

Charlie Hensley

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Performing Arts Specialist: Producing Artistic Director, Director, Actor, Educator, Consultant, Internationalist; nearly 150 professional productions over 30 years

Highlights

Virginia Stage Company

- Successful strategy and implementation of a five-year plan including increased programming from four to six mainstage offerings, with additional performances in children's theatre and in the theatre's black box. The theatre's revenues rose from \$1.4 million to \$2.1 million, while individual giving tripled over the same period.
- Creation and oversight of the theatre's first education department, which by its second year served over 40,000 students annually through an extensive apprenticeship training program, mainstage and touring in-school performances and workshops, after-school creative dramatics classes, and summer day camps.
- Produced 19 of the 30 most-attended productions in the company's history. Featured artists included Jean Stapleton, Paul Winfield, Ralph Waite, Leslie Uggams, Van Johnson, Ron Leibman, Jessica Walter, Mariette Hartley, Betsy Palmer, Rosemary Prinz, Eileen Brennan and Barbara McNair.
- Guided three mainstage world premieres including work by Stephen Schwartz and Lanie Robertson, and six world premieres of theatre for youth.
- For the Virginia International Waterfront Festival, produced the fully-staged production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in collaboration with the Virginia Symphony at Chrysler Hall, a 3000-seat venue. Featuring 130 actors, musicians and singers performing the text with music by Felix Mendelssohn.
- Collaborated with Lincoln Center Theatre to present the National Tour Premiere of *The Sisters Rosensweig*
- NEA/New Generations Grant for outreach activities to military families
- For 11 years, ended each season with production expenses below budget.

International

- U.S. Coordinator for the International Actors Fellowship, Shakespeare's Globe, London, United Kingdom
- Created the role of John Tittle in the world premiere of *A Good Man*, Wiener Kammeroper, Vienna, Austria

- Author, “There’s No Business Like Noh Business,” *American Theatre* magazine
- Asian Cultural Council Award for study of performance styles in Japan, Korea and The Philippines
- Student, Noh Training Project, Bloomsburg PA
- TCG/ITI Grants Panelist, Central and Eastern European travel grants
- Commissioned *Climbing Tiger Mountain*, Laurence Carr’s play on General Douglas MacArthur. The finished work uses a culturally diverse cast and Asian theatre techniques to focus on the confrontation between MacArthur and President Harry Truman during the Korean War.
- Former staff, United Nations Development Program, New York NY

Consulting

- Admissions Committee for New Dramatists, New York’s prestigious hothouse for the support of emerging American playwrights
- Union negotiator in collective bargaining between SSDC and LORT (1993 & 2006)
- Consultant on the creation of the Director Training Program, Stratford Festival of Canada
- Consultant on the renovation of the Loew’s Theatre, Norfolk VA, which turned this former movie palace into a live performance venue
- Consultant for creation of the Technical Theatre Program, Tidewater Community College

Professional Affiliations

Society of Stage Directors & Choreographers
Actors’ Equity Association
Theatre Communications Group/International Theatre Institute
Japan Society
Asia Society

Training

Training: University of NC, Chapel Hill & Greensboro
Noh Training Project, Bloomsburg PA
Shakespeare & Company, Lenox MA
Acting: William Hutt, Paul Winfield, Tom Haas
Voice: Kristin Linklater, Kathryn England
Movement: John Broome, Merry Conway
Text: John Barton, Tina Packer
Noh (Kita): Richard Emmert, Akira Matsui
Inner Partner: Alexander Komlosi, Howard Lotker
(Vyskočil)

Honors

Asian Cultural Council Award for Asian Studies in Japan, Korea, the Philippines
Weaver Award for Drama

Timeline and Detail

2004-Present	Freelance Director, Actor, Private Coach, New York
1993-2004	Artistic Director, then Producing Artistic Director Virginia Stage Company, Norfolk

Responsibilities:

- Programming, scheduling and budgeting for this LORT C theatre company (annual budget: \$2.2 million), whose home is the 700-seat National Historic Landmark, The Wells Theatre
- Producing six mainstage productions of varying styles, and special events such as summer performances and *Magic at The Wells*, an annual fundraiser
- Scouting, recruitment and commissioning of playwrights
- Auditioning and casting of actors and oversight of casting directors
- Recruitment, hiring and oversight of the production department, including company management
- Hiring of creative teams, including directors and designers
- Education and Outreach activities, including performances on tour and on the mainstage; recruitment, hiring and training of apprentices
- Primary public spokesman, representing the theatre in local, national and international conferences and other forums
- Guidance of marketing and public relations department activities
- Guidance of and participation in development department activities, including fundraising strategies, grant writing and personal appeals
- Supervision of controller's office, including creation and distribution of all financial reports
- Participation in determining and fulfilling all necessary IT functions, including the securing of computer equipment and software
- Guidance of front of house staff, including lobby displays and activities
- Recruitment, motivation and guidance of over 200 volunteers, the Virginia Stage Associates

Accomplishments:

- Creation and oversight of the theatre's first education department, which by its second year served over 40,000 students annually in the following ways:
 - *An Apprenticeship Program*, designed to bridge university training and a career in the professional theatre. Apprentices learned their craft through hands-on work in the following fields: performance, costuming, scenic arts, marketing, props, stage management, sound design, lighting and carpentry. Monthly evaluations, career planning assistance and professional workshops were an integral part of this program. We also worked with interns from the Governor's School for the Arts in one-week to month-long internships providing college-bound students a taste of the professional world to aid in their career decisions.

- *Theatre for Youth Touring*: Two plays toured each year to elementary, middle and high schools in the Hampton Roads area. Plays included traditional children's stories as well as African folk tales, contemporary Asian stories, *Cinderella* told from the perspective of three different cultures, and a piece utilizing American Sign Language. Classroom workshops and study guides were also components of this program. All offerings and related materials fulfilled the requirements outlined in Virginia's Standards of Learning.
- *Adopt-A-School*: Presented at no charge to the elementary school chosen, we previewed touring shows for the students; read library books; recorded books for "slow reader" students; taught creative dramatics classes every Wednesday after school. These classes, originally designed for 25 students, blossomed into a program serving 250 students per week.
- *Summer Day Camps*: Two three-week camps offered each July to expose young people to live theatre in a non-competitive environment. Students worked on all aspects of original production including writing, designing and acting.
- Instituted Play Support Teams, made up of trustees and guests who desired to follow intimately a production from the first readthrough to opening night
- Mayoral appointment as Norfolk Ambassador, for helping bring new businesses into the region
- Regular meetings with political leaders ranging from local arts commissioners to U.S. Senators, including the mayors and city councils of the five cities in the Hampton Roads region

Routine Activities:

- Hundreds of live and on-air appearances to promote the theatre's mission
- Speaker at scores of churches, synagogues and temples (Jewish and Hindu), as well as service organization meetings, including Rotary, Kiwanis, Jaycee, Elks, Lions, Certoma and Newcomers Clubs, and Mensa International
- Dozens of appearances as on-air talent for PBS and NPR fund drives
- Lobbyist for Arts Advocacy Days at the State Capitol
- Lecturer at Westminster-Canterbury, an upscale retirement community with an extensive adult education program
- On-site reviewer for North Carolina Commission for the Arts
- Hosted library lecture series, at a variety of local branches, focused on the overall mission and individual offerings of the theatre
- Arts representative to Leadership Hampton Roads, Civic Leadership Institute, and the Norfolk Visitors Bureau
- Volunteer host for fundraising benefits: Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads, Women in Crisis, Broadway Cares/EFA, Tidewater AIDS Crisis Taskforce
- Volunteer reader of exhibit-related stories to kids at Chrysler Museum of Art

1989-1993	Freelance Director, Actor, Private Coach, New York
1987-1989	Associate Director, Walnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia
1985-1987	Administrative Staff, Office for Projects Execution United Nations Development Program, New York

Educational Experience

- Director, *A Christmas Carol*, with the graduate actors of the University of Tennessee, Clarence Brown Theatre
- Director, *The Odd Couple*, with the faculty of the University of Tennessee in a graduate student-designed production, Clarence Brown Theatre
- Director, *Purple Creek*, staged reading, student playwright's work with graduate and undergraduate students of Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville NY
- Director, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Syracuse Stage, whose Syracuse University student understudies were active participants in the rehearsal process
- Voice and Shakespeare Teacher, Old Dominion University
- Voice and Acting Teacher, University of Alabama, Birmingham
- Guest Lecturer, Vienna Center for the Arts, Austria
 - Professional Practices, Acting and Directing
- Guest Lecturer, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 - Designing with Directors and Designing Your Portfolio
- Guest Lecturer, Old Dominion University
 - Theatre Management
- Guest Lecturer, DeSales University
 - Professional Practices, Acting and Directing
- Guest Lecturer, California State University, Sacramento
 - Professional Practices, Acting and Directing
- Guest Lecturer, Hampton University
 - Shakespeare
- Guest Lecturer, Christopher Newport University
 - Professional Practices
- Voice, Shakespeare and Acting Teacher, Walnut Street Theatre School
- Voice, Acting, and Creative Dramatics Teacher, Alliance Theatre School
- Professional Advisor to the Theatre Department of the Governor's School for the Arts, Norfolk VA, including consultations with faculty on training methods, career advice for students, opportunities for professional auditions and mainstage casting, internship opportunities, master classes, and establishing performance collaborations between Virginia Stage and the Governor's School students
- Leader of workshops connecting high school teachers with theatre techniques to utilize in the teaching of all subjects
- Leader of workshops to teach high school teachers how to produce and direct their school plays
- Teacher of theatre courses for the Virginia Beach Center for Adult Continuing Education and the Old Dominion University Adult Education Center

Directing Experience

LORT/REGIONAL

Virginia Stage Company
Norfolk, VA
Artistic Director
1993-2004

<i>Hamlet</i>	Shakespeare
<i>Othello</i>	Shakespeare
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Shakespeare
<i>A Delicate Balance</i>	Albee
<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i>	Albee
<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	Williams
<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>	Williams
<i>A Perfect Ganesh</i>	McNally
<i>Dinner with Friends</i>	Margulies
<i>Alfred Stieglitz Loves O'Keefe</i>	Robertson
<i>Nobody Lonesome for Me</i>	Robertson – WP
<i>A Penny for the Guy</i>	Robertson – SP
<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	Wilde
<i>The Last Night of Ballyhoo</i>	Uhry
<i>The Lonesome West</i>	McDonagh – RP
<i>Falsettos</i>	Finn/Lapine
<i>Terra Nova</i>	Tally
<i>Sea Marks</i>	McKay
<i>My Children! My Africa!</i>	Fugard
<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	Coward
<i>A Christmas Carol w/ Jerome Kilty</i>	McCann – WP
<i>Sleuth</i>	Shaffer
<i>The Drawer Boy</i>	Healey
<i>Greetings!</i>	Dudzick
<i>Side by Side by Sondheim</i>	Sherrin et al.

Walnut Street Theatre
Philadelphia, PA
Associate Director
1987-1989

<i>Henceforward</i>	Ayckbourn
<i>The Normal Heart</i>	Kramer
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Shakespeare
<i>Sins of the Father</i>	Steele – N
<i>Hosanna</i>	Tremblay
<i>Sly Fox</i>	Gelbart
<i>Social Security</i>	Bergman
<i>Invictus</i>	Hutzler - N
<i>She Also Dances</i>	Arnold - N
<i>A Cup of Change</i>	Perring – WP

Alliance Theatre
Atlanta, GA

<i>Broadway Bound</i>	Simon
<i>The Normal Heart</i>	Kramer
<i>The Sea Horse</i>	Moore

Alliance TYA

<i>A Light in the Attic</i>	<i>The Gadget</i>
<i>The Energy Show</i>	<i>Wiley & The Hairy Man</i>

Syracuse Stage Syracuse, NY	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> <i>The Last Night Of Ballyhoo</i>	Williams Uhry
Studio Arena Buffalo, NY	<i>Golf with Alan Shepard</i>	Lewis
Clarence Brown Theatre Knoxville, TN	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> <i>The Odd Couple</i>	McCann Simon
Vermont Stage Company Burlington, VT	<i>Othello</i>	Shakespeare
Pennsylvania Stage Co. Allentown, PA	<i>The Penultimate Problem</i> <i>of Sherlock Holmes</i> <i>Talley's Folly</i>	Nassivera Wilson
Arkansas Repertory Theatre Little Rock, AR	<i>Lend Me A Tenor</i>	Ludwig
Seven Angels Theatre Waterbury, CT	<i>Golf with Alan Shepard</i>	Lewis
Big/Small Theatre Philadelphia, PA	<i>Huitzika</i>	Henderson - WP
Springer Opera House Columbus, GA	<i>Sly Fox</i>	Gelbart
<u>OFF-BROADWAY</u>		
Actors Playhouse Manhattan Class Company Pulse Ensemble Theatre	<i>Hosanna</i> <i>Unabridged</i> <i>Buttercup</i>	Tremblay WP WP
<u>STOCK</u>		
Flat Rock Playhouse Flat Rock, NC	<i>Vaudeville</i> <i>Sly Fox</i>	Carr - N Gelbart
Mt. Gretna Playhouse Mt. Gretna, PA	<i>An Act of the Imagination</i> <i>Side by Side by Sondheim</i>	<i>Social Security</i>
Weathervane Theatre Whitefield, NH	<i>Oklahoma!</i> <i>Hansel and Gretel</i> <i>The Three Bears</i> <i>Rapunzel</i>	<i>Emperor's New Clothes</i> <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> <i>Cinderella</i>

WP: World Premiere
SP: Southern Premiere

RP: Regional Premiere, First LORT Production
N: New, Second Production

References

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