Jake Sheffer

Theatre Arts Educator/ Educational Director/ Musical Theatre Composer

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Education:

- Licensed B.A. in Theatre Arts Education (K-12), Lees-McRae College, *Banner Elk, NC, 2012*

Other Training:

• 3 Years of Acting/Voice (Drama & Musical Theatre) from *Act Two Performing Arts, MD*
• 1 Year of Voice from *Ms. Jennifer Lopez* at *Montgomery College, MD*
• 9 Years of Guitar & Composition from *Mr. Jake Sheffer Sr.* with *Montgomery College, MD*
• 6 Years of Dance and Choreography Training from *Wheaton Dance, MD*
• 6 Years of Tae Kwon Do from *World Classic Martial Arts, MD*

Other Skills:

Reads music, Experienced musical theatre composer/ lyricist/ book writer/ orchestrator, Intermediate music theory & sight reading skills, Intermediate guitarist, Experienced vocalist, Beginner pianist, Experienced in Finale notation software, Intermediate in Final Draft screenwriting software, Intermediate choreographer (Hip-hop), Intermediate lighting board programmer, Beginner set design and construction, Stephen Sondheim aficionado

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Teaching Experience:

Music Teacher — *Forte Preparatory Academy Charter School* — 2026-present

- Teach 3 7th grade general music classes with large focus on vocal performance and music theory
- Classes of 32 students co-ed
- 7th grade advisor

Theatre Arts Teacher/ Director — *The St. Paul's Schools* — 2018-2026

• Taught 4 Theatre classes of 5th-8th grade at all boys middle school each semester, class size ranged from 8-20 students
• Designed an ever-evolving curriculum that allowed for both specialization and differentiation of instruction across all grade levels exploring a range of theatrical disciplines including but not limited to: Acting Technique, Pantomime, Improvisation, Musical Theatre Choreography, Musical Theatre Composition & Lyric Writing, Playwriting, & Theatre History (including Ritual Theatre, Medieval Morality Plays, Japanese Noh Plays, and original works based on Aristotle's Rules of Drama)
• Directed 2 after-school productions each year in partnership with St. Paul's School for Girls, collaborated with professional production team, productions built on shared budget and set rep model (venue shared between both lower, middle, and upper school functions), productions ranged in cast size from 27-50 students
• Ran additional semester long Playwriting & Performance course for 7th & 8th grade students where students wrote and revised original works in one quarter and then collaborated/explored every other element of production for each other's work in the next (ex. Directing, Stage Managing, Lighting, Set Design, Sound, Prop Making, Costuming, etc.).
- Served as 7th grade advisor

Theatre Arts Teacher/ Director — *Everyman Theatre* — 2019

- Taught original Western Comedy summer camp class to 4th-6th grade students in inner city Baltimore, MD

Theatre Arts Teacher/ Director — *Drama Kids International* — 2017-2018

• Taught several Theatre classes after-school across multiple schools in Montgomery County, MD for students in Kindergarten-5th grade, curriculum provided by *Drama Kids International*

Theatre Arts Teacher/ Director — *Imagination Stage* — 2016-2018

• Taught a wide array of after school and summer courses for grades 5th-12th
• Courses included: Auditioning 101, The Actor's Toolbox, Physical Comedy, Musical Theatre Showcase, Musical Theatre Boot Camp: *Hamilton*, & Musical Theatre Boot Camp: *American Idiot*
- Guitar accompanist
- Choreographer

Theatre Arts Teacher/ Director — *Smith Middle School* — 2012-2016

• Taught 2-3 classes in combination with 2-3 classes at *Phillips Middle School* in Chapel Hill, NC in order to supplement full-time position
• Built program enough in 2 years to become full-time program of 5 6th-8th grade Theatre classes by 2014
• Directed, Choreographed, Tech Directed 2 after-school productions each year (Fall play & Spring musical)
• Built wide-reaching curriculum across range of theatrical disciplines for co-ed grades 6th-8th, class sizes 10-35 students

Theatre Arts Teacher/ Director — *Phillips Middle School* — 2012-2014

• Taught 2-3 classes in combination with *Smith Middle School* in Chapel Hill, NC in order to supplement full-time position
• Built wide-reaching curriculum across range of theatrical disciplines for co-ed grades 6th-8th, class sizes 10-20 students
• Directed, Choreographed, Tech Directed 2 after-school productions each year (Fall play & Spring musical)
• Former student of *Phillips Middle School* became Theatre teacher at *Smith Middle School* (2023)

Student Teacher/ Director — *Watauga High School* — 2012

• Finished degree in Theatre Arts education at Watauga High School under mentorship of Greg Pope
• Gradually led 3 different Theatre courses in Theatre 1, Theatre 2, and Technical Theatre
• Asst. Carpenter/ Asst. Tech Director on after-school musical production of *Seussical*

Educational Directing:

Director, Choreographer	*Beetlejuice, Jr.*	St. Paul's	2026
Asst. Director	*Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*	St. Paul's	2025
Director, Choreographer	*Shrek, Jr.*	St. Paul's	2025
Asst. Director	*Finding Nemo Kids*	St. Paul's	2024
Director, Choreographer	*James & The Giant Peach, Jr.*	St. Paul's	2024
Asst. Director	*To Sword or to Sand*	St. Paul's	2023
Director	*Newsies, Jr.*	St. Paul's	2023
Asst. Director	*How to Build a Time Machine*	St. Paul's	2022
Director	*Mary Poppins, Jr.*	St. Paul's	2022
Asst. Director	*The Ghosts of Sleepy Hollow*	St. Paul's	2022
Director	*Ranked (Virtual Musical)*	St. Paul's	2021
Asst. Director	*The Odyssey (Outdoor)*	St. Paul's	2021
Director	*You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*	St. Paul's	2020
Asst. Director/ Choreographer/ Guitar	*A Midsummer Night's Dream*	St. Paul's	2020
Director	*Once Upon a Mattress*	St. Paul's	2019
Director, Technical Director	*Once Upon a Mattress*	Smith MS	2016
Director, Technical Director	*Our Town*	Smith MS	2015
Director, Technical Director	*Into the Woods*	Smith MS	2015
Director, Technical Director, Composer	*The Odyssey*	Smith MS	2014
Technical Director	*High School Musical*	CHCCS District	2014
Director, Technical Director	*Oliver Twist*	Phillips MS	2013
Director, Technical Director	*You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*	Phillips/ Smith	2013
Director, Technical Director	*Peter Pan and Wendy*	Smith MS	2012

Musical Theatre Composition:

Staged Reading	*Robert & Company*	Stages, Music, Arts	2024
Music, Lyrics, Orchestration	*The Colorful Kite Adventures of Casey Porter*	Lance Baldwin	2023-present
Music, Lyrics	*Road End EP (7 Demos)*	Personal	2020
Book, Music, Lyrics, Orchestration	*Robert & Company*	Personal	2018-2023

• Original sung through musical chronicling the life of a counter-culture comedian and his family - includes 46 songs and 7 short stand-up comedy sequences, scored for: acoustic guitar, electric guitar, upright bass, drums, trumpet, piano, and harp

Music, Lyrics	*Everything on Paper*	w/ Richard Gebo	2017-present
Music	*On With the Motley*	w/ Itai Yasur	2017
Staged Reading	*Falling Higher*	Villain & Saint	2017
Original Music	*The Odyssey*	Smith MS	2014
Book, Music, Lyrics, Orchestration	*Falling Higher*	Personal	2010-2017

• Original book musical exploring 6 interlocking storylines in Seattle, WA - includes 32 songs written for full grunge band and small string section