

Spotlight Workshops Hosts PAGE 1 OF 4



Kari Cherie Smith, a native of Nashville, has enjoyed teaching theatre and dance for over 20 years in the Middle Tennessee area. With a background in performance, dance, directing, education, and choreography, Smith holds a Theatre and English Education degree from Lipscomb University and was a member of the Vanderbilt Dance Team. She has a Master of Arts in Fine Arts and Theatre from Cumberland University. After teaching theatre for many years in Williamson County as well as at various dance studios, Smith now serves as a Theatre and Dance Instructor at Lipscomb University. She is the co-director of Lipscomb's Foundation Dance Theatre and the annual dance concert, *Elevate*. Smith also serves as the High

School Director at Lipscomb Academy, and she is the Director of the Lipscomb Academy School of Dance. When not teaching, directing, or performing, Smith loves hanging out and traveling with husband, Jason, and kids, Hayden and Elly Kate.



Tosha Marie has a passion for performance and has been dancing, singing, and acting since the age of 5 on stage and screen. She has been in numerous stage productions, industrials, commercials, TV shows, music videos, and films throughout her career. Although she enjoys performing, Tosha feels called to be a dance teacher and choreographer. Most recently she directed and choreographed a production of *A Chorus Line* for Circle Players Theatre. She has taught at many universities, schools, and studios in the Greater Nashville Area. This year, Tosha opened a performing arts school in the middle of downtown Nashville called TMproductions; A non-traditional studio education setting, where different levels of

performers are able to train with Nashville professionals for a career in Musical Theater beyond the high school stage. Dance is the main focus of the training, but with acting and vocal coaching as a part of the training package, it's a one stop shop to start claiming your triple threat status!

www.tmproductions.online | [@tmproductions.online](https://www.instagram.com/tmproductions.online)



Denise Parton is the Education Director at The Center for the Arts. Denise left San Diego, California and came to the Center for the Arts in 2014, bringing her expertise in Performing Arts and her passion for children's theater. In less than five years, Denise grew Center Stage Academy from a handful of students to over 800. Denise has directed many shows at the Center. Her credits include *The Music Man*, *Legally Blonde*, *Hairspray*, and *Les Misérables*, among many others as well as numerous Center Stage Academy shows. Denise is also a published author. Her books include *Thirteen for Dinner*, *The Secrets of Moonshine*, *The Secret in the Rubble*, and *The Storyteller's Secret*. When Denise isn't creating

stories on stage or in the pages of her novels, you will find her hanging out with her four beautiful daughters and two amazing grandchildren.

Spotlight Workshops Hosts PAGE 2 OF 4



Bakari King is a native of Chicago, IL. He has a B.S. in Theatre from Faulkner University in Montgomery, AL. He has worked as a teacher for almost 16 years and is currently teaching Middle School Theatre at University School of Nashville and High School Theater at Davidson Academy. When he is not in the classroom, he makes his home on stages in Nashville as an actor, director, or choreographer. He has been seen on stage at Nashville Repertory Theatre, Street Theatre, Nashville Children's Theater, and many others. He has been part of some great productions, such as *Big River* and *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Nashville Rep), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Street Theatre Company), and many others. He also had

the privilege of working with Grammy Award winning songwriter Marcus Hummon ("God Bless the Broken Road") on a Frederick Douglass musical which may be heading to the Great White Way. Bakari is so proud to be a part of the Nashville Theater family. He looks forward to many more years sharing his passion on and off the stage.



After volunteering for a year overseas in Romania, **Nat McIntyre** moved to Boston where he lived and worked as a professional actor and director for 7 years at numerous theaters including The Huntington, Speakeasy Stage, and WHAT. He received an MFA in Classical Acting from The Old Globe where he appeared in multiple main stage productions and assistant directed the world premiere of Itamar Moses' *Back, Back, Back*. Upon graduation Nat worked in theater regionally and was seen on television in *Law and Order*, *Elementary*, *The Good Wife*, and *Devious Maids*. He also devised and performed a Top Gun/Shakespeare mash up called *Jester's Dead* at The Philadelphia Fringe Festival and at The Pit in New York City.

Before moving to Nashville, Nat spent a year on Broadway in The Tony Award-winning production of *War Horse* at Lincoln Center. In Nashville, he has acted and directed with numerous professional companies, originating the role of Frank in *Good Monsters* at Nashville Rep and directing their award-winning production of *Streetcar Named Desire* in 2019. He is also a Professor of Acting at Lipscomb University.



Andy Bleiler serves as Scenic Designer, Production Manager, and Assistant Professor at Lipscomb University. His resume includes set designs for Lipscomb University, The Nashville Shakespeare Festival, Vanderbilt Opera Theatre, Blackbird Theater, and Street Theatre. He has received critical acclaim in *The Tennessean*, *Broadway World*, *The Nashville Scene*, and *The Nashville Examiner*. He serves as an adjudicator for the USITT poster sessions, and has taught workshops for SETC, TAA, and the Spotlight Awards for several years. Andy earned his BFA from Drake University, his MA from Concordia University, and his MFA from The University of Memphis.

Spotlight Workshops Hosts PAGE 3 OF 4



Tamiko Robinson Steele is a wife, mother, actor, and performance coach. She holds a degree in Speech Communication & Theater from Tennessee State University. A few of her awards include: 2011 voted Best One-Woman Show (*Miracle In Rwanda*), 2017 Best Nashville Theatre Actress, 2018/2019 Top 3 Best Nashville Actor (*Nashville Scene*), and Best Actress at the International Black Film Festival. Most recently seen as Olivia Goodsmanson in the Lifetime Movie Network's "A Welcome Home Christmas." Some recent regional theatre credits include: Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Little Becky Two Shoes in *Urinetown* (Nashville Rep), ZuZu in *Dance Nation* (Nashville Story Garden), Mama/Terri in *Ghost* (Nashville Children's Theatre), and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Nashville Shakespeare Festival).



June Kingsbury is Lipscomb University Theatre Department's resident costume designer and has been costuming Nashville theater productions since 2000. As a theatrical costumer, she has designed costumes for Nashville Opera, Nashville Shakespeare Festival, Nashville Repertory Theater, People's Branch Theater, Actors Bridge Theatre, Belmont University Theater, and Vanderbilt University Opera.

Due to the pandemic, in March of 2020, Ms. Kingsbury started MedThreads Volunteers Nashville to make fabric masks for the Nashville community. 800 volunteers made over 10,000 masks and the group received a *Nashville Scene* award as well as WKRN Channel 2's Hometown Hero recognition.



Will Butler is a professional scenic designer and teacher. A Nashville native, he graduated from Belmont University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Performance. Although he began his theatrical career on the stage, he has a strong passion for scenic and production design. He works tirelessly to ensure that his set designs are conceptually strong and visually immersive, and through his own pursuit of excellence, he strives to instill in his students a strong work ethic and to not settle for mediocrity.

Spotlight Workshops Hosts PAGE 4 OF 4



Jacqueline Komos (she/her) is a local Teaching Artist and performer, and currently serves as Nashville Children’s Theatre’s Education & Engagement Coordinator. From Cleveland, Ohio, she moved to Nashville and has since performed with local theatres such as Street Theatre Company and Pull-Tight Players. While in Ohio, she performed in multiple shows with the Ohio Light Opera and toured with Columbus Children’s Theatre. Favorite past credits include Luisa (*The Fantasticks*), Betty Schaefer (*Sunset Boulevard*), Lily (*The Secret Garden*), and Woman 1 (*Songs for a New World*). She is grateful for the opportunity to be a drama teacher and to utilize the performing arts to help youth achieve their full potential and

discover all the possibilities life has to offer. Her favorite part of her work is entering other worlds with her students and watching their imaginations ignite.



Telly Leung is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Drama where he received most of his formal training in acting, singing, and dance. Mr. Leung’s Broadway credits include: *Flower Drum Song*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Wicked*, *Rent*, *Godspell*, *Allegiance*, *In Transit*, and *Aladdin*. Additionally, Telly has performed concerts all over the world in notable venues from Carnegie Hall to London’s Hippodrome. His television credits include: *Glee* (as Wes of the Dalton Academy Warblers), *Instinct* (CBS), *Odd Mom Out* (Bravo), *Deadbeat* (on Hulu), *Law And Order: Criminal Intent*, and played Kevin in the pilot of ABC’s performing arts drama, *Limelight*. He was also heavily featured in the PBS documentary *Broadway Or Bust* as

a teacher and performance coach for the Jimmy Awards. Mr. Leung is also an adjunct professor with The New School at NYU. Telly passionately believes in “paying it forward” and giving back to the next generation of theater artists and performers, and dedicates himself and his time to helping the next generation of artists rise.