

MATTHEW DAVIES

211 Fayette Street, Staunton, VA 24401 • mdavies@marybaldwin.edu • (512) 751-7718
http://www.matthew-radford-davies.com

Current Position

Professor & co-Director of the Shakespeare and Performance graduate program at Mary Baldwin University in partnership with the American Shakespeare Center

Education

Ph.D. in English Literature, May 2012

The University of Texas at Austin

M.A. in English Literature, May 2006

The University of Texas at Austin

B.A. with Honors, English Literature, June 1987

Exeter University, Devon, UK

Doctoral Dissertation

“Essex and the history players: the historiographic dramaturgy of John Hayward, William Shakespeare, George Chapman, and Samuel Daniel”

Committee: Frank Whigham, James Loehlin, J.K. Barret

Publications

“From Texas Hill Country to Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley: The Living Legacy of James Loehlin’s Approach to Studying Shakespeare Through Performance,” *The Hare*, February 2023.

“O, villain, villain, smiling damned villain!: *Hamlet* and the Rhetoric of Repetition,” in *Building Embodiment: exercises to illuminate poetic texts*, edited by Karen Kopryanski and Baron Kelley (New York, Routledge, 2023).

“The Strangers’ Case’: Accenting Shakespeare’s ESL Characters,” in *Shakespeare and Accentism*, edited by Adele Lee (New York: Routledge 2021).

“And practice rhetoric in your common talk’: How Ralph Made Rhetors Of Us All,” in *Shakespeare in the Light: Essays in honor of Ralph Alan Cohen*, edited by Paul Menzer and Amy Cohen (London: Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 2019).

Review of *Making Make-Believe Real: Politics as Theater in Shakespeare’s Time* by Garry Wills, *The Historian*, vol. 78.3 (fall 2016, pp.594-95).

“Past the size of dreaming’: Chasing Mark Antony’s Shadow,” *Playhouse Insider*, Summer/Fall 2015.

“Someone is looking at me still’: The Audience-Creature Relationship in the Theater Plays of Samuel Beckett,” *Samuel Beckett*, Bloom’s Modern Critical Views (London: Chelsea House, 2011).

“Someone is looking at me still’: The Audience-Creature Relationship in the Theater Plays of Samuel Beckett,” *T.S.L.L.*, 51.1, Spring 2009, 76-93.

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Conferences/ Presentations

“The American Elizabethan: B. Iden Payne and Elizabethan Revivalism in Twentieth Century American Theatre,” Shakespeare Group, The Cosmos Club, Washington DC, February 2023

“Gods in the Machine: Re-assessing the Impact of Audience Agency on the Gamification of Theatrical Narratives in the Age of QAnon,” panel paper, Matthew Davies and Liz Fisher, South Eastern Theatre Conference Symposium, November 2020.

“Shakespeare Monologue Jam,” co-presenter with Doreen Bechtol, South Eastern Theatre Conference, Louisville, KY, March, 2020

“Words, words, words’: Hamlet and the Rhetoric of the Cuckoo,” Blackfriars Conference, plenary paper, October 2019.

“Tom Jones Goes to the Theatre,” presenter, American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, Staunton, VA, October 2018.

“Voicing the Inside-Outsider: Performing Shakespeare’s ESL Characters,” panel speaker, Blackfriars Conference, 2017

“My native English, now I must forego’: Reflections on an Original Pronunciation Production of Shakespeare’s *Richard II* for the Prague Shakespeare Company,” guest lecture, La Salle University, Philadelphia, October 2017

“As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods’: The Ethical Crisis in Staging Nihilism in *King Lear*,” guest speaker, 24th Annual Law and Literature Seminar, Washington and Lee, October 2016

“From early modern devil to post-Holocaust victim: playing Shylock across the ages,” guest speaker, Virginia Governor’s Latin Academy, Randolph Macon College, July 2016

“With the Digital Lights On: Livestreaming and Online Interactivity in Performance and Education,” Blackfriars Conference, 2015

“The Graduate Company Model: Approaches to Collaborative Pedagogy,” South Eastern Theater Conference, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Spring 2015

“Let me play the lion, too’: A Rare Vision for Training Collaborative Theater Makers,” Association of Theater in Higher Education, Scottsdale, Arizona, 2014

“Embodying Shakespeare: Performance of the Language,” South Eastern Theatre Conference, Mobile, Alabama, Spring 2014

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“Bottom’s Dream: Collaborative Pedagogy and the Company Model,” Butler School of Dance and Theater, 2013

“Drawing Shakespearean Characters in Black and/or White: Conflicting Methodologies in the Contemporary Rehearsal Room.” Blackfriars Conference, 2013

“Rebellion Reflected: *Hamlet* and the 2nd Earl of Essex,” Shakespeare Association of America, Toronto, 2013

“The Dramatic Caesura in Action,” panel speaker, Blackfriars Conference, 2009

Teaching Experience

Associate Professor, Mary Baldwin University’s MLitt/MFA, 2017-Present

- Master of Letters: Directing for the Early Modern Stage; MLitt thesis advisor
- Master of Fine Arts: Advanced Acting; MFA thesis advisor.
- MBU undergraduate Theatre: Acting Styles

Assistant Professor, Mary Baldwin College’s MLitt/MFA, 2010-Present

- Master of Letters: Directing for the Early Modern Stage; Performance of the Language; Shakespeare’s Contemporaries
- Master of Fine Arts: Advanced Acting; Directing 3; Careers in the Theatre

Assistant Instructor, The University of Texas at Austin, 2008-2010

- Department of English, upper division Shakespeare Survey, 2008-2010
- Department of Rhetoric, 2008

Associate Director and actor-educator, Actors From The London Stage, 1999-2003

Campuses include:

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • UT Austin | • UT San Antonio | • University of Delaware |
| • University of Georgia | • Sewanee College, TN | • Middle State Univ., TN |
| • Chapel Hill, NC | • Portland State, OR | • Utah State University |
| • Oklahoma State | • Kansas State | • University of S. Illinois |
| • Univ. of Appleton, WI | • Hope College, MI | • Notre Dame, IL |

University Service

Co-program director, Shakespeare and Performance program (2022 -)

Faculty Status and Evaluation Committee, 2019-23 (Chair, 2021-23)

Shakespeare and Performance Search Committee, Chair (senior hire to replace founder)

Committee on Committees FSEC representative, 2021-23

Handbook Revisions Committee, 2022-23

Faculty Compensation Working Group, 2022

Workloads and Benefits Committee, MBC, 2014-2015

Interim Program Director, Shakespeare and Performance Program, MBC, 2013-2014

Search Committee, Vice President for Enrollment, MBC, 2014

Search Committee, Director of Training, S&P, 2011

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MFA Development Committee, MBC, 2010-2012
Education Policy Committee, S&P, 2010-Present
Search Committee, Graduate Representative, Modern Drama, UT Austin, 2008
Reader for *Texas Studies in Language and Literature*, 2007-2009
Consultant and Presenter for the Undergraduate Writing Center, UT Austin, 2006

Academic

Honors

VFIC Mednick Memorial Fellowship 2017, research grant in support of sabbatical project: “The Road to B. Iden Payne and His System of Modified Elizabethan Staging”
Continuing Excellence Writing Fellowship, UT Austin, Spring 2011 and Spring 2012
Presidential Excellence Award, UT Austin, Spring 2010
Professional Development Award, UT Austin, Spring 2010
Outstanding Assistant Instructor, Department of English, UT Austin, 2008
Exeter University, Dean’s Commendation for Outstanding Academic Achievement

Professional

Theater

For full resume, go to <http://www.matthew-radford-davies.com>

Actor

- Thirty years of experience in the United Kingdom and the United States
- Performed in over seventy contemporary and classic plays, and numerous television and film productions

Shakespeare Credits

Title roles in:

- *Antony and Cleopatra*
- *Titus Andronicus*
- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *Macbeth*
- *Venus and Adonis*
- *King Lear*
- *Prospero*
- *Shylock*
- *Bolingbroke*
- *King Henry IV*

Other major roles include:

- Enobarbus in *Antony and Cleopatra*
- York in *Rose Rage (Henry VI conflation)*
- Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*
- Apemantus in *Timon of Athens*
- Claudius in *Hamlet*
- Buckingham in *Richard III*
- Vincentio, Angelo, *Measure for Measure*
- Oberon, Theseus, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
- Orsino, Feste (separate productions), *Twelfth Night*
- Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*

Acting Awards

The Merchant of Venice, Best Actor, Richmond Critics Circle, 2016
We Play Chekhov, Outstanding Theatrical Event, 2014
Rose Rage, Outstanding Ensemble, Austin Critics Circle, 2012
Much Ado About Nothing, Outstanding Actor in a Comedy (Benedick), B. Iden Payne Awards, 2009
Richard III, Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Buckingham), Austin CC, 2006
Misconceptions, Best Actor, *Manchester Evening News Theater Awards*, 2001
Our Boys, Outstanding Ensemble, London *Time Out Awards*, 1994

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Founding Member, Breaking String Theater Company

- An Austin-based theatre company that performs Chekhov in relation to the contemporary Moscow arts scene

Associate Director and Actor, Actors From The London Stage

- Founded in 1970 by Patrick Steward to tour five-person Shakespeare productions to American Colleges and Universities

Professional Director credits (select)

Henry V, Prague Shakespeare Company, 2023
Henry IV, Part 1, Prague Shakespeare Company, 2022
How To Live On Earth, University of Virginia, Caplin Theatre, 2022
Romeo and Juliet, Starling Shakespeare, Mackinac, Michigan, 2021
Love's Labour's Lost, American Shakespeare Center, 2017
Tuna Does Vegas, Heritage Theater, Charlottesville, 2014
The Comedy of Errors, Austin Shakespeare Festival, 2009
Henry IV, Part One Austin Shakespeare Festival, 2008
Measure for Measure, co-director, Actors From The London Stage, 2003
Jackson's Ward (world premier), King's Head Theater, London, 2003
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Co-director, AFILS, 2001
Twelfth Night, Co-director, AFILS, 1999
Venus and Adonis, Citizens' Theater, Glasgow, 1993

Academic Theater

James Madison University, guest actor, Prospero, *The Tempest*, 2016

Washington and Lee University, guest actor, Claudius, *Believe None Of Us*, 2015

Radford University, guest director, *Twelfth Night*, 2014

Mary Baldwin College at the Blackfriars Playhouse, Co-director with Doreen Bechtol on *Romeo and Juliet* (2017), *Macbeth* (2016), *Much Ado About Nothing* (2015), *Henry IV, Part One* (2014), *Pericles* (2013); and with Colleen Kelly on *Love's Labour's Lost* (2012), and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (2011)

Mary Baldwin College at the Blackfriars Playhouse, guest undergraduate director, *The Children's Hour*, 2012

Mary Baldwin College at the Blackfriars Playhouse, Guest MFA Director, *The Byron Project* adapted from George Chapman's *The Conspiracy and Tragedy of Charles, Duke of Byron*, 2011

Notre Dame Summer Shakespeare, Text Director, *Love's Labour's Lost* and Moliere's *The Learned Ladies*, 2007

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Rice University, Guest Director, *Much Ado About Nothing*, 2007

Shakespeare at Winedale, Associate Director, *As You Like It* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, 2006

Radford College, Virginia, Guest Actor, Theseus/Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 2004

Professional Associations

Actors Equity Association (EMC)
British Equity Union of Actors (on hold)
Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (associate)
Modern Language Association of America
Shakespeare Association of America
Association of Theater in Higher Education
South Eastern Theater Conference
Theater Communications Group