

KATIE PEÑA-VAN ZILE

THEATRE PRODUCER | DRAMATURG | PLAYWRIGHT | DIRECTOR

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Based in Louisville, Kentucky

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Theatre producer, dramaturg, playwright, and director with extensive experience in professional regional theatre production, new play development, literary practice, and cross-functional arts administration. Experienced in producing full seasons of work, managing complex budgets and contracts, supporting artists through development and production processes, and advancing accessibility and inclusion initiatives. Recognized for integrating dramaturgical practice into producing work and for developing theatre that centers underrepresented voices, disability aesthetics, and community engagement.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Producing • Dramaturgy • Literary Management • Production Management • Budget Oversight • Contract Administration • New Play Development • Artist Collaboration • Accessibility & Inclusion • Strategic Planning • Community Partnerships • Event Production • Directing • Theatre for Young Audiences • Educational Programming • Project Management • Whimsy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Actors Theatre of Louisville

Line Producer | June 2023 – Present

- Line Producer for the 2023–24, 2024–25, 2025–26, and upcoming 2026–27 seasons.
- Lead Producer for *The After Show Show with Dusty Ray Bottoms and May O'Nays*,
- Produce and manage a portfolio of productions, workshops, readings, and special events for a major regional theatre.
- Oversee production budgets, contracts, schedules, and operational planning across multiple concurrent projects.

- Provide dramaturgical support, including script analysis, research, developmental feedback, and audience/context materials.
 - Collaborate with playwrights, directors, designers, and artistic leadership throughout creative development and production processes.
 - Support commissioning, workshop development, and new play processes from early development through production.
 - Supported the Learning and Creative Engagement Department, coordinating community residencies and programs, including workshops for participants with disabilities.
 - Coordinate cross-department communication across artistic, production, marketing, development, education, and operations teams.
 - Advance accessibility, inclusion, and equitable artistic practices across organizational programming.
 - Maintain and develop partnerships with local, regional, and national artists and organizations.
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Down Syndrome of Louisville

Communications Coordinator | June 2022 – June 2023

- Responsible for the organization's external communication efforts, including design, content, scheduling, and execution of print, digital, and social media campaigns. (50,000 followers and growing)
 - Responsible for the organization's internal communications, including daily emails, weekly family updates, and monthly newsletters.
 - Responsible for Award-Winning Social Media Fundraising campaigns.
 - Responsibilities include website management and calendar updates. Works closely with Development and Engagement to provide effective communications.
 - Responsible for effectively managing the organization's database and supporting Development activities and fundraising events.
 - Lead person for volunteer recruitment, training, scheduling, and communications.
 - Independently lead Playwriting programming for adults with Down Syndrome
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Kentucky Kids on the Block

Marketing & Development Director, Scriptwriter & Puppeteer | June 2020 – June 2022

- Advanced from performer to leadership roles overseeing marketing, development, and communications initiatives.
- Performing Educational Puppetry Programming for students across the state of Kentucky.

- Developing Educational Puppetry Scripts. (Cyberbullying, Child Abuse Prevention, Accepting Differences, Tobacco Abuse Prevention, Bullying Prevention.)
 - Wrote, edited, and published content to share on all social media profiles.
 - Designed and created marketing materials for social media and print.
 - Maintained branding and kept on top of the latest social media trends.
 - Monitored mentions on all social platforms and engaged with followers.
 - Increased reach and conversion by 78%
 - Managed Quarterly E-newsletter
 - Wrote grant proposals and maintained donor relationships.
 - Successfully planned and executed six fundraising events a year.
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PLAYWRITING & LITERARY WORK

Published & Licensed Plays

The Sisters Grimm — Stage Partners

Peace & Quiet — Stage Partners

Selected Works & Recognition

Womb Goof, Semi-Finalist, Dramatists Guild Catalyst Fellowship

Felt, Selected Participant, Disabled Playwrights Workshop, University of Kentucky

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

Next to Normal — Hardin County Playhouse

9 to 5: The Musical — Hardin County Playhouse

Shakespeare: I Woed Thee With My Sword — Three Witches Shakespeare

Cabaret — Clarksville Little Theatre

Scrooge's Christmas Journey — Assistant Director (Upcoming), Actors Theatre of Louisville

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- LORT BIPOC Mentorship Program — 2025 Cohort
- Dramatists Guild Catalyst Fellowship — Semi-Finalist

- Jerry E. Baker Scholarship — Western Kentucky University
 - Jerry E. Baker Completion Grant — Western Kentucky University
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EDUCATION

Western Kentucky University
BA, Theatre & Performing Arts Management