

Phillip Sprayberry, DLitt
Arts Education—Musical Theatre, Theatre, Music | Communication—Public Relations

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EXPERIENCE

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY, Wayne, NJ

Adjunct Professor [College of the Arts and Communication], 2002 – present

Classes taught:

- Successful Business and Professional Communication, Public Speaking, Public Relations, Media Writing, Communication in Action, and Journalism

WEDDING CELEBRANT | cityscapecelebrant.com

Licensed, Civil Wedding Celebrant, 2014 – present

Certified Life-Cycle Wedding Celebrant • Celebrant Foundation and Institute [celebrantinstitute.org]

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY, Wayne, NJ

Media Relations Coordinator for Marketing and Public Relations, 2001 – 2019 [retired]

Responsibilities:

- Liaison between University and broadcast/print/social media outlets
- Locate and interview faculty experts, target PR potential, create pitches
- Place University faculty on regional, national print and broadcast media
- Produce Distinguished Lecturer Series with guests such as Stephen Sondheim, Al Pacino, Bernie Williams, cast of “Sesame Street”
- Writer and editor
- Produce and monitor video projects for University’s YouTube channel
- Locate and contribute material for University’s and Alumni Facebook pages
- Monitor and maintain media list

Accomplishments:

Faculty experts placed on such shows as NBC’s “The Today Show,” Fox’s “The O’Reilly Factor” and quoted in articles in such publications as USA Today and Business Week

KEAN UNIVERSITY, Union, NJ

Adjunct Professor (theatre stage director), 2006 – 2008

B.T.W. MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL, Montgomery, AL

(Montgomery, Alabama’s nationally recognized arts magnet program)

Lead Teacher for the Arts, Jazz Choir Director, Public Relations Associate, 1990 – 2001

Responsibilities:

- Rehearse, conduct and organize performances for area’s premier jazz choir
- Teach classes in theatre, speech, entertainment business
- Conduct concert choir as needed
- Create/implement curriculum for show choir, jazz choir, entertainment business
- Choose material, organize, direct show choir/jazz choir in musical revue shows of varied lengths to be available to local and statewide schools, conventions, civic groups, and churches, as well as local, regional, state and national competitions and college auditions
- Assist with School’s high-profile public relations

Accomplishments:

Notable performances for student groups on the Disney Channel, BET on Jazz - Jazz Discovery Series, NBC’s Today Show with Al Roker, solo spot at Carnegie Hall

TROY STATE UNIVERSITY, Montgomery, AL

Adjunct professor of speech, 1999 – 2000

SUMMERFUN THEATER, Montclair, NJ

(Professional summer stock theatre 10 miles west of NYC)

Director of Public Relations, 1995 – 1999

Responsibilities:

- Design PR campaign for Greater New Jersey area
- Create and generate all copy for six major productions in six weeks
- Interact with critics, give interviews, arrange all facets of promotional appearances; organize outgoing and incoming information

FAULKNER UNIVERSITY, Montgomery, AL

Artistic Director - Encore Dinner Theatre

Chair, Music and Theatre Department, 1984 – 1990

Classes taught:

- Concert Choir, Performance Ensemble, Music Appreciation, Intro to Acting, Theatre Practicum

Theatre responsibilities:

- Create, design and direct a community/educational dinner theatre targeted to greater Montgomery audiences (The operation began as a three-show trial season and grew to a nine-show annual season Director was totally responsible in overseeing all operations of the theatre including choosing the shows, casting, budgeting, staffing, marketing & public relations, food service, concessions, gift shop and art gallery.)
- Design, audition, and direct an annual major musical theatre production; included casting, production, and supervising all areas of production, as well as conducting the pit orchestra
- Design, audition, direct, and supervise all aspects of production for an annual major nonmusical theatre production

Music responsibilities:

- Organize and rebuild the music department and supervise the operation
- Analyze University goals and student needs; design and propose curriculum for minor and major degrees in music
- Organize, audition and conduct a forty-voice mixed choir; select appropriate repertoire that related to the University's audience
- Organize, audition and conduct show choir and design a completely staged performance using ten to twenty performers
- Design and supervise performances and travel for Concert Chorus and Show Choir to enhance University recruitment and development

Accomplishments:

In six years the groups' combined performances numbered over two hundred and fifty in twenty states. The Concert Choir sang for President Ronald Reagan and the Show Choir sang for Governor George Wallace, both by invitation

BOYD-BUCHANAN SCHOOL, Chattanooga, TN

Music and Theatre Department Head, 1976 – 1984

Theatre responsibilities:

- Design, audition, and direct an annual major musical theatre production; included casting, production, and supervising all areas of production, as well as conducting the pit orchestra
- Design, audition, direct, and supervise all aspects of production for an annual major nonmusical theatre production

Music responsibilities:

- Organize and build the music department and supervise the operation
- Organize, audition and conduct a forty-voice mixed choir; select appropriate repertoire that related to the school's audience
- Organize, audition and conduct show choir and design a completely staged performance using ten to twenty performers
- Design and supervise performances and travel for Concert Chorus and Show Choir to enhance school recruitment and development
- Instruct weekly elementary school music classes (K-8)

EDUCATION

DREW UNIVERSITY, Madison, NJ

Doctor of Letters with distinction | Arts and Letters/musical theatre concentration, 2011

An earned doctorate with a scholarly dissertation:

"All I Ever Needed was the Music: A Biography of Edward Kleban, lyricist of 'A Chorus Line' "

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, New York, NY

Master of Arts | Musical Theatre, 1984

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY, Nashville, TN

Bachelor of Arts | Music Education/Speech and Theatre Concentration, 1976

AUTHOR

"All I Ever Needed Was the Music: A Biography of Edward Kleban, Lyricist of *A Chorus Line*"

Fenêtre Press, 2016

The first biography that reviews the life of Edward Kleban, a largely under-recognized musical theatre talent of the 20th Century

PRESENTATIONS

Career Paths for William Paterson University Music Majors [Sessions I and II]

William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ (2018)

Panel moderator of William Paterson University voice faculty for department-wide extracurricular professional development

Book Presentation/Reading Event for

"All I Ever Needed Was the Music: A Biography of Edward Kleban, Lyricist of *"A Chorus Line"* "

- Cloverdale Playhouse, Montgomery, AL (2017)
- The Princeton Club, New York, NY (2016)
- Shetler Penthouse, New York, NY (2016)

A collection of readings, stories and songs to introduce and promote the book. Developed by Phillip Sprayberry, and presented with Linda Kline (who lived with Kleban the last ten years of his life), a vocalist, and an accompanist

Sesame Street Workshop

William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ (2009)

A workshop for teachers on how the groundbreaking children's television show can be used effectively as a teaching tool.

Three original *Sesame Street* cast members participated.

Developed and executed by Phillip Sprayberry and Janis Strasser, EdD

The Sagacious Stephen Sondheim

William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ (2008)

A two-day symposium attended by participants from 17 states, Canada and Australia culminating with a presentation by Sondheim at the University's Distinguished Lecturer Series. Developed and executed by Phillip Sprayberry and convened by Phillip Sprayberry and Diane Nottle (formerly of The New York Times).

Analyze THIS! Understanding a Character's Underlying Motivations

Southeastern Theatre Conference, Chattanooga, TN (2008)

Presented with Paula Danzinger, PhD, Maurice Moran, and Angela Dickson

Analyze THAT! Developing a Character's Underlying Motivations

Southeastern Theatre Conference, Atlanta, GA (2007)

Presented with Paula Danzinger, PhD

From Berkshire to Broadway: A Case Study of a Unique Production of *Sweeney Todd*

University of London, Goldsmiths College, London, UK (2005)

Stephen Sondheim: collaborator and auteur symposium

Bigger Isn't Better: Discovering Chamber Musicals

International Network of Schools for the Advancement of Arts Education, Pittsburg, PA (2005)

Audition Preparation

- World Voice Day, St. James Academy, Montgomery, AL (2005)
- East Central Theatre Conference, Philadelphia, PA (2002)

Public Relations: The Game, the Campaign

International Network of Performing and Visual Arts Schools

- Las Vegas, NV (1997) and Louisville, KY (1996)
- Southeastern Theatre Conference, Greensboro, NC (1999)

Media Savvy

International Network of Performing and Visual Arts Schools, Niagara-on-the-Lake, (2002)

You Want to Study Music and Theatre Where?

International Network of Performing and Visual Arts Schools, Niagara-on-the-Lake (2002)

Résumé and Headshot Preparation

- Miami's New World School of the Arts, NYC (2002)
- BTW Creative and Performing Arts Center, Montgomery, AL, (repeated)
- International Network of Performing and Visual Arts Schools, New Orleans, LA (2001)

A Stream in the Desert: A case for Increased Media Coverage of the Arts

New Jersey Working Press Association, Paramus, NJ (2002)

The Music of the '50s (Theatre-in-the-Mind preview for *Forever Plaid*)

Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL (2000)

DIRECTORIAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Professional/Guest Director:

The Fantasticks, William Paterson University

The Pirates of Penzance, William Paterson University

The Magic Flute, William Paterson University

Collage!, Music Department Extravaganza, William Paterson University

Alice: An Evening with the Tart-Tongued Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Dramatists Guild, NYC

Disenchanted, New Jersey Playwright's Competition, William Paterson University

The Little Dog Laughed, Pride Theatre of New Jersey, Kean University

Red State, Blue State, New Jersey Playwright's Competition, William Paterson University

Ten Percent Revue, Pride Theatre of New Jersey, Kean University

Lonely Planet, The Ledge Theatre Company/Villagers Theatre

The Twilight of the Golds, Pride Theatre of New Jersey, Kean University

The Merry Widow, Village Light Opera; Ron Noll, Maestro

Blithe Spirit, William Paterson University

A Streetcar Named Desire, The Ledge Theatre Company/Villagers Theatre

Madama Butterfly, Opera at Florham; Thomas Bo, Maestro

Bye Bye Birdie, The Roche Players

9 Months: Inside Out, William Paterson University

Agnes of God, William Paterson University

M. Butterfly, The Ledge Theatre Company/Villagers Theatre

Corpus Christi, Kean University

The Pirates of Penzance, Village Light Opera; Ron Noll, Maestro

The Laramie Project, Kean University

Independence, William Paterson University

The Diary of Anne Frank, Manhattan College

Stop Kiss, Kean University

Master Class, Booker T. Washington Creative and Performing Arts Center

The Last Night of Ballyhoo, Summerfun Theater (NJ professional theatre premiere)

An American Daughter, Summerfun Theater (NJ professional theatre premiere)

Moon Over Buffalo, Summerfun Theater (NJ professional theatre premiere)

Carousel, Chattanooga State College

Annie Get Your Gun, Signal Mountain Playhouse

Hello, Dolly!, Chattanooga State College

Dinner Theatre:

The Star-Spangled Girl
Oklahoma!
Arsenic and Old Lace
West Side Story
The Pirates of Penzance
Some Enchanted Evening
You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown
Carousel
The Miracle Worker
ROSE: A Southern Lady (Premiere performance of a play by Southern writer, Wayne Greenhaw)
Foxfire

Community Theatre:

The Gifts of the Magi, Carriage Hill Players
Song of Singapore, Benefit production for Carver Creative & Performing Arts Center
Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show, Montgomery Little Theatre
The Diary of Anne Frank, Chattanooga Circle Theatre (Recipient of annual Directing Award)
The Star-Spangled Girl, Chattanooga Circle Theatre

Educational Theatre:

Anne of Green Gables, Carver Creative & Performing Arts Center
Brigadoon, Faulkner University
Show Boat, Faulkner University
Spoon River Anthology, Carver Creative & Performing Arts Center
The King and I, Boyd-Buchanan School
Hello, Dolly!, Boyd-Buchanan School
Our Town, Boyd-Buchanan School, Faulkner University
Camelot, Faulkner University
Carnival, Boyd-Buchanan School
The Mousetrap, Faulkner University

Staged Readings (New Jersey Playwrights Contest)

Worst in Show, by Eileen Deutsch
Vaudeville Reunion, words/music by John & Tony Tomaine, book by Tony Tomaine
Daybreak, words and music by Bobby Cronin
Disenchanted!, music, lyrics and book by Dennis Giancino
I Wanna Be Famous, or Bavarian Rage, by Kal Wagenheim
A Larger University of the Unfortunate Condition of Humanity, by S.W. Senek
Red State/Blue State, by Gregory Jones
End of the World Button, by S.W. Senek
Give the Bass Player Some, by John Watts
Nine Months: Inside Out, by S.W. Senek

Revues/Variety Shows (Many)

CHORAL GROUPS
Conductor/Director

C'est JAZZ (five years)
Vocal jazz ensemble and instrumental combo

Performance Troupe (three years)
Official performance vehicle for Carver Creative and Performing Arts Center

Hope Hull United Methodist Chancel Choir (one year)
Interim Choir Director

Faulkner University Concert Choir (six years)
30-voice mixed choir
Official public relations tool for University recruiting; 25 - 40 performances annually

Encore! (six years)
Faulkner University's 15-voice mixed show choir, 20 performances annually

Boyd-Buchanan Concert Choir (eight years)
40-voice mixed choir, 20 performances annually
Official performance vehicle for Boyd-Buchanan School

**WORKS CREATED, DEVELOPED
and DIRECTED**

Jazz Cabaret Series
Awarded grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to present a Jazz Cabaret Series at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival featuring New York professionals: Nancy Marano (Manhattan School of Music); Thos Shipley, (MAC Award-winner for Best New Male Jazz Singer/"Miss Saigon"); Anita Hollander (New York actress and cabaret singer)

175 Years and the Dream Goes On ...
A multimedia musical revue commissioned by the Montgomery Advertiser and the South Alabama State Fair to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the City of Montgomery and the State of Alabama

Pastiche
Musical revue created in collaboration with choreographer/designer Gary Moore as a tour show for singers and dancers

Basically Broadway
Musical revue created as a benefit show for schools and civic groups

Holiday Pops Concert
Annual holiday concert featuring elementary - senior high school students and orchestra

Olde English Holiday Dinner
Annual holiday project with choirs, soloists, instrumentalists, actors - nine performances each season

The World is a Rainbow
Annual variety show involving kindergarten - college students

HONORS and AWARDS

- Teacher of the Year, International Network of Performing and Visual Arts Schools
- Distinguished Alumni Award, Lipscomb University
- Alabama State Senate Resolution No. 98-233,
Commendation for selection as Outstanding Teacher of the Year
- "Moon Over Buffalo," (director 7/97) nominated by Peter Filichia in New Jersey's
The Star-Ledger in his "Best of New Jersey," Best Comedy New to New Jersey
- Friends Award, Janice Capilouto Center for the Deaf
- Class Act Award, WSFA-TV
- Who's Who Among American High School Teachers
- Who's Who in America, 2002 to 2008
- Honored Member, America's Registry of Outstanding Professionals, 2003-2004
- Alabama State Council on the Arts, Grant Award for Jazz Cabaret Series
- TCI of Alabama, Grant Award to attend multimedia workshop in Washington, DC

AFFILIATIONS

Celebrant Foundation and Institute
Certified Civil Celebrant, licensed to perform wedding ceremonies

National Association of Teachers of Singing

American Choral Directors Association

American Federation of Teachers

Village Light Opera Group

Phi Mu Alpha, International Honorary Fraternity for Men in Music

Alpha Psi Omega, National Honorary Dramatic Fraternity

PERFORMING EXPERIENCE

Choral:

Grace Church of Nutley Choir, tenor [2005 to present]

Many other choral groups

Professional Theatre/Dinner Theatre/NYU Theatre:

Forever Plaid (Sparky) Summerfun Theatre

Camelot (Mordred) Summerfest Theatre

Into the Woods (Baker) Faulkner Dinner Theatre

Fools (Leon Tolchinsky) Backstage Playhouse

1776 (John Adams) Encore Dinner Theatre

Camelot (Mordred) Candlelight Dinner Theatre

Some Enchanted Evening (Featured performer), Encore Dinner Theatre

Heaven Can Wait (Messenger #7013) Candlelight Dinner Theatre

Kiss Me, Kate (Hortensio) Loewe Theatre, New York City

Starting Here, Starting Now (Featured performer), NYU

The Boys from Syracuse (Angelo), Loewe Theatre, New York City

A World of Difference (Featured soloist in a premiere work), NYU

My Three Angels (Jules) Backstage Playhouse

Best of Friends (Felix Hackaday) Backstage Playhouse

George M! ("Director"/Chorus) Backstage Playhouse

The Mousetrap (Christopher Wren) Backstage Playhouse

Oh, Coward! (Featured performer) Backstage Playhouse

Community Theatre:

The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Jasper/Paget)

Assassins (Guiseppe Zangara)

The Gifts of the Magi (Willie Porter)

Oh, Coward! (Featured performer)

Sweeney Todd (Pirelli)

The Apple Tree (Snake/Balladeer/Narrator)

Once Upon A Mattress (Minstrel)

No, No Nanette (Tom)

Dames at Sea (Dick)

Little Mary Sunshine (Pete)

Count Dracula (Renfield)

The King and I (Phra Alak)

Opera:

The Merry Widow (Nish)

The Elixir of Love (Chorus)

Carmen (Lieutenant Andres)

The Devil and Daniel Webster (Henry Banks)

La Perichole (Notary)

Faust (Chorus)

Don Pasquale (Notary)

La Traviata (Chorus)

Die Fledermaus (Chorus)

Benefits/Revues/Variety Shows (Many)