



Board of Directors



Lindsey Eubanks
Executive Director
She/Her

A lifelong arts advocate, Lindsey Eubanks received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a concentration in Theatre from Mississippi State University in 2009. Her training under Jo and Robert Wayne Durst earned an Irene Ryan Acting Nomination in 2005 for the show "Omnium Gatherum." Upon graduation, she went to work professionally at New Stage Theatre as both a paid actor and assistant choreographer in shows such as "Biloxi Blues" and "Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr." She also garnered featured extra roles in SAG films based in New Orleans. In addition to professional acting and dancing, Eubanks served as the Director of Marketing for THINK Creative Intelligence Agency based in Ridgeland, MS. Under this role, she developed local, regional, national, and global brands for industries including, medical clinics, hospital recruiters, restaurants, law firms, manufacturers, and telecommunications. In 2022, Eubanks founded Startorix Media Solutions, remotely freelancing marketing and advertising services. Eubanks now serves as the current Executive Director for the Mississippi Theatre Association and where she resides in Madison with her husband and two children.

Sawyer Walters is a 2LT Army Intelligence Officer with the Mississippi Army National Guard, a part-time State Law Enforcement Officer, and a full-time Development Officer at the University of Southern Mississippi. His journey with MTA began in 2011 as a high school student competitor, and since then, he has contributed to the organization in various capacities across different locations. Known for his dedication, passion, Sawyer is excited to bring his experience to his new role after a brief hiatus due to Army training.



Sawyer Walters
President
He/Him



David Delk
Vice President
He/Him

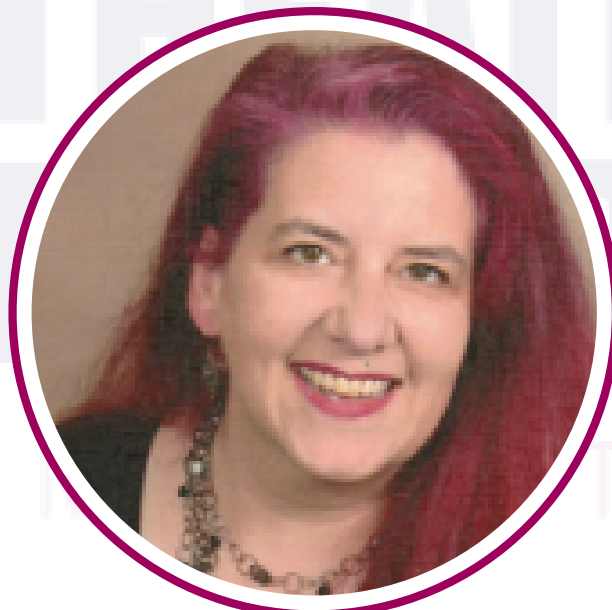


Board of Directors



Lynn Nelson
Treasurer
She/Her

Lynn has been active in theater since she played the part of a spoon in a play about manners in the third grade. She is now a recently retired Human Resources professional and shares her HR expertise with the non-profits she serves. She has been active with Tupelo Community Theatre since 1984 where she has served as a board member, director, actor, backstage worker, and occasionally as an emergency plumber. Lynn has previously served on the MTA board as Community Theatre chair. She currently serves on the board of Southeastern Theatre Conference as VP of Divisions and as Community Theatre division chair. She has previously served SETC as Secretary and on the Personnel Committee. Lynn also serves as Region IV Rep on the Board of AACT and was recently inducted into AACT Fellows. She loves to travel the country adjudicating theatre festivals. She and husband Bud have two beautiful and talented adult daughters, Jennifer and Jessica. They fight over the blankets at night with a terrier mix named Lucy.



Bronwyn Teague
Secretary
She/Her



Juniper Wallace
Past President
She/Her

JUNIPER WALLACE is the Director of Theatre Arts at Northwest Rankin High School in Flowood, Mississippi, where she instructs and directs incredible young people in the arts. She also serves as the immediate Past President of the Mississippi Theatre Association and is involved in a variety of efforts to support theatre teachers around the state. Her focus is on telling remarkable stories with honesty, integrity, and kindness, and she believes that - fictionalized or not - all stories are true stories. Trust the process. juniperwallace.com



Board of Directors



Randy Ferino
Representative of DEI

Randy Ferino is an educator, musician/saxophonist, actor, award winning playwright and business owner from Bessemer, Alabama. Randy graduated from Alabama State University's School of Music obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Music Education. While at ASU Randy was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and a member of the Mighty Marching Hornets Band. Also, while attending ASU, Randy was selected by world renowned Saxophonist Ronnie Laws to be the recipient of the Ronnie Laws Music Award and received Ronnie Laws customize tenor saxophone for his exceptional music abilities in Alabama State University's School of Music. Through Randy's entertainment business, "Nostalgic Music Productions LLC", Randy has produced, written, and directed four short films, produced over 10 music videos, 10 African American stage play productions, written and produced over 10 music singles available on all streaming platforms, and hosted three city-wide entertainment events entitled "Hollywood In Meridian" at The Temple Theatre. In spring of 2023 Randy was a recipient of the Golden Apple Teacher of The Month and Golden Apple Teacher of The Year Award for being an outstanding educator for East Mississippi & West Alabama. In the fall of 2023 Randy was inducted into the top 50 under 50 alumni graduates of Alabama State University. Randy currently teaches Theatre, Marching Band, and Concert Band for Meridian Public School District in Meridian, Mississippi.

Sara Wade earned her BA in Theatre, Communication, and Media Arts from Georgia Southwestern State University. After relocating to Mississippi three years ago, she found a home at Starkville Community Theatre, where she has taken on many roles, including performer, stage manager, backstage crew, and director. Sara was recently inducted onto the Starkville Community Theatre board. She also serves as the president of the board at Golden Triangle Theatre in Columbus, MS, where she has directed as well. Alongside her theatrical pursuits, she is a full-time Realtor with Re/Max Partners.



Sara Wade
Communications Director
She/Her



Samuel Somervell
Festival Production Manager
North DramaFest intern
He/Him

Samuel is a Communications Major at Mississippi State University and has been immersed in the theatre community for about fifteen years in many theatrical roles. His most recent credits include being the Stage Manager for The Trail to Oregon, Assistant Stage Manager for Puffs, and Head Lighting Technician for Lab Rats Comedy. He aspires to be a Stage Manager when he completes his collegiate career. He is beyond excited to return to Dramafest and help create spaces for creatives to produce beautiful theatre. This will be his second year assisting both the Dramafest and MTA Festivals respectively and he cannot be more ecstatic!



Division Chairs

10-Minute Festival



Louis Codling
10-Minute Festival Chair
He/Him

Louis Codling, or known to his students as Mr. C, is a theatre teacher at Lafayette County Schools in Oxford Mississippi. Graduating from MUW with their first Theatre Education degree he also holds an endorsement in English Education. He has been attending MTA since he was 14 and loves the competition. He cannot wait to help and do what he can.



Bradley Long
10-Minute Festival Co-Vice Chair
He/Him/They



Division Chairs

College & University Division



Cory Squires
College & University Chair

Cory Squires is the Director of Theatre at Pearl River Community College. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Masters in Theatre from Regent University. Cory is now in his 10th year of guiding students in the world of theatre. Before joining Pearl River Community College, he spent 7 years teaching and directing at Ridgeland High School.

An assistant professor of theatre at Millsaps College and an MFA graduate of the University of Houston with a focus in directing, Sam has directed more than 50 productions. Recent credits at Millsaps include A Doll's House, Part 2; Eurydice; Legacy of Light; Tale of a West Texas Marsupial Girl; Passage; and An Evening with David Ives. At Butler Community College (Kansas) he directed a number of shows, including The Pajama Game, Antigone, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and The Importance of Being Earnest. Other favorite productions are Tartuffe at Rice University, Blood Wedding at Southeastern Louisiana University, and A Year With Frog and Toad at New Stage Theatre. Sam has served on the boards of Southeastern Theatre Conference and Mississippi Theatre Association. He currently serves as the coordinator of the Denise Halbach Scholarship for Graduate Study in Performance for SETC.



Sam Sparks
College & University Vice Chair
He/Him



Division Chairs

Community Theatre



Sherri Marengo
Community Theatre Chair
She/Her

Sherri Marengo is the founder and director of the state's first senior readers theatre group, Legacy Actors Theatre Experience or L.A.T.E.- our motto is 'better LATE than never!'. She started her stage career at age 11 with the Hattiesburg Players, came back to the stage in 1995 for 'The Odd Couple' and came back again in 2003 to work with Just Over the Rainbow Theatre. Actress, tech director, director & producer for JORT for 25 years and actress, A.D. and producer for shows with HCLO and Laurel Little Theatre. Broadcasting career in TV news as an investigative reporter and in radio as a DJ for more than 30 years; retired in 2020. Now the Public Information Officer for the Forrest County Sheriff's Office. Side gigs include voiceovers for commercials produced in her own company Broom Closet Studios and creator & host of "The Mysteries of Family Histories" podcast. Married to the same fantastic man (and reluctant stage dude) named Charlie for 43 years, mamacita to Millie Blu the chihuahua and bakes stuff just for the fun of the challenge!



Gabe Smith
Community Theatre Vice Chair
He/Him



Division Chairs

Playwriting Division



Cayson Miles
Adult Playwriting Chair
They/Them

Cayson Miles (they/them) is a playwright from Ocean Springs, Mississippi. They received their Bachelor of Arts in Theater with an English Minor from the University of Southern Mississippi. They were also a member of the Powerhouse Training Company at Vassar College as a playwriting apprentice.

Jesse is the Technical Director and Production Manager at Mississippi State University and the Technical Director at Creede Repertory Theatre. He has been an educator for over a decade and just wants to help people make art. His work has been seen at Georgia College & State University and other theaters such as The Huron Playhouse, Central Square Theatre, and Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre. Locally, he works extensively with Golden Triangle Theatre and Starkville Community Theatre. He is passionate about sandwiches.



Jesse Wade
Youth Playwriting Chair
He/Him



Division Chairs

Secondary Division



Olivia Carson
Secondary Division Chair
South Rep
She/Her

Olivia began her teaching career in 2007 and is currently teaching theatre and broadcast journalism at Biloxi High School where she is also the director of Tribe Theatre Productions and the sponsor of Tribe TV. She holds a BA in Communication from Mississippi State University and a MA in Teaching from Belhaven University and she is currently working towards a EdS in School Administration at the University of Southern Mississippi. Olivia is married to Bobby Carson and together they have six amazing kids!

Sarah holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Mississippi College and a Master's in Theatre Education from the University of Houston. Theatre was never the plan, but plans change. She has spent over two decades honing her craft and enjoys sharing the magic of theatre with her students and others. In this pursuit and in addition to her duties as director of Arrow Theatre, Sarah is an adjunct theatre professor at Mississippi College. She has received numerous awards for scenic and costume design as well as her directorial work with Arrow Theatre. She is an advocate and resource for new and developing secondary theatre programs. Sarah serves on the board for Clinton Brick Street Players and frequently collaborates with Mississippi Shakespeare Festival. In her free time, she can be found at home with a good book and Dily, her schnoodle-child.



Sarah Hankins
Co-Secondary Division Vice Chair
North Rep
She/Her



Jordan West
Co-Secondary Division Vice Chair
He/Him

Jordan is a theatre educator at Stone High School in Wiggins, MS. He is 36 years old and in his 13th year teaching. He has been involved in MTA Secondary Festival since he attended with Biloxi High School many years ago. He has a BA in Theatre from the University of Southern Mississippi and an MFA in Theatre Education from the Mississippi University of Women. His team participates in the secondary festival each year and he was honored in 2022 with an Outstanding Contribution to Secondary Theatre award from MTA. That same year he was also selected as one of fifty USA teachers to participate in a Walt Disney World 50th Anniversary Celebration by Disney's Imagination Campus. He values creativity, authenticity, and uniqueness in theatre.



Division Chairs

Theatre for Youth



Garrett Torbert
Theatre for Youth Chair
He/Him

Garrett Torbert, is in his second year serving on the board for the Mississippi Theatre Association as Vice-Chair for Theatre for Youth. In addition to his service on the board, he is on the faculty at Mississippi State University as an Instructor of Voice and Voice Area Coordinator, and is the Executive Director of the Golden Triangle Theatre in Columbus, MS. Formed in June 2021 as a 501(c)(3), the theatre serves the region by providing both children's theatre and community theatre. Some of their most recent productions include The Sound of Music, Seussical JR., Steel Magnolias, and Oklahoma.

Rachel-Kate Thaggard is a Starkville based theatre facilitator from Meridian, MS. She current serves on the Mississippi Theatre Association board as Vice-Chair of the Theatre for Youth Division. She has previously worked as the CenterStage Youth director at Meridian Little Theatre for three years, and has worked professionally with the organization since 2021. She often serves as a guest facilitator in the Lauderdale County school district, where she follows her passion of teaching the fundamentals of theatre to school age children.



Rachel Kate Thaggard
Theatre for Youth Vice Chair
She/Her



Division Chairs

Individual Events



Jessica Wilkinson
Individual Events (Adult - Chair)
She/Her

Jessica Wilkinson has worked in the acting business for the past 20 years. She has been in over 25 productions at New Stage Theatre in Jackson and has worked there as musical director and summer camp instructor. She's done film/tv work since 2012, working with James Franco, James Caan, David Spade, and Kevin Sorbo. She has been seen in movies on Lifetime, Hallmark, and SYFY Network. She currently teaches English at Jackson Preparatory School and works part-time with WLBT's lifestyle show Studio 3. She has a husband and two children.

Lauren Ray loves sharing impactful stories with deeply engaged performers and a diverse variety of theatre audiences. She teaches secondary theatre at Northwest Rankin alongside Juniper Wallace, and she is incredibly proud of the sophistication she sees in her own students' work! Although she tends to over-do (occasionally even adopting the identity of l'aignappe, Cajun Creole French for "a little something extra"), she is passionate about holding space for young artists to bravely explore big, complicated questions. As the Chair of the Secondary Individual Events division, Lauren is delighted to help MTA develop structures through which Mississippi adolescents can explore a broad variety of dramatic literature and theatrical styles.



Lauren Ray
Theatre for Youth Vice Chair



Division Chairs

Individual Events



David Orace Kelly
**Individual Events (Youth Co-
Vice Chair)**
He/Him

David Orace Kelly (he/him) is currently the Director of the Center for Performing Arts and the Arts Department Chair at Saint Andrew's Episcopal School in Jackson/Ridgeland, Mississippi. Teaching since 2004 in private and independent education programs, he has directed more than 50 fully staged productions with youth actors. Favorite productions include, "Diary of Anne Frank" and "Murder on the Orient Express" and "Addam's Family" (Saint Andrew's Theatre), "Romeo and Juliet" (Paradigm Theatre) and "Stewart Little" (Magic Playhouse). In his career he has taught and directed productions on three continents, teaching internationally in Morocco and Bahrain. Working with middle and high school students he has developed secondary education programs with arts integration, project-based learning, and student centered curriculum. Additionally, he has significant experience as an arts administrator, he served as the Development Director for Balagan Theatre and Individual Giving Manager for Seattle Shakespeare Company. He also was the Executive Director for the Federal Way Symphony. Prior to teaching, he had an early career as a professional juggler and circus artist performing in touring circus companies and as an independent artist on the West Coast, busking at festivals and street fairs. In Seattle, as the Head of the Drama Department at Explorer West Middle School, he created an award winning theatre program for playwriting that earned top honors in the regional ACT Theatre Young Playwright Program, resulting in students getting their plays professionally staged readings and published in play anthologies. He was also named Teacher of the Year in 2017 for his work in this program. David has trained with the Dell'Arte School of Physical theatre and the International Juggling Association; he studied viewpoints under Wendell Beavers, post-modern dance under Barbara Dilley, physical theatre with David Taft and Bruce Mars. He is a National Board Certified Teacher, licensed school administrator, credentialed International Baccalaureate teacher for Theatre Arts and Literature. He holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from Seattle Pacific University (teaching endorsements in k-12 Theatre Arts Education and 6 - 12 English Language Arts education), a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Leadership from Seattle University, and a BFA in Performance from Naropa University.

Mississippi's Theatre Connection

Roxie is a graduate of Millsaps College and has been seen around the Jackson metro area in shows with Fondren Theatre Workshop, Actor's Playhouse, New Stage, New Stage Unframed, and Madison Center Players over the last 15 years. She is originally from Shreveport, Louisiana, where she grew up doing as much theatre as she possibly could and was a founding member of the Caddo Parish Talented Arts Program. Her current daily "performances" consist of teaching algebra to (mostly uninterested) high schoolers, but she is always looking for the right opportunity to return to the stage with more delightful material and more engaged company. She lives in Madison with her husband, two children, and two dogs.

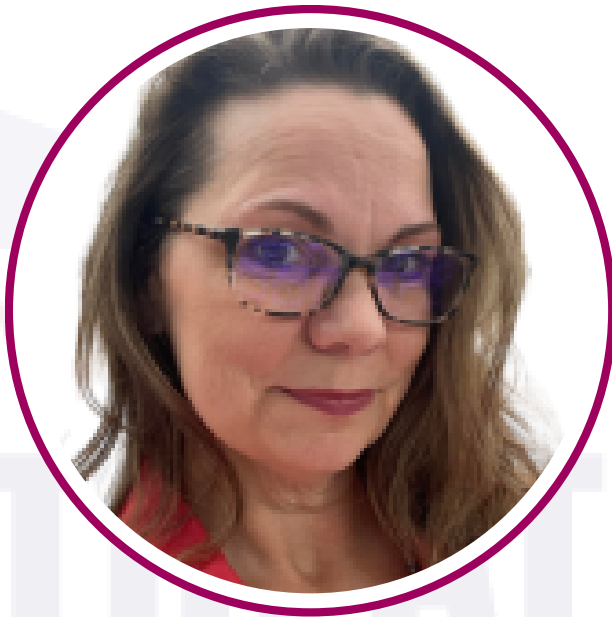


Roxie Hood
**Individual Events (Youth Co-
Vice Chair)**
She/Her



Division Chairs

SETC Rep / MS State Auditions Coordinator



Juniper Wallace
Past President
She/Her

Professional Theatre Division



Sarah Proctor
Professional Theatre
Division Chair