

Justin Poole, Ph.D.

Theatrical/Directing Portfolio



Contact Information

Email: wannerlusttheatre@gmail.com

Phone: 610-585-16663

Website: <https://www.justinpooleart.com/>

Location: Los Angeles

Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) Associate Member

Screen Actor's Guild Eligible

Acting Representation: [CCA Agency](#) and [Litehouse Management](#)

Artist Statement

Theatre is a magical art form that allows people to wrestle with the big questions of life. My work is inspired by chiaroscuro, the painting technique that emphasizes strong tonal contrast of dark and light. This paradoxical style can be gritty and clean, unsettling and uplifting, making my productions highly engaging. They always feature unique design elements, kinetic movement, and live music. I frequently collaborate with people across disciplines, such as cinema, visual art, and music, learning from them as they learn from me. I am a deviser, never content to present a play in a familiar way and always wishing to surprise the audience by delivering them a compelling, challenging, and intimate spectacle that they will not forget.

Portfolio Organization

- *I placed original work and directing/producing work towards the front of my portfolio. Projects are generally listed chronologically, but ongoing touring projects and original works are listed first, regardless of when they premiered.*
- *I placed additional original work, which I wrote and continue to perform as a solo actor after the directorial work.*
- *Additional theatrical work and acting work is listed after my original solo pieces.*

- *For each project I include one photograph that I believe best encapsulates the piece plus a link to a Google folder with additional photos that are organized by project. Underneath the primary photograph are lists of awards/recognition and press links.*
- *You may also visit my website, which includes some samples of my visual art and a brief bio in addition to some more information on my theatrical work. <https://www.justinpooleart.com/>*

Bonhoeffer: Cell 92 (Spring 2022-Present)

Co-Created by Justin Poole and Jerry Holsopple



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/qkBFarrv8haYgnpA7>

Description: This is a touring cinematic theatre piece on the life of the WWII-era German dissident theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. It features three large projection screens that showcase a two-hour film with a cast of 20 actors who are characters from Bonhoeffer's memories. One live actor, portraying Bonhoeffer, interacts with the film on these screens for the entire performance. Justin Poole is the live performer, he also co-wrote the script, casted the actors and directed them in the cinematic portion, and produced the piece.

International Performances:

Austria: [The Austro-American Institute of Education with the US Embassy in Vienna](#), New City Wien, and Vienna Community Church in Austria

Canada: The University of Waterloo/Conrad Grebel University

Domestic and Upcoming Performances:

California (Los Angeles): Valencia Church

Virginia: Court Square Theatre, Eastern Mennonite University, Asbury United Methodist Church

Kansas: Hesston College

Ohio: Bluffton College

Recognition:

\$10,000 Marpeck Foundation Grant for a National Tour of the Production (Spring 2024)

Arts Council of the Valley Creative Inspiration Grant to Showcase the Production in Harrisonburg Venues
(Spring 2022)

Press Links:

<https://www.whsv.com/2022/03/11/bonhoeffer-cell-92-production-courtsquare-theater/>

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2022/bonhoeffer-cell-92-opens-at-emu-slated-for-spring-tour-in-austria/>

https://www.dnronline.com/news/lifestyle/emu-professors-play-on-nazi-dissident-to-hit-stages-in-harrisonburg-vienna/article_a1f32991-69b4-5dfe-b52f-27914539b7b1.html

<https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events/bonhoeffer-cell-92>

<https://www.hesston.edu/2024/10/hesston-college-hosting-special-performance-of-bonhoeffer-cell-92/>

<https://scvnews.com/june-13-14-groundbreaking-multimedia-solo-performance-bonhoeffer-cell-92/>

On the Breath of God: The Life of Maria Skobtsova (EMU, 2025)

Script and Stage Direction by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1M_44e5vLxxQSMzTQxAjyuARuTjubFCIX

Description: This world-premiere production co-created by EMU professors Jerry Holsopple and Justin Poole showcases the remarkable life of the Russian poet, saint, and martyr Maria Skobtsova. This edgy, defiant, offbeat, twice-divorced, chain-smoking nun, who called Tolstoy and other intellectual giants her friends, broke many stereotypes. She rejected traditional notions of sainthood, poured herself into the service of the poor and the oppressed, and saved the lives of many Jewish people during the WWII Nazi occupation of Paris. This piece also features a chorus of female mystics who sing Celtic tunes to the accompaniment of a live band.

Press Links:

https://www.dnronline.com/news/arts_and_entertainment/eastern-mennonite-university-to-perform-musical-about-russian-nun/article_b4b21fe3-a1f9-5994-9d4d-ad12a4d87c9a.html

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2025/emu-theatre-presents-original-musical-about-wwii-era-nun-and-martyr/>

<https://www.theweathervane.org/news-and-feature/on-the-breath-of-god-the-life-of-maria-skobtsova/>

U2 Romeo and Juliet: An Original Rock Musical (EMU, Fall 2021)

Co-Created by Justin Poole and Jerry Holsopple



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ydwNjvULBUfNj7ncA>

Description: This production is a mashup of Shakespeare's text and the music and lyrics of the band U2, which specifically sanctioned the piece. The piece featured the popular local band Prince Bellerose, who performed all of U2's songs live. This work was co-adapted by Jerry Holsopple and Justin Poole with stage direction by Justin Poole, who also produced it. It was performed in Fall 2022.

Recognition:

KCACTF Certificate of Merit to Justin Poole and Jerry Holsopple for New Play Creation

Press Links:

https://www.dnronline.com/news/lifestyle/features/emu-romeo-and-juliet-musical-echoes-u2s-call-for-world-peace-reconciliation/article_bcced9e6-7688-516e-9443-2d04fbddcf8b.html

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2021/emus-original-rock-musical-u2-romeo-juliet-is-a-gritty-rapturous-tale-of-love-in-chaos/>

<https://www.theweathervane.org/news-and-feature/u2-romeo-and-juliet-examining-human-nature/>

<https://augustafreepress.com/news/emu-presents-original-rock-musical-u2-romeo-juliet/>

Distant Witness: Social Media, the Arab Spring, and a Journalism Revolution (EMU, 2016)

Adapted/Written and Directed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/1LG527vrWC8rfE6a7>

Description: This is an original play based on an NPR journalist's account of following the Arab Spring through social media. The production incorporated actual footage from the revolutions, which was edited together with a colleague and students from the visual and communication arts program. The performance also incorporated two videographers who held cameras that projected the stage action onto a giant screen in order to further simulate the distancing effect created by social media. Justin Poole adapted the memoir by Andy Carvin and directed the production.

Recognition:

Arts Council of the Valley Creative Inspiration Grant to Develop the Piece and Perform it for EMU's Summer Peacebuilding Institute

KCACTF Certificate of Merit to Justin Poole for Play Adaptation and Directing

Press Links:

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2016/distant-witness-adapted-from-journalist-andrew-carvins-book-immerses-audience-in-arab-spring/>

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2015/emu-stage-adaptation-of-andy-carvins-distant-witness-immerses-audience-in-tech-driven-revolution-of-arab-spring/>

The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical (EMU, Fall, 2024)

By Rob Rokicki and Joe Tracz

Directed and Produced by Justin Poole

Set and Puppets Co-Designed by Justin Poole



Link to Video of Puppet Work: <https://www.facebook.com/justin.poole.1441/videos/1059079828743348>

Description: A small cast of EMU students and community members play multiple roles in this epic rock musical version of Rick Riordan's beloved YA novels about an underachieving kid who discovers that he's a demigod. Be immersed in this exhilarating spectacle as familiar characters from Greek mythology (the minotaur, Medusa, Hades, and more) come alive with innovative puppetry created by EMU students and staff.

Recognition: Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Certificate of Merit to Justin Poole for Stage Direction, Recommended for Inclusion in the KCACTF Region 2 Festival

Press Links:

https://www.dnronline.com/news/arts_and_entertainment/eastern-mennonite-university-to-perform-the-lightning-thief-the-percy-jackson-musical-this-weekend/article_706d3716-d6fd-576e-ac55-4dfa458f92d2.html
<https://emu.edu/now/news/2024/mythology-meets-musical-in-emu-theatres-production-of-the-lightning-thief/>

Disney's The Little Mermaid (EMU, Spring 2024)

By Alan Menken, Howard Ashman, Glenn Slater, and Doug Wright
Directed, Produced, and Set Co-Designed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/9TSC5XTDwSFBW3VN8>

Description: A company of only 17 actors played all the roles, often switching between multiple characters, and created all the environments using found objects on a shoestring budget. This approach lent itself to many innovative choices.

Recognition: Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Certificate of Merit to Justin Poole for Direction, Recommended for Inclusion in the KCACTF Region 2 Festival

Video Links:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19OZSpFu3v3SciS4JHu-SL3rpqSbXIU3B/view?usp=sharing> (Storm at Sea Sequence)

Press Links:

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2024/emu-theatre-breathes-new-life-into-classic-little-mermaid-tale/>

Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812 (EMU, Spring 2023)

By Dave Malloy

Directed, Produced, and Set Co-Designed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/PJhnZpWvKFJs6mVp7>

Description: EMU was one of the first universities to present this piece. Paul Pinto, who originated the role of Balaga and who played the role on Broadway, was featured as a talkback speaker for two of the performances. This was staged environmentally in an intimate blackbox space.

Recognition: KCACTF Certificate of Merit for Ensemble Play Development, Recommended for Inclusion as a Region 2 Invited Production

Press Links:

<https://www.whsv.com/2023/03/24/emu-prepares-natasha-pierre-great-comet-1812-spring-musical/>

https://www.dnronline.com/features/emu-one-of-first-u-s-universities-to-present-natasha-pierre-the-great-comet-of/article_1cf036d0-64ca-54db-9035-b652a96d2ab1.html

The Crucible (Spring 2023 and Fall 2022)

By Arthur Miller

Directed, Produced, and Set Co-Designed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/z8ktR7uP1Cp1ye2D6>

Recognition: KCACTF Regional 2 Invited Production, National Awards for Perry Blosser and Joseph Harder for Original Composition and for Elizabeth Eby for Excellence in Performance

Press Links:

<https://www.whsv.com/2022/10/26/eastern-mennonite-university-production-crucible-opens-this-weekend/>
<https://emu.edu/now/news/2022/emu-theater-stages-the-crucible-in-the-round-as-immersive-allegory-for-our-time/>
https://www.dnronline.com/news/emu-presents-encore-of-the-crucible-play-to-raise-funds-for-kennedy-center-festival/article_e1a8a439-91dd-5d8a-8afa-7ba065e39f65.html
<https://www.theweathervane.org/news-and-feature/emus-the-crucible-hits-the-big-stage/>

Noye's Fludde (Spring 2022)

By Benjamin Britten

Directed, Produced, and Set Co-Designed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/8zj4Q5jJ1naQF4TV7>

Description: This production of the one-act opera by Benjamin Britten incorporated over 20 musicians and a cast of approximately 50 people including children from the internationally-recognized Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir, EMU students, and older adult community members. It was staged in EMU's large concert hall to make use of the organ and the expansive playing area.

Recognition: KCACTF Certificate of Merit for Ensemble Play Development, Recommended for Inclusion as a Region 2 Invited Production

Press Links:

<https://www.whsv.com/video/2022/04/05/emu-theater-music-department-performs-noyes-fludde/>
<https://emu.edu/now/news/2022/spring-opera-noyes-fludde-brings-message-of-grace/>

Shrek the Musical (Spring 2021)

By Jeanine Tesori and David Lindsay-Abaire

Directed, Produced, and Set Co-Designed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/o8wFdk1bTdM9kjjCA>

Description: After the original production was shut down due to COVID in the spring of 2020, special permission was sought and achieved to remount this production outside using a massive outdoor playspace. The outdoor stage and terrace leading up to Campus Center, EMU's main administrative building, and Campus Center's outdoor mezzanine section were transformed into the castle, dungeon, forest, and other locations from this magical musical. Shadow puppets were projected from within the building and a massive industrial lighting system was carted in to provide the required lighting for the large space. Actors performed masked and distanced 6 feet apart, according to COVID regulations. Audience members attended the show free and sat on the lawn in designated squares. It was a joyful experiment in industriousness!

Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Spring, 2019)

By Alan Menken, Howard Ashman, Tim Rice, and Linda Woolverton
Directed, Produced, and Set Co-Designed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/EJXhAs5CpDteJpDa9>

Recognition: KCACTF Certificate of Merit to Justin Poole for Directing

Press Links:

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2019/emu-and-community-to-perform-disneys-beauty-and-the-beast/>

<https://www.whsv.com/content/news/1on1-EMUs-production-of-Beauty-and-the-Beast-507174261.html>

Measure for Measure (Fall 2018)

By William Shakespeare

Original Music by Jim Clemens

Directed, Adapted, Produced, and Set Co-Designed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/uyEWdeHQMepU86aR6>

Description: Justin Poole adapted the script to include an original musical score composed by Jim Clemens and portions of text that were sung by a small cast of actors.

Press Links:

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2018/shakespeares-morality-play-measure-for-measure-set-for-november/>

<https://www.whsv.com/content/news/1on1-Shakespeare-play-at-EMU-499886142.html>

The Spitfire Grill (Spring 2018)

By James Valcq and Fred Alley

Directed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ExrMuuVpgdvJqQTA9>

Recognition: KCACTF Certificate of Merit to Justin Poole for Directing

Press Links:

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2018/emus-spring-musical-the-spitfire-grill-tells-the-story-of-second-chances-in-a-midwest-town/>

The 39 Steps (Spring 2017 and Spring 2018)

By Patrick Barlow
Directed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/AGZDJv56o6nBaASH7>

Link to Demo Video:

https://photos.google.com/u/1/share/AF1QipPyzefBK_5qU1kobRLjcUJAaVP09i02zO2VGJ8BPb_ScQ60A5CdkpwEw_sCS9c_g/photo/AF1QipQJagEV1_DGwmeOI18lOhYa3Ou49CEh0kbRXptO?key=N1hSRmhld2dSVFBkR0p0MWYzb2tYdUxVTlgYSkxR

Recognition: KCACTF Region 2 Invited Production, Certificate of Merit to Justin Poole for Directing, National Awards to Phil Grayson for Props Design and Ezrionna Prioleau for Stage Management

Press Links:

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2018/39-steps-hosts-three-benefit-performances-heading-kennedy-center-theater-festival/>
<https://emu.edu/now/news/2017/comedy-rules-spring-production-alfred-hitchcock-spoof-39-steps/>

Twelfth Night (Fall 2014)

By William Shakespeare

Original Music by Jim Clemens

Directed and Adapted by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Brqzty9GjZz4dx2i6>

Description: This piece was staged environmentally using 5 swings and a piano on wheels. It incorporated original music by Jim Clemens.

Recognition: KCACTF Certificate of Merit to Justin Poole for Imaginative and Groundbreaking Conceptualization

Press Links:

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2014/upcoming-production-of-shakespeares-twelfth-night-is-a-richly-carnavalesque-comedy/>

<https://www.newsleader.com/story/entertainment/2014/11/19/emu-theater-presents-twelfth-night-harrisonburg/19270571/>

Into the Woods (Spring 2014)

By Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine

Directed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NFeB2Kb5ppnon3Pg6>

Recognition: KCACTF Certificate of Merit to Justin Poole for Directing, Recommended for Inclusion as a Region 2 Invited Production

Press Links:

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2014/emu-theater-production-into-the-woods-brings-brothers-grimm-fairy-tales-to-life/>

Selected Original Solo Acting/Duet Performance Work

Description: For each of these pieces Justin Poole wrote the text and performs all the characters while a live musician, who composed original music, plays on stage alongside of him. These are highly physical theatre pieces that present biblical narratives in a gritty, surprising way borrowing visual motifs from Baroque painters, especially Carravaggio. These are ongoing, touring productions. *The Gospel Project* has been featured at the Austro-American Institute, New City Wien, and the International Christian School of Vienna in Austria as well as in domestic venues such as Eastern Mennonite University, Eastern Mennonite School, Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, and other churches in Virginia and Pennsylvania.

David: Poet, Warrior, King (November 2024-Present)

Written and Performed by Justin Poole

Featuring Original Music Composed and Performed by Perry Blosser

Directed by Stan Swartz

Description: This visceral, intimate, and highly theatrical play grapples with the complex nature of King David's character, drawing visual and thematic inspiration from Renaissance and Baroque art. Actor Justin Poole embodies multiple characters from the biblical narrative while musician Perry Blosser performs a musical backdrop. This fresh and gritty take on David challenges preconceptions, encouraging audiences to wrestle with the complex nature of the epic hero whose life and legacy continue to inspire.

Press Link:

https://www.dnronline.com/news/arts_and_entertainment/eastern-mennonite-university-professor-seeks-to-humanize-king-david/article_07732f57-e3ce-5a2d-bf7f-a876da66a20f.html

The Gospel Project: A Theatrical Journey through the Life of Jesus Christ (Spring 2016-Present)

Written and Performed by Justin Poole

Featuring Original Music Composed and Performed by Perry Blosser



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/YrpSS8f5Y22Zxekw6>

Description: *The Gospel Project* showcases stories from the four Gospels through a blend of choreography, mood-setting music, and atmospheric lighting. See, hear, and experience the people and teaching of Christ in new ways.

Recognition:

Partially supported by and originally presented as part of Asbury United Methodist's Sacred Arts Series

Press Links:

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2021/dn-r-play-tells-the-story-of-jesus-at-arts-incarnate/>

<https://www.theweathervane.org/review/voxti-and-the-gospel-project-captivate-audiences/>

<https://www.whsv.com/video/2022/09/28/double-feature-coming-emu-mainstage-theater-voxti-gospel-project/>

Firebrand: The Life of Paul (Fall 2018)

Written and Performed by Justin Poole

Featuring Original Music Composed and Performed by Jim Clemens



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/RwvT2MEu7jdWoSsF7>

Description: Experience the Apostle Paul's harrowing travels through the ancient Roman Empire. This highly physical and musical two-person show weaves together the book of Acts, the letters of Paul, and extra-biblical accounts of Roman society to give a fresh and compelling portrait of one of the most enigmatic, controversial, and influential figures in history.

Recognition:

Partially supported by and originally presented as part of Asbury United Methodist's Sacred Arts Series

Press Links:

<https://www.theweathervane.org/news-and-feature/poole-presents-firebrand-the-life-of-paul/>

Performances Directed by Justin Poole as Part of EMU Summer Musical Theatre

EMU Summer Musical Theatre Website:

<https://emu.edu/summer-musical-theatre/>

Description: EMU Summer Musical Theatre is an educational theatre program for kids in fourth grade through recent high school graduates. Justin Poole co-directs the program with Ellie de Waal, EMU's Resident Choreographer. He also directs the full-scale musical productions for the senior program and co-writes the scripts for the junior program musical theatre revues.

Link to Video Showing Justin Poole Devising Work with Junior Program Students:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EkNX_cQC38OLvuTqVSOAnJgzsf31K3qu/view?usp=sharing

Mary Poppins: The Broadway Musical (2025)

By Richard M. Sherman and Others

Co-Directed by Justin Poole and Ellie de Waal



Link to Additional Photos:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H1xUayB6AyZ2poUeh1Hxpa2qKjcNfibv>

Seussical The Musical (2024)

By Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens

Co-Directed by Justin Poole and Ellie de Waal

The Addams Family (2023)

By Andrew Lippa, Marshall Brickman, and Rick Elice

Directed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ibKRt1QHqJPbWh19>

Mamma Mia! (2022)

By Benny Anderson, Bjorn Ulvaeus, and Catherine Johnson
Directed by Justin Poole



Link to Additional Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/zQ3SukrTbkyyvcvTF8>

Press Links:

https://www.dnronline.com/news/arts_and_entertainment/youth-attending-emus-summer-program-to-perform-this-weekend/article_18d2e151-d29e-5596-b7bf-9d7b21d1d0aa.html

https://www.dnronline.com/features/local-high-schoolers-take-a-chance-on-new-summer-musical-theater-program-at-emu/article_65150082-5f36-5fac-a05e-267532a76a67.html

https://www.dnronline.com/arts_and_entertainment/emu-summer-musical-theater-program-ready-to-take-the-stage/article_3cdd92bd-a34b-5b58-a52c-0546b18a3410.html

<https://www.whsv.com/video/2023/04/26/eastern-mennonite-university-summer-musical-theater-programs-return-2023/>

Selected Community-Based Devising Work and Directing

Valencia Church Advent Drama (2025)

Helped develop the script and directed *Home for the Holidays* by Scott Malchus (producer for HBO). This The original Advent Musical was commissioned by Valencia Church and featured a cast of professional actors and a full orchestra, which was music directed by Steve Applegate (original Godspell national tour).

Full Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13T4lAP393w>

Itinerant Theatre Teacher for Los Angeles Unified School District (2025-2026)

Taught over 2,000 elementary-aged children in primarily Title I schools in the San Fernando Valley. Many of the students were English language learners. Broke ground by helping the kids develop plays based on their lives.

Harrisonburg City Public Schools (2015-2016)

Description: Supported by the Kennedy Center's Any Given Child Program and a grant from the Arts Council of the Valley, Justin Poole devised original plays with ELL/newcomer students from Harrisonburg's immigrant/refugee communities.

Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture (2009-2013)

Description: Justin Poole worked for five summers devising original plays with Arab American students for this NEA-funded Arab arts and culture organization in Philadelphia. This resulted in the presentation of a paper at the Mid-Atlantic Theatre Conference entitled *Understanding the Ethics of Cross-Cultural Collaboration: A Western-Centric Practitioner's Approach to Developing Theatre for an Arab Culture Organization*.

Website: <https://www.albustanseeds.org/>

Selected Other Directing Work

Twelfth Night: A Musical Remix (Capital Fringe Festival, Washington DC, 2015)

By William Shakespeare

Original Music by Jim Clemens

Adapted, Directed, and Produced by Justin Poole



Description: This was a scaled-down version of the play that was originally produced at EMU. It featured 6 actors who played multiple roles and performed zany costume/character changes on stage in full view of the audience. Original music was composed by Jim Clemens for this production and large portions of the text were sung. This production was named Best of Fringe by one publication.

Press Links:

<https://dctheaterarts.org/2015/07/09/2015-capital-fringe-review-twelfth-night-a-musical-remix/>

<https://dctheaterarts.org/2015/07/26/dcmetrotheaterarts-special-capital-fringe-honors-announced/>

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2015/twelfth-night-a-musical-remix-to-be-performed-at-capital-fringe-festival/>

The Wizard of Oz (Radnor Middle School, 2012)

Description: This production featured a cast of over 50 middle school students and a live orchestra. Justin Poole was selected to direct at this award-winning middle school.

Children of Eden (Villanova Student Musical Theatre, 2011)

Description: Justin directed, designed, and choreographed this production for the university student-led theatre organization, which employs professional directors from the Philadelphia theatre scene.

Everyman (Wanderlust Theatre Company/Philly Fringe Festival, 2010)

Description: The old English morality play was presented in an historic neo-gothic Unitarian church in Center City Philadelphia. Audiences followed actors through the entire cavernous space, sometimes in

total darkness. Mood-setting music, shadow puppetry, and choreography helped tell the tale. Justin Poole adapted, directed, designed, and produced this piece. He also played the role of Death.

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Wanderlust Theatre Company/Eastern University, 2007)

Description: Justin Poole adapted Shakespeare's play, transforming it into a dance theatre piece with original music and extensive choreography. He also designed, produced, and played Oberon/Theseus.

A Russian Arts Festival (Wanderlust Theatre Company, 2006)

Description: Three Chekhov one-act plays were presented alongside live Russian music and poetry readings. This featured members of Philadelphia's Russian community. Justin Poole was the producer for the whole event and directed two of the one-acts. He also performed the title role in *The Bear*.

Assistant Directing

Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

(Director Blanka Zizka, The Wilma Theatre, Philadelphia, 2010)

Selected Acting Experience

Actor's Statement: *I am always eager to collaborate with others as an actor. I believe in the primacy of the actor/audience relationship. Honing my acting skills helps me to better teach my acting students and to direct actors in productions. Acting under the direction of accomplished artists also improves my overall skills as a theatre artist and helps me to be a better collaborator.*

Union Affiliation:

Screen Actors Guild Eligible

Acting Reel:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ofut5mTQbcBRgW__NJ1SujX6C99ikpcC/view?usp=sharing

Television: The Wire (HBO), The Jamie Kennedy Experiment (WB), Hack (CBS)

Commercial: Bosch Security, Time Warner, White Marsh Mall

Film: Time Elevator (prod. Declan Baldwin), In the City of Brotherly Love

Print: Military Helmet Advertising Campaign, Plymouth Yarn, Rascal Scooters, Elsevier Medical Company, Department of Veteran Affairs

Student Film: [Life As Art](#) (JMU, Received Award of Excellence from the Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts), [Big Boys Don't Cry](#) (JMU), The Drama Club (JMU)

Theatre (Selected): Jesus in *Remember Me* (Directed by Guy Distad, Director for Disney's Waverly Place and Beyond Waverly Place), Death in *Everyman* (Wanderlust/Philly Fringe), Theseus/Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Wanderlust), Sebastian in *Twelfth Night* and the Priest in *The Visit* (Villanova Theatre), Kafka in *Kafka's Wick* (Idle Contemplation, Philadelphia),

Selected Theatrical Works in Progress

Untitled Original Solo Piece on Homer's *Odyssey*

Description: Justin Poole is writing this solo performance piece about a washed-up classics professor desperately trying to save his career by presenting an outlandish lecture series on Homer's *Odyssey* using found objects, shadow puppets, masks, and old classical records. It is a zany spectacle designed to push the limits of Justin's endurance as a physical/comedic actor while illuminating some profound truths embedded in this classical text.

Untitled Original Play on the Velvet Revolution and Czech Folklore

Description: Justin Poole is writing this piece that explores non-violent revolution in the former Czechoslovakia through the allegorical lens of old Czech legends. He plans to direct this piece, which will incorporate puppetry, music, choreography, and video design.

Jane Eyre

Description: Justin Poole has co-adapted this piece based on Charlotte Bronte's classic novel with Hannah Landis, a recent EMU Theatre graduate. He plans to direct it as soon as time permits.

About [Stage Directors and Choreographers Society \(SDC\)](#)

SDC is the theatrical union that unites, empowers, and protects professional stage directors and choreographers throughout the United States. Our mission is to foster a national community of professional stage directors and choreographers by protecting the rights, health and livelihoods of all our Members; negotiating and enforcing employment agreements across a range of jurisdictions; facilitating the exchange of ideas, information and opportunities; and educating current and future generations about the critical role of directors and choreographers in leading the field.

Selected Acting Training

[The Groundlings](#) Core Track (Spring 2026-Present)

Gained admission through a competitive audition process to the prestigious comedy/improvisation training program's Core Track

Linklater Voice

Private coaching through the progression of Linklater Voice with Leigh Smiley (Linklater-Designated Teacher)

Shakespeare Text and Voice

Workshops with Andrew Wade (Royal Shakespeare Company and Julliard)

Viewpoints

Workshops with Jonathan Carr and Jenny Tibbles (Colombia University Graduates)

List of References

Jon Eskenas
Former Vice President for Develop at Dick Clark Productions
Hallmark Network Executive Producer
310-413-7244
jon@joneskenas.com

Jerry Holsopple, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Visual and Communication Art
EMU
540-432-4215
jerry.holsopple@emu.edu

Kevin Gelzhiser, Ph.D.
Senior Research Fellow at the University of Geneva, Switzerland
kevin.gelzhiser@gmail.com

Marti Eads, Ph.D.
Professor of English
EMU
(540) 432-4165
martha.eads@emu.edu

Stan Swartz
Former Director of the Virginia Theatre Association
Retired Theatre Educator for Harrisonburg City Schools
540-820-1841
swwartz67@gmail.com

James Richardson, D.M.
Associate Professor of Music
Covenant College
706-419-1456
james.richardson@covenant.edu

John Burgess, MFA
Associate Vice Provost for Academic Effectiveness and Evaluation
James Madison University
540-568-7074
burgesjg@jmu.edu