

Curriculum Vitae

Leslie Cook-Day

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Education

Master of Fine Arts (Costume Design), May 2010

Virginia Tech

Bachelor of Arts, May 2003

St. Mary's College of Maryland

Teaching Experience

Longwood University (2012-present)

Associate Professor of Costume Design and Technology

Signature in the Schools (2012)

Costume Designer and mentor for student participants

Virginia Tech (2007-2010)

Shop assistant and graduate T.A.

Virginia Tech (2005-2007)

Video Broadcast Distancing Learning Specialist

Georgetown Prep School (2004-2005)

Costume Designer and mentor for student participants

Selected Professional Experience

Firehouse Theatre

*Costume Designer

2018-19, 2020

Endstation Theatre

Resident Costume Designer

2015-18

Wolf Trap Opera/Boston Lyric Opera

Assistant Designer

2011/2012

Juniata College

Visiting Designer

2011

Signature Theatre

Costume Assistant/Designer

2010-2012

Liz Lehrman Dance Company

Stitching

2010

Wolf Trap Opera

Wardrobe Supervisor

2009-2012

American Opera Theatre

Costume Designer

2009

National Geographic Television

Costumes and Recreations

2004

*Nominated for an *Artsie* award for Excellence in Costume Design by the Richmond Theatre Critics Circle

Expanded Experience

Longwood University (2012-present): Currently serving as Assistant Professor of Costume Design and Technology, instructing students in the History of Fashion and Décor, Props, Stage Makeup, Elements of Design, Costume Design, Wigs, and Wardrobe, as well as Advanced Costume Craftwork. Designing costumes for four to six productions per year, and providing guidance for students in a variety of costume and properties related areas. Served for two years as Program Coordinator for the Theatre Program, on a wide variety of committees, and as a member of the Title IX University Hearing Board.

Firehouse Theatre (2018-19): Designed costumes for *Preludes* for which I was nominated for an Artsie award from the Richmond Theatre Critics Circle for Excellence in Costume Design. Returning to Firehouse Theatre in the summer of 2019 to design costumes for *Our Town*.

Endstation Theatre Company: Spent four seasons as the resident costume designer for Endstation's summer stock productions, which included designing, managing the costume shop, interacting with donors and sponsors, and mentoring student apprentices. Productions include *Buddy: The Buddy Holly*

Story, Million Dollar Quartet, History of America Abridged, Lost Highway, Ring of Fire, Much Ado About Nothing, Br'er Cotton, As You Like It, and The Whipping Man.

Boston Lyric Opera (2012): Acted as Assistant Designer for a production of *The Inspector*, a co-production with Wolf Trap Opera.

Juniata College (2011): Designed costumes for a production of *Our Town*, while acting as a visiting designer and instructing students in construction, design, and wardrobe duties.

Signature Theatre (2010-2012): Assisted the costume designer and costume shop manager in all aspects of the production process; stitching, shopping, tracking paperwork, fitting, pulling, rentals, dyeing, altering, millinery, craftwork, wardrobe, and budget-tracking. Designed costumes for a new production and mentored and supervised local high school students in the areas of costume construction, design, and wardrobe.

Liz Lehrman Dance Company (2010): Made emergency adjustments to costumes for a production at the Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

University of Maryland (2010-2011): Constructed costumes and supervised student stitchers for two productions.

Wolf Trap Opera (2009-2012): Began as a production intern in 2008, and returned in the summers of 2010, 2011, and 2012 as a stitcher, first-hand, and head of wardrobe for eleven productions. Assisted in a gala fundraiser event for the entire non-profit. Served as Assistant Designer for a production of a world-premiere opera.

Washington National Opera (2009): Completed a four month apprenticeship in Costume Management under the direct supervision of the Head of the Costume Department for the Opera. Duties included fitting, shopping, tracking, and assisting on costumes for productions, as well as updating databases for multilingual collaborations, resources and suppliers, costume piecelists, and rentals. Headed costumes for an educational event involving Washington National Opera, the Kennedy Center, and the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts, and supervised and organized a four-day costume sale which garnered tri-state media attention and involved all departments within the Opera. Provided costume assistance for the National Symphony Orchestra, and educational outreach programs.

American Opera Theatre (2009): Designed and constructed costumes for two shows of a touring company project which aimed to involve university students in community-targeted performances of classic English opera.

Virginia Tech (2005-2010): Worked as a Distance Learning Technician for Video Broadcast Services from 2005-2008, providing support services for students and instructors both locally and at remote locations, as well as for conferences involving national and international participants. Subsequently attended graduate school (2007-2010) for Costume Design while fulfilling assistantship duties which included mentoring and instructing undergraduates, and designing, assisting, constructing, and providing wardrobe oversight on departmental productions.

Georgetown Preparatory School (2004-2005): Designed and constructed three shows during the course of a full school year, while also instructing and mentoring students at the High School level.

National Geographic Television (2004): Designed and produced costumes and reconstructions for the highly-acclaimed special *Lost Treasures of Afghanistan*.

Additional Skills and Qualifications

- Extensive knowledge of costume construction, patterning, craftwork, millinery, make-up and design techniques, including electronic databases and programs.
- Strong connections with various theaters and theatrical professionals, and a willingness to connect students with professionals in the field.
- Proficiency in basic computer skills, including power point, Blackboard, Canvas, and Outlook.
- Knowledge of Corel Paint and Photoshop for electronic media
- Certified in Online Teaching and Learning

Selected Awards and Nominations

- Kennedy Center ACTF Meritorious Achievement awards for Excellence in Design (*The Love of Three Oranges* 2013, *The Musical of Musicals: The Musical* 2016)
- Winner of the *Juror's Award for Excellence* from the Boyden Gallery for the *Snow Queen* (2013)
- Nominated for a competitive Artsie Award by the Richmond Theatre Critics Circle for Excellence in Costume Design for *Preludes*
- Recipient of a Princeps commendation for leadership, service to the campus community, and alumni engagement (2017)
- Recipient of a student-generated award for Excellence in Department Coordination and Advisement (2015)

Itemized CV

- I. Professional Growth
 - A. Professional Responsibilities 2012-2018
 1. B.F.A. Committee, Lighting/Scenic Candidate Search Committee 2013
B.F.A Committee, Technical Director Candidate Search Committee, Acting Candidate Search Committee, Theatre Generalist Candidate Search Committee, Visiting Artist Committee, Curriculum and Assessment Committee, Box Office Manager Search Committee, Adjunct Search Committee 2013-2014
Directing Candidate Search Committee, Budget Committee, Scheduling Committee, Supervisor of the Box Office Manager 2014-15
Visiting Technical Director Candidate Search Committee 2016
 2. Coordinator of the Theatre Program 2014-16
 3. Advisor to Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honors Society, Bookstore Advisory Committee (Chair 2015-16), University Sexual Misconduct Hearing Board 2014-18
 4. Scholarship Committee, Faculty Awards Committee 2017-18
 - B. Awards and Commendations

1. Alpha Psi Omega Award for Costume Design (2) 2012
2. Alpha Psi Omega Award for Costume Design (3) 2013
3. The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival
Meritorious Achievement Award for Excellence in Design 2013
4. Juror's Award for Excellence (Boyden Gallery *Across the Ages*) 2014
5. Alpha Psi Omega Award for Costume Design (2) 2014-15
6. Commendation for Excellence in Department Coordination and
Faculty Advising (student generated award, inaugural recipient) 2015
7. Alpha Psi Omega Award for Costume Design (2) 2016
8. The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival
Meritorious Achievement Award for Excellence in Design 2016
9. Letter of commendation from Princeps 2017
10. Nominated for a 2017-18 Artsie Award for Outstanding
Achievement in Costume Design (Richmond Theatre Critics Circle) 2018

C. Conference Attendance

1. Virginia Theatre Association (conference chaperone, recruitment officer,
and University Representative) 2012
2. United States Institute for Theatre Technology (Attended professional
development classes, recruited candidates, and interviewed them for
available positions within the department) 2013
3. Virginia Theatre Association (conference chaperone, recruitment officer,
and University Representative) 2013
4. Attended the annual NAST conference and participated in the
New Leadership Seminar 2015
5. Virginia Theatre Association (conference chaperone, recruitment officer,
and University Representative) 2017
6. Southeastern Theatre Conference (Attended professional development
Classes) 2018

II. Scholarly Activities

A. Research

1. Costumes of the Condemned
An exploration of evidence left by persons in extremis via their appearance
and the kinds of deliberate messages chosen to represent them in their
final clothing selections. Particular attention paid to victims of execution,
suicides, and military personnel. Currently being developed for future
publication as an article to be expanded into a book. 2010-18
2. Pursued research relating to execution apparel at the National
Archives in London, England 2014-15

B. Contributions to the Arts

1. Designed seven and built eight main stage productions for the

- University (*Blood Wedding, Putnam County Spelling Bee, L'Amour, How I Learned To Drive, Hedda Gabler, The Love of Three Oranges, Trojan Women, Blithe Spirit*) 2012-2013
- 2. Developed and assisted in the implementation of an installation of costumes and related elements for *The Love of Three Oranges*. 2013-2014
- 3. Submitted a design and realized costume *The Snow Queen* for the juried exhibition *Across the Ages* at the Boyden Gallery in St. Mary's, MD which was chosen for display 2014
- 4. Designed seven and built eight main stage productions for the University (*A Dream Play, Evil Dead: The Musical, Sweeney Todd, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Dead Man's Cellphone, The Real Inspector Hound, Twelfth Night, Musical of Musicals the Musical*) 2014-16
- 5. Created and installed three gallery exhibitions in the Bedford Gallery relating to past productions 2014-16
- 6. Served as the resident Costume Designer for Endstation Theatre's 2015-2018 seasons 2015-2018
- 7. Designed five and built four productions for the University (*Antigone, The Cover of Life, The Shape of Things, Charlie Brown: The Musical, Table Manners*) 2016-17
- 8. Designed and built four productions for the University (*Macbeth, Everyman, A Funny Thing...Forum, The Heidi Chronicles*) 2017-18
- 9. Designed and built costumes for *Preludes* at Firehouse Theatre in Richmond (see Awards for nomination info) 2018

III. Service to the University and Local Community

2012

- 1. Completely reorganized the storage of all costumes, hats, shoes, accessories, fabric, makeup, wigs and costume construction supplies curated by the Theatre Department. 2012-2016
- 2. Assisted in the recruitment, interview process, and selection of candidates for five departmental positions. 2012-14
- 3. Taught ten courses including two independent studies. 2012-14
- 4. Provided mentorship for students in several areas of theatrical design, construction, and implementation. 2012-2016
- 5. Assisted students with completing applications for design work, Internships, scholarships, work study, and post-graduation employment while maintaining a fair and objective stance 2012-16
- 6. Assisted students with finding appropriate resources for emotional, psychological, and financial needs in a wide variety of situations (2012-16)

2013

- 1. Assisted the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts in identifying and dating photographs and lithographs in their collection (an article on

- the findings was published in August of 2014). 2013
- 2. Contributed to the development of advertising campaigns for
- 3. various productions. 2013-14
- 4. Contributed costume accessories to the Summer Garden Opera's
- 5. productions of *Don Giovanni* and *Die Fledermaus* 2013-14
- 6. Costumed participants for the inter-departmental Raft Debate 2013-15
- 7. Provided costuming support for Dr. Jordan Holiday Special. 2013
- 8. Maintained and updated departmental Weave assessment data. 2013-15
- 9. Adapted and improved the course rotation schedule while
- 10. keeping current students on track for graduation.

2014

- 11. Advised students in all aspects of their academic careers. 2013-15
- 12. Advised and oversaw students away on internship. 2013-15
- 13. Researched and co-decided the season of productions. 2013-2016
- 14. Planned and chaperoned an overnight fieldtrip with theatre students to visit various Washington D.C. area theatres and costume facilities where they spoke with professionals in the field, well as experiencing a professional theatrical production, and an exploration of the National Gallery of Art. 2013
- 15. Oversaw the successful transition of two departing faculty members, one staff member, an adjunct, an interim faculty member, and three full-time tenure-track faculty members within a short span of time (2013-14)

2014

- 1. Undertook a research and preparation trip to London, England in order to set up a study abroad course for Art and Theatre students taught in Summer 2015 2014
- 2. Led program meetings and coordinated all aspects of the program Including but not limited to; NAST paperwork, hiring, supervision of Staff, facilities requests, classroom needs, restocking supplies, Communicating information to and with the faculty and students (2014-16)
- 3. Developed borrowing agreements with other institutions including Virginia Tech and Randolph College 2014-16
- 4. Developed plans for additional exhibitions in the Bedford Gallery. 2014
- 5. Oversaw the search and hiring of visiting artists 2014-16
- 6. Established and maintained improving relations between the Program and local institutions 2014
- 7. Assisted with improving the promotional and marketing materials used by the Program for events and recruitment, as well as donor materials and information 2014
- 8. Served on the University Sexual Misconduct Hearing Board 2014-17
- 9. Successfully completed the hiring process for the tenure-track Theatre History and Directing professor 2014

2015

1. Created and completed a study abroad program in the summer of
2015 *THEA495: Public Identity and Private Lives* 2015
2. Began the process of comprehensive program curriculum reform 2015
3. Departmental Curriculum Committee 2015-16
4. Taught multiple overloads of required and supplementary
Coursework including but not limited to extra sections of THEA104,
THEA461, multiple THEA495 and THEA 490 sections, THEA337 2014-2016

2016

1. Created and taught a Special Topics course on Devised Topics in
Community Engagement and Citizen Leadership pursuant to the
creation of a course for the new Core Curriculum. 2016
2. Created a Theatre Program Coordinator Handbook to assist in the
transition of new leadership. 2016
3. Purchased materials for classrooms and production spaces as needed. 2016
4. Received requests for and allotted program travel funding 2016
5. Began the process of developing an Articulation Agreement with
John Tyler Community College 2016
6. Began the process of submitting paperwork for the development
Of a Musical Theatre minor with the Music Department 2016

2017

1. Continued the development of the Theatre Program Coordinator
Handbook 2017
2. Purchased materials for classrooms and production spaces as needed. 2017
3. Researched, ordered, and began the implementation of a barcode
System for tracking costumes and for implementation with the costume
Database currently in development 2017
4. Developed plans and began the process of creating an exhibition for
The Bedford Gallery on Costumes and Technology to be integrated with
A Special Topics course on Advanced Costume Craftwork 2017
5. Taught multiple overloads of required and supplementary
Coursework including but not limited to extra sections of THEA104,
THEA461, THEA495, THEA492 and THEA 490 sections 2017
6. Served on the departmental Scholarship committee 2016-2017
7. Successfully completed the hiring process for the tenure-track
Technical Direction professor 2017
8. Recruited for the University at Open House events 2017
9. Taught multiple courses and followed up with interested High
School students for Arts Day 2017

2018

1. Purchased materials for classrooms and production spaces as needed. 2018
2. Taught multiple overloads of required and supplementary Coursework including but not limited to extra sections of THEA104, THEA461, THEA495, and THEA492 sections 2017-18
3. Served on the departmental Scholarship committee 2017-18
4. Recruited for the University 2017-18
5. Curated and installed *Something Wicked* a retrospective exhibition of the costumes and recreations from *Macbeth* 2018
6. Created and taught a Special Topics course on Advanced Costume Craftwork Techniques for graduating seniors 2018
7. Crafted and submitted curricular and program changes to the THEA461 Senior Seminar course to accommodate changes elsewhere in the program While maintaining academic rigor and course objectives 2018
8. Participated in University meetings for Student Well-being and Faculty Success 2018
9. Referred at-risk students to the Care Team for academic, mental, and Behavioral health concerns 2018
10. Participated in program donor events aimed at community engagement and institutional advancement 2017-18
11. Assisted students in finding and acquiring internships and career Opportunities, including summer employment at local and Regional theatres 2018
12. Brought in Visiting Artist for lecture and workshop on Special Effects and Film and Television Makeup 2018

2019

1. Reorganized and began barcoding costume stock and inputting tracking information for items and production spaces as needed. 2019
2. Taught multiple overloads of required and supplementary Coursework including but not limited to extra sections of THEA104, THEA461, THEA495, and THEA492 sections 2018-19
3. Served on the departmental committees, including Promotion and Tenure and Bylaws 2018-19
4. Recruited for the University 2018-19
5. Curated and installed professional work for the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts 2019
6. Created a Special Topics course for study abroad (Global Experiences) on Public and Private Identities 2019
7. Referred at-risk students to the Care Team for academic, mental, and Behavioral health concerns 2018-19
8. Participated in program donor events aimed at community engagement and institutional advancement 2018-19

9. Assisted students in finding and acquiring internships and career Opportunities, including summer employment at local and Regional theatres 2019
10. Served on University Faculty Awards Committee 2018-19
11. Co-taught Brock Transformational Learning course in Richmond, VA and Boston, MA on the place of the arts in society 2019
12. Brought in guest artist for Place-Based Theatre, Starting a Theatre Company, and for a study workshop on resumes and portfolios 2019
13. Completed LOTI (Online Teaching and Learning) certification 2019

2020

1. Taught THEA 492 summer course for students who needed professional fieldwork but were unable to complete professional internships due to Covid cancellations 2020
2. Created a maintenance database for University costume equipment and began the process of regulating maintenance on a predictive schedule 2020
3. Served on the departmental committees including Promotion and Tenure, Bylaws, and Gallery 2019-20
4. Designed one show and supervised and mentored student designers for one show 2020
5. Created and taught an Independent Study course on basic costume design and sewing for a student non-major 2020
6. Advised and mentored students in Student Research projects 2019-20
7. Referred at-risk students to the Care Team for academic, mental, and Behavioral health concerns 2020
8. Assisted students in finding and acquiring internships and career Opportunities, including summer employment at local and Regional theatres as the Theatre industry began reopening 2020
9. Created a Brock Course for Transformational Learning based in Washington, DC on The Arts As a Response to Crisis 2019-20
10. Contributed sections of the NAST self-study for reaccreditation 2019-20
11. Served on University committees for Faculty Development (grants and sabbaticals) and Faculty Awards 2019-20
12. Brought in guest speaker on Transitioning from School to the Professional World, and Casting 2020
13. Served on Incite, student research publication committee 2019-20
14. Served on the Title IX Hearing Board 2019-20
15. Participated in curriculum reform, course creation, and curriculum mapping for the Theatre program 2019-20
16. Completed Trauma Informed Training certification 2021

