



BOX OFFICE: 612.340.1725
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WWW.SOUTHERNTHEATER.ORG

It is a great honor for me to join the staff of the Southern Theater as its first president.

My “show business” career began when I was three years old in my hometown, Piqua, Ohio. I had just completed an appearance in my first dance recital. My little ballet shoe was untied so I sat down in the middle of the stage to tie it. The audience applauded and I’ve been hooked on greasepaint, footlights, and the glorious sound of clapping hands ever since.

I studied dance for 23 years, including my time at Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, Ohio, learning modern from Kathryn Karipedes and Kelly Holt and performing with the CWRU Dance Ensemble under Helene Breazele. I was an acting major in the theater department, where I also directed studio productions and had a part-time job teaching acting to youngsters in the community.

After graduation, I acted in and choreographed community theater productions throughout Cleveland, which boasted 80 theaters at the time, and in Piqua. I got my Actor’s Equity Card as a stage manager in Syracuse, and in that role, I directed countless understudy and replacement rehearsals in regional theaters nationwide. As a stage manager and production manager, I worked for, among others, the Cleveland Play House, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Syracuse Stage, the Southwest American Theatre Company, Totem Pole Playhouse, PAF Playhouse, and the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. I worked my way up the ladder on the production side of theater, becoming a production manager and producer, while I continued to direct whenever I was able. I produced the Mark Twain Musical Drama, a tourist-destination musical in upstate New York for four seasons. There, I developed the Dark Night Series to showcase the Mark Twain performers in other pieces and was privileged to direct the first U.S. production of Chekhov’s “The Cherry Orchard” featuring a joint Soviet-American cast.

I have been a full-time or adjunct faculty member in the theater departments of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, New Mexico State University, Wright State University, and Edison Community College. At the latter, I directed plays like “Tartuffe” and “Harvey” and developed and directed several readers theater pieces. My teaching included courses in stage management, acting, intro to theater, music theater performance, and readers theater.

A huge appreciator of music and musicians of all stripes, I play – badly, I’ll admit – violin, mountain dulcimer, and balalaika. I can pick out a tune on the piano with two fingers. And I’m truly fabulous on the kazoo.

In the mid-1990s, I began reporting for the Piqua (Ohio) Daily Call as a stringer, eventually rising through the positions of lifestyles editor and assistant editor to become managing editor, a post I held for two years. While there, I won an international award for editorial writing, The Thompson Award. I resigned from the newspaper to become the executive director of Gateway Arts Council, a regional organization serving Shelby County, Ohio.

In my six years there, I established programming partnerships with social service agencies, governmental departments, and corporations, as well as with other cultural organizations. I doubled the operating budget and launched new presenting series while maintaining successful, on-going programs. In addition, I developed a day camp in the fine and performing arts for children, an annual garden tour, a yearly regional art exhibit judged by museum curators, and a music and mural program for youth-at-risk.



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In 2005, I moved to Lincoln, Neb., to take the reins of the National Collegiate Honors Council as its first executive director following its 40 years as an all-volunteer organization. While launching its permanent headquarters in Lincoln, Neb., I defined board of directors and staff responsibilities, designed the office space, and created new services for members, including a monthly e-newsletter. She oversaw the NCHC annual conference of 1,500 attendees and facilitated registrations for numerous faculty institutes and best practices seminars. But I'm most proud of establishing an annual art acquisition award for student artists in member institutions and for doubling the number of performing artists we booked for the conference.

When I found myself aching to be back in the world of dancers, musicians, actors, and poets, I began to look for a great theater in need of the unique blend of artistic and managerial talents I offer. The Southern is that great place and I am so very proud to be here.

On the personal side, I am married to Keith Victor, a youth leader at a county juvenile detention center in Ohio, and we are the happy owners of Licorice, the cat from hell. When I'm not working, I enjoy reading, hiking, international travel, cooking, and entertaining. I'm an avid museum and concert attendee and I look forward to all the Twin Cities have to offer.