

# Eric Avery

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## EDUCATION

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2013      **MFA Theatre Arts**, Towson University  
2006      **BGS Theatre & Film**, University of Kansas

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Alternative Theater Ensemble**, San Rafael, CA

**Ensemble Member/Interim Executive Director**, November 2022 – Current

Co-lead a BIPOC theater in its mission of supporting marginalized theater artists in developing and producing new plays embedded in the community. Areas of oversight include finance, fundraising, operations, production, partnerships, and more.

**Freelance Creative**, Various Nationally & Internationally

**Artist/Educator/Producer**, September 2006 – Current

Collaborate with theaters, non-profits, universities, and municipalities to create and produce creative projects, engagement, and process facilitation. Additional duties include: Project management, promotion and marketing, documentation, accounting, evaluation, writing, and strategic planning.

**Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County**

**& The La Brea Tar Pits and Museum**, Los Angeles, CA

**Puppeteer**, January 2022 – December 2022

Created and presented performances to the public using various forms of puppetry including: marionette, rod, shadow, animatronics, and full body dinosaur suits.

**Land Stewardship Project**, Minneapolis, MN

**Community-Based Food Systems Organizer**, August 2017 – July 2018

Led and collaborated to produce programs developing community members' food skills in the kitchen and garden. Programs aimed to advance food sovereignty in South Minneapolis and introduce participants to holistic approaches to health and healing. Additional duties include: Policy organizing, developing and presenting popular education curriculum, grant writing, and developing community partnerships.

**Potomac Vegetable Farms**, Vienna, VA

**Farm Apprentice**, Spring 2017

Engaged in multiple aspects of farm operations including: planting, weeding, harvesting, construction, and consulting on socially engaged projects.

**Public Art Saint Paul**, St. Paul, MN

**Education Associate**, March 2014 – September 2015

Collaborated with the Director of Education in re-envisioning and executing the organization's summer long education program. Duties included: Identifying and managing partnerships with community nonprofits and government agencies, overseeing

the development of curricula, expanding the program by integrating a healthy eating plan, and leading shifts in policy concerning accessibility and child welfare.

**Social Action Project, Baltimore, MD**

**Artistic Director**, January 2010 – August 2012

Responsible for coordination of all artistic & production aspects of this Towson University affiliated organization, whose primary mission was to create new works of performance addressing social issues and facilitate meaningful conversations with viewers and performers.

**VSA North 4<sup>th</sup> Art Center, Albuquerque, NM**

**AmeriCorps Theatre Outreach Coordinator**, September 2009 – August 2010

Served as a liaison into the community by creating and managing a number of outreach programs that utilize performing & visual arts as their primary point of departure. Duties included: creation of original programming from concept to curriculum development to execution; managing the local tour of Buen Viaje Dance and Equilibrium Theatre Company; Taught classes ranging from clowning to pottery to lighting design, and serving a wide variety of populations: people with Autism Spectrum Disorders, adolescents who are incarcerated, people with varied disabilities, and refugees.

**Maceli's Catering, Lawrence, KS**

**Banquet Captain**, June 2003 – August 2006

Oversaw front of house aspects of an event including: set-up, hosting, coordinating food service, bar management, tear down, and clean up; back of house operations including: preparing salads, cold appetizers, and desserts, plating multiple courses for full service meals; and managing communication amongst in house staff, contractors, and clients.

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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2025	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> Theatre of the Oppressed Basics. Ruth's Table. SF, CA
2023 - 2025	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> The Cedars of Marin - Fine Art Studio. Ross, CA
2019	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> Solace Apartments Culture/Arts Program. St. Peter, MN
2019	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> zAmya Theatre Project. Facilitator Training. Minneapolis, MN
2018	<b>Guest Lecturer.</b> PSCI 1170. Minneapolis Community & Technical College. MN
2018	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> Play for Liberation. Art Change US REMAP. Minneapolis, MN
2017	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> Monkeybear's Harmolodic Workshop. Minneapolis, MN
2016	<b>Visiting Assistant Professor.</b> University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS
2016	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> Z Puppet's Kid City. Maplewood, MN
2016 - 2019	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> Art for Social Change. HECUA. Minneapolis, MN
2015	<b>Instructor.</b> Space Labs. Prague Quadrennial. Prague, Czech Republic
2015	<b>Guest Instructor.</b> Master Class: Devising. University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS
2015	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> Heart of the Beast - Lantern Festival. Minneapolis, MN
2014	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> Heart of the Beast - Mayday. Minneapolis, MN
2014 – 2016	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> Upstream Arts. Minneapolis, MN
2014 – 2016	<b>Teaching Artist.</b> Children's Theatre Company. Minneapolis, MN

2013 – 2015 **Teaching Artist.** Public Art St. Paul. St. Paul, MN  
 2013 **Instructor.** Arts Adventures. Albuquerque, NM  
 2012 **Instructor.** Theatre for Social Change, THEA 310. Towson University. MD  
 2011 **Instructor.** Introduction to Theatre, THEA 103. Towson University. MD  
 2011 **Co-Instructor.** Theatre for Social Change, THEA 310. Towson University. MD  
 2011 **Guest Lecturer.** ARTS 200. University of Baltimore. MD  
 2011 **Guest Lecturer.** Acting I, THEA 101. Towson University. MD  
 2010 **Guest Lecturer.** Community Outreach, THEA 401. Towson University. MD  
 2010 **Instructor.** Introduction to World Theatre. Greenmount School, Baltimore, MD  
 2012 – 2007 **Teaching Artist,** Youth Performance Company. Minneapolis, MN  
 2007 – 2006 **Instructor.** Hip-hop & jazz. Betty Jo's Dance Center. Rosemount, MN  
 2006 **Guest Lecturer.** Movement I, TH&F 212. University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
 2006 **Guest Lecturer.** Directing I, TH&F 309. University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
 2005 **Teaching Assistant.** Jazz I, DANC 106. University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS

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**PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTION** (*theatre + gallery + site-specific*)

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2024 **(No More) Adjustments** - Actor  
 Oakland Theater Project. Oakland, CA

2023 **Pueblo Revolt** - producer, scenic design  
*ALTERTHEATER PREMIERE TOUR:*  
 Art Works Downtown. San Rafael, CA  
 Arts Research Center. Berkeley, CA

2022 **The Perchy Meachum Dance Experience**— director/choreographer  
 Playwright Center, PlayLabs Festival. Minneapolis, MN  
**Dakota Gets Lost** – co-creator, puppeteer  
 Los Angeles Country Natural Museum of History. Los Angeles, CA.

2021 **The Reparations Variations** – creator, Pussy Boy, e  
 Zoom Development Workshops. The Internet.

2019 **Moby Dick** – puppetry designer/director  
 American Repertory Theatre. Cambridge, MA  
**A Prairie Homeless Companion** – co-creator, director, designer  
*ZAMYA THEATRE PROJECT TOUR:*  
 Plymouth Church. Minneapolis, MN  
 Southwest Minnesota State University. Marshall, MN  
 The Barn Theatre. Willmar, MN  
 Hutchinson Arts Center. Hutchinson, MN  
 Minnesota West. Worthington, MN  
**Museum/Life** – co-creator, performer  
 Weisman Museum, University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN  
**The zAmya Zone** – co-director, dramaturg  
 zAmya Theatre Project. Minneapolis, MN

- 2017      **Ex-gays** – playwright  
Savage Umbrella. Minneapolis, MN
- 2016      **A 24-Decade History of Popular Music** – puppetry designer/director, performer  
St. Ann’s Warehouse. New York, NY  
Vassar College. Poughkeepsie, NY  
MassMoCA. North Adams, MA  
**The Life and Death of Eric F. Avery** – creator, designer, performer  
University Settlement. New York, NY  
Intermedia Arts. Minneapolis, MN  
**67 simple operations** – creator, designer  
Soap Factory. Minneapolis, MN  
**Demolishing Everything with Amazing Speed** – co-creator, performer  
Bard Summerscape. Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
- 2015      **Truth Booth** – creator, designer, performer  
Pillsbury House + Theatre. Minneapolis, MN  
**The Scarlet Ibis** – puppeteer  
HERE Arts Center. New York, NY  
**Whitman Electric** – co-creator, installation design  
Intermedia Arts. Minneapolis, MN  
**Water, Sweet Red, and the Wild Glitter Transformation** – director  
Pillsbury House + Theatre. Minneapolis, MN
- 2014      **Basil Twist's Rite of Spring** – assistant director, puppeteer  
Lincoln Center. New York, NY  
**Minneapolis<sup>3</sup>** – creator, designer, director  
Northern Spark Festival. Minneapolis, MN  
**Play[ing] + P(house)** – creator, designer, director, performer  
Pillsbury House + Theatre. Minneapolis, MN  
**The Elegant Experiment** – co-creator, designer, performer  
Studio 206. Minneapolis, MN  
**it’s very difficult to keep** – co-creator, designer, performer  
Five Myles Gallery. New York, NY  
**Beaverdance** – scenic designer  
Bedlam Theatre. St. Paul, MN
- 2013      **La Divina Caricatura** – puppeteer  
Lamama Experimental Theatre Club. New York, NY  
**Basil Twist's Rite of Spring** – puppeteer, assistant director  
Carolina Performing Arts. Chapel Hill, NC  
**Take the Field** – audience activator  
South High Football Field. Minneapolis, MN

- 2012      **21 Things I Never Told Chicago** – co-creator, performer, assistant director  
Dixon Place. New York, NY  
**Adventures in Technology ‘n Stuff** – creator, performer, designer  
Black Cherry Puppet Theatre. Baltimore, MD  
**The Abstract Mirror Shadow** – creator, performer, designer  
14K Cabaret. Baltimore, MD  
**Kawatokawa (river/skin)** – stage manager  
Baltimore Theatre Project. Baltimore, MD
- 2011      **Ex-gays** – playwright, co-director  
Savage Umbrella. Minneapolis, MN  
Duluth Pride Festival. Duluth, MN  
**Looking** – playwright  
Un Saddest Factory. Baltimore, MD  
**Twelfth Night** – scenic, costume designer  
Theatre Terra Firma. St. Paul, MN  
**Much Ado About Nothing** – costume designer  
Theatre Terra Firma. St. Paul, MN  
**A Midsummer Night’s Dream** – costume, prop designer  
Theatre Terra Firma. St. Paul, MN
- 2010      **The Winter Adventures of Happy, the SAD Clown** – creator, designer, Happy  
Bryant Lake Bowl. Minneapolis, MN  
**The Freddy Mercury Project** – co-creator, performer  
Revolutions Festival. Albuquerque, NM  
**Little Big Horn** – scenic, sound designer  
North 4<sup>th</sup> Art Center. Albuquerque, NM
- 2009      **Fuckjoy** – choreographer  
The Side Project. Chicago, IL  
**FRAT** – dramaturg  
The New Colony. Chicago, IL
- 2008      **Blue Door** – Simon/Rex/Jesse  
Guthrie Theatre. Minneapolis, MN  
**Gypsy and the General** – The Lieutenant, co-creator  
*THREE STICKS THEATRE COMPANY TOUR:*  
Minneapolis Fringe Festival. Minneapolis, MN  
Kansas City Fringe Festival. Kansas City, KS  
Edmonton Fringe Festival. Edmonton, CA  
**Breaking Ice** – Eric, co-creator  
Pillsbury House + Theatre. Minneapolis, MN  
**Once on this Island** – Daniel Beauxhommes  
10,000 Things Theatre Company. Minneapolis, MN  
**Five Fingers of Funk** – Men’s Understudy

Children's Theatre Company. Minneapolis, MN

2007      **America:aciremA** – co-director, designer, playwright, Linus/Jim Crow/Dixie  
*SAVAGE UMBRELLA TOUR:*  
Bryant Lake Bowl. Minneapolis, MN  
Kansas City Fringe. Kansas City, KS  
Calgary Fringe. Calgary, CA  
The Warren. Minneapolis, MN  
**Cabaret Harlem** – creator, designer, director, Black Jack  
Spencer Museum of Art. Lawrence, KS  
**King Lear** – Edmund  
Minnesota Shakespeare Project. Minneapolis, MN  
**A Company of Wayward Saints** – Arlecchino  
Workhouse Theatre Company. Minneapolis, MN  
**A Christmas Carole Petersen** – Carulette  
Theatre Latte Da. Minneapolis, MN  
**Lost in the Stars** – Absalom Kumalo  
Skylark Opera. Minneapolis, MN  
**Water Pirates of Neverland** – Pierre/Squishy  
National Theatre for Children. *SOUTHEAST COAST TOUR*  
**Food, Fit, Fun** – Dad/Chet/Coach  
National Theatre for Children. *DEEP SOUTH TOUR*  
**The Magic Mrs. Piggle Wiggle** – asst. director  
The Children's Theatre Company. Minneapolis, MN

2006      **Cloud 9** – Joshua/Gerry  
The Barn Players. Kansas City, MO  
**Lights on for Louie** – Dragonfly/Glenn  
National Theatre for Children. *APPALACHIA TOUR*  
**Power of the Pyramid** – Chuck/Dana/Fishly  
National Theatre for Children. *TWIN CITIES TOUR*  
**Mr. Charles, Currently of Palm Beach** – director  
Minneapolis Fringe Festival. Minneapolis, MN

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## CULTURAL ORGANIZING & CONSULTING

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2023 - Current      **Out-of-the-Box Squad** – consultant, program design/co-director  
Cedars of Marin. Ross, CA

2020      **SLFND Black Circle Trip** – co-organizer  
Zoom Series. The Internet.

2019      **The People's Hearing, HF 2928:** *to establish a commission to study reparation proposals for African American & American Indian Minnesotans* – co-organizer  
Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul, MN  
**a party to something...** – organizer

	Third Place Gallery. Minneapolis, MN
	<b>Food Justice Summit</b> – consultant
	Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. Duluth, MN
	<b>Culture, Climate, Organizing Cohort</b> – creator, organizer
	100% Campaign. MN, Minneapolis, MN
	<b>Reparationist Rendezvous # 1</b> – organizer
	Third Place Gallery. Minneapolis, MN
	<b>2nd Annual Economic Praxis Party</b> – organizer
	My house. Minneapolis, MN
2018 - 2019	<b>Green Zones 101</b> – consultant, facilitator
	City of Minneapolis/HOPE Community. Minneapolis, MN
	<b>100% Campaign Launch</b> – consultant, facilitator
	Take Action Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN.
	<b>MMMMM</b> (Minnesota Melanated Media Maker Meet-up) – organizer
	Various locations. Twin Cities, MN
	<b>Economic Praxis Party</b> – organizer
	My house. Minneapolis, MN
	<b>MLK Healing Retreat</b> – co-organizer
	AirBnb Cabin. Nisswa, MN
2017	<b>PHood monTh</b> – organizer
	Pillsbury House + Theatre. Minneapolis, MN
2016	<b>TV2040</b> – creator, performer/facilitator
	Midtown Global Market. Minneapolis, MN
	North Commons. Minneapolis, MN
2015	<b>Float</b> – creator, designer
	Pillsbury House + Theatre. Minneapolis, MN
2014	<b>CREATE: The Community Meal</b> – table host, dancer
	Victoria Street. St. Paul, MN

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## EDUCATIONAL & COMMUNITY PRODUCTION

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2020	<b>Urinetown</b> – director, choreographer – <i>Canceled due to Covid-19</i>
	University Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS
2015	<b>Manny's Play</b> - director
	Chicago Ave. Project, Pillsbury House + Theatre. Minneapolis, MN
2014	<b>Franky Bangs</b> – Franky
	The Rose & Kettle. Cherry Valley, NY
2013	<b>Objectification</b> – creator, designer, director

- Thesis project, Towson University. Baltimore, MD  
**Based on a True Story** – creator, director  
 Social Action Project, Towson University. Towson, MD  
**Chester A. Arthur & Friends** - asst. director, performer  
 Fly Creek Grange #844. Otsego Co, NY  
**WHITE [people]** – creator, performer  
 The Tannex. Albuquerque, MN  
**Paper Pieces** – creator, performer, designer  
 Black Cherry Puppet Theatre, Baltimore, MD  
**The HOUSE Show** – creator, performer, director  
 My house. Minneapolis, MN  
**Jumping in Dresses** – co-creator, performer, director  
 Independent project, Towson University. Towson, MD
- 2012      **“8”** – director, designer  
 Social Action Project, Towson University. Towson, MD  
**Based on a True Story** – creator, director  
 Social Action Project, Towson University. Towson, MD  
**A Grain of Sand** – puppetry, lighting, co-scenic designer  
 Graduate project, Towson University. Towson, MD  
**Redress/blue dress** – lighting designer  
 Graduate Project, Towson University Towson, MD
- 2010      **Your Place, or Mine** – co-director, lighting designer  
 Theatre-in-the-Making. Albuquerque, NM  
**Exposition/Exploration** – lighting designer  
 North 4<sup>th</sup> Art Center. Albuquerque, NM
- 2008      **The Painter** – director  
 Bedlam Theatre. Minneapolis, MN
- 2007      **Once on this Island** – choreographer  
 Youth Performance Company. Minneapolis, MN
- 2006      **Pippin** – director, choreographer  
 University Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**Spectrum!** – creator, designer, director, choreographer  
 Independent project, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**The Life, Times, and Rhymes of Langston Hughes** – creator, performer  
 Independent project, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**Three** – co-creator, Emma, Hat Clown  
 Independent project, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
 Kansas City Fringe Festival. Kansas City, KS  
**Evening Primrose** – Roscoe Potts, choreographer  
 Independent project, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS



2005      **Lysistrata** – choreographer  
University Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**Romance, Romance** – “Him”/Lenny  
Kansas Summer Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**Charles Ludlam’s Medea** – Nurse  
Independent project, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**Jacques Brel is Alive and Well** – Eric  
University Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**Mr. Charles, Currently of Palm Beach** – director  
Independent project, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**George Dandin** – Colin  
University Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS

2004      **Meet the Germans** – creator, performer  
Independent project, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**Cabaret** – assistant director, assistant choreographer  
University Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**Our Country’s Good** – Captain Collins/Black Caesar  
University Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**Essiex** – co-creator, Preacher/Hound Dog/Model  
Independent project, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**The Brides** – Stage Manager  
University Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**Wonderful Time** – Stage Manager  
University Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS

2003      **Alice in Wonderland** – choreographer, assistant director  
Independent project, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS  
**Jocasta** – choreographer, assistant director  
English Alternative Theatre. Lawrence, KS  
**Working** – co-choreographer  
Highland Park High School. Topeka, KS  
**Grease** – choreographer  
Eisenhower Middle School. Topeka, KS  
**The Magic Flute** – assistant choreographer  
University Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS

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**INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL/TV**

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2008	Mad About Money	<b>Chet/Mom/Chicken Boy</b>	NTC-TV
2008	Bye Bye Bullies	<b>Doctor/Frank/Inspector</b>	NTC-TV
2007	Photo Lab: Guest Experience	<b>Team Member</b>	Target
2006	Comprehending Commas	<b>Comma Coach</b>	Edge Enterp.
2003	The Facist of X-mart	<b>Larry</b>	Blunk Prod.
2003	Change for a Dollar	<b>Spokesperson</b>	United Way

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## PUBLICATIONS

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- 2019 “Dear Cruel (art) World,” MNartists.org  
“To my collaborators, colleagues, and friends,” MNartist.org  
“Greetings from the Future, sweet eric, or the Past, by Now,” MNartist.org
- 2011 “Looking,” The Un Saddest Factory Ten Minute Play Festival. Thinking Beard Press

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## GRANTS + AWARDS + HONORS

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- 2025 New & Experimental Works grant, Kenneth Rainin Foundation  
2024 CA\$H Grant, Theater Bay Area  
2024 East Bay Fund for Artists, East Bay Community Foundation  
2024 Community Arts Grant, Zellerbach Family Foundation  
2024 MAP Grantee, MAP Fund  
2024 Drescher Ensemble Artist Residency, New Performance Traditions  
2023 Artist Offering Awardee, Queer Cat Productions  
2022 Sesame Workshop Writer’s Fellowship, Finalist  
2020 Elliot Norton Award, Outstanding Design (Puppetry), Boston Theatre Critics Assoc.  
2020 Artist Initiative Grant, MN State Arts Board  
2019 Innovation Lab Grant, Minnesota Humanities Center  
2018 Upswell LA Fellowship, Bush Foundation  
2017 Bessie Award, Outstanding Visual Design (Puppetry), NY Dance and Performance  
2016 Emerging Artist Research & Planning Grant, Forecast Public Art  
2016 Commission to create *TV2040*, City of Minneapolis  
2015 Next Step Grant, McKnight Foundation/MRAC  
2015 Artist-in-Residence, University Settlement – Performance Project  
2015 Art(ists) on the Verge 7 Fellowship, Northernlights.mn  
2015 Commission to create *FLOAT*, EmcArts Innovation program  
2014 Cultural Community Partnership Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board  
2014 Naked Stages Fellowship, Pillsbury House + Theatre  
2014 Commission to create *Minneapolis*<sup>3</sup>, Northernlight.mn  
2014 Pilot Balloon Church Residency, Lawrence, KS  
2011 Commission to create *Based on a True Story*, Towson University  
2011 Graduate Research Award, Towson University  
2008 Lavender Magazine Outstanding Performance (Blue Door)  
2007 Commission to create *Cabaret Harlem*, Spencer Museum of Art  
2006 Kilty Kane Award, University of Kansas  
2006 Commission to develop a Langston Hughes play, University Theatre  
2006 Undergraduate Research Award, University of Kansas  
2006 Lewin and Jean Ann Goff Travel Grant  
2006 New Theatre Guild Grant  
2005 Pat J. Ellis Drama Scholarship  
2004 Friends of the Theatre Scholarship  
2002 Best Actor (Play & Musical), Highland Park High School

2001	Boys' and Girls' Club of America, Youth of the Year - Kansas
2001	Oprah's Angel Network Scholar, Recipient of \$25,000 scholarship