

MARY ELIZABETH VALESANO

EDUCATION

M.F.A	Wayne State University - - Detroit, MI Costume Design	May 2019
B.A	Hope College - - Holland, MI Theatre, French	May 2015

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Detroit Mercy - - Detroit, MI August 2020 - Present
Assistant Professor of Theatre, Costume Designer

Design and deliver two to four courses of 10-30 students per year. Adapt courses for a variety of teaching modalities. Mentor and serve as academic advisor to 5-10 students per year. Support strategic planning, curriculum development, and experiential learning initiatives through committee work. Hire, train, and supervise up to 10 undergraduate employees per semester. Design and construct costumes for all Detroit Mercy Theatre Company productions.

University of Detroit Mercy - - Detroit, MI August 2019 - May 2020
Instructor of Theatre, Costume Designer

Design and deliver two courses of 10-30 students per semester. Adapt courses for a variety of teaching modalities. Mentor and serve as academic advisor to 5-10 students per year. Support strategic planning, curriculum development, and experiential learning initiatives through committee work. Hire, train, and supervise up to 10 undergraduate employees per semester. Design and construct costumes for all Detroit Mercy Theatre Company productions.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Shakespeare in the Arb - - Ann Arbor, MI April 2019 - June 2019
Associate Costume Designer

Collaborate with co-costume designer to design and construct costumes for production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

University of Michigan - - Ann Arbor, MI July 2017
Graduate Teaching Fellow, Living Arts Summer Residential Lab

Partner with two other graduate students to develop and deliver an

interdisciplinary arts curriculum for the Living Arts Summer Residential Lab program. Teach a cohort of 20 high school students, focusing on the intersections of various arts disciplines, and the integration of technology with the humanities.

Wayne State University - - Detroit, MI

January - March 2017

Assistant Undergraduate Costume Shop Manager

Supervise undergraduate student workers in the costume shop. Teach and mentor work-study and practicum students, including instruction in both hand and machine sewing techniques. Assign tasks based on skill and experience levels. Maintain shop cleanliness and organization.

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT AT DETROIT MERCY

TRE 1310 - Introduction to the Theatre

FINA 2000 - Introduction to the Arts

TRE 2650 - Management Techniques

TRE 2660 - Stage Crafts

TRE 3060 - Principles of Arts Management

TRE 3100 - Theatrical Design

TRE 4311 - Survey of Theatre History

TRE 4315 - Survey of Theatre History Research

TRE 4990 - Senior Seminar in Theatre Studies

COMMITMENT TO STUDENT LEARNING

KCACTF Coordinator and Chaperone

Coordinated student registration, attendance, and event participation at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 3 Conference in 2020, 2024, and 2025, including bringing an invited production to perform at the 2025 festival in Madison, WI.

Mission Micro Grant

Awarded November 2020, funds used to host a workshop for students with Jerrilyn Lanier of Bridging the Gap: A Look at African American Hair and Makeup for Theatre.

Women and Gender Studies Feminist Teaching Grant

Awarded March 2021, funds used to purchase books that will aid the redevelopment of Survey of Theatre History (TRE 4311).

Jesuit Community Summer Stipend for Course Development

Awarded May 2021, for work on redeveloping of Survey of Theatre History (TRE 4311) to have a focus on playwrights who are women and people of color.

Costume Shop Training & Mentorship

Work with student assistants and work study employees in the costume shop. Train students in machine and hand sewing techniques, safe use of equipment, and maintenance of costume stock. Supervise students who are working on construction projects. Mentor students with an interest in theatrical design in the design, construction, and fitting processes.

Mock Production Project - Fall 2020

Created and directed the Mock Production Project, in which students worked on small teams with professional guest artists to create costume, scenic, lighting, and sound designs for a given script. Created detailed handbooks for both students and professional guest artists, mentored students, and designed final survey to assess student learning.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CourseDog Training

UDM - - September 2024

The Art of Advising: Igniting Student Engagement

UDM - - August 2024

Colleague Development Days

UDM - - August 2024

Building Inclusive Courses

UDM - - March 2024

Advising Workshop

UDM - - February 2024

Community Engaged Learning Workshop

UDM - - February 2024

Colleague Development Days

UDM - - January 2024

Search Advocate Training
UDM - - December 2023

Trauma Informed Teaching
UDM - - November 2023

Colleague Development Days
UDM - - August 2023

Teaching at it's Best Workshop
UDM - - March 2023

User Experience Design Certificate
Google/Coursera - - June 2022 - January 2023

Colleague Development Days
UDM - - August 2022

Search Advocate Training
Stockton University - - January 2022

Colleague Development Days
UDM - - January 2022

Lilly Fellows National Conference: Science, Faith, and the Common Good
Boston College - - October 2021

Colleague Development Days
UDM - - August 2021

Inclusive Teaching: Supporting all Students in the College Classroom
ColumbiaX - - Summer 2020

Pedagogy in Practice
UDM Instructional Design Studio - - Summer 2020

Colleague Development Days Fall 2020
UDM - - August 2020

QPR Gatekeeper Training
UDM - - October 1, 2020

Designing a Look Workshop
Wayne State University Apple Award Discussion Series - - November 18, 2020

Care for the Whole Professor
Creighton University - - December 2, 2020

Diversifying Approaches to Acting
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival - -January 2021

Theatrical Intimacy
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival - - January 2021

Intimacy Direction & Race
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival - - January 2021

Anti-Racist Theatre
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival - - January 2021

DEI in Theatre
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival - - January 2021

Colleague Development Days Winter 2021
UDM - - January 2021

Mask Making with Cold Foam
United States Institute for Theatre Technology - - March 2021

Black Beauty in Media, Theatre, and Film
United States Institute for Theatre Technology - - March 2021

Towards an Anti-Racist Michigan Theatre Workshop
Black Literature and Arts Queens Network - - April 25, 2021

Racial Justice Teach-In
UDM - - May 11, 2021

CREATIVE AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

DIRECTOR/COORDINATOR

Mock Production Project - - University of Detroit Mercy 2020

COSTUME DESIGNER

The Grown-Ups - - by Simon Henriques and Skylar Fox
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Andrew Papa 2025

The Glass Menagerie - - by Tennessee Williams		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Joe Bailey	2025
Witch - - by Jen Silverman		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Krista Schaefer	2024
A Doll's House Part 2 - - by Lucas Heath		
Open Book Theatre	dir. Wendy Katz Hiller.	2024
The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)[revised][again] - - by Adam Long, Danial Singer, and Jess Winfield		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Andrew Papa	2024
Photograph 51 - - by Anna Ziegler		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Kennikki Jones-Jones	2024
A Year With Frog & Toad - - by Robert and Willie Reale		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Sarah Hawkins-Rusk	2023
Unheard Voices: Afro-Brazilian Diaspora - - by Greg Grobis		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Gregory Grobis	2023
Pride and Prejudice - - by Kate Hamill		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Sarah Hawkins-Rusk	2022
Airness - - by Chelsea Marcantel		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Mycah Artis.	2022
Relativity - - by Mark St. Germain		
Theatre NOVA	dir. Carla Milarch.	2022
The Addams Family Musical - - by Andrew Lippa		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Gregory Grobis	2022
The Norwegians - - by C. Denby Swanson		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Andrew Papa.	2022
Antigone - - by Sophocles, translation by Diane Rayor		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Sarah Hawkins-Rusk	2021
<i>One Act Festival</i> - - by Multiple Playwrights		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Students of TRE 3650	2021
<i>Hitchcocked! An Audio Serial</i> - - by Joe Landry		

University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Andrew Papa	2021
<i>You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown</i> - - by Charles Schulz, Clark Gesner, John Gordon		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Greg Grobis	2020
Note - This production was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic		
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> - - by William Shakespeare		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Damian Torres-Botello	2020
<i>Ebenezer</i> - - by Joseph Zettelmaier		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Andrew Papa	2019
<i>Silent Sky</i> - - by Lauren Gunderson		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Sarah Hawkins	2019
<i>Twelfth Night</i> - - by William Shakespeare		
Shakespeare in the Arb	dir. Carol Gray and Graham Atkin	2019
<i>Angels in America Part I</i> - - by Tony Kushner		
Wayne State University	dir. Blair Anderson	2019
<i>Angels in America Part II</i> - - by Tony Kushner		
Wayne State University	dir. Blair Anderson	2019
<i>The Colored Museum</i> - - by George C. Wolfe		
Wayne State University	dir. Billicia Hines	2018
<i>The Underpants</i> - - by Steve Martin		
Wayne State University	dir. Scotty Arnold	2017
<i>It Shoulda Been You</i> - - by Brian Hargrove and Barbara Anselmi		
Mason Street Warehouse	dir. Kurt Stamm	2017
<i>Spring Dance Concert</i>		
Wayne State University	dir. Meg Paul	2017
<i>Sistas! The Musical</i> - - by Dorothy Marcic		
Meadow Brook Theatre	dir. Travis Walter	2016
<i>Goodbye Beauty, Hello Dust</i> - - The Hinterlands Ensemble		
Hope College	dir. Richard Newman	2015
<i>Urinetown</i> - - by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollman		
Hope College	dir. Rich Perez	2014

Beehive! The 1960's Musical - - by Larry Gallagher
Mason Street Warehouse dir. Kurt Stamm 2014

Oh! The Humanity - - by Will Eno
Hope College dir. John Tammi 2013

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER

The Grown-Ups - - by Simon Henriques and Skylar Fox
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Andrew Papa 2025

The Glass Menagerie - - by Tennessee Williams
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Joe Bailey 2025

Witch - - by Jen Silverman
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Krista Schaefer 2024

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)[revised][again] - - by Adam Long, Danial Singer, and Jess Winfield
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Andrew Papa 2024

Photograph 51 - - by Anna Ziegler
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Kennikki Jones-Jones 2024

A Year With Frog & Toad - - by Robert and Willie Reale
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Sarah Hawkins-Rusk 2023

Unheard Voices: Afro-Brazilian Diaspora - by Greg Grobis
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Gregory Grobis 2023

Pride and Prejudice - - by Kate Hamill
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Sarah Hawkins-Rusk 2022

Airness - - by Chelsea Marcantel
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Mycah Artis. 2022

The Addams Family Musical - - by Andrew Lipa
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Gregory Grobis 2022

The Norwegians - - by C. Denby Swanson
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Andrew Papa. 2022

Antigone - - by Sophocles, translation by Diane Rayor
University of Detroit Mercy dir. Sarah Hawkins-Rusk 2021

<i>One Act Festival</i> - - by Multiple Playwrights		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Students of TRE 3650	2021
<i>You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown</i> - - by Charles Schulz, Clark Gesner, John Gordon		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Greg Grobis	2020
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> - - by William Shakespeare		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Damian Torres-Botello	2020
<i>Ebenezer</i> - - by Joseph Zettelmaier		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Andrew Papa	2019
<i>Silent Sky</i> - - by Lauren Gunderson		
University of Detroit Mercy	dir. Sarah Hawkins	2019

CUTTER/DRAPER

Wayne State University - - Detroit, MI

<i>Venus</i> - - by Suzan-Lori Parks		
des. Haley Cavanaugh	dir. Billicia Hines	2019
<i>A Christmas Carol</i> - - by John Wolf and Tom Aulino		
des. John Woodland	dir. Katie Campbell	2018
<i>As You Like It</i> - - by William Shakespeare		
des. Haley Cavanaugh	dir. Lavinia Hart	2018
<i>Avenue Q</i> - - by Jeff Whitty, Robert Lopez, and Jeff Marx		
des. John Woodland	dir. Michael Barnes	2018
<i>King Lear</i> - - by William Shakespeare		
des. Alyssa Gawel	dir. Allegra Libonati	2018
<i>Stupid Fucking Bird</i> - - by Aaron Posner		
des. John Woodland	dir. Blair Anderson	2018
<i>A Christmas Carol</i> - - by John Wolf and Tom Aulino		
des. John Woodland	dir. Katie Campbell	2017
<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> - - by Tennessee Williams		
des. Haley Cavanaugh	dir. David Madgison	2017
<i>By The Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> - - by Lynn Nottage		
des. Haley Cavanaugh	dir. Billicia Hines	2017

STITCHER**Wayne State University - - Detroit, MI**

You Can't Take it With You - - by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart
 des. Alyssa Gawel dir. Blair Anderson 2016

Dracula - - Adapted by Charles Morey
 des. Samantha Geppert dir. Charles Morey 2016

A Christmas Carol - - by John Wolf and Tom Aulino
 des. John Woodland dir. Tom Aulino 2016

Meadow Brook Theatre - - Rochester, MI

Forever Plaid - - by Stuart Ross
 des. Corey Collins dir. Travis Walter 2016

Calendar Girls - - by Tim Firth
 des. Elizabeth Goodall dir. Travis Walter 2016

ATOMIC - - by Danny Ginges and Philip Foxman
 des. Elizabeth Goodall dir. Travis Walter 2016

Legends! - - by James Kirkwood Jr.
 des. Corey Collins dir. Travis Walter 2016

A Christmas Carol - - by Charles Nolte
 des. Mary Pettinato dir. Terry Carpenter 2015

The Explorer's Club - - by Nell Benjamin
 des. Elizabeth Goodall dir. Travis Walter 2015

Michigan Shakespeare Festival - - Jackson, MI

A Midsummer Night's Dream - - by William Shakespeare
 des. Renae Skoog dir. Janice L. Blixt 2015

The Rivals - - by Richard Brinsley Sheridan
 des. Melanie Bond dir. Janice L. Blixt 2015

King Henry IV - - by William Shakespeare
 des. Lauren Montgomery dir. Janice L. Blixt 2015

Hope Summer Repertory Theatre - - Holland, MI

<i>I Am Woman</i> - - by Fred Tessler and Brad Landers		
des. Michelle Bombe	dir. Fred Tessler	2013
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i> - - by William Shakespeare		
des. Kristina Makowski	dir. Curt L. Tofteland	2013
<i>The Light in the Piazza</i> - - by Adam Guettel and Craig Lucas		
des. Jessica Leslie	dir. Daina Robins	2013
<i>All Shook Up</i> - - by Joe Dipietro		
des. Jessica Leslie	dir. David Colacci	2013
<i>The 39 Steps</i> - - Adapted by Patrick Barlow		
des. Jodi Ozimek	dir. John Tammi	2013

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Valesano, Mary Elizabeth. "Art on the Stage: Using Charles Mee's Artist Plays to Practice the Design Process." United State Institute for Theatre Technology Teaching Archive. 2021.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

National Presentations:

Valesano, M. (2024, August 1-4). Moving Past Points: Using Specifications Grading in Theatrical Design & Technology Courses. In A. Osatinski (Chair), *Innovations in Pedagogy for Theatre in Higher Education: A Gallery Walk* [Virtual Poster Session]. Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference 2024, Atlanta, GA.

Valesano, M. (2021, March 8-12) Visual Design for an Audio Drama: New Functions for Costume Renderings. [Poster] United States Institute for Theatre Technology National Conference 2021, Virtual.

Regional and Local Presentations:

Workshops via University of Michigan Living Arts Summer Residential Lab - - 2017
 Theatrical Makeup: Aging and Wounds
 The Costume Design Process
 Heroes, Villains, and the Psychology of Color
 Introduction to Projection Design and Adobe After Effects

University Presentations:

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Faculty Colloquium - - 2024
“Troublemakers & Temptresses – Who We’ve Called “Witches” and Why?”
A Conversation between Dean Jocelyn Boryczka and Assistant Prof. Mary Liz Valesano

Celebration of Scholarly Achievement - - 2024
Costume Design & Construction for *A Year with Frog & Toad*

University of Detroit Mercy Scholarly Achievement Week - - 2021
Faculty Dialogue Session with Tanya Vaughn-Deneen

SERVICE

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Interim Chair

Assumed chair responsibilities from July 2024 through December 2024 while Associate Professor & Chair Andrew Papa was on leave. Attended monthly Council of Chairs meetings, led weekly department meetings, met regularly with students. Performed all advising and scheduling duties.

Search Committee - Ticket and Audience Development Coordinator

Review of applicants, development of interview questions, finalist interviews, and final discussion of candidates.

Season Selection Committee

Monthly discussions of possible productions for the upcoming season. Assess factors such as cast size, technical needs, budget, etc.

Recruitment Committee

Monthly discussions of recruitment strategies. Coordinate with admissions and CLAE Recruitment & Communications to schedule virtual and in-person visits with prospective students.

Curriculum and Assessment Committee

Monthly discussions of new curriculum structure and new assessment strategies.

Detroit Mercy Theatre Company Scholarship Auditions

Attend Michigan Educational Theatre Association Festival annually in December. Evaluate student performances and make recommendations for scholarship offers. Follow up with prospective students.

Titan Slam Monologue Competition Judging

Assess student and alumni performances using scoring rubric.

Student Handbook

Lead redevelopment of Detroit Mercy Theatre Company Student Handbook.

COLLEGE SERVICE

Assistant Professor of History Search Committee

Serve as search advocate tasked with reducing bias in the search process. Regular meetings to develop job description, search criteria matrix, and interview questions. Reviewed applicants, hosted zoom and campus interviews. Provided final recommendations to Dean.

CHASS Strategic Planning Task Force

Weekly meetings of task force and sub-committees. Developed survey to gather community input on facilities, curriculum, and branding. Drafted framework for incorporating survey results into future strategic plan.

CHASS Assistant Dean Search Committee

Regular meetings to develop job description, search criteria matrix, and interview questions. Reviewed applicants, hosted zoom and campus interviews. Provided final recommendations to Dean Boryczka.

Curriculum and Standards Committee

Co-chair for AY23-24, member for AY21-22, AY22-23. Regular meetings and email communications to collaboratively evaluate proposals for new courses/programs and changes to existing courses/programs. Developed new course proposal form and new tracking system for current proposals.

Faculty Development Committee

Secretary for AY23-24, member for AY21-22 and AY22-23. Monthly meetings to plan events and host events. Worked with Dean Boryczka to evaluate Magis Award nominees.

Career Readiness and Internship Initiatives

Research career readiness and internship initiatives at peer institutions and make recommendations for implementing programs within the college.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

McNichols Faculty Assembly

College representative AY 23-24 and AY 24-25.

Core Curriculum Team

Member for AY 24-25.

Faculty Development Team

Member for AY 23-24.

Women's and Gender Studies Steering Committee

Member for AY22-23, AY 23-24, and AY 24-25. Monthly meetings to discuss student progress towards minor, recruitment, curriculum, and events.

Women's and Gender Studies Events Subcommittee

Chair for AY 24-25. Regular meetings to plan events, including film screenings, speakers, writing contests, etc. Coordinate event logistics, marketing, and assessment.

Mission Micro Grant Evaluation Committee

Evaluated proposals for AY22-23, AY 23-24, and AY 24-25

Faculty Marshal

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony May 2022.

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony May 2025

Dean of The College of Liberal Arts and Education Search Committee

Fall 2021 - Winter 2021

Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force

Goal 1: Create Detroit's College Town Strategy 1: Enhance Student Engagement

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Textbook Reviewer

11th Edition of *Humanities Through the Arts* by Lee A. Jacobus and F. David Martin

Faculty Respondent for Regional Design Projects

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 3 Conference, January 2022

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

United States Institute for Theatre Technology

Association for Theatre in Higher Education

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Wilde Award - - 2024

Best Costume Design, A Year With Frog and Toad, Detroit Mercy Theatre Company

Commendation for Distinguished Achievement in Costume Design - - 2022

Costume Design for Antigone, Detroit Mercy Theatre Company

Wilde Award Nomination - - 2018

Best Costume Design, The Colored Museum, Wayne State University

Lilly Graduate Fellows Program - - 2016 - 2019

Competitive 3 year arts and humanities teaching fellowship centered on higher education.