

LAUREN WAKEFIELD RAY

www.anotherlaurenray.com

PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

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

Unique experience building secondary theatre 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

Master of Science in Communication

- GPA: 4.0

West Lafayette, IN

December 2016

The University of Mississippi

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

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

Oxford, MS

May 2009

EXPERIENCE

Professional Staffing Group

Social Media and Marketing Coordinator - Contract

- Reclaimed and managed the organization's social media accounts; coordinated blog post release dates
- Crafted and edited digital images for publication using CC0 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, MS

March 2017 - Present

Jackson Academy

Director of Theatre Arts and Speech and Debate Coach

- 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
- Arranged travel for out-of-town theatre competitions and forensics tournaments
- Maintained social media accounts for the theatre arts program and the speech and debate team

Jackson, MS

August 2015 - January 2017

Germantown High School

French, Theatre, and Speech and Debate Teacher

- Planned and taught classes in seven unique subjects for 9th-12th grade students
- 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 and coached the speech and debate team and arranged travel for students and adult chaperones to local, regional, and national tournaments

Madison, MS

August 2011 - May 2015

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
- Coordinated with advertising sales staff to provide the highest quality project for each client

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 by realizing their work through renting, buying, or pulling and modifying costume pieces as appropriate to a wide range of productions

SKILLS

- Verbal and Written Communication (Advanced in Copywriting, Editing, Public Speaking, and Debate)
- Visual Communication (Hand and Digital Drawing, Drafting, and Rendering)
- Microsoft Office Suite (Expert in MS Word, Advanced in Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook; Typing: 95+ WPM)
- Adobe Creative Suite (Advanced in Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign)
- 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

2017 - 2019 Seasons

- Will attend two MTA board meetings per year
- Will assist with running of the Community Theatre Festival at the annual MTA state festival (2018 and 2019)
- Will 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

Assistant Director, Play Reading Committee Member, Actor

March 2013 - Present

- Worked alongside board members and community participants to promote and produce high quality theatre
- Supported 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
- Planned and hosted 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