

Aaron James Shapiro

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Resume & Curriculum Vitae

OBJECTIVES: Aaron Shapiro is seeking employment in general or production management. He has an extensive background in non-profit arts management, budget management, programming, education, as well as employee leadership and development. Aaron proudly has founded two nonprofit theatre and education organizations and exudes an entrepreneurial spirit while leading by example. He has served successfully as a General Manager and Production manager in the freelance entertainment sector of Chicago. This resume/cv hybrid has been created to more comprehensively communicate his experience and background and illustrate how his vast and varied work history will translate into an ideal candidate for your employment needs! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Education:

Barat College of DePaul University Chicago, 1999-2004

- B.A. in **Acting & Directing** – Studied acting for four years and directing for two. Gradually my focus shifted more and more towards directing. I performed in 10 main stage shows and directed several productions independently of the theatre school.
- B.A. in **Economics** - For my senior capstone I researched and created a business plan for starting a nonprofit production company based in Chicago. This became the original vision for Oracle Productions
- Graduated **Cum Laude** and received **Departmental Honors** in both majors.

Theatre Administration:

Artistic Director | ORACLE PRODUCTIONS, NFP | 2003-2008

- Oracle Productions started at Barat College and we produced shows independently of the theatre department. We incorporated the company in 2004 as a nonprofit, with the intent of continuing to produce after college in Chicago. I procured the start up capital, created the organization's initial by-laws, and functioned as the organization's entrepreneur, creating the mission and strategy for breaking into the saturated Chicago market.
- I served as the founding Artistic Director, and directed all our productions from 2003 until 2006. In 2004 I spearheaded the opening of the ORACLE THEATRE in Chicago, a 40-seat black box venue. I oversaw Oracle's structural development, led the ensemble through 4 seasons, began the company's board development, and ran the business. In 2006, I became

the organization's primary production manager out of developmental necessity until my departure in 2008.

Executive Director | Studio BE, NFP - MCL CHICAGO | 2009-2015

- 2009-2010 - Conceived, co-founded, and incorporated a unique organization dedicated to performing arts education and non-profit development in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. In year 1 I wrote the organization's business plan, bylaws, obtained 40k in funding, signed a lease to a 3000 sq ft storefront, built it into a 100 seat venue, obtained a PerformingArtsVenue license and 501©(3) status, and launched our first residency program, our first summer camp, and first year of after school programming.
- 2010-2011 – I oversaw our second full season of youth programming, launched our first partnership with Columbia College's CCAP afterschool program. I expanded our rental revenue by 100%, booked & managed the venue for over 30 tenants, planned and managed budgets and payroll, and oversaw the growth of an operational budget of 40k (yr 1) to over 120k (yr 2).
- 2011-2012 – I oversaw our third full season of youth programming, began partnerships with 3 CPS schools, expanded our in house programming 50%, obtained over 30k in fundraising, and completed our three year plan to open a new venue for our resident company. Initiated an original co-production of successful satire with 4 Day's Late Productions of Jersey Shore The Musical. The production ran mostly sold out for nearly 10 months. Expanded our revenue from 120k (yr 2) to 300k (yr3)
- 2013-2015 – Studio BE split into two separate organizations and restructured. I spearheaded the transition of the Studio BE venue into Music Comedy Live Chicago. MCL Chicago launched officially in August of 2014, completely renovated and with a new mission. MCL Chicago is the only venue in the country dedicated to fostering and producing the emerging art form of improvised music comedy. This transition has allowed me to pursue a more focused freelancing career.

Production Manager | Victory Gardens Theatre | 2016-2018

- In 2016 I joined the team at Victory Gardens as the full time production manager. I was in charge of the entirety of the production department and oversaw several full time positions; Technical Director, Master Electrician, Sound Supervisor, as well as all part time production staff per production. I was in charge of our USA CBA and handled negotiations and executions. During my time at Victory Gardens I managed over 3 million dollars of resources.
- Victory Gardens produced 5 mainstage shows each season. For these shows I submitted budgets for approval, hired design teams, set and enforced all production deadlines, managed a team of technicians and staff, was responsible for safety measures, and was generally responsible for incredibly complex artistic collaboration processes.
- I was the point person for all resident organizations, events, and served as the primary liaison for all venue rental needs.

Production Manager | Emerald City Theatre | Sept 2018 - Jan 2020

- In 2018 I started as the full time production manager with Emerald City. Within 3 months I was asked to join the Senior Staff.

- Emerald City boasted the largest amount of youth programming in Chicago. I was the primary point of contact for venue relations where the organization produced projects. I staffed and contracted all technical staff, was responsible for safety measures, and was generally responsible for incredibly complex artistic collaboration processes.
- Was given a \$2000 bonus at 6 month review.
- Sadly the company dissolved in Jan 2020.

General Manager | Criterion Productions | Sept 2018 - Feb 2020

- I served as a freelance employee as a General Manager for two commercial productions.
- I generated project proposals to Producers, budget estimates, P&L analysis and projections, and monthly and weekly financial analysis.
- I built the production processes from scratch for producers. This included contracting 100% of employees from actors, designers, creatives, and run crews. I was the primary point of contact between producers and all staff.
- I was the point negotiator for the actors union, musician's union, and United Scenic Artists (designer union).
- Ultimately I managed \$2 million dollars in receipts and all revenues, working with accountants to properly structure and organize investments, sponsors, and LLC structures.

Interim Director of Production | Chicago Opera Theater | Dec 2019 - Feb 2020

- In December of 2019 I was asked to help COT with their transition period after losing their long standing Director of Production.
- Learned about the differences between AEA and AGMA
- Oversaw full time lighting director and technical director

Producing, Management and Directing Credits:

Position	Show Title	Year	Company	Notes
Production Manager	Hit Her With the Skates	2020	Commercial Production	Sadly closed during previews due to Covid Pandemic
Interim Director of Production	FREEDOM RIDERS	2020	Chicago Opera Theatre	Studebaker Theater
General Manager	ELEANOR	2019	DMT Productions	Holiday Show - Musical
General Manager	Miracle the Musical	2018-19	Miracle Productions	Running at the Royal George 5 month run
Production Manager	Twas the Night', Fantastic Mr. Fox, Corduroy	2018-19 Season	Emerald City Theatre TYA Company	Season Production Manager
Production Manager	Djembe the Show!	2018	Foresight Theatricals	Apollo Theatre
Production Manager	Memphis	2018	Porchlight Music Theatre	Jeff Nominated Best Musical - midsize
Production Manager	Buddy Holly Musical	2018	American Blues Theatre	Jeff Winner Best Musical-Midsize, Best Ensemble
Production Manager	Hand to God, Roz and Ray, Wonder in My Soul, Queen, Native Gardens, Fun Home , Fade	2016-17	Victory Gardens Theatre	Directors: Chay Yew, Gary Griffin, Marti Lyons, Joannie Schultz, Sandra Marquez Hand to God Jeff Nominated Best Production-Play-Large
Production Manager	In The Heights	2016	Porchlight Music Theatre	Director Brenda Didier. Jeff Nominated Best Production - Musical-Midsize
Production Manager	Twisted Knots	2016	Twisted Knots LLC	Commercial Production The Royal George Theatre
Production Manager	Splintered Soul	2016	Arla Productions	Commercial Production Stage 773
Production Manager	Disenchanted The Musical	2016	Starvox Entertainment	Commercial Production The Broadway Playhouse.
Production Manager	Dreamgirls	2016	Porchlight Music Theatre	Director Brenda Didier. Jeff Winner Best Production -Musical - Midsize
Production Manager	Sight Unseen	2016	Adventure Stage	Director Rives Collins TYA
Production Manager	Heathers The Musical	2016	Kokandy Productions	Director Jim Beaudry. Jeff Nominated Best Production - Musical
Production Manager	Far From Heaven	2016	Porchlight Music Theatre	Director Rob Lindley. Jeff Nominated Best Production -Musical - Midsize
Production Manager	Caught	2016	Sideshow Theatre	Director Seth Bockley

Production Manager	Ain't Misbehavin	2015	Porchlight Music Theatre	Remount of 2014 Production
Production Manager	UNSPEAKABLE	2015	UNSPEAKABLE LLC	Commercial Production The Broadway Playhouse
Production Manager	Side Show	2015	Porchlight Music Theatre	Director Michael Weber Jeff Nominated Production-Musical-Midsized
Production Manager	The Rainmaker	2015	American Blues Theatre	Director-Ed Blatch Jeff Nominated Best Production - Midsized
Production Manager	Stupid Fucking Bird Remount	2015	Chicago Commercial Collective & Carlise Hart Productions	Commercial Production The Biograph Theatre
Production Manager	CHALK	2015	Sideshow Theatre	Director Megan Smith
Production Manager	Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum	2015	Porchlight Music Theatre	Director Michael Weber Jeff Nominated
				Production - Musical - Midsized
Production Manager	Sondheim on Sondheim	2015	Porchlight Music Theatre	Director Nick Bowling JEFF WINNER Production - MUSICAL REVIEW
Production Manager	Don't Go Gentle	2015	Haven Theatre	Director Cody Estle
Production Manager	Two Gentlemen of Verona	2015	Oak Park Festival Theatre	Outdoor Theatre
Production Manager	To Kill a Mockingbird	2015	Oak Park Festival Theatre	Outdoor Theatre
Production Manager	TYRANT	2014	Sideshow Theatre	Directors Megan Smith & Kathleen Akerley
Production Manager	How 2 Succeed in Business	2014	Porchlight Music Theatre	Jeff Nominated Production - Musical - Midsized
Production manager & Technical Director	Sweeney Todd	2014	Porchlight Music Theatre	Director Michael Weber JEFF NOMINATED Production - Musical - Midsized
Production Manager	Stupid Fucking Bird	2014	Sideshow Theatre	Director Jonathan Green
Production Manager	TYRANT	2014	Sideshow Theatre	Directors Megan Smith & Kathleen Akerley
Production Manage	Importance of Being Earnest	2014	Oak Park Festival Theatre	Outdoor Production

Production Manager	ITHAKA	2014	InFusion Theatre	Director Mitch Golob
Production Manager	Golden Dragon	2014	Sideshow Theatre	Directors Marti Lyons & Jonathan Green
Production Manager	Ain't Mis'Behavin	2014	Porchlight Music Theatre	Director: Brend Didier JEFF WINNER - BEST MUSICAL REVIEW
Director	The Wiz	2013	Beverly Arts Center	Youth Production
Production Manager	WE 3 LIZAS	2013	About Face Theatre	Director Scott Ferguson
Production Manager	Double Trouble	2013	Porchlight Music Theatre	Director Matt Crowle
Tour Manager	Elephant & The Whale	2013	Chicago Children's Theatre & Redmoon	Toured 4wks to multiple park district venues
Director	It's A Wonderful Pro-Life	2012 & 2013	4 Days Late	Studio BE
Director	Sweeney Todd – Student Edition	2012	Studio BE	Youth Production
Producer Production Manager	Les Miserables – Student Edition	2012	Studio BE	Youth Production
Executive Producer	Jersey Shore The Musical	2011/12	4 Days Late	10 Month Run
Director	URINETOWN	2011	Studio BE	Youth Production
Producer Production Manager	Little Shop of Horrors	2011	Studio BE	Youth Production
Director	The Jungle Book	2010	Studio BE	Youth Production
Producer Production Manager	Ragtime – School Edition	2010	Studio BE	Youth Production
Director	RENT – School Edition	2009	Studio BE	Youth Production
Production Manager	Need/Hedges 3	2008	Pine Box Theatre	Director K. Todd Freeman
Director	Sister Mary & Actor's Nightmare, Line	2006-07	ORACLE THEATRE	
Director	Lake Street Extension	2006	ORACLE THEATRE	
Producer Production Manager	Tape	2006	ORACLE THEATRE	Director Ben Fuchsen

Additional Technician & Design Experience & Credits:

Position	Show Title	Year	Company	Notes
Spot Op	Louis & Keeley Live at the Sahara	2015	Taylor Hackfield Presents	
Sound Designer	SHREK	2015	Niles West High School	
Sound Designer	On The Razzle	2015	Niles West High School	
Technical Director	Talent Show 2015	2015	Lake Forest High School	
Run Crew	Rosas Danst Rosas	2014	Museum Of Contemporary Art Chicago	
Sound Designer	Dead Man's Cell Phone	2014	Niles West High School	
Sound Designer	She Kills Monsters	2014	Niles West High School	
Lighting Designer and Technical Coordinator	Peter Pan	2014	Faith Hope & Charity Elementary	
Sound Designer	Avenue Q	2014	Niles West High School	
Sound Designer	Romeo & Juliet	2014	Niles West High School	
Sound Engineer/Board Op	Nutcracker	2013 & 2014	Ruth Page Foundation	Production at NEIU
Sound Designer	Title of Show	2014	Niles West High School	Toured to Il High School Theatre Fest at ISU
Sound Engineer/Board Op	Frog and Toad	2013	Chicago Children's Theatre	Director Henry Godinez, Sound Design: Ray Nardeli
Sound Designer	Title of Show	2013	Niles West High School	Youth Production
Touring Sound Engineer	Sonic Boom Summer Tour	2013	Redmoon Theatre	Toured spectacle performance to 10 public parks
Deck Crew	The Whisper Opera	2013	Museum of Contemporary Art & ICE	Museum of Contemporary Art
Sound Engineer/Board Op	Elephant & The Whale	2013	Chicago Children's Theatre & Redmoon Theatre	Director Frank Maugeri, Sound Design: Kevin O'Donnel
Sound Engineer/Board Op	Bud Not Buddy	2013	Chicago Children's Theatre	Director Derrick Sanders, Sound Designer: Rick Sims, @ Ruth Page
Technical Advisor & Lighting Designer	College Bound The Musical	2013	New England Music & Stage Company	@ Studio BE
Sound Engineer/Board Op	Harold & The Purple Crayon	2012	Chicago Children's Theatre	Director Sean Graney, Sound Design: Mike Griggs, Toured to 3 venues
Sound Designer/Board Op	Into The Woods Jr.	2012	Studio BE	@ Studio BE
Spot Light Op	Sound Of Music	2012	Chamber Opera Chicago	@ Athenaeum Main stage

Sound & Light Board Op	Brown Bear	2012	Chicago Children's Theatre	@ Biograph Theater
Sound Engineer/Board Op	Houdini Box	2012	Chicago Children's Theatre	Director Blair Thomas, Sound Designer: Rick Sims,
Sound Engineer/Board Op	Goodnight Moon	2011	Chicago Children's Theatre	Director David Kersner, Sound Designer: Rick Sims @ Biograph
Spot Light Op	My Fair Lady	2011	Light Opera Works	@ Cahn Auditorium
Sound Engineer/Board Op	Little Shop of Horrors	2011	Studio BE	
Spot Light Op	Student Prince	2011	Light Opera Works	@ Cahn Auditorium
Spot Light Op	Brigadoon	2011	Light Opera Works	@ Cahn Auditorium
Sound Engineer/Board Op	Story of My Life	2010	Theatre Muse	Director Richard Maltby Jr., Sound Designer Michael Bodeen @ Biograph
Spot Light Op	The Music Man	2010	Light Opera Works	@ Cahn Auditorium
Master Electrician	2009/2010 Season	2009/10	Pegasus Players	
Sound Engineer/Board Op	Snow Queen	2009	Victory Gardens	@ Biograph
Sound Engineer/Board Op	Tomorrow Morning	2009	Producer: Hillary Williams	Director Tom Mullen, Production received Jeff Award for Best New Musical @ Greenhouse Theatre
Scenic Design & Technical Director	Les Miserables	2008	The Entertainment Project	@ Copernicus Theatre
Scenic Design & Technical Director	Nightmare Before Christmas	2008	The Entertainment Project	@ Copernicus Theatre
Scenic Design & Technical Director	The Goonies	2008	The Entertainment Project	@ Copernicus Theatre
Scenic Design & Technical Director	Bye Bye Birdie	2008	The Entertainment Project	@ Copernicus Theatre
Scenic Design & Technical Director	Seussical	2008	The Entertainment Project	@ Copernicus Theatre
Scenic Design & Technical Director	Pirates	2008	The Entertainment Project	@ Copernicus Theatre

Additional Overhire Carpentry, Audio & Electrician Experience by Company:

Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakespeare, Chicago Spotlight, Lookingglass, Hypocrites, American Theatre Company, Chamber Opera Chicago, The House Theatre, The Lincolnshire Marriott, Writers Theater, Shattered Globe, Theatre Wit, Redmoon, Pegasus Players, Museum of Contemporary Art, Northwestern University, Route 66, Victory Gardens Greenhouse and Biograph, Teatro Luna, Teatro Vista, Timeline Theatre, Next Theatre, About Face, T.U.T.A., Light Opera Works, Collaboration, Albany Park Theatre Project, Kareem Tonsey Egyptian Dance, Bread & Roses Productions @ Athenaeum Main Stage, Chicago Children's Theatre, Griffin Theatre, St. Clements Elementary, Agassiz Elementary, Ruth Page Center, Francis Parker Day School