

Curriculum Vitae

Alan M. Berks

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

As a highly-rated teacher, successful entrepreneur, professional writer, artist, and Communications Director with 11 years of university teaching experience, I incorporate cross-disciplinary strategies in the classroom—goal-oriented and creative, flexible and demanding—including current philosophy around hands-on learning, collaboration and servant leadership, and rhetoric theory. My diverse experience transforms any subject into compelling, provocative lessons and strategies for students from a wide variety of backgrounds that lead to success across communications environments.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Communications Lab: Written

University of St. Thomas, Opus School of Business, Minneapolis, MN

Work with Full-time MBA cohort of 32-40 in 5 laboratories per semester on their written business communications skills, Fall 2017 — Spring 2020.

Resident Artist

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

Interdisciplinary residency across 9 classes and 6 departments with approx. 200 students, Fall-Spring 2015-16, Spring 2018, and Spring 2021.

Lecturer

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, MN

University Writing, two sections per semester, Fall 2008-Spring 2010

Assistant Professor

Department of English, St. Cloud State University, Minneapolis, MN

Writing in the Professions, four sections total, Fall 2004-Spring 2006

Analytical and Rhetorical Writing, eight sections total, Fall 2004-Spring 2006

Playwriting, two sections, Spring 2005, 2006

Lecturer

Department of English, Columbia College, Chicago, IL

Composition I, five sections, Fall 2001, Spring 2002, Fall 2002

Composition II, three sections, Spring 2002 (Computer-Assisted Classroom), Spring 2003

Basic Public Speaking, two sections, Fall 2002, Spring 2003

Lecturer

Department of English, Loyola University, Chicago, IL

English 310: Advanced Writing: Business Writing, Fall 2001 – Spring 2003

Lecturer

Department of English, Speech and Theatre, Harold Washington College, Chicago, IL

English 100: Developmental Writing, Fall 2001

English 102: Research Writing, Fall 2001

Teaching Associate

Department of English, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
English 102, First Year Composition/Rhetoric (Service Learning focus), 1 section, Spring 2000;
English 102, First Year Composition/Rhetoric (Classical Argument/ Research), 2 sections, Spring 1999,
English 101 First Year Composition/ Rhetoric (Exploratory/ Narrative), 5 sections, Fall 1998, Fall 1999, Spring 2000

Guest Artist

Playwright's Incubator Project, Arizona Arts Council and Playwright's Theatre of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
2 week workshop, Thunderbird High School, Glendale, AZ, August 1999
6 week workshop, Deerfield High School, Glendale, AZ, October-November 1999
6 week workshop, North High School Phoenix, AZ, October – November 1999

Academic Dean

Center for Talented Youth, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.
Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, Summer 2007

Instructor

Center for Talented Youth, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore MD.
Crafting the Essay, 1 three-week intensive session at Loyola-Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA June-July 2005
Drama, 1 three-week intensive session at Cal Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, PA, June-July 2004
Writing the Expository Essay, 1 three-week intensive session at Easton, PA, June-July 2003
Crafting the Essay, 2 three-week intensive sessions at Loyola-Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, June-August 2002
Drama, 1 three-week intensive session, June-July 2000
Drama, 2 three-week intensive sessions at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA, June-August 1999

Instructor

Stanley Kaplan Test Preparation, New York, NY, Chicago, IL, Phoenix, AZ,
LSAT, GMAT, GRE, SAT preparation courses, June 1992 to June 2000

Drama Instructor

Maine Township East High School, Park Ridge, IL
Summer 1990, 1991

Teaching Portfolio available on request

EDUCATION

Columbia College, Columbia University, New York, NY
Graduation: May 1994 GPA: 3.6
B.A. in English Literature
Dean's List, Columbia University, 1991-1994

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Graduation: May 2000 GPA: 3.9
M.F.A. in Creative Writing, emphasis Playwriting
Thesis: Goats
Chair: Professor Guillermo Reyes, Head of Playwriting, Department of Theatre
Regent's Graduate Tuition Scholarship, 1998-2000

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

English 563: College Teaching: Composition/ Rhetoric
Theatre 598: College Teaching: Playwriting
Writing workshops: With Arnold Weinstein, Guillermo Reyes, Michael Grady, and Beverly Smith Dawson, Jayne Anne Phillips, Raymond Kennedy, and Ron Carlson. Marshall Mason's Collaboration Workshop: ensemble work with writers, actors, and directors.
Nautilus Music Theater Composer-Librettist Studio

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Communications:

Director of Communications, Pillsbury House + Theatre, 2010-2014

- Grew Pillsbury House Theatre’s audience 200% in four years while supporting and implementing neighborhood-based arts-integration/social service community outreach strategy that helped rebuild and rebrand Pillsbury House + Theatre, a center for creativity and community. Led strategies around digital content, print media, and overall marketing from press relations to paid advertising and social media.

Journalism:

Publish/Editor/Co-Founder, *MinnesotaPlaylist.com*, 2008-2017

- Responsible for overall vision of publication, assigning and editing all articles, plus writing two-five articles per month, for a website with 25,000 unique visitors a month.
- Marketing and growing publication from 200 visitors a day to over 2000, building brand recognition to become premier theater trade publication on the Twin Cities, leading to successful sale of publication in 2017.

Freelance:

Business and technical writing for small businesses and independent business professionals, October 1992 to the present, including:
Lawlor Group articles and reports for marketing consultants to private colleges and universities
Terme di Fontecchio business plan for beauty cream products
SUCCEED Consulting evaluation of Chicago Public Schools teacher retention and reading initiatives
User Friendly training documentation
Helman-Douglas business plan for real estate firm

Writer, *Rake Magazine*, freelance, including:

- “Big Box Theater,” February 2007
- “Offense: The Gift that Keeps on Giving,” December 2006

Production Editor/Writer, *San Francisco Examiner*, December 2000 – July 2001

Representative work:

- “I Found My Art in San Francisco: Metreon and SFMOMA, side by side,” featured article in Sunday lifestyle section., April, 2001
- “San Francisco Journal,” series of columns on life in The City, March - June
- “Downloading a Vision of a Better World,” editorial, January, 2001
- “Fantasizing About the President-Elect,” editorial, December, 2000

More information available on request

Publications:

<i>In My Heart: The Adoption Story Project</i>	graphic novel	July 2021
<i>Overachievers Web Series</i>	web series, overachieverswebseries.com	Winter 2019
“Feast of Wolves”	<i>Workhaus Collective Anthology of Plays</i>	January 20
“Jesus is My Drinking Partner”	podcast, fringefestival.org	Summer 2005
“Fear and Loathing in Budapest”	podcast, fringefestival.org	Summer 2005
“Home is What the Heart Is,” Monologues from the Playwrights’ Center,	Heinemann Publishing, Inc.	2005
<i>Home of the Brave</i>	Playscripts Publishing, Inc.	Fall 2004

Productions:

<i>The Labyrinth and the Minotaur: The Incarceration Play</i>	Wonderlust Productions	Coming: Winter 2021
<i>Look Again: The Normandale Play Project</i>	Wonderlust Productions & Normandale Community College	Spring 2019
<i>Our House: The Capitol Play Project</i>	Wonderlust Productions, St. Paul, MN	Winter 2018
<i>In My Heart: The Adoption Play Project</i>	Wonderlust Productions, Minneapolis, MN	Winter 2016
<i>Complicated Fun</i>	History Theatre, St. Paul, MN	Spring 2016

<i>Six Characters in Search of An Author</i>	Park Square Theatre, St. Paul, MN	Spring 2016
<i>Feast of Wolves</i>	Gremlin Theatre, St. Paul, MN	March 2013
<i>The Great Divide</i>	Workhaus Collective, Minneapolis, MN	November 2015
<i>How to Cheat</i>	Workhaus Collective, Minneapolis, MN	April 2013
<i>Almost Exactly Like Us</i>	Gremlin Theatre, St. Paul, MN	December 2011
<i>#ringtone</i>	The New Theater Group, Minneapolis, MN	August 2006
<i>Everywhere Signs Fall</i>	Theater of the Expendable, New York, NY	April 2010
<i>Home of the Brave</i>	Gremlin Theatre, Minneapolis, MN	March 2006
<i>3 Parts Dead</i>	Fringe Festival, Minneapolis, MN	August 2010
<i>Goats</i>	Rogue Buddha Gallery, Minneapolis, MN	May 2009
<i>Thirst (Where Curtain Call Meets Last Call)</i>	Gremlin Theatre, St. Paul, MN	April-May 2008
<i>Fugue</i>	Spring Hill Montessori School, CA	May 2008
<i>The In-Between Times</i> (reading)	Maple Grove High School, MN	January 2008
“A Dead Language”	Esther Lincoln Central H.S., IA	February 2007
“Play”	Gunter ISD, TX	March 2006
“Jesus is My Drinking Partner”	Guthrie Theatre, MN (reading)	Spring 2004
“Fear and Loathing in Budapest”	Burning House Group, Minneapolis, MN	October 2007
“The Big Cold Tit of Civilization”	The Production Company, NY	February 2006
<i>Music Lovers</i> (reading)	Minnesota Fringe Festival, Minneapolis	August 2004
<i>After Boy Meets Girl</i>	@ Strawdog Theatre, Chicago, IL	November 2002
“Game, Set, Match,” 9 A.M. <i>Quickies</i> (10-minute plays)	Phoenix Theatre, Indianapolis, IN	March-April 2002
<i>Mourning Rituals</i>	ASU Second Stage, Tempe, AZ	April 2000
<i>Into the Rabbi’s Den</i>	Tiny Tina’s Late Nite Show, Tempe, AZ	November 1999
“Unsettling,” <i>Wildly Different</i> (10-minute plays)	Minnesota Fringe, Minneapolis, MN	August 2005
“Read Between the (Checkout) Lines,” <i>Wildly Different</i>	Potsdam University, Potsdam, NY	May 2005
<i>King of Infinite Space</i>	Emigrant Theater, Minneapolis, MN	January 2005
<i>The Pocketwatch</i>	Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL	May 2002
<i>Sitting Shiva</i>	Thirst, Minneapolis, MN	March 2005
“News of the Day,” 8 x 10 (10-minute plays)	" "	January 2005
<i>The Big Bang</i>	" "	Winter 2004
<i>Untitled #6</i>	" "	" "
	Hermit Arts, Chicago, IL	October 2004
	Playwright’s Center, Minneapolis, MN	September 2003
	Playlab, San Francisco, CA	February 2001
	ASU Scholarship Series, Tempe, AZ	October 1999
	Blackball Ensemble, Phoenix, AZ	October 1999
	ASU New Plays Marathon, Tempe, AZ	April 1998
	Tiny Tina’s Late Nite Show, Tempe, AZ	October 1999
	Playwright’s Theatre, Phoenix, AZ	June 1999
	Playwright’s Theatre, Phoenix, AZ	June 1999
	ASU New Plays Marathon, Tempe, AZ	April 1999
	Tiny Tina’s Late Nite Show, Tempe, AZ	March 1999
	Tiny Tina’s Late Nite Show, Tempe, AZ	February 1999
	ASU Second Stage, Tempe, AZ	October 1998
	Riverside Repertory, Albuquerque, NM	August 1998
	Nomadical Theatricals, Chicago, IL	March 1995

Writing Sample available on request.

Producing:

Co-Artistic Director of Wonderlust Productions, Minneapolis, MN	2014-Present
25 world premiere plays with Workhaus Collective, Minneapolis, MN	2006-2016
65+ new short plays with Thirst Theater, Minneapolis, MN	2004-2007

Directing:

<i>Skin Deep Sea</i>	Workhaus Collective, Minneapolis, MN	February 2014
<i>Chicago Avenue Project</i>	Pillsbury House, Minneapolis, MN	July 2003
<i>End of the Line</i> by Jackie Marx (Staged Reading)	Playwright’s Theatre, Phoenix, AZ	June 1999

“The Size Situation,” <i>Wildly Different</i> by Trista Baldwin	Playwright’s Theatre, Phoenix, AZ	June 1999
<i>Lemon Sky</i> by Lanford Wilson (Asst. Director to Victoria Holloway)	ASU Mainstage, Tempe, AZ	March 1999
“The Petting Zoo,” <i>8 x 10</i> by William Carton	ASU Second Stage, Tempe, AZ	October 1998
<i>The Big Bang</i>	Riverside Repertory, Albuquerque, NM	June 1998
<i>Untitled #6</i>	Nomadical Theatricals, Chicago, IL	March 1995

Acting:

<i>Three Days of Rain</i> (Walker/Ned)	Paul Bunyon Playhouse, Bemidji, MN	July 2008
<i>A Flock of Seagulls</i> (Trigorin Cheapnovelich)	Chekhov Festival, Minneapolis, MN	February 2008
<i>Miklat</i> (Mark)	Minnesota Jewish Theater, St. Paul, MN	May 2005
<i>The Last Seder</i> (Kent)	Organic Theater, Chicago, IL	May-June 2002
<i>Goats</i> (Solo Performance)	Minnesota Fringe Festival, Minneapolis	August 2004
	@ Strawdog Theatre, Chicago, IL	November 2002
	Phoenix Theater, Indianapolis, IN	March-April 2002
<i>Into the Rabbi’s Den</i> (Solo Performance)	Tiny Tina’s Late Nite Show, Tempe, AZ	October 1999
<i>Touch</i> by Toni Press-Coffman (Kyle)	ASU New Plays Marathon, Tempe, AZ	April 1999
<i>Sitting Shiva</i> (Solo Performance)	Tiny Tina’s Late Nite Show, Tempe, AZ	February 1999
<i>Franny</i> adapted from J.D. Salinger (Waiter)	Player’s Club, Tempe, AZ	March 1998
<i>Fantastiks</i> by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt (Henry)	Columbia College, New York, NY	April 1993
<i>An Evening of Short Work</i> (Various roles)	West End Gate, New York, NY	December 1992
<i>This Property is Condemned</i> by Tennessee Williams (Boy)	Brandeis University, Waltham, MA	April 1991
<i>Sorrows of Stephen</i> by Peter Parnell (William)	Brandeis University, Waltham, MA	February 1991

SERVICE

Board Member, Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, Minneapolis, MN, 2010-11

Guest Artist, Carver/ PUCH (Phoenix Union Colored High School) Museum, Grassroots Theatre Project, JuneBug Productions and ASU Public Events, Fall 1998-Spring 1999

Presenter, Arizona Theatre Alliance, *Conference 2000: Crossing Boundaries*, “The Future of Playwriting”.

ASSOCIATIONS

Dramatists Guild of America
Playwrights Center of Minneapolis

AWARDS AND HONORS

Excellence in Management, Pillsbury United Communities, 2013
Best Playwright in the Twin Cities, Runner-Up, Star Tribune, 2014
Fellow, MacDowell Colony, May 2009
Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board, Theater 2009, 2014
Nominee (for *Goats*), New York Innovative Theater Awards, 2006
Commission, Guthrie Theater, One-Act Plays for High School Students, 2004
Semi-Finalist, Princess Grace Award, Princess Grace Foundation, 2004
Winner, Jerome Fellowship, Playwright’s Center of Minneapolis, 2003-2004
Best New Playwright, *The Arizona Republic*, 1999-2000
USA Group Playwrighting Scholarship, 1999-2000
Best Original Script, SCOTTIE awards, Arizona State University, 1999-2000
Finalist, Princess Grace Award, Princess Grace Foundation, 2000

References available on request.

