

## ANTHONY BYRNES

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Performing arts leader with 25+ years building sustainable infrastructure for cultural institutions across Los Angeles. Stewarded two venue openings from conception through operations: Center Theatre Group's \$12.1 million Kirk Douglas Theatre (on-time, on-budget) and Shakespeare Center's 600-seat outdoor amphitheater (achieving 20% year-over-year revenue growth). Currently serve as Interim Associate Dean at California State University Long Beach's College of the Arts, leading strategic planning, enrollment management, and operational systems for 4,300 students across six departments and two public arts units. Combines hands-on venue management experience with proven capacity to build teams, negotiate complex partnerships, and balance educational mission with earned revenue imperatives.

## VENUE DEVELOPMENT & CAPITAL PROJECTS

1997 - 2005

### **CENTER THEATER GROUP (CTG) - Mark Taper Forum & Kirk Douglas Theater (KDT)** ***Project Director, Kirk Douglas Theater Project***

- Stewarded \$12.1 million adaptive reuse project from conceptual sketch through on-time, on-budget delivery, transforming 1947 streamline moderne movie theater into 317-seat professional performance venue.
- Led all stages of project development including initial budgeting and programming studies, architect selection process, and design development with architects and consultants.
- Negotiated Disposition and Development Agreement and Lease with Culver City in public-private partnership (with CTG counsel).
- Designed operational model and annual budgets; built and managed staff of 50 full- and part-time employees for day-to-day operations and production.
- Oversaw \$450,000 renovation of Ivy Substation, CTG's 99-seat venue, in partnership with Culver City Redevelopment Agency and architect Steven Ehrlich.

2012 - 2015

### **THE SHAKESPEARE CENTER LOS ANGELES (SCLA)** ***Producer, General Manager***

- Designed and managed creation of 600-seat temporary outdoor amphitheater at West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Japanese Garden with SCLA's Veterans in Art program.
- Built complete front-of-house and back-of-house staff infrastructure from inception.
- Successfully transitioned organization from free theater model to earned revenue ticketing model, achieving 20% year-over-year ticket revenue growth.

## PRODUCING & OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

2009 - 2010

### ***Louis & Keely: Live at the Sahara*** ***General Manager, Producer***

- Served as producer and general manager for award-winning musical at Geffen Playhouse.
- Generated \$1.4 million in earned revenue from 8-month run in 135-seat venue.
- Managed all production, business, and operational elements including budgets, contracts, and artist relations.
- Led creative development: brought on Tony Award-winning director John Rando, oversaw script development with dramaturg, and produced strategic plan for commercial transfer.

2012 - 2015

### **THE SHAKESPEARE CENTER LOS ANGELES (SCLA)** ***Producer, General Manager***

- Managed all financial, operational, administrative, and production activities for \$1.6 million organization with 40+ staff (6 full-time, 35+ seasonal)
- Achieved 20% year-over-year earned revenue growth through transition from free theater to ticketing model
- Implemented unified data management infrastructure integrating ticketing, development, accounting, and communications systems across organization
- Produced annual Simply Shakespeare benefit led by Rita Wilson and Tom Hanks featuring musical guests including Paul McCartney and Paul Simon; increased gala revenue by 100% to \$500,000 annually.

**PRODUCING & OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT (cont.)****1997 - 2005      CENTER THEATER GROUP (CTG) - Mark Taper Forum & Kirk Douglas Theater (KDT)  
*Associate Producer of New Play Development***

For Center Theatre Group, produced and managed the *Taper, Too, New Work Festival*, and play development activities at the Kirk Douglas Theater, Ivy Substation, the evidENCE room, and the Actor's Gang from 1999 to 2005.

- Produced inaugural season of five world premieres at the Kirk Douglas Theater in 2004
- Produced and managed over 100 productions, workshops, and readings of new work for the theater

**EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION****2016 - Present      CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH (CSULB)****2023 - Present      *Interim Associate Dean for Student Success and Outreach, College of the Arts***

- Strategic oversight of college serving 4,300 students across 23 degree programs with 100 full-time and 300+ part-time faculty across six schools and departments with two public arts units.
- Identified and resolved advisor caseload crisis (400-665 students per advisor, highest on campus); secured funding for 5 new advising positions through novel funding proposal and cross-campus stakeholder collaboration
- Conceived and created comprehensive curriculum database integrating three independent university data sources into unified relational system enabling scheduling, planning, equity analysis, and longitudinal comparison; built complementary workload analysis database ensuring faculty equity
- Co-chair Strategic Planning Committee, embedding diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging (EDIAB) principles throughout college mission and operations creating the college's first strategic plan in 15 years.

**2020 - 2023      *Chair, Theatre Arts Department*  
*Elected by department colleagues***

- Strategic oversight of fiscal, academic, administrative, operational, and production activities for department with \$1.4 million annual budget, 28 faculty, and 310 students across four degree programs
- Developed transparent policies and procedures centering student work and inclusion; implemented student participation in season selection (50% of committee), removed gatekeeping practices, and embedded EDIAB principles throughout departmental operations and programming
- Oversaw 12 production and administrative staff

**2016 - 2023      *Program Head, MBA/MFA in Theatre Management***

- Managed recruitment, planning, evaluation, mentoring and administration of the dual degree graduate program in Theatre Management
- Mentored graduate students in a professional laboratory environment, overseeing their management, marketing, and development activities for CSULB's California Repertory Theater, which yields \$150k-\$200k in ticket sales across 6-8 productions annually.

**2022 - Present      *Associate Professor*  
2016 - 2022      *Assistant Professor*****2003 - 2014      Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA)**

Decade-long commitment to public arts education, teaching at LA County's arts conservatory serving diverse youth across Southern California.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CRITICISM****2010 - present      KCRW 89.9 FM  
*Theater Critic***

Theater critic providing weekly commentary to 300,000+ listeners with focus on building broader audiences and contextualizing LA's theater landscape.

**2007 - 2009      UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
*Director of Cultural Relations***

Liaison between university and arts community; created unified digital infrastructure (USCArts website, top-level domain) and curated cultural engagement programming connecting students with LA's arts ecosystem.

## HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

- 2011      **NEA Arts Journalism Fellow**  
The *National Endowment for the Arts Institute in Theater and Musical Theater* is a competitively selected 11-day Fellowship Program for arts writers and editors. Funded by a multimillion-dollar NEA initiative, the institutes offer intensive training for arts reporters and their editors. The goal is to encourage arts journalists to be media leaders.
- 2007      **National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) - Educator of Distinction**
- 2004      **Center Theatre Group - Special Recognition - Kirk Douglas Theatre Project**
- 2001      **Center Theatre Group - Gordon Davidson "Skipper Award"**

## EDUCATION

- 1994 - 1997      **California Institute of the Arts**  
Master of Fine Arts, Acting
- 1989 - 1994      **University of Pennsylvania**  
Bachelor of Arts, English  
*Graduated with Honors*

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Financial Management:** Quickbooks, Xero, AccountEdge, BillingsPro
- **CRM/Ticketing Systems:** Tessitura, PatronManager/Leap Patron Management, Salesforce
- **Production Software:** QLab, Lightwright, Vectorworks
- **Project Management:** Microsoft Project, Microsoft Planner Omniplan, Omnifocus, Asana, Slack
- **Design/CAD:** Revit, Inventor, Archicad, SketchUp, Vectorworks
- **Office & Database:** MS Office Suite, FileMaker Pro, MS Access, PowerBI, Postgres, MySQL, Python
- **Additional:** Adobe Creative Suite, Final Cut Pro, PC and Mac fluent

*Complete production and academic CV available upon request.*