

KRISTEN VAN GINHOVEN

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Summary

Highly skilled executive-level and creative leader with a rich twenty-five year history of accomplishments as an artistic director, theatre director, producer, educator and actor. Passionate about arts and activism with a proven track record of innovation and impact. Rare blend of pragmatist and visionary.

Values and Strengths

- Insatiably curious
- Strong ability to inspire and motivate
- Self-starter who strives for excellence
- Committed to cultural humility
- Enjoys thinking outside the box
- Strong verbal and written communication
- Superb working memory
- Excellent relationship builder
- Strength in team and program leadership
- Community organizer

Experience

Producing Artistic Director, Founder

2010 - Current

WAM Theatre - Lenox, MA

WAM (Where Arts and Activism Meet) is a professional theatre that operates at the intersection of arts and activism.

- Grew WAM to an award winning theatre with a 500K budget
- Conceive and execute high quality artistic vision: select scripts, program seasons, direct plays
- Recruit, hire, train, mentor and manage a diverse group of staff, actors, production and creative teams
- Provide operational and organizational leadership, manage strategic planning, cultivate equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility
- Serve as the public face of the company: forge relationships, deliver speeches, attend conferences, conduct presentations, build strategic partnerships, advocate to local, state and federal government, grow and diversify audience
- Oversee budget, analyze financial reports, monitor national trends, generate income sources, ensure financial soundness
- Collaborate with theatres and community organizations, including the local Race Task Force and serving on Boards of Directors, co-producing with theatres such as Central Square Theatre (Cambridge, MA), Dorset Theatre Festival (Vermont) and Woolly Mammoth Theatre (Washington, D.C.)
- Spearheaded and drove a pay equity project and fostered progressive work practices, such as caregiving stipends and flexible work hours
- Retained a strong base of donors at all levels - raised over \$4,000,000 during tenure
- Donated \$90,000 in box office proceeds to 25 local and global organizations taking action for women and girls

Theatre Director

2010 - Current

- Direct a wide variety of productions in both Canada and the US
- Audition and cast actors, recommend designers, lead rehearsals, supply a unifying understanding of the text and a particular vision for the production
- Passionate about telling human rights stories, in particular those of women and girls
- Directed plays at theatre such as Arena Stage (Washington D.C), Barrington Stage Company (Pittsfield, MA), Berkshire Theatre Group (Stockbridge, MA), Capital Repertory Theatre (Albany, NY), Dallas Theatre Center (TX), Huntington Theatre Company (Boston), Stratford Festival of Canada, WAM Theatre (Lenox, MA)
- Directed plays such as *What the Constitution Means to Me* by Heidi Shrek (Starring Kate Baldwin), *Roe* by Lisa Loomer, *Ann* by Holland Taylor (Starring Jayne Atkinson), *Disgraced* by Ayad Ahktar, *I and You* by Lauren Gunderson, *The Bakelite Masterpiece* by Kate Cayley, *In Darfur* by Winter Miller, *The Whale* by Samuel Hunter

Theatre Arts Educator

2003 - 2016

- Taught theatre and performance skills at middle, high school and college levels.
- Coordinated and directed performances involving up to 100 students
- Developed and implemented curricula for drama student program
- Taught at institutions such as Williams College (Williamstown, MA), Visiting Lecturer in Theatre 2016; Emerson College (Boston, MA), Adjunct Faculty 2010; Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario) Artist in Residence / Teaching Excellence Fellow 2008 - 2014; International School Theatre Association (worldwide) Freelance Artist 2005-2021; International School of Brussels, Middle and High School Theatre Teacher-2003-2007

Actor

1996 - 2007

- Acted and played leading roles in critically-acclaimed productions
- Worked in theatres such as Tarragon Theatre (Toronto), Sudbury Theatre Center, Neptune Theatre and Shakespeare by the Sea (Halifax, NS), Repercussion Theatre (Montreal)
- Played roles such as Rosalind in *As You Like It* to Dotty Otley in *Noises Off* to Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest* to characters in new plays and devised productions

Education and Training

M.A, Theatre Education Emerson College - Boston, MA Presidential Fellowship	2010
B Ed. Queen's University - Kingston, ON Artist in the Community Focus Program	2003
B.A, Theatre Dalhousie University - Halifax, NS	1996

Additional Information

Citizenship: Canada and United States

Languages: Intermediate French and Dutch

Selected Awards: Woman of the Year: Zonta Club of Berkshire County (2023), Executive Leadership Award: NonProfit Center of the Berkshires (2019), Top 25 Leaders: Berkshire Magazine (2019), recipient of the Larry Murray Award, presented by the Berkshire Theatre Critics Association, to a person that advances social, political, or community issues in Berkshire County (2017)

Talks: Multiple Keynotes, Two TEDx Talks

Panelist: Roundtable, morning news show of local NPR station, WAMC.