

# ERIC VAN BAARS

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## **Profile:**

Education professional with 20+ years' experience in higher education and performance arts sectors. Highly innovative, strategic and reliable leader who is enthusiastic about team development and student success.

## **Recent Position:**

Director, the School of Theatre and Dance. Executive Producer of Porthouse Theatre Kent State University. 2014-2022

**Responsibilities:** Develop, update, implement, and coordinate teaching, research, and service missions for a unit of 300+ students, including two Graduate programs.

- Oversee budgetary, personnel, and program activities of the school.
- Coordinate faculty promotion, tenure, and reappointment reviews with recommendations to College Dean.
- Supervise 11 member staff within the school and Porthouse Theatre.
- Develop and regulate course scheduling for seven diverse academic programs.
- Oversee development, implementation, and revision of new and existing academic programs.
- Coordinate curriculum development and faculty workloads.
- Represent and promote school within the University and to the external community. Maintain relationships with advancement personnel, lead donors and alumni relations.
- Serve as liaison for Advisory Boards and coordinate all committee activities within school.
- Oversee student transcripts, advising, working with advising personnel and advise graduate and undergraduate students.
- Represent school as to accreditation bodies and policies.

Serve as Executive Producer of Porthouse Theatre, a unit of Blossom Arts summer program with a 3000+ subscription base and 15-week annual production season.

- Oversee a \$750,000 annual operational budget.
- Responsible for developing marketing plans and strategies for successful summer theatre program.
- Liaison with performance unions, third party vendors and university.
- Serve as liaison for Advisory Board and coordinate all fundraising activities
- Coordinate season employees,

## **EDUCATION**

**Kent State University**, School of Theatre and Dance. M.F.A. in Acting

**East Carolina University**, School of Theatre and Dance. B.F.A. in Performance

**ACADEMIC SERVICE-** Kent State University 2002-present

Co- Chair, Chair's and Director's Council – 2019-2020  
 RCM 2.0 University Budgetary review Committee, 2017-19  
 Search committee, Senior Academic Advisor position, College of the Arts, 2021  
 College of Communication Information Dean Review, Committee member, 2020  
 Search committee, Academic Advisor position, College of the Arts, 2018  
 Ex- Officio member, School of Music Director search committee, 2017, 2018  
 University Commencement Announcer, 2013-present  
 Academic Leadership Council, 2014-present  
 College of the Arts Leadership Committee, 2014-present  
 President's Advisory Council, KSU 2014-present  
 University Teaching Council, Kent State University, 2012-2015  
 University Commencement Committee, 2009-present  
 Faculty Advisory Committee, School of Theatre and Dance, KSU 2011-13  
 Tenure Advisory Board, Kent State University, 2011  
 Provost's Advisory Committee, Kent State University, 2009-2011  
 Committee on Administrative Officers, Kent State University, 2009-2010  
 University Commencement Committee, KSU, 2009-present  
 College Advisory Committee, Kent State University, 2009-2011  
 All University Hearing Board (alternate) Kent State University, 2009-2011  
 Faculty Advisory Committee, School of Theatre and Dance, KSU, 2008-2010. 2011-13  
 Search Committee Chair, School of Theatre and Dance, KSU, 2007, 2012, 2013  
 Centennial Celebration – College of the Arts Subcommittee, 2006-2008  
 Planning Committee, Symposium on Democracy, 2005  
 Interim Undergraduate Coordinator, School of Theatre and Dance, KSU, 2004  
 College Curriculum Committee Member, College of Fine and Professional Arts. 2004  
 Development Committee, School of Theatre and Dance, 2001-2008  
 Search Committee member, School of Theatre and Dance, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008

**SELECTED TEACHING****Kent State University, School of Theatre and Dance, 2000-2022****Graduate Level:**

Introduction to College Teaching  
 Directing as Collaborative Art  
 Design Process and Collaboration  
 Graduate Acting Preparation  
 Graduate Scene Study, I  
 Voice and Movement Studio  
 Movement, Form and Space  
 Neutral/ Character Masks  
 Theatre Movement Styles  
 Professional Aspects  
 Performance Practicum  
 MFA Thesis Advisor  
 MFA Comprehensive Project

**Undergraduate Level:**

Art of Acting  
 Intro.to American Musical Theatre  
 Acting Process  
 Character and Scene Study, I  
 Character and Scene Study, II  
 Composition I/ Movement I  
 Movement II  
 Advanced Movement I and II  
 Choreography for Musical Theatre  
 Musical Theatre Performance  
 Advanced Musical Theatre Performance  
 Professional Aspects  
 Directing I

**Im Kwon Taek Center for Arts, Dong Seo University**

Invited Guest Faculty in Musical Theatre. Dong Seo University, Busan South Korea,  
2014

Musical Theatre Scene Study

Musical Theatre Sophomore Repertoire

Senior Capstone

**ADVISING/ MENTORSHIP**

2015- 2021

Academic Advisor for MFA, BFA, and BA Students

2014

MFA Comprehensive Project supervisor – Colleen Longshaw, Acting

MFA Comprehensive Project supervisor- Darryl Lewis, Acting

2013

Honor's Project-Connor Simpson, BFA Musical Theatre

Honor's Project- Emily Schrader, BFA Musical Theatre

Honor's component class for 5 undergraduate students

Academic Advisor for 7 MFA, 23 BFA, 4 BA, and 6 Minors in School

MFA Comprehensive Project supervisor – Tracee Patterson, Acting

MFA Comprehensive Project supervisor- Jamie Koeth, Acting

MFA Comprehensive Project committee- Greg Violand, Acting

2012

MFA Comprehensive Project supervisor - Zach Hartley, Acting

MFA Comprehensive Project supervisor- Tricia Bestic, Acting

MFA Comprehensive Project committee- Carolina Morones, Acting

MFA Comprehensive Project committee - Mellissa Owen, Acting

MFA Comprehensive Project committee - Cameron Dashiel, Acting

MFA Thesis Committee member- Connie Hecker, Scenic Design

Honor's Project- Nora Culley, BFA Musical Theatre

Honor's Project- Kayla Hendry, BFA Musical Theatre

Honor's Project- Christopher Ersing, BA Theatre

Academic Advisor for 7 MFA, 21 BFA, 5 BA, and 4 Minors in School

2011

Honor's Thesis Advisor- Sarah Coon, BA Theatre directing

Honor's Thesis Committee member- Colleen Weir, BFA Dance performance

Academic Advisor for 24 BFA, 8 BA, and 3 Minors in School

2010

Honor's Thesis Committee member- Mandy Swing, BFA Costume design

Honor's Project- Tim Welsh, BFA Musical Theatre

Honor's Project- Mackenzie Duan, BFA Musical Theatre

Honor's Project- Rachel Meyer, BFA Musical Theatre

Academic Advisor for 19 BFA, 8 BA, and 3 Minors in School

2009

MFA Thesis Advisor- Nicole Perrone, Acting  
MFA Thesis Advisor-Dick Reiss, Acting  
MFA Thesis Committee member- Laura Cook, Acting  
MFA Thesis Committee member – William Patti, Acting  
MFA Thesis Committee member- Robert Russell, Acting  
Academic Advisor for 2 MFA, 17 BFA, 9 BA, and 3 Minors in School

2006

MFA Thesis Advisor- Caleb Sekeres, Acting  
MFA Thesis Advisor-Andrew Cruse, Acting  
MFA Thesis Committee member- Christine Williams, Acting  
MFA Thesis Committee member – Ernesto Gonzalez, Acting  
MFA Thesis Committee member- Wendi Zea, Costume Design  
Academic Advisor for 2 MFA, 15 BFA, 13 BA, and 8 Minors in School

### **WORKSHOPS/ PRESENTATIONS/ RELATED EXPERIENCE**

**Update on State of the Arts**, Kent State Retired Faculty Association, 2021

**Musical Theatre Audition Technique, Prepping for College auditions**,  
Hathaway Brown School, Shaker Heights, OH 2014-2019

**Musical Theatre Program, Baldwin-Wallace College**  
Theatre Dance workshops, 1998- 2000

**Akron Public Schools**  
Guest Artist. Director. *The Wiz*. Firestone High School. 2002

**Cleveland Public Schools**  
Guest Artist. Theatre workshops. *The All-City Musical*. 2000

### **GRANTS**

MAC Academic Leadership Development Grant, co PI , 2018  
Corbin Foundation, 2017, 2018  
Kent State University Foundation Grant, 2016  
Cyrus Eaton Foundation Grant, Porthouse Theatre, 2015-2019  
Foundation Grant, Kent State University, 2015  
Catalyst Grant, College of the Arts, 2013

### **SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS**

MAC Academic Leadership Development Program fellow, 2017-18  
*Cool Cleveland* Best Theatre of 2014. Outstanding Actor, *Oliver*, 2014  
*Cool Cleveland* Best Theatre of 2013. Director of a Musical. *Fiddler on the Roof*, 2013  
Cleveland Critic's Circle- Outstanding Director. *Fiddler*. Cleveland Scene Magazine 2013  
Faculty Excellence Award (Merit), Kent State University, 2012, 2013  
Roe Green Visiting Guest Artist. University of Colorado Boulder. 2011  
Theatre Tribute Award; Outstanding Actor. Cleveland Times Newspaper. 2011

**SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS ( cont.)**

Weathervane Playhouse: Chanticleer Award- *Pippin*- Best Production. 2010-2011  
Theatre Tribute Award; Outstanding Choreographer. Cleveland Times Newspaper. 2010  
Theatre Tribute Award; Outstanding Actor. Cleveland Times Newspaper, 2009  
Theatre Tribute Award; Outstanding Choreographer. Cleveland Times Newspaper, 2009  
Marquee Award: Best Choreographer "*Children of Eden*" Weathervane Playhouse, 2009  
Kent Core Workshop, Faculty Development Center, Fall 2009  
Faculty Excellence Award (Merit), Kent State University, 2008  
Faculty Excellence Award, Undergraduate Studies, Kent State University, June 2008  
Theatre Tribute Award; Outstanding Actor, *Sweet Charity*. Cleveland Times, 2007  
University Teaching Council Development Award, Kent State University, 2006  
University Orientation, Certificate of Appreciation, Kent State University, 2006-07  
Research Council Award, Division of Research and Graduate Studies, KSU, 2005  
Outstanding Team-Teaching Award, Undergraduate Studies, 2003  
Theatre Tribute Award: Choreography. *Once on the Island* Cleveland Times, 2002  
Directing Internship, *Green Show at Porthouse*. Kent State University, 2001  
Alpha Psi Outstanding Director, School of Theatre and Dance, KSU, 2001  
Alpha Psi Outstanding Choreographer, School of Theatre and Dance, KSU, 2001

**CONFERENCES/ PRESENTATIONS**

Moderator, Launching Your Career in NYC Arts Without Limits, Careers in the Arts, Kent State University, 2020  
Moderator, Arts Without Limits, Careers in the Arts, Kent State University, 2019  
Moderator, *Mental Health Concerns in Higher Education*, NAST conference, 2019  
MAC Academic Leadership Development Program fellow, 2017-18  
Invited speaker, Panel discussion, PowerCon2017, Los Angeles  
Kent Creativity Festival- Puppetry project, 2017  
Moderator, *Challenges Facing Theatre Institutions*, NAST conference, 2017  
Moderator, *Wellness and University Theatre Students*, NAST conference, 2016  
*Reinterpreting American Musical Theatre*, Dong Seo University, South Korea, 2014  
*Create a Great Slate*, Southeastern Theatre Conference, Louisville, KY, 2013  
*Training in the Performing Arts*, Playhouse Square Education Department, 2012  
*Create a Great Slate*, Ohio EdTA Northeast conference, 2012  
Association for Theatre in Higher Education, co-presenter, 2009  
Celebration of Scholarship, University Research Council. 2007- 2008  
University Teaching Council Conference, Kent State University, 2006  
Council of PTA Reflections Program, Akron, Ohio. 2006  
*Expansion of the Diagonal Cube*, Association of Theatre Movement Educators  
Colloquium, James Mason University, 2005  
Society of American Fight Directors National Workshop, 2005  
Transmission of Technique- Theatre Educators in Northeast Ohio- Guest lecturer, 2004  
*Starlight Express and the World of Andrew Lloyd Webber*. Lecture series for Playhouse Square Center Education Department, Cleveland, OH, 2003  
*South Pacific*: Tracing the Original Material. Lecture series for Playhouse Square Center Education Department, Cleveland, OH, 2002  
CONTACT Lecture series for Playhouse Square Center Education Department, Cleveland, OH, 2001

## **PUBLICATIONS**

“CONTACT Kicks up a Few Changes,” Broadway Buzz; A Publication of the Playhouse Square Educational Department, Fall 2001

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION**

*Society of Directors and Choreographers (full member)*, 1999- present

*Actor's Equity Association*, 1988- present

*Association of Theatre Movement Educators*. 2003- 2018

*Society of American Fight Directors*, 2005-2015

## **CHRONOLOGY OF PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT**

- 2021 Director/ choreographer, *BKLYN, the Musical*, Porthouse Theatre  
Executive Producer, Porthouse Theatre
- 2019 Director/ choreographer, *Tintypes*, Porthouse Theatre  
Fight Choreographer, *Mystery of Edwin Drood*, School of Theatre and Dance  
Executive Producer, Porthouse Theatre
- 2018 Actor, *Anything Goes*, Porthouse Theatre  
Actor, *Tongue of the Wise*, Travesty Dance Group, Playhouse Square  
Executive Producer, Porthouse Theatre
- 2017 Director/ choreographer, *Ain't Misbehavin*, Porthouse Theatre  
Executive Producer, Porthouse Theatre
- 2016 Director, *Sister Act*, Porthouse Theatre  
Director, *Into the Woods*, School of Theatre and Dance  
Actor, *Babar the Elephant*, Poulenc, Cleveland Jewish Community Center  
Executive Producer, Porthouse Theatre
- 2015 Fight Choreographer, *Bonnie and Clyde*. School of Theatre and Dance  
Fight Choreographer, *Servant of Two Masters* School of Theatre and Dance  
Fight Choreographer, *Violet*, Porthouse Theatre  
Executive Producer, Porthouse Theatre
- 2014 Director, *Hwan Sang Sin Hwa* (Reincarnation Mythology)  
*Mac Theatre Festival, Busan South Korea*  
Director, *Children of Eden* (Korean Premiere) Dong Seo University, S. Korea  
Actor, *Oliver*, Porthouse Theatre
- 2013 Director, *Fiddler on the Roof*, Porthouse Theatre  
Actor, *Peter Pan*, Mercury Theatre  
Fight Choreographer, *Spring Awakening*, Kent State University

- Choreographer *Finnian's Rainbow*, Kent State University  
 Director, *Songs of Travel*, School of Music  
 Performer, *The Eternal Flame*, Ludwig Recital Hall  
 Performer, Travesty Dance Group, Cleveland Public Theatre
- 2012 Assistant Artistic Director, Porthouse Theatre  
 Director *Amadeus*, Weathervane Community Playhouse  
 Actor, *Damn Yankees*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Actor, *The Sound of Music*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Director, *Ragtime*, Director, Kent State University  
 Director, *Big Love*, Kent State University
- 2011 Roe Green Visiting Guest Artist, University Colorado, Boulder  
 Fight Choreographer, *14*, University Colorado Theatre Dept.  
 Actor, *Shine*, Weathervane Playhouse  
 Director, *Opera 101* Hugh A. Glauser School of Music  
 Assistant Artistic Director, Porthouse Theatre  
 Director/ Choreo, *Pippin*, Weathervane Community Playhouse  
 Director, *Cloud Nine*, School of Theatre and Dance  
 Actor, *Chicago* and *Holly Dolly*, Porthouse Theatre
- 2010 Actor, *The Foreigner*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Assistant Artistic Director, Porthouse Theatre  
 Director, *The Sum of Us*, Weathervane Community Playhouse  
 Director, *Oklahoma*, School of Theatre and Dance  
 Director, *One Act Wonders*, Hugh A. Glauser School of Music
- 2009 Assistant Artistic Director, Porthouse Theatre  
 Instructor, Musical Theatre Choreography, Porthouse Academy  
 Fight choreographer, *Twelfth Night*, School of Theatre and Dance  
 Fight choreographer, *14*, School of Theatre and Dance  
 Guest Artist Actor, *14*, School of Theatre and Dance  
 Actor, *The Odd Couple*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Choreographer, *A Funny Thing Happened ...Forum*, Porthouse Theatre
- 2008 Assistant Artistic Director, Porthouse Theatre  
 Director/ Choreographer, *A New Brain*, School of Theatre and Dance  
 Actor, *The Break Up Notebook*, Beck Center for the Arts  
 Actor, *Anything Goes*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Actor, *The Music Man*, Porthouse Theatre
- 2007 Assistant Artistic Director, Porthouse Theatre  
 Actor, *Sweet Charity*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Director, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Actor, *Six Degrees: Playhouse to Broadway*, Cleveland Playhouse Cabaret  
 Director, *The Diviners*, School of Theatre & Dance  
 Director, *Lysistrata*, School of Theatre & Dance  
 Narrator, *Babar*, College of the Arts

- 2006 Assistant Artistic Director, Porthouse Theatre  
 Actor, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Director, *Dames at Sea*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Fight Captain, *Romeo and Juliet*, Cleveland Opera  
 Fight Choreographer, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Choreographer, *For Room Suite, Dance 2006*, School of Theatre & Dance
- 2005 Assistant Artistic Director, Porthouse Theatre  
 Actor, *The Spitfire Grill*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Assistant Artistic Director, Porthouse Theatre  
 Director, *The Green Show*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Director, *Honk!*, School of Theatre and Dance  
 Choreographer, *Anything Goes*, School of Theatre & Dance
- 2004 Actor, *Guys and Dolls*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Assistant Professor, School of Theatre and Dance, Kent State University  
 Director, *Grease*, Cain Park  
 Director, *The Wild Party*, School of Theatre and Dance  
 Choreographer, *Children of Eden*, School of Theatre and Dance
- 2003 Actor, *Oklahoma*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Assistant Professor, School of Theatre and Dance, Kent State University  
 Director, Kent Theatre Ensemble  
 Director, *On The Verge, Working*, School of Theatre and Dance  
 Choreographer, *A, My Name Will Always Be Alice*, Halle Theatre, Cleveland
- 2002 Director, *The Wiz*, Weathervane Playhouse, Akron, OH  
 Director, *The Melody Lingers On*, Berea Summer Theatre, Berea, OH  
 Choreographer, *Once on This Island*, Porthouse Theatre  
 Choreographer, *Joseph and the ...Dreamcoat*, Halle Theatre, Cleveland
- 2001 Writer/Director, *The Green Show*. Porthouse Theatre.  
 Choreographer, *The Sound of Music*, Cain Park, Cleveland Heights, OH  
 Choreographer, *The Fantasticks*, Porthouse Theatre,  
 Choreographer, *Big River*, Porthouse Theatre
- 2000 Actor, *Damn Yankees*, Cain Park  
 Choreographer, *Little Shop of Horrors*,  
 Cleveland Public School System All-City Musical  
 Movement Workshop, Wyndam School System, Ravenna, Ohio  
 Musical Theatre Master class- Baldwin Wallace College  
 Musical Theatre Workshop. Cain Park Summer Arts camp (2000-Present)
- 1999 Choreographer, *Into the Woods*, St. Louis Repertory Theatre  
 Choreographer, *Once on This Island*, Connecticut Rep
- 1998 Director, *Tintypes*, Cain Park  
 Associate Director, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Melody Musical Productions  
 Choreographer, *Children of Eden*, Halle Theatre

- Choreographer, *Twelfth Night*, Case Western Reserve University  
Musical Theatre workshop, Kent State University
- 1997 Choreographer, *Big River*, Cain Park  
Associate Director, *The Mikado*, American Stage Festival  
Actor, *Camelot*, Carousel Dinner Theatre
- 1996 Actor, *She Loves Me*, Great Lakes Theatre Festival  
Actor, *Camelot*, Walnut Street Theatre  
Carousel Dinner Theatre

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

Dr. John Crawford- Spinelli  
Emeritus Dean, College of the Arts  
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