

# LAUREN WAKEFIELD RAY

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## PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

Creative communications professional with a passion for the arts in education and society

Unique experience building secondary theatre and forensics programs has provided a remarkably broad range of skills: from all aspects of theatre design and direction to budgeting and scheduling productions, coordinating travel, and managing student participants and adult volunteers

Seeking every opportunity to advocate boldly for the arts by balancing artistic and analytical efforts that promote both specific goals and broad arts benefits to individuals and communities with all levels of knowledge about and access to the world of fine and performing arts

## EDUCATION

### **Purdue University Online**      *West Lafayette, IN*

Master of Science in Communication December 2016

- GPA: 4.0

### **The University of Mississippi**      *Oxford, MS*

Bachelor of Arts in French and Theatre Arts (Summa Cum Laude)

May 2009

- Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College
- GPA: 3.94
- Phi Beta Kappa                      · Alpha Psi Omega: National Theatre Honor Society
- Phi Kappa Phi                        · Phi Delta Pi: National French Honor Society

## EXPERIENCE

### **Northwest Rankin High School**

*Flowood, MS*

Head Speech and Debate Coach, Teacher

August 2017 – Present

- Planned and taught classes oral communication, debate, and Dual Credit Public Speaking for 9th–12th grade students
- Utilized Canvas Learning Management System (by Instructure) to facilitate student achievement and assessment
- Organized and hosted two invitational individual events tournaments for students from schools across Mississippi
- Prepared students to compete in local, regional, and national forensics and debate events
- Arranged travel for out-of-town theatre competitions and forensics tournaments
- Developed branding and maintained social media accounts the speech and debate team

### **Professional Staffing Group**

*Jackson, MS*

Social Media and Marketing Coordinator – Contract

March 2017 – July 2017

- Reclaimed and managed the organization's social media accounts; coordinated blog post release dates
- Crafted and edited digital images for publication using CCO stock and original images
- Supported internal team of recruiters by reviewing and editing resumes, writing and publishing concise job descriptions, and pre-screening potential job candidates via email and telephone
- Navigated relationship management system software (Tracker-RMS) to manage candidate information

### **Jackson Academy**

*Jackson, MS*

Director of Theatre Arts, Speech and Debate Coach

August 2015 – January 2017

- Planned and taught classes in theatre and speech for 7th–12th grade students
- Managed a competitive theatre arts program and directed the school's musicals and straight plays
- Organized and hosted a national qualifying speech and debate tournament that brought in over 200 entries in ten events by teams from twelve schools
- Prepared students to compete in local, regional, and national forensics events and arranged travel for out-of-town theatre competitions and forensics tournaments

### **Germantown High School**

*Madison, MS*

French, Theatre, and Speech and Debate Teacher

August 2011 – May 2015

- Planned and taught classes in seven unique subjects for 9th–12th grade students
- Utilized Canvas Learning Management System (by Instructure) to facilitate student achievement and assessment

- Created and developed a new theatre program at Germantown High School
- Selected, produced, designed, and directed the school's plays and musicals
- Created all digital and print theatre department publications including advertising, tickets, and playbills
- Founded the speech and debate team and arranged travel to local, regional, and national tournaments

### **French Department of Education (via TAPIF)**

*Aix-en-Provence, France*

English Language Assistant

October 2010 – April 2011

- Taught English to middle and high school French students at Lycée Vauvenargues and Collège Campra
- Honed French language skills and acquired proficiency in verbal and written French communication
- Led an English Language club for eleven and twelve-year-old students

### **Marshall Academy**

*Holly Springs, MS*

Music, Theatre, and French Teacher

August 2009 – May 2010

- Planned and taught classes in different subjects for students ages 4-18
- Sponsored and directed elementary programs and high school productions

### **The Daily Mississippian**

*University, MS*

Advertising Assistant

August 2007 – December 2007

- Developed advertisements for Oxford-area organizations to be printed in the Daily Mississippian

### **Ole Miss Theatre**

*University, MS*

Costume Shop Worker

August 2005 – December 2006

- Completed tasks and achieved proficiency in costume construction skills, including patterning, stitching, cutting, dyeing
- Supported student and faculty costume designers through renting, buying, or pulling and modifying costume pieces as appropriate to a wide range of productions

## **SKILLS**

- Verbal and Written Communication (Copywriting, Editing, Public Speaking, and Debate)
- Visual Communication (Hand and Digital Drawing, Drafting, and Rendering)
- Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook; Typing: 110+ WPM)
- Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign)
- Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) by Instructure
- Theatre Direction, Design (Costume, Set, and Props), Choreography, and Performance
- French Language (Con conversationally Proficient in Verbal and Written French)
- Sharp Attention to Detail and Refined Organizational Skills

## **COMMUNITY ARTS INVOLVEMENT**

### **Mississippi Theatre Association (MTA)**

*Various Cities in MS*

Community Theatre Division Vice Chair & Chair

2017 – Present

- Attend MTA board meetings and assist with running of the Community Theatre Festival at the annual MTA state festival
- Serve as an outreach team member with Mississippi community theatres by gathering and updating information, coordinating workshops and events, and helping maintain MTA's digital calendar

### **The Center Players Community Theatre**

*Madison, MS*

Board Member, Assistant Director, Play Reading Committee Chair & Member, Actor

March 2013 – August 2018

- Worked alongside board members and community participants to promote and produce community theatre
- Support production directors by managing email correspondence, scheduling, and promotional material

### **Side Project: Theatre**

*Jackson-Metropolitan Area, MS*

Founder, Coordinator

April 2017 – Present

- Founded a loosely-organized group of theatre folk in the Jackson Metropolitan Area who seek to create ridiculously high quality theatre in short bursts of time
- Plan and host events designed to provide Jackson-area artists networking and creative opportunities

### **CWM Productions**

*Madison, MS*

Actor, Costume Technician

February 2017 – March 2017

- Provided backstage support to lead actors by assisting with quick changes and helping to maintain clean, organized rehearsal and performance spaces

**REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**