

Rachel Luann Strayer

PLAYWRIGHT, THEATRE ARTIST, EDUCATOR

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EDUCATION

Wilkes University	M.F.A., Creative Writing, focus in Playwriting	2012
Wilkes University	M.A., Creative Writing, focus in Playwriting	2011
Clarks Summit University	B.S., Communications and Theatre	2004

CURRENT POSITIONS

Adjunct Assistant Professor	Messiah University	2024-Present
High School Library Aide	Hempfield School District	2021-Present

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Director / Assistant Professor

TND 185 & 385 <i>Production Studio I & II</i>	Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA	2025
ENGL 110 <i>Critical Reading and Writing</i>	Messiah University, Mechanicsburg, PA	2024-Present

Director of Theatre

ENGL2165 <i>Introduction to Dramatic Literature</i>	Keystone College, La Plume, Pennsylvania	2016-2019
ENGL3011 <i>Special Topics in Creative Writing: Playwriting</i>		
THEA1120 <i>Introduction to Theatre</i>		
THEA1125 <i>Acting I</i>		
THEA2125 <i>Acting II</i>		
THEA2120 <i>Survey of Technical Theatre</i>		
THEA3110 <i>Directing for the Stage</i>		

Assistant Professor of Communication Arts & Humanities

COMM 1125 <i>Speech Communication</i>	Keystone College, La Plume, Pennsylvania	2014-2019
COMM 2110 <i>Professional Speech</i>		
COMM 2145 <i>Public Relations</i>		
ENGL2110 <i>American Literature I</i>		
ENGL2115 <i>American Literature II</i>		
ENGL2120 <i>World Literature</i>		
ENGL3017 <i>Great Themes in Literature: Utopia/Dystopia</i>		

Adjunct Instructor

COMM 1125 <i>Speech Communication</i>	Keystone College	2011-2014
ENGL 160 <i>Composition & Rhetoric</i>	Marywood University	2012-2014
ENGL180 <i>Introduction to World Literature</i>	Marywood University	2012-2014

Instructor

Scripts for the Stage: Intermediate Playwriting for Teens	Abington Community Library	2012-2016
Playing with Words: Introduction to Playwriting for Teens	Abington Community Library	2011-2015
Oh, the Drama! Theatre Workshop for Teens	Abington Community Library	2013
WordPlay: An Introduction to Playwriting for Adults	Abington Community Library	2012

Guest Lecturer

Playwriting Workshop: A Playwright's Work	Central Michigan University	2024
Playwriting Feedback Workshop	Central Michigan University	2024
Screenwriting: Script Writing	Millersville University	2022
DR406 <i>Educational and Devised Theatre</i> – Study Abroad	Clarks Summit University	2018
Career Interest Seminar: Pitching & Querying Your Work	Clarks Summit University	2017
Creative Writing: Playwriting	Clarks Summit University	2016
Career Interest Seminar: Theatre & Writing	Clarks Summit University	2010
Creative Writing: Dramatic Writing	Clarks Summit University	2008

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Other Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, EN401 <i>Fiction Writing</i>	Clarks Summit University	2009
Theatrical Workshop Instructor	Teen Leadership Conference	2007-2008

WRITTEN WORK

Selected Plays: Full-Length

<i>Drowning Ophelia</i>	Productions – NDNA Productions, Bulgaria	2024-2026
	Production – Art Trema Fest Ruma, Serbia	2026
	Production – Sibiu International Theater Festival, Romania	2025
	Production – Shakespeare Opera Theatre	2025
	Production – Suffolk University in Boston	2025
	Production – Balkan Theatre Festival, Serbia	2024
	Production – Wayne State University	2024
	Production – Eastern Washington University	2023
	Production – Pinecrest Players Theatre	2022
	Production – Acadia University	2021
	Production – University of Toronto	2021
	Production – University of Indianapolis	2021
	Production – University of Idaho	2019
	Production – Philadelphia Fringe Festival	2016
	Production – Gaslight Theatre Company	2016
	Production – Repurposed Theatre	2013
<i>Laertes Dies Too</i>	Staged Reading – Lancaster Dramatists Platform	2026
	Staged Reading – The Container Globe, Detroit	2025
<i>The Last Daughter</i>	Production – Central Michigan University	2024
	Staged Reading – Jacksonville State University	2023
	Production – Oklahoma City University	2021
<i>The Poe Asylum</i>	Production – Heritage High School	2024
	Production – Cheyenne High School	2023
	Production – Keystone College	2018
	Production – Scranton Fringe Festival	2016
<i>After Jane</i>	Production – Skidmore College	2023
<i>A Decameron for the Apocalypse</i>	Production – McAllen High School	2021
<i>Songbird</i>	Staged Reading – Premiere Stages at Kean University	2020/2021
	Staged Reading – The Bechdel Group	2019
<u>Selected Plays: Short/One Act</u>		
<i>Bell Witch & Bloody Mary</i>	Production – Gretna Theatre	2025
<i>Tooth Fairy from Hell</i>	Production – BATS Pop-Up Pub Theatre, Norway	2025
<i>Perchance to Dream</i>	Production – Falls Church High School	2025
	Production – G.P. Vanier Secondary School	2024
	Production – Clear Lake High School	2022
<i>The Keg of Amontillado, or Berenice Bites Back</i>	Staged Reading – Orpheus Theatre Company	2024

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Selected Plays: Short/One Act (cont.)

<i>Apart</i>	Production – Endless Mountains Theatre Company Production – Interlochen Arts Academy	2023 2022
<i>Character Points</i>	Production – Endless Mountains Theatre Company Staged Reading – The Bechdel Group	2023 2021
<i>A Warrior's Heart</i>	Staged Reading – Orpheus Theatre Company	2023
<i>A Haunting in May</i>	Production – Creative Works of Lancaster Staged Reading – Lancaster Dramatists Platform	2022 2022
<i>River Witch</i>	Staged Reading – Orpheus Theatre Company	2022
<i>Light the Way Back</i>	Production – Bucknell University Production – Northland Pioneer College Production – Nechako Lakes School District Production – NextStage Theatre Virtual Production – Auburn University Virtual Production – Millersville University	2022 2022 2021 2021 2020 2020
<i>Corn Mother</i>	Staged Reading – Orpheus Theatre Company	2021
<i>The Single Ladies Cozy</i> <i>Murder Book Club</i>	Virtual Production – Femme Fatale Play Festival Virtual Production – Creative Works of Lancaster	2021 2021
<i>Light</i>	Virtual Production – Auburn University Virtual Production – The One-Minute Play Festival	2020 2020
<i>I'll be Zooming You</i>	Virtual Production – Millersville University	2020
<i>Ghost Story</i>	Virtual Production – Centerstage Theatre Production – Gaslight Theatre Company	2020 2019
<i>Sisters</i>	Production – Gaslight Theatre Company	2018
<i>Safe As Houses</i>	Virtual Production – Millersville University Production – Gaslight Theatre Company	2020 2017
<i>In the Dark</i>	Production – Diva Theater Production – Gaslight Theatre Company	2017 2015
<i>It's Enough</i>	Production – Gaslight Theatre Company	2016
<i>The Next Step</i>	Virtual Production – Millersville University Production – Gaslight Theatre Company	2020 2014
<i>A Clean Bathroom</i>	Production – Gaslight Theatre Company	2013
<i>Empathy</i>	Production – Gaslight Theatre Company	2012

PUBLICATIONS

<i>Drowning Ophelia</i>	Blue Moon Plays	2021
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HONORS

<i>Laertes Dies Too</i>	Semi-Finalist – The O’Neill Theater Center National Playwrights Conference	2025
	Semi-Finalist – Premiere Stages at Kean University	2024
<i>Songbird</i>	Finalist – Henley Rose Playwriting Competition for Women	2022
	Finalist – Premiere Stages at Kean University	2020/2021
<i>The Last Daughter</i>	Finalist – Jane Chambers Award for Excellence in Feminist Playwriting	2020

DIRECTING

<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>	Director	Franklin & Marshall College	2025
<i>The Tempest</i>	Co-Director	Lancaster Shakespeare Theatre	2025
<i>Love’s Labour’s Lost</i>	Director	Lancaster Shakespeare Theatre	2024
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	Director	Lancaster Shakespeare Theatre	2023
<i>Puffs</i>	Director	Millersville University	2023
<i>Over the River and Through the Woods</i>	Director	Keystone College	2019
<i>The Poe Asylum</i>	Director	Keystone College	2018
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Co-Director	CSU & Keystone College	2018
<i>The 39 Steps</i>	Director	Keystone College	2017
<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	Director	Keystone College	2017
<i>Almost, Maine</i>	Director	Keystone College	2016
<i>The Poe Asylum</i>	Co-Director	Scranton Fringe Festival	2016
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Director	Ghostlight Productions	2016
<i>Almost, Maine</i>	Director	Ghostlight Productions	2015
<i>Scenes from Metamorphoses</i>	Director	Ghostlight Productions	2014
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Director	Ghostlight Productions	2012
<i>A Midnight Dreary</i>	Co-Director	Ghostlight Productions	2011
<i>The Mousetrap</i>	Director	Ghostlight Productions	2010

PERFORMANCE WORK

<i>Measure for Measure</i>	Escala	Lancaster Shakespeare Theatre	2025
<i>The Moon and Stars</i>	Lenore	Creative Works of Lancaster	2023
<i>Itch (A Monologue from The Last Daughter)</i>	Eve	Disrupt Theatre Company	2020
<i>Hamlet</i>	Horatio	Ghostlight Productions	2018
<i>The Tempest</i>	Prospero	Ghostlight Productions	2017
<i>The Poe Asylum: The Raven</i>	Woman	Scranton Fringe Festival	2016
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Innogen	Scranton Shakespeare Festival	2016
<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	M’lynn	Clarks Summit University	2015
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	Adriana	Ghostlight Productions	2015
<i>Weapons of Whedon</i>	River Tam & others	Access Theatre, NYC	2014
<i>Macbeth</i>	Lady Macbeth	Ghostlight Productions	2014
<i>How Does It Feel?</i>	Cassius & others	Access Theatre, NYC	2013
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	Mrs. Ford	Ghostlight Productions	2013
<i>Rock Bottom: Monologues About Starting Over</i>	Various Roles	Scranton Public Theatre	2013
<i>Physical Discussions</i>	Joan of Arc & others	Access Theatre, NYC	2012
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Beatrice	Ghostlight Productions	2011
<i>A Midnight Dreary</i>	Murderess & others	Ghostlight Productions	2011
<i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i>	Helena	Ghostlight Productions	2010
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Feste the Clown	Ghostlight Productions	2009

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STAGE COMBAT TRAINING

Stage Combat Workshops and Choreography for <i>She Kills Monsters</i>	2019-2020
• Assisted Jared Kirby with instruction for knife and unarmed	
Stage Combat Workshop and Choreography for <i>Hamlet</i>	2018
• Assisted Jared Kirby with instruction for longsword and sword and shield	
• Learned choreography for two fight scenes	
Stage Combat Workshop and Choreography for <i>The Tempest</i>	2017
• Assisted Jared Kirby with instruction for unarmed and attended workshop for quarterstaff	
• Learned choreography for one fight scene	
Stage Combat Workshop and Choreography for <i>Julius Caesar</i>	2016
• Assisted Jared Kirby with instruction for unarmed and knife	
• Assisted with the choreography of two fights	
Combat Con – Las Vegas	2015
• Attended workshops in several knife fighting techniques, knife throwing, and Steampunk umbrella fighting	
Art of Combat Intensive with John Lennox, Jared Kirby, and Kyle Rowling – NYC	2012-2014
• Attended workshops in unarmed combat, knife, longsword, tomahawk, small sword, whip, and quarterstaff	
• Performed in seven fight scenes for three Art of Combat Intensive Showcases & assisted with choreography for one fight	

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION WORK

<i>The Tempest</i>	Costume Designer	Lancaster Shakespeare Theatre	2025
<i>Macbeth</i>	Costume Designer	Millersville University	2023
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Stage Manager	Lancaster Shakespeare Theatre	2022
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Assistant Director	Scranton Shakespeare Festival	2016

MEMBERSHIPS

Lancaster Dramatists Platform	2019-Present
New Play Exchange: https://newplayexchange.org/users/21286/rachel-luann-strayer	2019-Present
Dramatists Guild of America	2015-Present
Art of Combat / New York Combat for Stage and Screen	2012-2022