Matt Nesmith

Department of Theatre

Assistant Professor, Coordinator of Musical Theatre

**EDUCATION**

The University of South Dakota Theatre (Directing) Master of Fine Arts 2006

The University of South Dakota Performance (Voice) Master of Music 2005

South Dakota State University Music (Voice) Bachelor of Art 2001

**PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

The University of South Dakota Assistant Professor, Coordinator of Musical Theatre 2010-present

The University of New Hampshire Assistant Professor; Director of Musical Theatre 2007 – 2010

Central Michigan University Assistant Professor 2006 – 2007

**I. SPECIAL HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Certified Trainer of Lessac Kinesensics, Fall 2011 (re-certified January 2015)

Certificate of Merit: stage and vocal music direction *The Secret Garden* (USD), KC-ACTF Region V, Fargo, 2006

**II. TEACHING AND ADVISING**

A. Courses Taught

Thea 100 Introduction to Theatre University of South Dakota

Thea 131 Introduction to Acting USD

Thea 150/151 Musical Theatre Voice Class I & II USD

Thea 210/211 Musical Theatre Voice 1 & 2 USD

Thea 291/491 I.S.: Private Voice USD

Thea 310/311 Musical Theatre Voice 3 & 4 USD

Thea 335 Acting: Musical Theatre USD

Thea 410/411 Musical Theatre Voice 5 & 6 USD

Thea 435 History of American Musical Theatre USD

Thea 435 History of American Musical Theatre (On-line) USD

Thea 487 Musical Theatre Showcase USD

Thea 498 Senior Project: B.F.A. Musical Theatre USD

Thea 791 Independent Study: Musical Direction USD

THDA 450 History of Musical Theatre in America University of New Hampshire

THDA 450 History of Musical Theatre in America (On-line) UNH

THDA 555 Musical Theatre I: Intro. to MT Performance UNH

THDA 653 Performance Project: NYC Experience UNH

THDA 655 Musical Theatre II: Advanced Scene Study UNH THDA 656 Musical Theatre III: Aud., Rep., & Prof. Aspects UNH THDA 755 Advanced Musical Theatre UNH THDA 756 Producing /Directing the Musical UNH THDA 795 I.S. in Musical Theatre Voice UNH

THDA 440 Voice & Movement UNH

(Weekly Guest Lecturer for Lessac Trainer Cert.)

TAI 182 Introduction to Acting Central Michigan University TAI 380 Musical Theatre History CMU

TAI 452 Musical Theatre Performance CMU

TAI 481 Directing CMU

TAI 790 I.S.: Applying Lessac to Instrumental Conducting CMU

B. Grants or applications for grants to support teaching or advising

CTL Teaching Improvement Grant: Visiting Artist and Professional Music Director/Vocal Coach,

USD, Fall 2012

CTL Teaching Improvement Grant: Visiting Artist and Agent-Manager Susan Campochiaro-Confrey,

USD, Fall 2011

CTL Teaching Improvement Grant: Visiting Artist and Master Teacher Kimberly Vaughn, USD, Fall

2010

College of Liberal Arts Professional Development Grant to take an on-line class on physiology of the singing voice, UNH, spring 2010.

College of Liberal Arts research grant to study advanced Kinesensics with Arthur Lessac, UNH, 2009

College of Liberal Arts research grant to attend/present workshops at Annual Lessac Institute Conf., San Diego, January 2009

College of Liberal Arts research grant to attend/present workshops at Annual Lessac Institute Conf., Denver, January 2007

C. Graduate student mentoring

Committee Member, Jennifer Aja Shouse, M.F.A., 2011

D. Nonclassroom teaching

Stage and music director for the following University of South Dakota Theatre Department productions: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (2011), *Avenue Q* (2011), *Brigadoon* (2012), *Les Misérables (*2013)

Stage director for the following University of South Dakota Theatre Department productions: *Next to Normal* (2014)

Musical director for the following University of South Dakota Theatre Department productions: *Evita* (2010), *Rent* (2013)

Coordinator of New York Showcase Experience, The University of South Dakota (2010-present)

Director of Musical Theatre, International Performing Arts Institute: Musical Theatre Intensive, Kiefersfelden Germany (Summer 2010)

Workshop Coordinator; Stage/Music Director, UNH Theatre & Dance Outreach Program

Advanced Musical Theatre Camp: *Cats* (Summer 2009)

Workshop Instructor; Music Director , UNH Theatre & Dance Outreach Program

Adv. Musical Theatre Camp: *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Summer 2008)

Music and Drama Instructor, First Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD, (1998-2004)

Instrumental Ensembles: 2

Choral Ensembles: 2

Drama Ensembles: 3

Contemporary Music Ensembles: 3

Voice Instructor, Private Studio, (1998-present)

E. Advising

Number of 2012 undergraduate advisees: 20

Number of 2011 undergraduate advisees: 16

Number of 2010 undergraduate advisees: 13

F. Development of teaching strategies, assessments, methods

KC-ACTF Region I Conference, workshops, Minneapolis, MN, January 2015

Lessac Institute Conference: Memphis, TN, January 2015

VASTA National Conference, workshops and panels, Washington, D.C., August, 2012

Actor’s Connection, 3-day intensive workshop, New York, NY; 2010-2012

KC-ACTF Region V Conference, workshops, Ames, IA, January 2011

D2L Boot Camp, University of South Dakota, May 2011

Lessac Institute Conference: Hattiesburg, MS, January 2010

Lessac Institute Conference: San Diego, CA, January 2009

Intensive coaching with Kinesensics founder Arthur Lessac, Los Angeles, CA, July 2009

KC-ACTF Region I Conference, Respondent’s Workshop, Fitchburg MA, January 2008

Lessac Institute Conference: Denver, January 2007

Lessac Kinesensics: Four-week Intensive Workshop, Depauw University, June/July 2006

Lessac Institute Conference: Denver, January 2006

Lessac Kinesensics: Four-week Intensive Workshop, University of Florida, June 2005

Voice Training (12 years) – Studied with Dr. Christopher Mitchell, Dr. Ken Peterson,

Dr. Richard Grace, & Diane Boldin-Taylor

Piano (5 years), Tap, Ballet, and Ballroom (1 year each)

III. RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITY

B. Creative works or activities

**Stage Direction**

*Avenue Q*Sioux Empire Community Theatre 2014-15

*Next to Normal* University of South Dakota (USD) 2014

*A Funny Thing…Forum* Black Hills Playhouse 2013

*Les Misérables* USD 2013

*Brigadoon* USD 2012

*Avenue Q*USD 2011

*Joseph…Technicolor Dreamcoat* Black Hills Playhouse 2011

*25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* USD 2011

NYC Senior Showcase USD 2010-present

*Curtains* University of New Hampshire 2009

*Meet Me in St. Louis* Seacoast Repertory Theatre2008

NYC Industry Showcase UNH 2008-09

*Little Women: The Musical* UNH 2008

*Urinetown: The Musical* Black Hills Playhouse 2008

*All Shook Up* UNH 2007

*I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change* Central Michigan University 2007

*Songs for a New World* CMU2007

NYC Industry Showcase CMU 2007

*Urinetown: The Musical* CMU2006

*The Vagina Monologues* USD 2006

*Doctor Miracle* (opera) USD 2006

*The Secret Garden* USD 2005

*Annie Get Your Gun* Brookings Community Theatre 2005

*Proof* USD 2005

Opera Scenes USD 2005

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* BCT 2004

*Coda* (workshop production) USD 2004

*Rock Nativity* AIC! Community Concert Series 2004

*The First Warning* USD 2004

*How to Eat Like a Child* BCT 2003

*We Are United!* Nesodak Summer Music Camp 2003

*Klinkenschnell* AIC! 2001

*Jailhouse Rock!*  AIC! 2000

**Music Direction**

*Spamalot* Black Hills Playhouse  *2014*

*The Secret Garden* Black Hills Playhouse  *2014*

*A Funny Thing…Forum* Black Hills Playhouse 2014

*Les Misérables* University of South Dakota (USD) 2013

*Rent* USD 2013

*Brigadoon* USD 2012

As You Like It South Dakota Shakespeare Festival 2012

*Avenue Q*USD 2011

*Joseph…Technicolor Dreamcoat* Black Hills Playhouse 2011

*25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* USD 2011

*Evita* USD 2011

*Tintypes* University of New Hampshire 2009

*Curtains* UNH 2009

*The Boy Who Stood Still (World Premiere)* UNH 2009

*Meet Me in St. Louis* Seacoast Repertory Theatre 2008

*Little Women: The Musical* UNH 2008

*Urinetown: The Musical* BHP 2008

*Big River* BHP 2008

*All Shook Up* UNH 2007

*I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change* Central Michigan University 2007

*Songs for a New World* CMU 2007

*Diamond Studs* Prairie Repertory Theatre 2006

*The Secret Garden* USD 2005

*Annie Get Your Gun* Brookings Community Theatre2005

*Adventures of Tom Sawyer* BCT 2004

*The Passion: Once Upon a Tree* AIC! Community Concert Series 2002-2004

*Rock Nativity*  AIC! 2003

*Forever Plaid*  AIC! 2003

*And the World Goes ‘Round* PRT 2003

*How to Eat Like a Child* BCT 2003

*A Christmas Celebration* AIC! 2001-2003

*Cotton Patch Gospel* AIC! 2002

*I Witness News: Live From Bethlehem* AIC! 2002

*We Are United!* NSMC 2002

*Children of Eden* AIC! 2001

*You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* PRT 2001

*A Christmas Carol* South Dakota State University 2000

*Klinkenschnell*  AIC! 2000

**Acting**

Archibald Craven *The Secret Garden* Black Hills Playhouse 2014

Skip *Life Could…Dream* TADA Theatre 2013

Rooster *Annie*  Vermillion Community Theatre 2012

Sweeney Todd *Sweeney Todd*  University of South Dakota (USD) 2012

Marco *Gianni Schicchi* Washington Pavilion 2011

Tito Morelli *Lend Me a Tenor* Black Hills Playhouse 2011

Governor/Innkeeper *Man of La Mancha* USD Playhouse 2009

King *Big River* Black Hills Playhouse 2008

The Old Man *Fool for Love*  USD 2006

Lloyd Dallas *Noises Off!* USD 2004

Decius Brutus *Julius Caesar* USD 2004

Joe Hardy *Damn Yankees!* Prairie Repertory Theatre 2003

Man #1 *And the World…* PRT 2003

Frankie *Forever Plaid* AIC! Community Concert Series 2003

Ensemble *Cotton Patch Gospel* AIC! 2002

Adam/Noah *Children of Eden* AIC! 2001

Captain Von Trapp *The Sound of Music* PRT 2001

Captain Hook *Peter Pan* PRT 1999

John Jasper *… Edwin Drood* South Dakota State University 1998

Man #2 *And the World…* Little Theatre of the Rockies 1994

Sciaronne *Tosca* University of Northern Colorado 1994

Judge Randolph *A Few Good Men* LTR 1993

Teddy Roosevelt *Tintypes* LTR 1993

Will Masters *Bus Stop* LTR 1993

Roger *Enter Laughing* LTR 1993

**Musical Composition**

Children’s Theatre Company of South Dakota, Rapid City

Original Score for *Campfire Tales*, premiere summer 2006

University Theatre, Vermillion, SD

“Trailburst Nuggets Jingle” performed in USD production *I Hate Hamlet*, 2005

Developmental Directing Workshop, Vermillion, SD

“The Off-White March” performed in workshop production of *Off-White*, 2004

First Lutheran Church, Brookings SD

Numerous works performed by choirs, praise bands, and instrumental ensembles, 1997-2004

C. Textbooks or other teaching scholarship

Co-authoring with Robin Aronson Carr, University of Southern Mississippi: *Acting Songs, Singing Texts* (in progress)

Submitting journal article to VASTA Journal with Robin Aronson Carr, University of South Dakota:

*Acting the Song, Singing the Text* (in progress)

E. Other Activities

**“NRGizing the Musical Theatre Song”**

Kennedy Center-American College Festival Region V Conference, Minneapolis, MN, January 2015

**“Audition Door to Floor”**

Kennedy Center-American College Festival Region V Conference, Minneapolis, MN, January 2015

**“Acting Songs, Singing Texts”**

Lessac Training and Research Institute International Conference, Memphis, TN, January 2015

**“Audition Door to Floor”**

Rapid City Central High School, Rapid City, SD, November 2014

**“Singing for Musical Theatre”**

Governor’s & Ambassador’s Camps, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD, July 2014

**“Audition Door to Floor”**

Governor’s & Ambassador’s Camps, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD, July 2014

**“Singing and Acting with Heightened Characters”**

Vermillion High School, Vermillion, SD, March 2014

**“Acting Songs, Singing Texts”**

Three-day Intensive Workshop, University of Southern Mississippi, March 2013

**“Acting Songs, Singing Texts”**

Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA) Annual Conference, Washington D.C., August 2012

**“Supersize Your Song!”**

Nebraska State Thespian Festival, Lincoln, NE, January 2012

**“Wake-Up Call! Exploring Lessac Body NRG’s to Invigorate the Body, Mind & Soul”**

Kennedy Center-American Collegiate Theatre Festival (KC-ACTF) Region V Conference, Ames IA, January 2011

**“Viewpointing With The NRG’s”**

Lessac Training and Research Institute International Conference, State College, PA, January

2011.

**“Publishing Our Work”**

Lessac Training and Research Institute International Conference, State College, PA, January

2011.

**“Applications of Stanislavski, Lessac and Viewpointing Methods when Approaching Musical**

**Theatre Performance”**

KC-ACTF Region I Conference, Durham NH, January 2010

**“Development and Implementation of the Richard Maltby, Jr. Musical Theatre Award”**

KC-ACTF Region I Conference, Durham NH, January 2010

**“Triggering the Imaginary Other: Creating a Dynamic and Believable Solo Song Performance for the Musical Theatre Audition.”**

High School Drama Day, University of New Hampshire, November 2009

**“Act Out Loud: Making Bold, Dynamic Choices in Musical Theatre Performance.”**

Acton-Boxborough High School, Acton, NH, April 2009.

**“An NRGized Approach to Musical Performance”**

Annual conference of the Lessac Training and Research Institute, San Diego, January 2009.

**“It’s Alive! Creating a Dynamic Musical Theatre Performance”**

New Hampshire Theatre Conference, May 2008

**“Tips: Auditioning for Musical Theatre”**

High School Drama Day,University of New Hampshire, October 2007

**“The Singing Actor: Integrating Body NRG Exploration into Musical Theatre Performance”**

Annual conference of the Lessac Training and Research Institute, Denver, January 2007.

**“Auditioning for Musical Theatre”**

South Dakota High School One-Act Play Festival, South Dakota High School Activities

Association, February 2006.

**“Lessac Kinesensics: An Introduction to the Vocal and Body NRG’s for Stage and Public Speaking.”**

USD Graduate Research Forum, Spring 2006.

**“Lessac Kinesensics: An Overview of the Vocal NRG’s on Stage and in Public Speaking”**

Speech Communication Association of South Dakota, September 2005.

IV. SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

1. Specific Administrative Appointments

Coordinator of B.F.A Musical Theatre Program at The University of South Dakota, 2010-present

1. External Service

2. Editorships/Reviewing

Co-editor, *The Lessac Buzz* (the newsletter of The Lessac Institution), 2010-2014

Assistant Editor, *The Lessac Buzz*, 2009

Editor, West Central Region, *VASTA Voice*, 2005-2006

3. State Service

Secretary, South Dakota National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), 2014-

Judge, South Dakota State NATS Auditions, Vermillion, SD March, 2014

Judge, South Dakota State NATS Auditions, Brookings, SD March, 2013

Performance Talkback Lecturer, Pavilion Performing Arts Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 2010-12

Judge, regional one-act play contests, South Dakota High School Activities Association

Judge, local oral interpretation contests, South Dakota High School Activities Association

Guest Conductor, 5th Grade Festival Chorus, Brookings, SD

Guest Conductor, Central Valley Conference, Garretson, SD

4. Consulting

Consultant, Lakota Drummers, USD Native American Cultural Center (spring 2013)

5. Other activities

Respondent, Region V, KC-ACTF, 2010-2012

Board of Directors member, Sounds of South Dakota, 2011-present

Arranged student singers to perform at Sanford Care Center, November 2012

Cast member, Vermillion Community Theatre, *Annie*, July 2012

Volunteer stagehand, Vermillion Community Theatre, *My Fair Lady*, July 2011

Co-Chair, M.T. Initiative/ Richard Maltby, Jr. M.T. Award, Region I KC-ACTF, 2010

Vice Chairman of Irene Ryan Acting Competition, Region I KC-ACTF, 2009 – 2010

Coordinator of Hospitality, Region I KC-ACTF, 2009-2010

Respondent, Region I, KC-ACTF, 2008 – 2010

Judge, Granite State NATS Musical Theatre Festival, Concord, NH, Fall 2008

Planning Committee, Lessac Institute Annual Conference, Denver, CO, January 2007

Member, Kiwanis Club, Brookings, SD

Steering Committee, Brookings Community Theatre

Fundraising Chair, Evan Peterson Make-A-Wish Benefit

Fundraising volunteer, South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Fundraising volunteer, Habitat for Humanity

Fundraising volunteer, Brookings Domestic Abuse Shelter

Conductor, Community Choir, Brookings, SD

1. University Service

Committee Member, University Senate, USD, fall 2014-

Committee Member, Professor of Costume Design Search Committee, USD, 2014-

Committee Member, Coordinator of BFA Acting Search Committee, USD, 2013-2014

Committee Member, Honorary Degrees Committee, USD, fall 2013-

Committee member, Curriculum & Instruction Committee, USD, 2010-2013 (Chair, 2011-12)

Committee member, USD Night at the Pavilion, fall 2012-

Committee member,USDDepartment of Theatre Fundraising and Scholarships, 2011-13

Chair, USD Department of Theatre Recruiting Committee, fall 2011-

Departmental recruitment representative, various institutional recruiting events, spring 2012-

Committee First Nighter’s Planning, USD Theatre Department, 2010-

Member, USD Men’s & Women’s Chorus, fall 2010

Judge, USD Jazz Fest, 2011-14

Division Chair, College of Liberal Arts Executive Committee, UNH, 2009 – 2010

Panelist,Distance Learning Panel for Faculty Senate, UNH, September 2009

Panelist, Faculty Instructional Technology Summer Institute for Distance Learning, UNH, 2009

Liaison to the Department of Theatre & Dance, Discovery Program, 2008 – 2009

Secretary,Fine & Performing Arts Division, College of Liberal Arts, UNH, 2007 – 2008

Committee member, ArtsReach, UNH, 2008 – 2010

Committee member, T.R.Y. Committee, UNH, fall 2007

Chair, Job Search Committee, CMU, fall 2006

Chair, Peer Teaching Evaluation Committee, CMU, fall 2006

Council member,Music Theatre, CMU, Fall 2006 – spring 2007

Faculty Advisor, Musical Theatre Club, CMU, Fall 2006 – spring 2007

Judge, 10 Minute Play Contest, Student Theatre Cooperative, USD