

MICHAEL WEBER

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Full curriculum vitae available upon request

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) DePaul University
Chicago Academy for the Arts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Artistic Director, Porchlight Music Theatre, Chicago, IL

June 2011 – present

- Direct and supervise personnel responsible for the development, creation, and execution of artistic, educational, and community programming serving over 100,000 patrons annually.
- Participate in PMT's strategic and multi-year financial planning activities in collaboration and partnership with PMT's Executive Director and Board of Directors.
- Plan a season of productions consistent with PMT's mission, vision, and values and develop a balanced budget (operating budget is \$2.5 million).
- Select and manage full-time artistic employees and contract artists.
- Develop, maintain, and implement season planning and execution in a manner that ensures PMT's artistic and fiscal integrity (12-13 productions are produced each year).
- Collaborate with staff in a mutually supportive and complementary relationship and create a diverse, inclusive culture.
- Establish and enhance productive working relationships with other artistic, community, and educational institutions regionally and nationally as well as funders.
- Serve as key spokesperson for the organization and maintain public trust.

Highlights:

- Advanced \$400,000 budget to \$2.5 million over the course of tenure at PMT.
- Developed new live programming initiatives including "lost" musical series *Porchlight Revisits* and compendium pre-performance event *Behind the Show Backstory* that explores the creation/development/performance history of each work.
- Inaugurated early career artist musical cabaret showcase *New Faces Sing Broadway*.
- Devised free touring public park performances *Broadway in Your Backyard*.
- Launched free and income-generating virtual programming including:
 - *WPMT: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio* which can be found on all major platforms.
 - *Broadway by the Decade* celebrating the American artform of music theatre from its inception.
 - *Sondheim @ 90 Roundtable* interrogating every musical in the Sondheim canon with guests including Raul Esparza, Judy Kuhn, John Doyle, Robert Falls, Lonny Price, Deanna Dunagan, Chris Jones, E. Faye Butler, Klea Blackhurst, Telly Leung, and more.
 - Established the first ever EDI Deputy program for artistic companies nationally as a resource position to address EDI issues with singular productions.
 - Presented the Chicago premieres of *A Catered Affair*, *A Class Act*, *The Gifts of the Magi*, *Double Trouble*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Far From Heaven*, *End of the Rainbow*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, *Marry Me a Little* (Sondheim-approved revision), and *Clear*.

- o Developed relationship with Milwaukee's Skylight Music Theatre resulting in an in-association collaboration to present the Chicago premiere of *Ernest Shackleton Loves Me*.

THEATRE- Artistic Directing (selections)*ERNEST SHACKLETON LOVES ME**RENT**SPRING AWAKENING**BLUES IN THE NIGHT* starring Felicia P. Fields*PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES**SOPHISTICATED LADIES**SUNSET BOULEVARD* starring Hollis Resnik*A CHORUS LINE**A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER**GYPSY* starring E. Faye Butler*MEMPHIS**MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG**BILLY ELLIOT**THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS**IN THE HEIGHTS**DREAMGIRLS**FAR FROM HEAVEN**SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM**HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS...**AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**DOUBLE TROUBLE**LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR AND GRILL**THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI**A CLASS ACT****Porchlight Music Theatre v****Chicago Premiere**Jeff Award Recommended**Jeff Award Recipient – BEST PRODUCTION**Newly Revised Production incl new song**Jeff Award Recipient – BEST ENSEMBLE**Jeff Award Nominated – Best Production**Jeff Award Nominated – Best Production**Jeff Award Nominated – Best Production**Jeff Award Nominated – Best Production**Chicago Premiere /**Jeff Award Recipient – BEST PRODUCTION**Jeff Award Nominated – Best Production**Jeff Award Recipient – BEST PRODUCTION**Chicago Premiere**Chicago Premiere /**Jeff Award Nominated – Best Production**Jeff Award Nominated – Best Production**Jeff Award Recipient – BEST PRODUCTION**Chicago Premiere**Jeff Award Nominated – Best Production**Chicago Premiere**Chicago Premiere /**Jeff Award Recipient – BEST PRODUCTION***Artistic Director, Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place, Chicago IL***January 2004 – November 2005 (Inaugural Season)*

- Instrumental in taking a leading role in the design and season launch of the \$6 million Drury Lane Theatre in Water Tower Place on Chicago's "Magnificent Mile," now a flagship theater of the Broadway in Chicago portfolio known as The Broadway Playhouse.
- Collaborated with senior management team to implement an artistic vision for DLTWP and build consensus in relation to future direction.
- Set the artistic vision by selecting the season and leading all artistic, educational, and technical staff and volunteers.
- Cultivated relationships with leading playwrights, directors, designers, casting agents, and actors across the country to attract them to Chicago.
- Took a leading role in forging collaborations and building new audiences in the downtown Chicago region and the national field to increase the visibility and importance of the Drury Lane franchise.
- Acted as the primary voice of DLTWP and created unique programs that increased local impact.

Highlights:

- Developed vision and programming from the ground up for new, centralized city theatre contributing to the vast ecosystem of Chicago Theatre.
- Grew attendance from 0% to 80% in the first year.
- Launched collaboration that resulted in DLTWP hosting the Chicago sit-down production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* which played for over one year, in association with Broadway in Chicago.

Artistic Director, Theatre at the Center, Munster, IN*June 1998 – May 2004*

- Responsible for all artistic programming and hiring.
- Expanded the TATC performance schedule from a June–October summer stock season to a year-round Mainstage and TYA program.
- Advanced budget from \$300,000 to \$2 million, hiring 125+ employees annually and hosting over 50,000 patrons.
- Oversaw the expansion of the theatre facility to include an additional audience aisle.
- Expanded the reach of the Northwest Indiana-based theatre to be embraced within the Chicago-area theatre community with inclusion in regular reviews with media outlets including *The Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, WGN TV/Radio and all major TV outlets as well as inclusion of consideration by the Joseph Jefferson Awards resulting a Best Production nomination within the first two years for *She Loves Me*.

Highlights

- Instrumental in presenting the Chicago-area premieres of *Swinging on a Star*, *Getting Away with Murder* (Sondheim & Furth), *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Proposals* (Neil Simon), *Here's Love!-Miracle on 34th Street* (Meredith Willson), *High Society*, *A Christmas Story*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Almighty Bob*, *The Thing About Men*, and *Jolson & Company*,

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

SDC (union for professional directors) - Member (on hiatus while at PMT)

AEA (union for professional theatre performers) - Member

SAG/AFTRA (union for professional film/TV/radio performers) - Member

AGMA (union for professional musical artists) - Member

Arts Club of Chicago - Member

NAMT (National Alliance for Musical Theatre) - Member through company

TCG (Theatre Communications Group) - Member through company

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

- The Rotary Club of Chicago **DEI Panel**, Earth Day Celebration Event, in Collaboration with Rotary Club of Maywood Proviso and Rotary Club Aurora Sunrise
- Actors' Equity Association: **Central Regional Board Member** (2 terms)
- PACT (Producers Association of Chicago Theatre): **Negotiating Team Member, Secretary** (2023)
- Northwestern University: Senior Showcase **Adjudicator** (2012–2018)
- Joseph Jefferson Awards Ceremony: **Writer/Director** (2006–2018)
- **PBS Pledge Host** station WTTW channel 11 (2015-present)

ADDITIONAL

- The Theatre School/DePaul University: **Guest Faculty**, Music Theatre Exit Classes (*May 2010 – May 2020*); **Guest Director**
- Roosevelt University: **Guest Faculty**, Music Theatre Exit Classes (*May 2015 – May 2020*); **Guest Director**

RECOGNITIONS

Joseph Jefferson Award (nominations and wins) v

Director - Musical - Nominee

Gypsy (2019) - Porchlight Music Theatre

Production – Best Musical - Nominee

Gypsy (2019) - Porchlight Music Theatre

Production – Best Play

End of the Rainbow – (2017) - Porchlight Music Theatre

Director – Musical - Nominee

Side Show (2015) - Porchlight Music Theatre

Production – Best Musical - Nominee

Side Show (2015) - Porchlight Music Theatre

Production – Best Musical - Nominee

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (2015) - Porchlight Music Theatre

Production – Best Musical - Nominee

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (2015) - Porchlight Music Theatre

Director – Musical - Nominee

Pal Joey (2013) - Porchlight Music Theatre

Production – Best Musical - Nominee

Pal Joey (2013) - Porchlight Music Theatre

Director – Musical - Nominee

Assassins (2007) - Porchlight Music Theatre

Production – Best Musical - Nominee

Assassins (2007) - Porchlight Music Theatre

Director – Musical - Nominee

Grand Hotel, The Musical (2006) - Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place

Production – Best Musical - Nominee

Grand Hotel, The Musical – (2006) - Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place

Production – Best Musical - Nominee

She Loves Me (2004) - Theatre at the Center

Sound Design - Recipient

Michael Weber & Brian Johnson

Warhawks and Lindberghs - 1999 - Shattered Globe Theatre

Sound Design - Recipient

Stalag 17 - 1997 - American Blues Theater

[Players 2022: The Fifty People Who Really Perform for Chicago](#)

– *New City Stage*

[Players 2019: The Fifty People Who Really Perform for Chicago](#)

– *New City Stage*