

Cleo House-Keller

Stephen F. Austin State University, PO Box 6090,
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Education

MFA, Theatre. Texas Tech University
BS, Theatre. Texas A&M at Commerce

Academic Experience

<i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i>	Nacogdoches, TX	2017 - current
Director of the School of Theatre & Dance; Associate Professor of Theatre		
<i>Clark Atlanta University</i>	Atlanta, GA	2015 to 2017
Chair of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts; Associate Professor of Theatre		
<i>Texas Southern University</i>	Houston, Texas	2013 –2015
Chair of Visual & Performing Arts; Associate Professor of Theatre		
<i>Penn State University - Berks</i>	Reading, PA	2004 –2013
Coordinator of Theatre; Associate Professor of Theatre		

ACTING THEATRE:

<i>Breathe: Pandemic Musical</i>	Father/Cop	Cal State Chico	2020
<i>La Boheme</i>	Waiter	Atlanta Opera	2015
<i>Fences</i>	Troy	Pearl Theatre Guild	2014
<i>Macbeth</i>	Witch	Folger Theatre Shakespeare	2008
<i>Macbeth</i>	Witch	Two River Theatre Co.	2007-8
<i>After Adam</i>	Tank	Play Penn/Inter Act Theatre	2007
<i>Insurrection</i>	Hammet	Theatre Alliance, D.C.	2007
<i>The Piano Lesson</i>	Boy Willie	Theatre of the Seventh Sister	2005
<i>Death and the King's Horsemen</i>	Amusa	The Lantern Theatre	2004
<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	Aaron	Oklahoma Shakespeare Fest.	2004
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Don John	Oklahoma Shakespeare Fest.	2004

ACTING TV/FILM:

<i>Medical Industrial</i>	Lead (Patient)	SOBO Productions	2007
<i>Car Max (Commercial)</i>	Featured Extra	Betsy Royal Casting	2007
<i>The Wire (HBO)</i>	On Looker	The Wire Productions	2005
<i>Annapolis</i>	Boxing Attendant	Disney Films	2004
<i>Zombiez</i>	Featured Zombie	Purgatory Blues LLC	2004
<i>Medical Center</i>	Doctor	Texas Tech	2003

RADIO/VOICE OVER:

Advertisement	Various	Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival	2004
Advertisement	Doctor	University Medical Center	2003

DIRECTING:

<i>The Piano Lesson</i>	SFA School of Theatre and Dance	2023
<i>Wiley and the Hairy Man</i>	SFA High School Theatre Workshop	2023
* <i>Lord of the Flies</i>	Stephen F. Austin State University	2022
<i>Medea</i> (UIL cutting)	SFA High School Theatre Workshop	2022
<i>The Jungle Book</i>	Stephen F. Austin State University	2022
* <i>Bootycandy</i>	Stephen F. Austin State University	2021
<i>Dog Sees God: Confessions...</i>	Stephen F. Austin State University	2020
<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	Stephen F. Austin State University	2019
* <i>Sweat</i>	Stephen F. Austin State University	2018
<i>Pinkalicious, the musical</i>	Stephen F. Austin State University	2017
* <i>Miss Julie</i>	Clark Atlanta University	2016
<i>Lend Me A Tenor</i>	Pearland Theatre Guild	2015
* <i>Marcus: or the Secret of Sweet</i>	Texas Southern University	2014
<i>Dreamgirls</i>	Texas Southern University	2013
<i>Medea</i>	Penn State Berks	2012
<i>Cabaret</i>	Penn State Berks	2011
<i>Treasure Island</i>	Penn State Berks	2010
<i>Dracula</i>	Penn State Berks	2009
<i>BUG</i>	Penn State Berks	2008
<i>Treasure Island</i>	Texas A&M at Commerce, Summer Theatre	2007
<i>... Good Man Charlie Brown</i>	Penn State Berks	2006
<i>Turandot</i>	Penn State Berks	2005
* <i>The Beauty Queen of Leenane</i>	Penn State Berks	2004
<i>Cry Christiana Morning</i>	Theatre of the Seventh Sister	2003
<i>I Hate Hamlet</i>	Penn State Berks	2003
<i>Hello Dolly</i>	Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival	2000

*recognition for Excellence in Directing by Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

Funded projects, grants, and contracts

Co-Recipient of the President's Innovation Grant Award: Joint production collaboration for *Ajax in Iraq* between Stephen F Austin State University and Panola College. \$8,000.00, November 2021. (Slade Billew, CC Conn and Cleo House, Jr.)

Recipient of Faculty Development Funds through a Title III grant - \$3000 – Spring 2017. “General Education and Assessment: Design Thinking for Student Learning.” Association of American Colleges and Universities. Phoenix AZ, February 2017.

EF Tours Student Advisor for trip to London - \$7000 – Summer 2017. Coordinator of summer abroad trip with Theatre and English majors in London. May 28- June 12th 2017.

CIC Information Fluency Workshop - \$3000 – Spring 2017. External grant to attend the Council of Independent Colleges Fluency Workshop in New Orleans, LA in April 2017.

Dean's Office Travel Funds (Clark Atlanta University) - \$1,000 – Spring 2017. Internal grant to take students to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region IV festival at the University of Southern Georgia in February 2017.

Donor Estate Gift for Theatre - \$500,000 – Fall 2012. This gift was a joint recruitment effort between the candidate and University Development office. The gift was designated to the theatre program for

infrastructure needs, scholarships, and other relevant funding needs.

Research Development Grant – \$3,000 – Summer 2012. This grant allows me to spend time during July to work on an adaptation to William Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*.

Travel Grant – \$1,500 – Summer 2012. This grant supported my travel to attend the Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska to recruit and audition theatre students.

Guest Lecturer Endowment – \$1,000 – Spring 2009. This grant supported the Theatre program's initiative to bring guest artists and lecturers to provide a variety of teaching styles and experiences for the Theatre Majors in Fall 2009.

Berks Cultural Arts Endowment – \$5,000 – Fall 2008. This grant allowed the candidate along with a colleague to take three sections of Theatre 102 and members of the Penn Players club to the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre to see Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* on Broadway.

Student Activity Fund – \$1,000 – Summer 2008. Each year the theatre program seeks to find funds to make the productions on campus free to our students. This grant partly enabled the Theatre program to do this.

Research and Development Grant – \$3,000 – Spring 2007. This grant allowed the candidate to be housed in during the Two River Theatre and Folger Shakespeare Library/Theatre productions of *Macbeth*.

HASS Diversity Grant – \$500 – Spring 2006. This grant supported the candidate's course Thea 324 Movement I, in which students took an original play to three area elementary schools and performed. The three schools were selected based on the high level of poverty and diversity among the student body. The piece was created and directed by the students in this course under faculty guidance.

Research and Development Grant – \$3,000 – Spring 2006. This grant supported the initial filming and documentation of female impersonators for a documentary centering on performance.

Research and Development Grant – \$1,500 – Fall 2005. This grant allowed the candidate a course release in order to pursue creative and scholarly endeavors. As a result, the candidate obtained a professional acting role as the lead in *The Piano Lesson*.

HASS Diversity Grant – \$500 – Spring 2005. This grant supported candidate's goal to fuse diversity into the course curriculum for his Thea 105, Gender and Theatre course.

Research and Development Grant – \$1,500 – Fall 2004. This grant allowed the candidate a course release in order to pursue creative and scholarly endeavors more actively. As a result, the candidate obtained a professional acting role in *Death and the King's Horseman*.

HASS Diversity Grant – \$500 – Fall 2004. This grant supported candidate's goal to include diversity focused activities into his THEA 102 Introduction to Acting course. Students were able to create a multi-cultural performance based on their observations.

General Education Funding – \$1,000 – Fall 2004. This grant provided travel to the African-American Museum of Philadelphia for a Black History Month performance as presented by students enrolled in THEA 102 Introduction to Acting course. Students were able to create a multi-cultural performance based on their observations and research.

International Funding – \$2,000 – Fall 2004. This funded project provided students with theatre tickets for

an equity production of The Arden Theatre’s *The Syringa Tree*, which dealt with South African apartheid.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Texas Commission on the Arts, Young Masters Program - evaluator 2023
- Southeastern Theatre Conference: 2023 Leighton M. Ballew Directing Scholarship Evaluator 2022, 2023
- Board Member at Large – Higher Ed – Tx Edu Theatre Association 2021-2023
- NAST session roundtable moderator at the annual conference 2022
- The Association of Black Professionals in Higher Education 2020-present
- Associate Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society 2017-present
- Black Theatre Network 2017-present
- Actors’ Equity Association: Equity Membership Candidate 2004-present
- Association for Theatre in Higher Education 2001-present
- Educational Theatre Association 2000-present
- Theatre Communications Group 2000-present
- Texas Educational Theatre Association 2000-present
- Student Director Initiative Coordinator, KCACTF 2020 – 2022
- Tx Ed Theatre Association – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Com 2021
- Texas Chair, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival 2018 - 2020
- Vice Chair, Student Directing Initiative for KCACTF 2018 -2020
- Alpha Psi Omega Region 3 Representative 2009-2014
- The American Federation of Television and Radio Artists 2008-2013
- Berks Arts Council 2008-2013
- Theatre Alliance of Greater Philadelphia 2004-2013
- Philadelphia Dramatists Center 2004-2005
- Southwest Theatre and Film Association 2000-2006

Service to the School, University and Society

- Advisor, Multi-Cultural Ensemble 2021-Present
- Faculty Excellence Award Grant committee member 2023
- Dean of Fine Arts, Search committee member 2022
- SFA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion video committee 2020- 2022
- Organization for Women in Leadership and Empowerment 2020 - present
- SFA Campus Climate Steering Committee Member 2020 – present
- Chair’s Forum, Vice-Chair, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2018-2019
- Faculty advisor on student productions 2017-present
- Advisor for School of Theatre majors/minors 2017-present
- SFA Way, Committee member, 2018
- Board Member, African American Heritage Project of Nacogdoches 2019 – 2022
- External Reviewer to the Department of Theatre at the University of the Virgin Islands 2017
- Member of the Clark Atlanta Univ. High Impact Practices Team 2017
- College Promotion and Tenure Committee Member 2017
- Chancellor Search Committee Member 2016
- Academic Integrity Affairs Committee, Chair 2016
- Member of search for Bi-lingual Admissions Counselor 2015
- Chair of search for Part-Time Instructor in Theatre 2015

- Member of the Student Affairs search 2015
- Instituted B.A. in Theater major 2008
- Member/Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Division
Head search 2011
- Member of the college Academic Integrity Committee 2011
- Established Alpha Psi Omega chapter National
Theatre Honor Society; PSU Berks 2011
- Chair, Assistant Professor of Theatre Search. 2010
- Chair, Instructor of Theatre Search Committee. 2010
- Presenter, Faculty Research Berks Board of Directors. 2010
- Member, PSU Berks Academic Dean Search 2010
- Member, Fine Arts Advisory Committee. 2009
- Chair, HASS Diversity Committee. 2009
- Co-Chair, Technical Director Search Committee. 2008
- Co-Chair, University Hearing Board. 2008
- Member, Student Life Committee. 2007
- Member, Master Plan Committee for the Berks Campus. 2007
- Panelist, “Be a Part From the Start,” 2006
- Member, “Penn State System Zero Tolerance Network,” 2006
- Panelist, “Gay? Fine by Me,” 2006
- Organizer for Guest Speaker, “Gender and Theatre,” 2005
- Panelist, “Sticks and Stones: Why Words Hurt,” 2005

HONORS AND AWARDS

- *Lord of the Flies* production and SFA School of Theatre and Dance received the Critics Choice Award at the state festival for The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, 2022
- *Boo! Candy* production and SFA School of Theatre the recipient of the national KCACTF Citizen Artist Award, 2022
- *Boo! Candy* production selected to participate in the KCACTF Region 6 regional festival, 2022
- Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 6, Meritorious Achievement in Directing for *Boo! Candy*, 2021
- Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Critic’s Choice, Texas State Festival, for direction of *SWEAT*, 2018
- Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 4, Meritorious Achievement in Directing for *Miss Julie*, 2017
- Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Critic’s Choice, Texas State Festival, for direction of *Marcus: or the Secret of Sweet*, KCACTF, 2014
- Outstanding Service Award, Penn State Berks College, 2010
- Helen Hayes Award Nominee (Outstanding Resident Play) for acting in *Macbeth*, 2009
- Helen Hayes Award Nominee (Outstanding Ensemble) for acting in *Insurrection: Holding History*, 2008
- SBC/Chancellor’s Fellowship – Texas Tech University, 2003
- Irene Ryan Nominee, American College Theatre Festival – 2000, 2003
- Advanced to the State level of University Interscholastic League (UIL) One-Act Play
 - Competition for the direction of *Medea*, 2001
- Certificate of outstanding direction from University of Texas-University Interscholastic
 - League for the direction of *Medea*, 2001

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Playwright**, submission, *The Starving Time*. Submitted to Concord Theatricals 49TH Annual Samuel French Off Broadway Short Play Festival, 2023.
- Playwright/Producer**, staged reading at the Atlanta Black Theatre Festival of original play “YaYa and the Golden Throne” September 2022
- Panelist/Roundtable Presenter**, “Grace Under Fire: Faculty leaders discuss a year in the trenches under COVID”, Association of Theatre in Higher Education, 2022
- Co-Presenter**, King, Karen. “Stephen F. Austin State University and Panola College Collaboration on Ajax in Iraq.” Higher Education Conference/Texas Educational Theatre Association, June 2022
- Publication**, House, Cleo. “Little Black Texas Boy and the Glittery Shoes.” Volpert. Megan. *Closet Cases: LGBTIQ Writers on What We Wear: Et Alia Press*, 2020.
- Panelist**, *Loving*, the movie. Atlanta University Center panel discussion reviewing the issues found in the movie. 2016
- Presenter**, *Acting is Believing. Why students can create believable characters at any age*. Langston Hughes High School Theatre Conference, 2016.
- Presenter**, *How You Doing? The Representation of Gay Characters on the Stages of Historically Black College Theatre Departments*. Association of Theatre in Higher Education, 2013
- Presenter**, *Butchin’ It Up. The effeminate male on stage: subversive, distracting, or necessary?* Association of Theatre in Higher Education, 2009
- Publication**, *LGBTQ America Today: An Encyclopedia*. Volume 3. John C. Haley, Editor. Greenwood Press. Contributed entry *Theater Companies*, pp. 1192-1195. 2009
- Publication**, *Appropriating Blackness: Performance and the Politics of Authenticity*. E. Patrick Johnson. *Theatre Journal*, Book Review, December 2005
- Presenter**, *Surviving on the East Coast: A Guide for Performers*, Southwest Theatre and Film Association 2005
- Poster Presentation**, *Black Rage in the works of August Wilson and Charles Fuller*, Hawaii International Conference on the Arts and Humanities. 2005
- Associate Editor**, *Doctoral Dissertations in Progress in Drama and Theatre*. *Theatre Journal*. 2004
- Publication**, *Black Mask Theatre Magazine* vol. 16, no. 1: *Cross-Cultural Casting: The Amen Corner*; May/June 2003
- Presenter**, Association of Theatre in Higher Education, *Issues of Double Consciousness: Addressing the need for an acting theory (with regard to double consciousness) for Actors of Color*, August 2003

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- EAB Make Data-Informed Faculty Line Planning Decisions 2023
- EAB “Designing Programs to Meet the Needs of the Adult Degree Completer” 2023
- Strategic Leadership, Chronicle of Higher Education workshop 2021
- Nuventive Improve Assessment Software 2017 - present
- AD ASTRA software 2017- present
- Online Learning/Navigate 2021
- Grant Writing 101, Stephen F. Austin State University 2018
- High Impact Practices Workshop, NOLA 2017
- ATHE Leadership Institute Member/Attendee 2014
- Bloomsburg Ensemble Noh Training Project 2009
- Lincoln Center’s Directors Lab participant 2006