

Jay Hayden

(they/them)

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

On-Call Educator | Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles CA

Nov. 2025-Present

- Facilitated participatory gallery-based programs (e.g., puppetry, movement, storytelling, art-making) to engage students in themes of identity, immigration, and Jewish culture.

Canvasser | Donor Voice Canvass, Los Angeles CA

Sept. 2025-Feb. 2026

- Engaged community members in door-to-door conversations to raise awareness about global medical crises and the mission of Doctors Without Borders.
- Secured recurring donations to support emergency medical relief, consistently meeting daily and weekly goals, with over \$7500 raised to date from individual donors.

Emerging Leader Fellow | Theatre for Young Audiences/USA, New York City, NY

Jan. 2025-Dec. 2025

- Engaged in bi-monthly cohort meetings to discuss the state of the field of Theatre for Young Audiences
- Attended annual TYA/USA Conferences to represent organization & grow professional development
- Traveled to National Queer Theatre (NYC) for a research trip, documented in TYAToday Blog for national publication.

Director of Teen Programing | The Rose Theater, Omaha NE

July 2021-Aug 2025

Teaching Artist & Company Actor | The Rose Theater, Omaha NE

Aug. 2019-July 2021

- Spearheaded the innovative Teens 'n' Theater program, directing and nurturing identity-based, devised performances to empower teen activists.
- Developed a strategic plan for teen outreach, resulting in 16% increase to annual teen participation in drama classes.
- Conceptualized and developed an ongoing Shakespeare tour for local high schools, serving as director, tour manager, and primary facilitator to enhance student engagement.
- Annually managed a diverse team of 8-10 high school interns, mentoring them as volunteer assistant teachers and tech support, fostering professional growth and collaboration.
- Oversaw development efforts for teen programming – managing an annual budget of \$40,000 – securing grant funding from national programs, state opportunities, and local private foundations.
- Mentored new Teaching Artists through structured monthly meetings, facilitating professional development and reflective teaching artistry.
- Served as interim Director of Education during DoE's maternity leave, assuming short/medium term responsibilities – scheduling, uplifting programming initiatives, and leading departmental production meetings.

Education Associate | Theatre SilCo, Silverthorne CO

Summer 2018 & 2019

- Developed theater-based curriculum to be implemented weekly by staff
- Facilitated Summer Youth Workshops in various Artistic Roles
- Cared for the physical and emotional well-being of students aged 4-17

Student Teacher/Substitute Teacher | Burlington High School, Burlington, VT

Jan. 2019-May 2019

- Implemented lesson plans for units on Siddhartha, The Alchemist, and Macbeth over eight weeks.
- Managed four classrooms ranging from Sophomores to Seniors ~ General Classroom Size: 20-25.

THEATER EXPERIENCE

Performance

Henry IV (Part I)	Westmoreland/Quickley	Old-School Shakespeare Omaha
Twelfth Night	Sir Toby Belch	Old-School Shakespeare Omaha
As You Like It	Rosalind	Old-School Shakespeare Omaha
Macbeth	Weird Sister/Murderer	Old-School Shakespeare Omaha
Coraline	The Cat (u/s Coraline)	The Rose Theater
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Quince/Mustardseed	Old-School Shakespeare Omaha
Julius Caesar	Calpurnia/Octavius	Old-School Shakespeare Omaha
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer	Hermey the Elf	The Rose Theater
The Tempest	Ariel	Old-School Shakespeare Omaha
Much Ado About Nothing	Don Pedro	Old-School Shakespeare Omaha
Romeo & Juliet	Paris	Old-School Shakespeare Omaha
Giraffes Can't Dance^	Cricket	The Rose Theater
Silver Cash, Money Detective*	Silver Cash	The Rose Theater
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!	Business Man	The Rose Theater
Rumplestiltskin	The Miller	AATE Conference 2021
NebraskaLAND!*	Sen. Linstrom	The Rose Theater
Howie D: Back in the Day^	Justin/Prep #2	The Rose Theater
The Cat in the Hat	Thing #2/Kitten #2	The Rose Theater
You and Me and the Land of Peas*^	Kid	The Rose Theater
Peter Pan	Peter Pan	Vermont Fairy Tale Festival

*Touring Production

^Originated Role

Directing [Professional]

Morris Micklewhite & The Tangerine Dress	The Rose Theater
Romeo & Juliet	The Rose Theater
The Disability Plays	Benson Theatre/Queens Theatre of NY
A Different Lens (<i>staged reading</i>)	The Rose Theater
for the fish (<i>staged reading</i>)	Great Plains Theatre Conference
NebraskaLAND!	The Rose Theater

Directing [Youth]

Twelfth Night	The Rose Theater
What We Mean: A Devised Play in One Act	Central High School (Omaha, NE)
A Midsummer Night's Dream	The Rose Theater
The War of the Worlds	The Rose Theater
#ENOUGH: Plays to End Gun Violence	The Rose Theater
Pride Players #22, 23, 24, 25, 26	The Rose Theater
Before The World Goes Dark #1, 2	The Rose Theater
PLAYSCAPE: The Intern Project #6, 7, 8	The Rose Theater
Young Playwrights Festival #25	The Rose Theater
James and the Giant Peach JR.	Theatre SilCo
Peter Pan JR	Theatre SilCo

Playwriting [Professional]

Macbeth | Full-Length (75 min)

The Rose Theater, March 2026

Old School Shakespeare Omaha, November 2024

Rising and Gliding Out | One-Act (25 min)

(Selected) Valdez Theatre Conference, July 2023

Open Hydrant Theater Company, October 2023

(Finalist) Women's Theatre Conference, August 2022

University of Vermont, March 2019

Ode To Toy | Theater for the Very Young (40 min)

The Rose Theater, November 2023

Playwriting [Young Performers]

Twelfth Night | Theatre for Young Performers (60 min)

The Rose Theater, July 2025

Hamlet | Theatre for Young Performers (45 min)

The Rose Theater, October 2024

The Tempest | Theatre for Young Performers (60 min)

(Development), Foul Contending Rebels, March 2023

The Rose Theater, November 2022

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland | Theatre for Young Performers (30 min)

The Rose Theater, September 2023

The War of the Worlds | Theatre for Young Performers (45 min)

The Rose Theater, July 2023

The League of Super-Zeroes | Theatre for Young Performers (45 min)

The Rose Theater, July 2021

EDUCATION & MEMBERSHIP

University of Vermont – Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, Special Education

Pedagogy/Theatre of the Oppressed – Board Member (August 2025-Present)

ACLU Nebraska – Trans Rights Advisory Board (July 2024-Present)

#ENOUGH: Plays to End Gun Violence – Volunteer Play Selection Reader (2022-Present)

Pride Youth Theater Alliance – Advisory Board (June 2021-June 2022)

RESEARCH & PRESENTATIONS

[Upcoming] "Theatre of the Oppressed as a Tool for Youth Liberation," Conference 2026, TYA/USA Conference, Atlanta, GA. Workshop. May 2026.

"Emerging Leaders Fellowship: Reflections from NYC," TYA Today Blog, TYA/USA. October 2025.

"Pride Players #26" Conference 2025, Pedagogy/Theatre of the Oppressed Conference, Omaha NE. Facilitated Workshop/Performance. June 2025.

"Pride Players #26" Talkback 2025, Bluebarn Theater, Omaha NE. Facilitated Pre-Show Performance Before *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*. April 2025.

"ActUp: Fight Back - LGBTQIA2S+ in America - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," Talkback 2025, Bluebarn Theater, Omaha NE. Post-Show Talkback Before *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*. April 2025.

"Forum Theater: Spectating Reality," Presentation 2025, OmahaForUs Youth Education, Omaha NE. Workshop. January 2025.

"Devising Original Theatre" Festival 2025, Nebraska Thespians Festival, Omaha NE. Workshop. January 2025.

"Gender-Inclusive Practices in Higher Education," Ongoing Workshop Series, 2023-2024, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft NJ. Workshop. September 2023, 2024.

"Gender-Inclusive Practices in Directing, Teaching, and Facilitation," Conference 2023, TYA/USA Conference, Tempe AZ. Workshop. May 2023.

"Gender-Inclusive Practices in Theatre Education," Conference 2023, NYC Arts-In-Education, Face-to-Face, Online. Presentation. April 2023.

"Forum Theater: Spectating Reality," Festival 2022, Nebraska Thespians Festival, Omaha NE. Workshop. January 2022.

"Creating Frankenstein at The Rose Theater," Conference 2021, International Drama Education Association, Online. Presentation. August 2021.

"Teen IDEAs at The Rose Theater," Conference 2021, American Alliance for Theatre & Education, Online. Presentation. July 2021.

"Rocky Horror as Romantic Text," Conference 2019, University of Vermont English Symposium, Burlington VT. Presentation. April 2019.