

# Patricia Helsel

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## Employment

### 2006 - Present

#### Michigan Technological University - Houghton, MI *Assistant Professor*

Courses: Currently teach Acting I, Acting II, Voice and Articulation, Presentation Skills I.

#### Program Development:

- Headed Performance Program Committee to create the new degree in Theatre and Electronic Media Performance, to be implemented in Fall 2008.
- Researched benchmark and area institutions and wrote the degree proposal and program curricula.

#### Research/Creative and Professional Activities:

- Staged combat sequences in The Fantasticks, Fall 2006.
- Dialect coach for The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (Standard British, Cockney), Fall 2006.
- Performed in Equus, Spring 2007.
- Directed: Beyond Therapy, Fall 2007.
- Dialect coach for The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (Standard British, German), Fall 2007.
- Researched and created pronunciation for Ptydepe language for The Memorandum, Spring 2008. (Involved phonetically transcribing 5 scenes and creating practice CDs for the cast.)
- Will perform as Sally Talley, in Talley's Folly, April, 2008.
- Soloist for Handel oratorio, Judas Maccabaeus, with the Copper Country Chorale, December, 2007, and March, 2008.
- Irene Ryan Preliminary Judge, KCACTF.
- Paper Project Design Respondent, KCACTF.
- Workshop Presenter: "Acting the Hole Song," KCACTF.
- USITT Education Commission Poster Session: **Organization for Large-Scale Production with Young Actors: Brainstorming for Success, a Practical Approach for Teaching Stage Management Skills** (March 2008)
- Michigan Thespian Conference (EdTA) – Individual Events Judge.
- Arkansas Thespian Conference (EdTA) – Workshop Presenter ("Acting the Hole Song," and "Brush Up Your British"), Individual Events Judge.

Departmental Service:

- Headed Performance Program committee.
- Recruited students at Thespian Conferences and College Fairs.
- Served on Party Committee for Awards Recognition Banquet.
- Serve on Curriculum Committee.
- Scheduled classes and managed the departmental course book.
- Created a Promotional DVD for recruiting majors.

University Service:

- **University Women's Connection** – Board member, Photographer, Spring Event Committee.
- **University Choir** – Participated in the choir since Fall, 2006.

Community Service:

- **Houghton-Portage High School**, Houghton, MI – directed You Can't Take It with You
- Copper Country Suzuki Association Board – Vice President

## 2003 – 2006

### **Northwestern State University - Natchitoches, LA** *Instructor*

Courses taught: Voice and Diction, Oral Interpretation, Fundamentals of Speech

Directed: Dames at Sea – NSU Summer Theatre

Accomplishments: Presented “A Brief History of American Musical Theatre” for Northeast Louisiana Arts Council Cultural Partnership, Conducted workshops for the Louisiana Thespian Conference in Stage Dialects and Acting, Judged Musical Theatre participants for N.A.T.S.

### **Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts - Natchitoches, LA** *Director, Teacher*

Courses taught: Musical Theatre Performance, Senior Repertory Theatre, Acting One (Substituted 1<sup>st</sup> half of semester)

Directed: Musical Medley, Broadway Journey, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

## 1997- 2003

### **The University of Louisiana at Monroe - Monroe, LA**

Courses taught: Voice and Diction; Beginning Acting; Scene Study; Audition Techniques; Stage Dialects; Musical Theatre Performance; Musical Theatre History Survey; Enjoying Theatre/Introduction to Theatre; Theatre Fundamentals; Public Speaking; Fundamentals of Communication.

Directed: Little Shop of Horrors; The Miss Firecracker Contest; The Importance of Being Earnest; String of Pearls; The Old Maid and the Thief; Gallantry.

Performed: Quilters, Cole, Enigma Variations., and Tell Me on a Sunday

Accomplishments: Artist of the Year Nominee for Northeast Louisiana Arts Council 2002, Created student theatre organization and acted as Faculty advisor for TheatreWorks.ULM; Coordinated the 2000 Louisiana High School Thespian Conference, hosted at ULM and attended by over 400 students; Took part in the creation of Paper Moon Summer Theatre; Coached students for Irene Ryan auditions and summer stock auditions.

Community Service: Performed "Key Note Address" for Monroe Mayor's Commission on the Needs of Women for Women's History Month, 2002; Performed as narrator for premiere of musical oratorio, St. Paul's United Methodist Church; Conducted a workshop for children at the Biedenharn Museum and Gardens.

## 2000-2002

### **Paper Moon Summer Theatre - Monroe, LA**

*Director:* The Odd Couple (female version)

*Actor:* Blithe Spirit, Steel Magnolias, and Some Enchanted Evening.

**1998**

**Okoboji Summer Theatre** - (Stephens College - Columbia, MO) - Okoboji, IA  
*Guest Director:*

Life with Father

**1998**

**JobLink, Monroe, LA**  
*Instructor:*

Conducted classes for a diverse group of men and women entering the work force. Classes included : Voice and Diction, Interviewing Techniques, and Interpersonal Communication.

**1995-1997**

**Utah State University** - Logan, UT  
*Instructor:*

Beginning Acting; Voice for Theatre (3 courses in series); Auditioning; Introduction to Theatre. Coached students for Irene Ryan auditions and for summer stock auditions.

Community Service: Narrated world premiere of Utah Symphony's Jane Eyre.

**1996**

**Old Lyric Repertory Theatre** - Logan, UT  
*Director of Apprentice Program:*

Taught introductory classes for theatre and directed a tribute to Neil Simon showcasing the apprentices.

**1995-1997**

**Unicorn Theatre** - Logan, UT  
*Director/Teacher:*

Taught youth acting classes, directed both large and small scale productions (see Directing Credits).

## 1995-1996

### **Northern Utah Theatre Society - Logan, UT**

#### *Director/Consultant:*

Directed two large-scale musicals, served as consultant to the executive director in establishing and operating this new community theatre.

## 1990-1992

### **Clinton Area Showboat Theatre - Clinton, IA**

#### *Artistic Director:*

Selected seasons, cast company, hired artistic personnel, directed and performed in productions. Established clear production goals and policies for budget control. Increased personnel and production budget each year based on increased ticket sales. Improved overall production quality. Worked closely with Board of Directors.

## 1988-1993

### **Robidoux Resident Theatre - St. Joseph, MO**

#### *Guest Director/Teacher:*

Directed several productions (see Directing Credits); Director of Acting Program including classes for both adults and children. (Many of the youngsters went on to be successful in both high school and college endeavors.)

## 1988

### **C.L.I.M.B. Theatre - St. Paul, MN**

#### *Actor, Performance Company:*

Performed nine plays in touring repertory for school audiences across the state of Minnesota.

## 1987

### **Great North American History Theatre - St. Paul, MN**

#### *Acting Intern:*

Performed in All the Livelong Day and Midwest on Stage on tour and understudied multiple roles in Plain Hearts.

## Education

### **Minnesota State University - Mankato - Mankato , MN:**

MFA Acting and Directing 1987, Magna Cum Laude, Loell Andreas Graduate Performance Scholarship, Regional Irene Ryan Award, Thesis: Lady Macbeth: A Creative Process, Teaching Experience: Beginning Acting, Introduction to Theatre

### **Elmira College - Elmira, NY:**

BA Theatre (Acting) and BA Music (Vocal Performance) 1984, Magna Cum Laude, Helen Bosworth Beers Award, Senior Thesis: Development and Operation of Touring Children's Theatre

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## Professional Affiliations

**V.A.S.T.A.** (Voice and Speech Trainers Association)

**K.C.A.C.T.F.** (Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival)

**U.S.I.T.T.** (United States Institute for Theatre Technology)

**EdTA** (Educational Theatre Association)

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