

# JULIE YORK COPPENS

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## THEATRE: SELECTED PROJECTS AND PRODUCTIONS

### **Perseverance Theatre, Juneau (AEA SPT)**

- Production dramaturg, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, 2017: Provided historical and contextual research for actors and audience; composed program notes highlighting the play's contemporary relevance and connections to Alaska's own Jim Crow era; led community book club for Juneau Public Libraries; created elaborate lobby display with interactive "Boo Radley tree"; photographed rehearsals; produced 8-page illustrated Play Guide for students and educators
- Creative Drama instructor, Spring Break Camp, 2017: Devised "Superheroes and Supervillains" theatre games and original performance with 6-8-year-olds
- Season Selection Committee member, 2016-present: Work with artistic director Art Rotch and other company members to choose diverse repertory of contemporary works, locally generated plays and classics in support of Perseverance's mission of "professional theatre by and for Alaskans"

### **Juneau Arts and Humanities Council: Artist in the Schools**

- Participated in September 2016 "Artists as Educators" seminar on planning effective residencies, led by a master teacher from the Kennedy Center
- In spring 2017 will lead three-week residency with 10th-graders at Thunder Mountain High School, "Sporting with Shakespeare: Winners and Losers in *Much Ado About Nothing*," using my own one-hour adaptation of the play

### **Juneau Alaska Music Matters (JAMM)**

- Led after-school musical theatre program for ages 8-10, 2016-17
- Devised "Musical Theatre and Democracy" unit with student-created performance piece inspired by the blockbuster show *Hamilton*
- Developed Polynesian dance/storytelling piece inspired by film *Moana*

### **University of Alaska Southeast: One Campus One Book**

- Created "Get Mixed" student and community outreach program, fall 2016, based on the book *Mixed: Multiracial College Students Tell Their Life Stories*
- Adapted one of the book's essays into a dynamic Readers Theatre piece
- Led a guided-memory monologue-writing exercise and other activities to help students investigate their own life stories and identities

### **Northern Lights Junior Theatre**

Vocal/musical director and co-producer, *The Christmas Doll*, 2014

### **South Bend Civic Theatre, Indiana**

Playwright, *Concessions*, 2004; actor (Lil' Bit), *How I Learned to Drive*, 1999

## MUSIC

Play piano and baritone ukulele; experienced singer, songleader, musical adapter and lyricist; recent solo gigs include Mudrooms, Kindred Post First Friday

## DANCE

### **Juneau Dance Theatre**

Performed in *The Nutcracker*, 2015; wardrobe crew volunteer; choreographed and led Broadway Boot Camp dance exercise class, summer 2016

## ARTS JOURNALISM, EDITING and ADVOCACY

### **Educational Theatre Association, Cincinnati**, 1994-98 and 2008-16

- Served as senior editor and lead writer on EdTA's national publications staff, working primarily on the monthly *Dramatics* magazine (print circulation 35,000) and the quarterly *Teaching Theatre* journal (print circulation over 4,000), plus multiple online and social media platforms
- Coordinated and produced **Thespian Playworks**, student playwriting program culminating at the International Thespian Festival in Nebraska each June; ran nationwide selection contest, hired professional directors and dramaturgs to mentor the four winning writers, managed auditions and rehearsals of scripts in development, served as emcee for performances, and finally edited the plays for publication

### *The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*, 2004-2008

Chief theatre reporter and critic for largest-circulation daily newspaper in the Carolinas; reviewed professional, amateur and collegiate productions, covered events of national interest including Humana Festival of New American Plays and the Spoleto Festival, and wrote award-winning features on the city's burgeoning and sometimes controversial creative class

### *The South Bend (Ind.) Tribune*, 1998-2005

Chief arts reporter and critic for this leading regional daily for northern Indiana/southwest Michigan; theatre beat extended to Chicago

## PRO BONO

### **Ski for Light, Inc.**, 1997-present

- Volunteer instructor/guide for this national nonprofit that introduces the sport of cross-country skiing to visually and mobility-impaired adults
- Longtime board member, including two years as Vice President
- Recipient of Bjarne Eikevik President's Award (2011)
- Director of print publications and significant contributor to social media and other online content for PR, fundraising and recruitment

### **Girl Scouts of Southeast Alaska**, 2013-present

Volunteer troop co-leader, organizing dozens of activities: travel, outdoor recreation, community service and the arts, including a successful "Singing Brownie Valentines" fund-raiser, holiday caroling, Songs 'n S'mores, and a "Busting Stereotypes" video project (600+ YouTube views to date)

## EDUCATION and AFFILIATIONS

B.A. in theatre and journalism from Indiana University – Bloomington; also studied voice through the IU School of Music

Member since 1998 of the American Theatre Critics Association; serve on national selection committee, Primus Prize for emerging female playwrights

## TECH SKILLS

Expert in MS Word and other commonly used office apps; proficient in Adobe Creative Cloud, especially InDesign, Photoshop, PremierePro; fast, clean typist, transcriber, line editor, proofreader; A/V-capable; can use a sewing machine, ride a horse, paddle a kayak, drive a stick shift

## PERSONAL

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, I moved to Juneau in 2012 after falling in love with an Alaskan. I'm the proud parent of 12-year-old Seth Coppens and a 2-year-old schnoodle dog, Simeo. And I build awesome sand castles.