Stagecraft
THEA 338 Play Production
THEA 496 Shakespeare Special study
THEA 131 Theatre Practicum
THEA 500 Scenic/Lighting Design (special topics)
SPCOM 100 Fundamentals of Speech (live and online)
SPCOM 236 Listening

## TEACHING and EMPLOYMENT (continued)

Fall 1990 &
Fall 1995 **Wisconsin In Scotland Program**

THEA 232, 334, 338 and SPCOM 100 courses at the Wisconsin Study Centre in Dalkeith, Scotland.

1983-1985 **Southern Illinois University** *graduate teaching assistant/fellow*

Intro to Theatre Public Speaking

1981-1982 **Concordia College** *Instructor, SCTA Dept. Designer/Technical Director*

Production Organization and Procedures
Scene and Lighting Design
Styles in Production
Voice/Movement for the Actor
Public Speaking
Summer Theatre Practicum

(Also served as Designer/TD for **Concordia Summer Dinner Theatre** 1981, and Director/Producer/Designer/TD for Summer Dinner Theatre 1982)

1979-1981 **University of Maine** *graduate teaching assistant/technical assistant*

Theatre Production
Fundamentals of Acting

1977-1979 **Concordia College** *undergraduate T.A.*
SCTA 122 Production Organization and Procedures

## OTHER THEATRE EMPLOYMENT

2007-2012 **Gooseberry Park Players** Scenic Designer and Technical Director
Moorhead MN Summer Youth Theatre company, utilizing the stage and production facilities of Frances Frazier Comstock Theatre, Concordia College

1989-2012 Guest Scenic Designer **Eden Prairie High School Theatre**, Eden Prairie MN

2006-2012 Guest Designer/Director **Menomonie Theatre Guild**, Menomonie WI

1990-2001 Frequent Guest Designer, **Menomonie High School**, **Boyceville High School**, **Colfax High School** *(pro bono)*

1987 **St. Croix Valley Summer Theatre** Scenic Designer and Technical Director
Summer Stock company utilizing the Kleinpell Fine Arts Center on the campus of The University of Wisconsin-River Falls

1980 **The Theatre at Monmouth**, Monmouth ME. (LORT)
Actor (AEA apprentice), fight arranger

1978 **Brainerd Community College Summer Theatre**, Brainerd MN
Scenic Designer, 4 show Summer Stock Theatre company

# THEATRE WORK

In addition to my career as an educator, I have been active as a practicing theatre artist.

**TRAINING**

As an **undergraduate** I acted many leading roles while pursuing both formal and self directed training in design and direction. I was invited to design for the mainstage beginning in my sophomore year, and my senior thesis show was an original full length play that I wrote, directed and for which I designed the scenery, lights, costumes and props. (I also acted the role of Hamlet.) As an undergraduate I was also engaged as scenic designer for a 4 show Summer Stock theatre company in Brainerd, MN.

After graduating with a double major BA in English and Speech/Theatre, I completed a two year **MA in theatre** at the University of Maine, where I continued to act leading roles while serving as a technical assistant and studying advanced directing, scenic design and lighting design. My thesis was a combined creative/written work, in which I wrote and defended a traditional scholarly analysis of Ibsen and his work while writing an original stage adaptation of his play *Brand*, which I then designed, directed and acted. While in graduate school I was hired as an **Equity apprentice actor** and performed a summer Shakespeare season with the LORT Theatre at Monmouth Maine, also serving as the company fight arranger.

With my MA in hand I accepted a one year teaching post as a **sabbatical leave replacement** at Concordia College, bookended with a related post as **designer and technical director** for the College's Summer Dinner Theatre. I designed scenery and lighting for the college season, directed a mainstage musical and served as producing director for the second summer's dinner theatre operation.

I then enrolled in the doctoral program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. I took the MFA courses in design while working in the scene shop as a technical assistant. I had chosen SIU in order to **study design with Darwin Reid Payne**, whose books had been instrumental in providing me with a design approach and philosophy. I later was able to study European styles and technique under Czechoslovakian scenographer Milan Palec. The **Ph.D. program** is jointly administered by the departments of Theatre and Speech-Communication, and in addition to the **MFA curriculum** I also completed the requisite doctoral studies in theatre literature, history and criticism in addition to advanced courses in such communication areas as Org. Comm., Small Group, Semiotics, Interpersonal, Performance Studies and Communication Education. I was also active in the renowned oral interp/reader's theatre program operating out of the Calipre Stage. I **defended four competencies** in my prelims, covering a range of theatre and communication areas, and completed a **dissertation** which, like my thesis, combined a scholarly exegesis of an Ibsen problem play (*Emperor and Galilean* this time) with an original adaptation of the script as well as a complete staging concept.

## ***DIRECTOR*** *45 shows since 1978*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auburn | PROOF | 2009 | Menomonie Theatre Guild |
| Edson | W;T | 2008 | Menomonie Theatre Guild |
| Webber & Rice | JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR | 2006 | Stout |
| Churchill | CLOUD NINE | 2005 | Stout |
| Luce | BARRYMORE | 2004 | Stout |
| Ibsen | AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE | 2004 | Stout |
| Kaufman | THE LARAMIE PROJECT | 2003 | Stout |
| Thomas | UNDER MILK WOOD | 2003 | Stout |
| Gillette ConanDoyle | SHERLOCK HOLMES | 2002 | Stout |
| Lawrence&Lee | THE NIGHT THOREAU SPENT IN JAIL | 2001 | Stout |
| Miller | THE CRUCIBLE | 2001 | Stout |
| Shakespeare | TAMING OF THE SHREW | 2000 | Stout |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Williams | CAMINO REAL | 2000 | Stout |
| Chase | HARVEY | 1999 | Stout |
| Ives | ALL IN THE TIMING | 1998 | Stout |
| Wertenbaker | OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD | 1998 | Stout |
| Sondheim | ASSASSINS | 1997 | Stout |
| Allen | GOD | 1997 | Stout |
| Miller/Dickens | A CHRISTMAS CAROL | 1996 | Stout |
| Ibsen | THE MASTER BUILDER | 1996 | Stout |
| Pielmeier | AGNES OF GOD | 1995 | Stout |
| Maltby and Shire | BABY | 1994 | Stout |
| Williams/Sears | GREATER TUNA | 1994 | Stout |
| Kander & Ebb | CABARET | 1993 | Stout |
| Key/Treyz/Chapin | COTTON PATCH GOSPEL | 1993 | Stout |
| Wasserstein | THE HEIDI CHRONICLES | 1992 | Stout |
| Sondheim | SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM | 1992 | Stout |
| Brecht | MOTHER COURAGE | 1991 | Stout |
| | *Also composed original music* | | |
| Webber & Rice | EVITA | 1991 | Stout |
| Durang | SISTER MARY IGNATIUS EXPLAINS IT ALL FOR YOU | 1990 | Stout |
| Sophocles | ANTIGONE | 1989 | Stout |
| | *Also composed original music* | | |
| Webber & Rice | JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT | 1989 | Stout |
| Shaw | ARMS & THE MAN | 1989 | Stout |
| Tebelak | GODSPELL | 1988 | Stout |
| Wasserman | MAN OF LA MANCHA | 1988 | Stout |
| Ibsen | A DOLL HOUSE | 1988 | Stout |
| Cristofer | THE SHADOW BOX | 1987 | Stout |
| Stoppard | ROSENCRANTZ&GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD | 1986 | Stout |
| Webber & Rice | JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR | 1982 | Concordia |
| Moliere | TARTUFFE | 1982 | Concordia |
| Wilde | IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST | 1982 | Concordia |
| Ibsen | BRAND | 1981 | U Maine |
| Coventry Cycle | PHARAOH | 1980 | U Maine |
| Original | GOODNIGHT SWEET PRINCE | 1978 | Concordia |
| Ionesco | EXIT THE KING & MACBETT | 1978 | Concordia |

## ***DESIGNER*** *100+ shows since 1976*

S = scenery, L = lights, C = costumes, A= audio

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SHIRLEY VALENTINE | S | 2014 | Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts |
| THE BOYFRIEND | S | 2013 | Eden Prairie High School |
| HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS | S | 2012 | Gooseberry Park Players |
| THE PIRATES Of PENZANCE | S | 2012 | Eden Prairie High School |
| CINDERELLAx4 | S | 2011 | Gooseberry Park Players |
| THE SOUND OF MUSIC | S | 2011 | Menomonie Theatre Guild |
| THE SOUND OF MUSIC | S | 2010 | Eden Prairie High School |
| A DZSUNGEL KONYVE | S | 2009 | Gooseberry Park Players |
| PROOF | S,L,A | 2009 | Menomonie Theatre Guild |
| THE SECRET GARDEN | S | 2009 | Eden Prairie High School |
| THE PINAFORE PIRATES | S | 2009 | Gooseberry Park Players |
| WIT | S,L,A | 2009 | Menomonie Theatre Guild |
| JOSEPH…DREAMCOAT | S | 2008 | Eden Prairie High School |
| ARSENIC & OLD LACE | S | 2008 | Menomonie Theatre Guild |
| THE WIZ | S | 2008 | Gooseberry Park Players |
| ALONE TOGETHER | S | 2008 | Menomonie Theatre Guild |

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|---|---|---|---|
| HONK! | S | 2007 | Eden Prairie High School |
| HOOD: THE MUSICAL | S | 2007 | Gooseberry Park Players |
| WEST SIDE STORY | S | 2006 | Eden Prairie High School |
| BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS | S | 2006 | Menomonie Theatre Guild |
| JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR | S,L,A | 2006 | Stout |
| SINGIN IN THE RAIN | S,RAIN | 2005 | Eden Prairie High School |
| CLOUD 9 | S,L,A | 2005 | Stout |
| PIPPIN | L,A | 2005 | Stout |
| GREASE | S | 2004 | Eden Prairie High School |
| AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE | S,L,A | 2004 | Stout |
| HARVEY | S | 2004 | Eden Prairie High School |
| THE LARAMIE PROJECT | S,L,A | 2003 | Stout |
| CINDERELLA | S | 2003 | Eden Prairie High School |
| BARRYMORE | S,L,A | 2003 | Stout |
| UNDER MILK WOOD | L,A | 2003 | Stout |
| GOOD NEWS! | S,L,A | 2002 | Stout |
| BYE BYE BIRDIE | S | 2002 | Eden Prairie High School |
| THE NIGHT THOREAU SPENT IN JAIL | L,A | 2001 | Stout |
| GUYS AND DOLLS | S | 2001 | Eden Prairie High School |
| CRUCIBLE | S,L,A | 2001 | Stout |
| TAMING OF THE SHREW | L,A | 2000 | Stout |
| ONCE UPON A MATTRESS | S | 2000 | Eden Prairie High School |
| CAMINO REAL | L,A | 2000 | Stout |
| THE MUSIC MAN | S | 1999 | Eden Prairie High School |
| THE SECRET GARDEN | S,L,A | 1999 | Menomonie High School |
| HARVEY | L,A | 1999 | Stout |
| ALL IN THE TIMING | L,A | 1998 | Stout |
| GODSPELL | S | 1998 | Eden Prairie High School |
| OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD | L,A | 1998 | Stout |
| ASSASSINS | L,A | 1997 | Stout |
| INTO THE WOODS | S | 1997 | Eden Prairie High School |
| GOD | L,A | 1997 | Stout |
| A CHRISTMAS CAROL | L,A | 1996 | Stout |
| THE MASTER BUILDER | L,A | 1996 | Stout |
| WEST SIDE STORY | S | 1996 | Eden Prairie High School |
| AGNES OF GOD | L,C,A | 1995 | Stout |
| FAME | S | 1994 | Eden Prairie High School |
| BABY | L,A | 1994 | Stout |
| GREATER TUNA | L,A | 1994 | Stout |
| KISS ME KATE | S | 1993 | Eden Prairie High School |
| COTTON PATCH GOSPEL | L,A | 1993 | Stout |
| CABARET | L,A | 1993 | Stout |
| PIRATES OF PENZANCE | S | 1992 | Eden Prairie High School |
| OKLAHOMA! | S | 1992 | Boyceville High School |
| THE HEIDI CHRONICLES | L,A | 1992 | Stout |
| MOTHER COURAGE | S,L,A | 1991 | Stout |
| EVITA | S,L,A | 1991 | Stout |
| SISTER MARY IGNATIUS EXPLAINS IT ALL FOR YOU | S,L,A | 1990 | Stout |
| THE OCTETTE BRIDGE CLUB | S,L,A | 1989 | Stout |
| OKLAHOMA! | S | 1989 | Eden Prairie High School |
| A DOLL HOUSE | S,L,A | 1988 | Stout |
| GODSPELL | S | 1987 | Concordia College |
| GODSPELL | S | 1987 | UW-River Falls |
| BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS | S | 1987 | UW-River Falls |
| OKLAHOMA! | S | 1987 | UW-River Falls |
| CAMELOT | S,L,A | 1987 | Stout |
| ALL THE WAY HOME | S,L,A | 1986 | Stout |
| THE FOREIGNER | S,L,A | 1986 | Stout |

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|---|---|---|---|
| OKLAHOMA! | S,L,A | 1986 | Stout |
| ROSENCRANTZ& GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD | S,L,A | 1986 | Stout |
| SAVING GRACE | S,L,A | 1985 | Stout |
| WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY? | S,L,A | 1985 | Stout |
| PLAYWRIGHTS WORKSHOP 83 | S,L | 1983 | SIU |
| TARTUFFE | S,L,A | 1982 | Concordia College |
| THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST | S,L,A | 1982 | Concordia College |
| JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR | S,L,C | 1982 | Concordia College |
| JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK | S,L,A | 1982 | Concordia College |
| LOVE'S LABOURS LOST | S,L,A | 1981 | Concordia College |
| THE GIRLS IN 509 | S,L,A | 1981 | Concordia College |
| ONCE UPON A MATTRESS | S,L,A | 1981 | Concordia College |
| MEASURE FOR MEASURE | S | 1981 | Concordia College |
| BRAND | S,L,C,A | 1981 | U Maine |
| WEST SIDE STORY | S | 1980 | Concordia College |
| THE SHADOW BOX | S,L | 1980 | U Maine |
| GUYS AND DOLLS | S | 1979 | Concordia College |
| MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING | S,L | 1979 | Concordia College |
| GOODNIGHT SWEET PRINCE | S,L,C | 1978 | Concordia College |
| LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE | S, L | 1978 | Brainerd Comm. College |
| A FUNNY THING HAPPENED. ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM | S | 1978 | Brainerd Comm. College |
| THE PRISONER OF 2ND AVENUE | S,L | 1978 | Brainerd Comm. College |
| YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU | S | 1978 | Brainerd Comm. College |
| EXIT THE KING | S,L,C,A | 1978 | Concordia College |
| SOUTH PACIFIC | S | 1978 | Concordia College |
| PROMETHEUS BOUND | S | 1976 | Concordia College |
| GODSPELL | L | 1976 | Concordia College |

## ***ACTOR*** *40+ roles since 1975; highlights below*

| *Author* | *Show* | *Role* | *Year* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wilder | OUR TOWN | Stage Manager | 2013 |
| Schwartz | PIPPIN | Charlemagne | 2005 |
| Luce | BARRYMORE | Barrymore | 2003 |
| Lerner & Loewe | CAMELOT | Arthur | 1994 |
| Dylan Thomas | A CHILD's XMAS IN WALES | | 1990+ |
| *Solo performance presented annually as a holiday gift and fundraiser for the local food pantry* | | | |
| Shakespeare | MACBETH | Macbeth | 1980 |
| Shakespeare | THE TEMPEST | Prospero | 1980 |
| Shakespeare | MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING | Benedick | 1979 |
| Shakespeare | ROMEO AND JULIET | Tybalt | 1980 |
| Shakespeare | ROMEO AND JULIET | Mercutio | 1975 |
| Aeschylus | PROMETHEUS BOUND | Prometheus | 1976 |
| Euripides | MEDEA | Creon | 1976 |
| Sophocles | ANTIGONE | Creon | 1975 |
| Williams | NIGHT OF THE IGUANA | Shannon | 1979 |
| Williams | CAMINO REAL | Quixote | 1977 |
| Williams | ECCENTRICITIES OF A NIGHTINGALE | John | 1995 |
| GB Shaw | ARMS AND THE MAN | Sergius | 1978 |
| Chekov | THE CHERRY ORCHARD | Lopachin | 1980 |
| Ibsen | THE WILD DUCK | Hjalmar | 1978 |
| Pinter | THE BIRTHDAY PARTY | Stanley | 1977 |
| Pinter | THE DWARFS | Len | 1976 |
| S. Shepard | CHICAGO | Stu | 1980 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Frings | LOOK HOMEWARD ANGEL | W.O.Gant | 1979 |
| Gibson | GOODLY CREATURES | Vane | 1980 |
| Rodgers/Barer | ONCE UPON A MATTRESS | Sextimus | 1981 |

## SPECIAL PERFORMANCE SKILLS/TRAINING

***Mime*** (under E. Reid Gilbert)
***Stage Combat/fight arranger*** broadsword, rapier and dagger
***Musician*** Guitar, drums

## PLAYWRIGHT

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|---|---|
| GOODNIGHT SWEET PRINCE | 1978 |
| BRAND (adaptation of Ibsen ) | 1980 |
| EMPEROR & GALILEAN (adaptation of Ibsen) | 1985 |
| A CHRISTMAS CAROL (adaptation of Dickens) | 1996 |

## PUBLICATIONS - PRESENTATIONS

*In addition to the formal presentations listed below, I have been a frequent panelist and judge for the Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival and served as adjudicator for a number of area KC-ACTF productions.*

Miller, J.M. "Free Speech Under Fire: The *Firefly* Poster Affair." AAUP National Conference, June 2013.

------- "Nobody Expects the Spanish Inquisition." American Dissident, Fall/Winter 2011-2012.

------- Panelist on HuffPost Live, 11/14/12, discussing Greg Lukianoff's book *Unlearning Liberty*, in which I am featured (ch. 7.)

------- Panelist on Jon Stossel's FOXBN program *Stossel*, November 17, 2011, discussing campus restrictions on free speech.

------- Featured in documentary film "Don't Mess With *Firefly*! How SciFi Fans Made a Campus Safe for Free Speech," produced by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) January 2012.

------- "Experimental Theatre as Paradigm Shift: A Kuhnian Model for Education." Journal of the Illinois Speech Theatre Association (37) November 1985, 47-54.

------- Presented design portfolio by invitation at USITT convention New York, 1985

------- "Designing the play--Playing with the Design." Workshop presented at the Wisconsin Theatre Association convention , Superior Wisconsin May 1987.

------- Panelist, "Enhancing the creativity of students in the arts," Undergraduate Teaching Improvement Council Conference, UW-Oshkosh November 1987.

------- "The Dramaturg in the American Theatre," paper presented at the Wisconsin Theatre Association Convention Oshkosh, Wisconsin April 1988.

------- "When the Show Quit Going On," paper presented to Org.Comm. Interest group, Wisconsin Communication Association, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, April 1988.

------- "Ibsen: Not Just for Breakfast Anymore." Presentation at Wisconsin Theatre Association convention, Appleton WI April 1989.

------- " The Director/Dramaturg Relationship." Presentation(with R. Davis, Centre Stage Baltimore) at Wisconsin Theatre Association convention, Appleton WI April 1989.

------- " Jai Site Ram: A Stick dance for all Seasons." Workshop presented at Wisconsin Theatre Association convention, Appleton WI April 1989.

------- " Scanning Shakespeare." Presentation at Wisconsin Theatre Association convention, Sheboygan WI April 1990.

------- " A Report on the Status of Theatre Education in Wisconsin." Panel member, Wisconsin Theatre Association convention, Sheboygan WI April 1990.

## MEMBERSHIPS/HONORS

President, Wisconsin University/College Theatre Association 1988-1990
Founder and Co-chair, Wisconsin Council of Theatre Chairs 1989-1991
Alliance for Wisconsin Theatre Educators, USITT, ATHE member