ZACH RIVERA

Curriculum Vitae

Stage Director, Educator, Advocate
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Positions

2026-Present: Thespy Advisory Committee Member - Educational Theatre Foundation

Began term on the advisory committee work for the Thespy program as part of the EdTA's International Thespian Festival programming, including collaborating with educators across the US in the planning of theatre competition categories, adjudication systems and policies, and junior thespian programming.

2022-Present: Theatre Teacher, Public Speaking Teacher, Troupe Director, Chair of Enrichment Dept., Senior Advisor - Greenwood School

Founded and developed the school's theatre program, directing six mainstage productions and producing interdisciplinary talent showcases. Taught theatre and public speaking across grades 6–12 while serving as Senior Adviser and Chair of the Enrichment Curriculum Department. Led a competitive Thespian Troupe to success at district and state levels, and secured donor and grant funding to expand the theatre program's resources and impact.

2023-2026: Chair of Inclusion Division, Web/Social Media Coordinator - Florida Theatre Conference

Led inclusion and access initiatives for festival programming, amplifying the underrepresented voices and providing fair involvement. Designed and executed a full overhaul of the organization's website and registration system, enhancing user experience and accessibility.

2022-2024: Marketing Coordinator, House Manager - The 5 & Dime Theatre Co.

Oversaw the company's digital and print marketing initiatives, managing social media presence and designing promotional materials including programs, posters, and graphics. Reported grant-related social media analytics and created internal communication and branding resources to support organizational growth.

2021-2023: Founder, Artistic Director, Managing Director - Basecamp Theatre Co.

Shaped the company's creative vision, pursuing and attaining institutional collaborations in Jacksonville's arts community. Led a team to craft a new devised form of local docu-theatre and directed multiple productions, initiatives, and artistic experiences that advanced the company's mission and community impact.

2021-2022: Theatre Teaching Artist - Cathedral Arts Project

Taught drama to grades 3–5 in a Title I school, creating original curriculum that introduced students to core theatre skills as well as advanced concepts such as devising. Engaged dozens of young learners in creative expression while fostering confidence and collaboration.

2020-2021: Concert Photographer - Jacksonville University

Photographed concerts, rehearsals, and special events to document the department's artistic work and maintain its public image. Provided images for use in digital and print marketing materials, supporting the department's branding and outreach initiatives.

2020: Founder - Opus Theatre Collective

Established a collective for BIPOC theatre artists as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, pairing directors and playwrights to develop new work in digital and outdoor formats.

2020: Producer - Earworm Audio Theatre

Created and produced a one-season audio theatre podcast during the COVID-19 pandemic, offering audiences a safe way to experience new theatrical works. Collaborated with artists across the country to develop and record episodes, expanding access to theatre through digital storytelling.

2019-2020: Venue Management Employee - Jacksonville University

Assisted with logistics and technical support for concerts and events, contributing to smooth production operations across campus venues.

2019: Student Blogger - Broadway World

Wrote multiple articles on theatre and performance, contributing original content to the site's coverage of the arts.

2017-2018: Contributing Writer - PerformerStuff

Created theatre entertainment content, including listicles and quizzes, for an online audience of performers and theatre enthusiasts.

Workshops/Article Publications

2026: *Floridian Theatremakers Fight Back Against State and Local Governments in Arts Funding Battle* - Author - Howlround Theatre Commons

"In Florida, state and local arts funding has become the site of an ideological battle. Zachary Rivera discusses the impact of these funding cuts-and the work of Floridian theatremakers who know that art is precious enough to fight for."

2025: Directing for Beginners: Communicating with Actors and Designers - Facilitator - Florida Theatre Conference

Taught beginner directors in high school and college how best to communicate with their actors and designers through interactive exercises, discussion groups, and practical applications.

2024: Let's Talk About: Theatre and Inclusion - Co-Facilitator - Florida Theatre Conference

Co-led a discussion with Sara Brunow on access in the production process, focusing on inclusive practices for neurodivergent artists, artists with physical differences, and broader equity in theatre-making.

2023: Objectives & Tactics through Dungeons & Dragons - Facilitator - Florida Theatre Conference

Facilitated sessions for middle and high school students exploring objectives and tactics in acting through Dungeons & Dragons mechanics and skill checks, engaging participants in interactive, game-based approaches to performance and character development.

2020: Devised Theatre Workshop - Co-Facilitator - Jacksonville University

Led a workshop on devised theatre for students, incorporating methods learned at SETC, supported by grant funding from the Office of Research and Student Projects, to foster collaborative creation and innovative performance practices.

Education & Awards

Disney on Broadway School of Excellence, 2025-2026 School Year

This nationwide program celebrates schools that display both outstanding artistic achievement and student-led engagement in theatrical disciplines such as stagecraft, theatrical design, choreography, direction, or performance.

First Coast Teacher of the Week, March 2026

Presented by First Coast News to a teacher based on community nominations.

Greenwood Teacher Impact Award 2025

Presented to a teacher at Greenwood School who has made a significant impact to the school, student body, and campus culture.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre, Jacksonville University
Jacksonville FL, Graduated Summa Cum Laude May 09, 2021

Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts Student of the Year 2021
Excellence in Directing 2021 (Inaugural Recipient)
Excellence in Musical Theatre 2021
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Directing Nomination 2020
Finalist SDC Directing Initiative KCACTF Region IV 2021
Full Scholarship, Kennedy Center Directing Intensive 2021
Grant Funding – JU Office of Research and Student Projects, 2020
Wilbur Forschler Music Scholarship 2020
President's List

Associate of Arts focused in Theatre Arts, Daytona State College
Daytona Beach FL, Graduated Magna Cum Laude May 13, 2019

President's Award, 2017
Full Departmental Scholarship, 2017-2019
Florida State Thespian Scholarship 2017
Dean's List 2017-2019

Software Proficiencies

Adobe Suite
Affinity Suite / Canva
Microsoft Suite
G-Suite
QLab / ETC Lighting Consoles

Theatre Works

2026 (Upcoming): *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Simon Stephens - **Director** - Greenwood School

2026: Fourth Year at Florida State Thespian Festival - **Troupe Director** - Greenwood School *(Student Accolades include 2 "Superior", 6 "Excellent" Ratings)*

2026: *Peter and the Starcatcher* by Rick Elice and Wayne Baker - **Director** - Greenwood School [DISNEY ON BROADWAY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE PRODUCTION]

2025: *RENT* by Jonathan Larson - **Mark Cohen & Projection Designer** - Players by the Sea

2025: Fourth year at District 2 Thespian Festival - Troupe Director - Greenwood School *(Student Accolades include 6 "Superior", 22 "Excellent" Ratings; Student chosen to perform in opening ceremony of state festival)*

2025: *Ripcord* by David Lindsay-Abaire - **Director & Lighting Designer** - Players by the Sea

2025: *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen - **Director** - Greenwood School

2025: First year at International Thespian Festival - **Troupe Director** - Greenwood School *(Student Accolades include 2 "Excellent" Ratings)*

2025: *Hadestown* Teen Edition by Anais Mitchell - **Director** - Greenlight Theatre Co.

2025: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* by William Finn - **Director** - Greenwood School

2025: Third year at Florida State Thespian Festival - **Troupe Director** - Greenwood School *(Student Accolades include 2 "Superior", 6 "Excellent" Ratings)*

2024: Third year at District 2 Thespian Festival - **Troupe Director** - Greenwood School *(Student accolades include 2 "Superior", 23 "Excellent", 16 "Good" Ratings; Student chosen to perform in opening ceremony of state festival)*

2024: *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani - **Director** - Greenwood School

2024: *Trouble in Mind* by Alice Childress - **Director** - Players by the Sea Theatre

2024: Second year at Florida State Thespian Festival - **Troupe Director** - Greenwood School *(Student Accolades include 2 "Superior", 5 "Excellent" Ratings)*

2024: *Antigone* - **Director** - Greenwood School

2024: *Addams Family* by Andrew Lippa - **Director** - Greenwood School

2023: Second year at District 2 Thespian Festival - **Troupe Director** - Greenwood School *(Student accolades include 2 "Superior", 18 "Excellent", 12 "Good" Ratings)*

2023: *Tick, Tick…BOOM!* by Jonathan Larson - **Michael** - The 5 & Dime Theatre Co.

2023: *Clyde's* by Lynn Nottage - **Rafael** - The 5 & Dime Theatre Co.

2023: First year at Florida State Thespian Festival - **Troupe Director** - Greenwood School
(Student Accolades include 2 "Superior", 3 "Excellent" Ratings)

2023: *Let Me Down Easy* by Anna Deveare-Smith - **Director** - The 5 & Dime Theatre Co.

2023: *The Little Mermaid Jr.* By Alan Menken and Doug Wright - **Director** - Greenwood School

2022: First year at District 2 Thespian Festival - **Troupe Director** - Greenwood School
(Student accolades include 9 "Excellent", 11 "Good" ratings)

2022: *The Florida Archives* by Isa Martinez and Elizabeth Martin - **Director** - Museum of Science and History Jacksonville

2022: *Native Gardens* by Karen Zacarias - **Director** - The 5 & Dime Theatre Co.

2021: *The Thanksgiving Play* by Larissa Fasthorse – **Assistant Director** – The 5 & Dime Theatre Co.

2021: *The Florida Archives* by Isa Martinez – **Director** – Short Attention Span Festival

2021: *Adapt or Die* by Robin Rice – **Director** – The Tank NYC

2021: *Axe Your Mother* by Jalice Corral – **Director** – Jacksonville University

2021: *Pecking Order* by Robin Rice – **Director** – Goddard Riverside Arts Community NYC

2021: Kennedy Center SDC Initiative – **Finalist**
(Earned full scholarship to KC Directing Intensive)

2020: *end of the world, rsvp by the 20th* by Isa Martinez – **Director** – Distracted Rat

2020: *Diastole: Songs of Inspiration in Turbulent Times* – **Assistant Director/ Director of Photography** – Jacksonville University (KCACTF Nomination)

2020: *Climbing the Good Walls* by Robin Rice – **Director** – 29th Street Playwrights Collective NYC

2020: Theatre is the Cure – **Featured Director (4x)** – Logan Squared Productions LA

2020: *Problematic Virus* by Lindsay Cartwright – **Director** – NEXTWORKS Festival

2020: *Powder* by Cecilia Despres – **Director** – Self Produced

2020: Earworm Audio Theatre Season 1 – **Director/Producer** (10 Episodes)

2020: /*agape*/ Original Devised Work – **Director** – Jacksonville University*

2020: *Light in the Piazza* – **Roy Johnson** – Jacksonville University*

2020: *In the Heights* – **Kevin Rosario** – Jacksonville University

2019: *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare – **Assistant Director** – Jacksonville University

2019: Heroes and Villains – **Soloist** – STAGE at Thank You Five

2019: *Avenue Q* – **Trekkie Monster** – Daytona State College

2018: *The Dumbwaiter* by Harold Pinter – **Director** – Daytona State College

2018: *Free to Be You and Me* – **Soloist** – Daytona State College

2018: *Spring Awakening* by Franz Wedekind – **Reverend Bleekhead** – Daytona State College

2018: From Broadway with Love – **Soloist** – STAGE at Thank You Five

2018: Night at the Tony's Cabaret – **Soloist** – Daytona State College

2017: *A Christmas Carol* – **Jacob Marley** – Daytona State College

2017: *The Wizard of Oz* – **Cowardly Lion** – Shoestring Theatre

[* Denotes cancellation due to the COVID-19 Pandemic]