

# JESSICA PHELPS WEST

## Curriculum Vitae

Associate Professor of Theatre  
Actors' Equity Association  
Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

School of Theatre  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306

### EDUCATION

M.F.A. Acting (summa cum laude)  
University of Georgia, 1980

B.A. Speech and Theatre Arts (cum laude)  
Western Carolina University, 1977  
Double Major with English

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Florida State University 2017-present Associate Professor of Theatre; Director of MFA Directing Program

Mars Hill University 2012- 2017 Assistant Professor of Theatre, Department of Theatre Arts

Agnes Scott College 1997-2001 Adjunct Professor of Theatre, Department of Theatre and Dance

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

2011 Suzi Nomination for Outstanding Actress: *The Little Foxes*  
2011 Atlanta Theatre Fans Best Director: *The Young Man From Atlanta*  
2011 Atlanta Theatre Fans Best Actress: *The Little Foxes*  
2010 May/June SDC Member Spotlight, SDC Newsletter  
2010 Suzi Award for Outstanding Director: *The Sunset Limited*  
2009 Suzi Award for Outstanding Director: *Tradin' Paint*  
2007 Jennie Award for Best Supporting Actress, Theatre in the Square: *Crooked*  
2005 Atlanta Journal-Constitution Year's Best, Director of a Musical: *Fiddler on the Roof*  
2005 Suzi Nominated, Best Director of a Musical: *Fiddler on the Roof*  
2001 Atlanta Journal-Constitution, One of Best Performances of the Year, as Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire*  
2000 Atlanta Magazine, Best Director, Best Play: *Wit*  
2000 Southern Voice, Best Director of the Year: *Wit* and *Dinner With Friends*  
2000 Southern Voice, Top 5 plays: *Master Class* and *Wit*  
2000 Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Best 10 plays of the year: *Wit*, *Dinner With Friends*, *Master Class*

- 1999 Creative Loafing Critic's Choice for Best Director: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*  
1998 Jennie Award for Best Actress, Theatre in the Square: *Hedda Gabler*  
1997 Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Best Leading Actress: *The Heiress*  
1994 Jennie Award for Best Supporting Actress, Theatre in the Square: *Rain*  
1993 Jennie Award for Best Actress, Theatre in the Square: *Lettice and Lovage*  
**1991 Command Performance for the President of Hungary, Arpad Goncz, as solo performer in the American premiere of his play *Hungarian Medea***  
1991 Jennie Award for Best Actress, Theatre in the Square: *Elizabeth the Queen*  
1986 Jennie Award for Best Actress, Theatre in the Square: *Masque of Queens*

## CREATIVE WORK

### Professional Directing

- 2016 *Greater Tuna*, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Mars Hill, NC  
2014 *Shunned*, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Mars Hill, NC  
2013 *The Sunshine Boys* Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Mars Hill, NC  
2012 *The Light in the Piazza*, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Mars Hill, NC  
2011 *Freud's Last Session*, Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA  
2011 *Ghost-Writer*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
2011 *The Young Man from Atlanta*, Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA  
2010 *Stealing Dixie*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
2010 *The Sunset Limited*, Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA  
2010 *Caught in the Net*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
2009 *The Woman in Black*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
2009 *The Savannah Disputation*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
2009 *Tradin' Paint*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
2008 *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
2008 *The Poetry of Pizza*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
2007 *Shiloh Rules*, Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA  
2006 *Bus Stop*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
2006 *Bad Dates*, Horizon Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA  
2005 *Fiddler on the Roof*, Jewish Theatre of the South, Atlanta, GA  
2004 *Much Ado About Nothing*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
2004 *Pete 'n' Keely*, Aurora Theatre, Duluth, GA  
2004 *Jesus Hopped the A Train*, Theatre in the Square, Atlanta, GA  
2004 *Side Man*, Theatre in the Square, Atlanta, GA  
2003 *The Price*, Jewish Theatre of the South, Atlanta, GA  
2003 *The Bench*, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA  
2002 *Rumors*, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Mars Hills, NC  
2002 *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA

- 2001 *The Chosen*, Jewish Theatre of the South, Atlanta, GA  
 2001 *As You Like It*, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, Atlanta, GA  
 2000 *Master Class*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
 2000 *Dinner With Friends*, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA  
 2000 *Kuni-Leml*, Jewish Theatre of the South, Atlanta, GA  
 2000 *Wit*, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA  
 1999 *The Algae Eaters*, Horizon Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA  
 1999 *Conversations With My Father*, Jewish Theatre of the South, Atlanta, GA  
 1998 *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Theatre Gael, Atlanta, GA  
 1998 *The Front Page*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, Ga.  
 1998 *Counsellor-At-Law*, Jewish Theatre of the South, Atlanta, GA  
 1998 *Ladies in Waiting* (staged reading), Theatre Emory, Atlanta, GA  
 1997 *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
 1997 *The Heidi Chronicles*, New American Theatre, Rockford, IL  
 1996 *Sleuth*, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA  
 1996 *Funny Money*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
 1996 *Tempest Tossed*, Ed Howard Productions, Chamblee, GA  
 1993 *Social Security*, Highlands Playhouse, Highlands, NC  
 1992 *Rumors*, Highlands Playhouse, Highlands, NC  
 1989 *Barefoot in the Park*, Madison Theatre Festival, Madison, GA  
 1989 *Life Under Water*, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA  
 1988 *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds*, Allegheny Highlands Regional Theatre, Ebensburg, PA  
 1988 *The Glass Menagerie*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
 1987 *Talley's Folly*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
 1986 *Season's Greetings*, Horizon Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA

### **Youth Theatre for Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA**

- 2008 *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!*  
 2008 *Reaching for the Stars: The Story of Dr. Mae Jemison*  
 2006 *Raising a President: The Story of Rachel Clark and Jimmy Carter* (also for the Carter Center, Atlanta, Ga.)  
 2005 *Pathways: African American Women in History*  
 2005 *The Library Dragon*  
 2004 *La Dragona de la Biblioteca*

### **Professional Acting**

- 2011 Regina, *The Little Foxes*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
 2007 Elise, *Crooked*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
 2003 Elizabeth I, *Mary Stuart*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
 2001 Blanche, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA

- 1999 Maureen, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1998 Hedda, *Hedda Gabler*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1997 Amanda, *Private Lives*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1996 Catherine, *The Heiress*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1996 The Baroness, *Blue Monk*, 7 Stages and The Cultural Olympiad, Atlanta, GA
- 1995 The Angel, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA
- 1995 The Angel (et al.), *Angels in America: Perestroika*, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA
- 1994 The Angel, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA
- 1994 Mrs. Davidson, *Rain*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1993 Lettice, *Lettice and Lovage*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1993 Linda, *Last Total Eclipse*, Georgia Repertory Theatre, Athens, GA
- 1993 Jessie, *To My Chagrin*, Georgia Repertory Theatre, Athens, GA
- 1993 Laura, *Holiday*, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL
- 1992 Felicia, *I Hate Hamlet*, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL
- 1992 Laurel, *Driving Lessons*, Georgia Repertory Theatre, Athens, GA
- 1991 Medea, *Hungarian Medea*, Georgia Repertory Theatre, Athens, GA
- 1991 Nova, *Miracle Man*, Georgia Repertory Theatre, Athens, GA
- 1991 Nova, *Miracle Man*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1991 Charlady, *A Christmas Carol*, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA
- 1991 Julia, *Fallen Angels*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1990 Elizabeth I, *Elizabeth the Queen*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1989 Fanny, *On the Verge*, Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA
- 1988 Wife, *Rashomon*, Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA
- 1988 Alice, *Alice!*, Center for Puppetry Arts, Atlanta, GA
- 1987 Irene, *The Crucifer of Blood*, Allegheny Highlands Regional Theatre, Ebensburg, PA
- 1987 Alice, *Alice!*, Center for Puppetry Arts, Atlanta, GA
- 1986 Florence, *The Odd Couple*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1986 Elizabeth I, *The Masque of Queens*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1986 Ensemble Actor, *Louisville 200*, Tri-Crest Productions, Louisville, GA
- 1985 Desdemona, *Othello*, Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA
- 1984 Jody, *Hothouse*, Horizon Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA
- 1984 Nancy, *Holy Ghosts*, Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA
- 1984 Simone (et al.) *Tom Paine*, Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA
- 1983 Alais, *The Lion in Winter*, Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA
- 1983 Edna Louise, *Come Back to the 5 and Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA
- 1983 Elizabeth I, *Elizabeth I*, Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA
- 1980 Iras, *Antony and Cleopatra*, Odessa Shakespeare Festival, Odessa, TX
- 1980 Helen, *Cymbeline*, Odessa Shakespeare Festival, Odessa, TX
- 1979 Emilia, *Othello*, Odessa Shakespeare Festival, Odessa, TX
- 1979 Jaquenetta, *Love's Labour's Lost*, Odessa Shakespeare Festival, Odessa, TX
- 1979 The Witch of Endor, *House of Saul*, Odessa Shakespeare Festival, Odessa, TX

**CREATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORK as the Assistant Artistic Director of Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA 2007-2012 and the Artistic Associate 2001-2007**

Job Description:

- Select and produce plays for the Main Stage and Alley seasons
- Select and produce plays for the Youth Theatre and Black History month
- Direct two Main Stage/Alley shows per season
- Produce the Percolating Play Reading Series; select plays which nurture and showcase local and regional playwrights 1999-2007
- Hire guest directors
- Artistic Supervisor - attend production meetings, rehearsals and tech rehearsals as artistic support to all guest artists; trouble shoot when necessary; maintain artistic quality
- Artistic liaison between production staff and guest directors
- Coordinate with production manager in hiring guest designers and stage managers
- Casting Director- coordinate with AEA; cast 8-12 shows annually; keep updated files; attend Unified casting calls; organize, facilitate, and run auditions; hire understudies
- New Play Development Director: work with playwrights in residence and commissioned playwrights as their editor and dramaturge; workshop and production supervisor and/or director of new plays
- Managing duties: acquire rights to plays; maintain relationships with licensing houses and agents.
- Education duties: hire education director; mentor high school and college interns; act as an advocate for arts education
- Script Advisor: work with marketing, development, and education directors as their jobs relate to script specific issues (e.g. playwright bios and play summaries, issues for grant proposals and prospective sponsors, study guides)
- Report to and collaborate with the board; attend fundraising events
- Attend community/business related meetings/seminars which further develop my advocacy for the theatre; act as a theatre spokesperson

Season 2000-2001

*The Lynching of Leo Frank* (World Premiere)

*Master Class* – Director

*Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*

*A Streetcar Named Desire*-Actor

*You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*

*Bash*

*Tallulah and Hattie at the Pearly Gates*

*Sylvia*

*Smoke on the Mountain*

*Sanders Family Christmas*

*The 1940's Radio Hour*

Season 2001-2002

*Pygmalion*

*Amy's View*

*Far East*

*The Importance of Being Earnest- Director*

*Fair and Tender Ladies*

*Fully Committed*

*Atomic Summer*

*The Emperor's New Clothes*

*Smoke on the Mountain*

*Sanders Family Christmas*

*The 1940's Radio Hour*

Season 2002-2003

*Dirty Blonde*

*The Caretaker*

*Out of Order*

*Tartuffe*

*Mahalia*

*Red Herring*

*Howie the Rookie*

*Tomato Plant Girl*

*Smoke on the Mountain*

*Sanders Family Christmas*

*The 1940's Radio Hour*

Season 2003-2004

*Mary Stuart- Actor*

*Stones in His Pockets*

*Side Man- Director*

*A Raisin in the Sun*

*Keep on the Sunny Side*

*An Empty Plate in the Café Du Grande Boeuf*

*Jesus Hopped the A Train- Director*

*The Library Dragon (World Premiere)*

*Smoke on the Mountain*

*Mahalia*

*Sanders Family Christmas*

*The 1940's Radio Hour*

Season 2004-2005

*Much Ado About Nothing*- Director  
*Tuesdays With Morrie*  
*Incorruptible*  
*The Piano Lesson*  
*The Diviners*  
*Urban Fairytale*  
*Pathways: African American Women in History*- Director  
*Take Me Out*  
*The Library Dragon*- Director  
*La Dragona de Biblioteca*- Director  
*Smoke on the Mountain*  
*Sanders Family Christmas*  
*The 1940's Radio Hour*

Season 2005-2006

*A Piece of My Heart*  
*Fully Committed*  
*Charley's Aunt*  
*Bus Stop*- Director  
*The Story*  
*Yellowman*  
*This Is Our Youth*  
*The Library Dragon*- Director  
*Raising a President*- Director  
*Mahalia*  
*Sanders Family Christmas*  
*The 1940's Radio Hour*

Season 2006-2007

*Turned Funny* (World Premiere)  
*A Life in the Theatre*  
*Miss Witherspoon*  
*All the King's Men*  
*Mount Pleasant Homecoming* (World Premiere)  
*I Have Before Me A Remarkable Document Given To Me By A Young Lady From Rwanda*  
*Crooked*- Actor  
*The Boy Who Would Be King*  
*Cinderella Confidential*  
*Smoke on the Mountain*  
*Sanders Family Christmas*  
*The 1940's Radio Hour*

Season 2007-2008

*The Persians*

*Rabbit Hole*

*Room Service*

*The Belle of Amherst*

*The Poetry of Pizza- Director*

*Blue Door*

*The Little Dog Laughed*

*Reaching for the Stars: The Story of Dr. Mae Jemison-Director*

*Pecos Bill and the Ghost Stampede*

*Turned Funny*

*Christmas at Sweet Apple (World Premiere)*

*Sanders Family Christmas*

Season 2008-2009

*Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure- Director*

*Looking Over the President's Shoulder*

*Secrets of a Soccer Mom*

*A Man For All Seasons*

*Tradin' Paint- Director*

*Speech and Debate*

*The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!- Director*

*Mount Pleasant Homecoming*

*Christmas at Sweet Apple*

*Sanders Family Christmas*

Season 2009-2010

*The Savannah Disputation-Director*

*The Woman in Black- Director*

*Caught in the Net- Co-Director*

*Ethan Frome*

*His Eye Is On the Sparrow*

*A Greater Tuna*

*The Library Dragon*

*High John the Conqueror*

*Smoke on the Mountain*

*A Tuna Christmas*

*Sanders Family Christmas*

Season 2010-2011

*Stealing Dixie (World Premiere)-Director*

*Conversations With My Wife*

*The 39 Steps*

*The Little Foxes-Actor*



*Circle Mirror Transformation*  
*How I Became A Pirate*  
*Red, White & Tuna*  
*Mount Pleasant Homecoming*  
*A Tuna Christmas*  
*Sanders Family Christmas*

Closing Season 2011-2012  
*On Golden Pond*  
*Ghost-Writer-Director*  
*The Ladies Man*  
*Flyin' West*  
*The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!*  
*Red Letter Jesus*  
*The 1940's Radio Hour*  
*The Sanders Family Christmas*

1999-2007 The Percolating Play Reading Series for Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA  
Four original scripts selected each year and produced in staged readings.

**Related Experience at Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA**

1998-2001 Literary Manager/Education Director

**Directing for Mars Hill University**

2017 *Ruthless!*  
2016 *On the Verge*  
2015 *Agnes of God*  
2015 *Eurydice*  
2014 *Flyin' West*  
2014 *Shunned*  
2013 *The Children's Hour*  
2013 *The Comedy of Errors*  
2012 *Picnic*

**Directing for Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA**

2006 *Uncommon Women and Others*

**New Play Development Workshops at Theatre in the Square and Other Theatres**

2010 *Stealing Dixie*  
2008 *Denise 2*, Actor's Express, Atlanta, GA  
2007 *Christmas at Sweet Apple*  
2006 *Turned Funny*  
2006 *Raising a President*

2003 *The Library Dragon*  
1999-2007 *The Percolating Play Reading Series*

## TEACHING

### Mars Hill University Courses Taught 2012-2017

TA 117 Introduction to Theatre  
TA 130 Acting for Non-Majors  
TA 131 Acting I: Fundamentals  
TA 231/TA 220 Stage Movement and Pantomime  
TA 331/TA 230 Acting II: Character Analysis and Development  
TA 431/TA 330 Acting III: Styles (Greek, Elizabethan, Comedy of Manners)  
TA 310/TA 370 Principles of Play Direction  
TA 410 Advanced Play Direction  
TA 327 Special Topics: Shakespeare on the Stage  
TA 327 Special Topics: Acting Styles II Modern and Post-Modern (Chekhov, Pinter, Farce)  
TA 457 Directed Reading: Acting techniques of Chekhov, Meisner, Viewpoints, Suzuki  
TA 458 Directed Reading: Directing a Production, A study in Comedy  
TA 458 Directed Reading: Contemporary Female Playwrights  
TA 309/TA 345 Women in Contemporary American Dramatic Literature (created for Ideas & Innovations, a general education requirement)  
Advising- 2-7 students per year  
3 seniors and 1 staff member for graduate school

### Agnes Scott College Courses Taught 1997-2001

THE 131 Acting I  
THE 235 Acting II: Styles

### University of Georgia

Instructor in Drama, Spring 1991

### Related Teaching/Research/Coaching at Mars Hill University 2012-2016

Dramaturge: *On the Verge, Eurydice, Shunned, Flyin' West*  
Mentored student dramaturges on: *The Children's Hour, The Comedy of Errors, Agnes of God*  
Fight Choreographer: *Picnic, The Comedy of Errors, Shunned, The Children's Hour*  
Dance Choreographer: *Picnic*  
Movement Coach: *The Comedy of Errors, Eurydice*  
Dialect Coach: *Shunned*  
Text Coach: *The Comedy of Errors, On the Verge*  
Acting Workshops with T. C. Roberson High School, Asheville, NC and Mountain Heritage High School, Burnsville, NC

**Related Teaching/Coaching at Other Theatres and Institutions**

**Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA 1998-2012:**

Intern Instruction (High School and College)

Casting, Directing, Acting, Playwriting, Stage Management, Dramaturgy with Kennesaw State University and Middle Georgia College and State University students.

**Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA 2007, 2010, 2011:**

Intern Instruction with Georgia State University and Clark Atlanta University students.

**Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA, 2008:**

Independent Course of Study in Children's Theatre

**Center for Puppetry Arts, Atlanta, GA, 1991-1997:**

Vocal Coach

**Professional Actor's Workshop, Atlanta, GA, Winter Session, 1996**

Vocal Coach/Instructor

**Peachtree Christian Church, Atlanta, GA 1996-2012**

Vocal Coach, Christian Acting Singing Troup

**Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA 1990-1996**

Drama Coach, National Institute for Trial Advocacy

**Related Experience**

Manager C.A.S.T (Coalition of Atlanta Stage Talent) 1990-1998

**SERVICE TO MARS HILL UNIVERSITY**

**Fundraising**

2016 "From Murphy to Mars Hill." Lead event organizer and storyteller

**Committee Work/University**

2016-17 Faculty and Plans & Policies Committee Secretary

2015- Writing in the Discipline-Ad Hoc

2014 Search Committee for Musical Theatre Program Director

2012- Women's Studies-Ad Hoc

**Department Work**

2015 Curriculum Revisions

2015 Student Handbook Revisions

2015 NAST Response Report

2015- High School Recruitment Coordinator

2015- Box Office and Front of House Supervisor

2014 Re-organized, updated Theatre Arts Library

2013- BFA Junior Qualifying Adjudicator

**COMMUNITY/CHURCH SERVICE**

**2013-2016 First Baptist Church, Asheville, NC**

Director, Lead Storyteller of Folk Advent Service

**2016** Stewardship Committee member

**1987-2012 Peachtree Christian Church, Atlanta, GA**

Palm Sunday and Easter Liturgical Dramas-Actor

*Let's Go to the Rock*, Director, Touring show for Christian Acting Singing Troup

*Baa-Baa Bethlehem*, Director, Christmas Play

Maundy Thursday Tableaus, Director

*Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Director (with the Atlanta Symphony and Atlanta Opera members)

JPW 2017

