

Eric Avery

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EDUCATION

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

WORK EXPERIENCE

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.

Alternative Theater Ensemble, San Rafael, CA

Ensemble Member, January 2024 – Current

Interim Executive Director, November 2022 – May 2025

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.

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 4th 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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2026	Guest Lecturer. CLA101D - Ritual Performance. UC Davis, CA
2025	Guest Lecturer. TED 511 - C&I VAPA. CSU East Bay, Hayward, CA
2025	Teaching Artist. Devising 101. Cooper Union. New York, NY
2025	Teaching Artist. Theatre of the Oppressed Basics. Ruth's Table. SF, CA
2023 - 2025	Teaching Artist. The Cedars of Marin - Fine Art Studio. Ross, CA
2019	Teaching Artist. Solace Apartments Culture/Arts Program. St. Peter, MN
2019	Teaching Artist. zAmya Theatre Project. Facilitator Training. Minneapolis, MN
2018	Guest Lecturer. PSCI 1170. Minneapolis Community & Technical College. MN
2018	Teaching Artist. Play for Liberation. Art Change US REMAP. Minneapolis, MN
2017	Teaching Artist. Monkeybear's Harmolodic Workshop. Minneapolis, MN
2016	Visiting Assistant Professor. University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS
2016	Teaching Artist. Z Puppet's Kid City. Maplewood, MN
2016 - 2019	Teaching Artist. Art for Social Change. HECUA. Minneapolis, MN
2015	Instructor. Space Labs. Prague Quadrennial. Prague, Czech Republic
2015	Guest Instructor. Master Class: Devising. University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS
2015	Teaching Artist. Heart of the Beast - Lantern Festival. Minneapolis, MN

2014 **Teaching Artist.** Heart of the Beast - Mayday. Minneapolis, MN
 2014 – 2016 **Teaching Artist.** Upstream Arts. Minneapolis, MN
 2014 – 2016 **Teaching Artist.** 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

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

2026 **Talk Story** - Dancer
 Sharp & Fine. Dance Mission. San Francisco, CA

2025 **Stories & Dreams** - Dancer
 Sharp & Fine. SF Japanese Garden. San Francisco, CA
The Pla[y/n] for Reparations - creator, performer
 Omni Commons. Oakland, CA

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
Minneapolis³ – 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 4th 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

CULTURAL ORGANIZING & CONSULTING

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

EDUCATIONAL & COMMUNITY PRODUCTION

- 2020 **Urinetown** – director, choreographer – *Canceled due to Covid-19*
University Theatre, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS
- 2015 **Manny’s Play** - director
Chicago Ave. Project, Pillsbury House + Theatre. Minneapolis, MN
- 2014 **Franky Bangs** – Franky
The Rose & Kettle. Cherry Valley, NY
- 2013 **Objectification** – 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 4th 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
Essix – 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

INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL/TV

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

PUBLICATIONS

- 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

GRANTS + AWARDS + HONORS

- 2026 Connecting California, California Humanities
 2026 Performing Diaspora Seed Residency, CounterPulse
 2026 Generative Artist Residency, Charlotte St. Foundation
 2025 Grassroots Artist Advocacy Program Fellow, California for the Arts
 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 <i>Minneapolis</i> ³ , Northernlight.mn
2014	Pilot Balloon Church Residency, Lawrence, KS
2011	Commission to create <i>Based on a True Story</i> , Towson University
2011	Graduate Research Award, Towson University
2008	Lavender Magazine Outstanding Performance (Blue Door)
2007	Commission to create <i>Cabaret Harlem</i> , 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