KIIRA SCHMIDT CARPER

EDUCATION

BFA, Musical Theater Performance
Elon University, North Carolina, May 2003 Cum Laude

TEACHING & ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2025-present **Texas State University** (San Marcos, TX)
Assistant Professor, Tenure-Track
Co-head of Musical Theatre
School of Theatre, Dance, and Film
Courses Taught:

- TH 3271 *MT Styles I*
- TH 4271 *MT Styles III*
- TH 3251 *Tap I*
- TH 2261 *MT Jazz II*
- TH 3262 *MT Jazz III*

2020-2025 **Syracuse University** (Syracuse, NY)
Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre, Department of Drama, (2020-present)
Courses Taught:

- *DRA 130 Tap Dance I*
- *DRA 230 Tap Dance II*
- *DRA 330 Tap Dance III*
- *DRA 235 Jazz Dance II*
- *DRA 335 Jazz Dance III*
- *DRA 435 Jazz Dance IV*
- *DRA 311 Musical Theater Styles*
- *DRA 300 Special Topics—Musical Theatre Choreography*
- *DRA 300 Special Topics—Dance Wellness*
- Summer College (2022)
  - *Theater Jazz Master class*
  - *Broadway Tap Master class*

2015-2020 **Texas State University** (San Marcos, Texas)

Professor of Practice, Department of Theatre and Dance (2015-2020)
Courses Taught:

- *Ballet for Musical Theatre I*
- *Ballet for Musical Theatre II*
- *Ballet for Musical Theatre III*
- *Jazz for Musical Theatre I*
- *Jazz for Musical Theatre II*
- *Jazz for Musical Theatre III*

2014-2015 **Sam Houston State University** (Huntsville, Texas)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Theater and Musical Theater (2014-2015)
Courses taught:

- *THEA 4332 Auditioning for Commercial Theatre*

- *THEA 3117 Musical Theatre Workshop*
- *DANC 2228 Tap Dance Technique II*
- *DANC 3223 Jazz Dance Technique III*
- *THEA 4190 Senior Showcase*

NEXUS
Texas State Musical Theater Summer Intensive (2017-2019)
Musical Theater Dance Faculty
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

American Ballet Theater Summer Intensive (2016)
Musical Theater Dance Faculty
University of Texas, Austin, TX

Broadway Dance Center
Guest Musical Theater Dance Faculty
New York City, New York

Oklahoma City University (OCU/NYC program)
Guest Musical Theater Dance Faculty
New York City, New York

St. Joseph's University
Guest Musical Theater Dance Faculty
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Handa on Sydney Harbor, Opera Australia
Revival Choreographer, *West Side Story*
Sydney, Australia, 2024

Linzer Klangwolke '23 (Klanwolke Linz)
Dancer
Linz, Austria, 2023

Teatro Lirico di Cagliari
Associate Choreographer, *West Side Story*
Sardinia, Italy, 2022

REASERCH IN PROGRESS

Texas State University
Tap Choreographer
Mean Girls
Director: Tom Delbello

Texas State University
Mystic Pizza

Choreographer
Director: Aaron Brown

PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

"*The Importance of Self-Care and Mindfulness in Post-pandemic Academia"*
Musical Theater Educator Alliance Conference (January 2022)
New York City, NY

- Lead presenter with guest panel. Facilitated discussion that acknowledged the impact COVID has had on academia, theater artists, and training programs. Further shared science of the brain, impact of stressors, and lead group through breath work that emphasized regulating the nervous system during times of stress and triggering events.

"*Musical Theatre for Today's Opera Singer and Pianist: Practical, Artistic, and Professional Considerations"*.
Bold Voices. Boundless Futures. National Opera Association Conference
Boston, 2026 (Pre-recorded interview by Sara Chiesa (Presenter), recorded 2025)

- Discussed how American opera companies have begun to rely on the musical theatre canon in their programming to attract broader audiences and boost ticket sales. Was asked how opera artists can expand their toolbox and employability through smart, intentional cross-training.

PROFESSIONAL REASEARCH CONTINTUED

Washington National Opera, Washington D.C.
Associate Choreographer, *West Side Story*
Director: Francesca Zambello

The Zach Theater, Austin, TX
Choreographer, *Annie*
Director: Cassie Abate

LA Opera, Los Angeles, CA
Associate Choreographer for auditions and casting, *West Side Story*
Director: Francesca Zambello

Houston Grand Opera, Houston, TX
Associate Choreographer, *West Side Story*
Director: Francesca Zambello

Associate Choreographer, *West Side Story*
The Lyric Opera of Chicago
Director: Francesca Zambello

Associate Choreographer, SMASH, Pilot Episode
NBC Studios; New York City, New York
Executive Producer: Steven Spielberg
Director: Michael Mayer
Choreographer: Josh Bergasse

Choreographer, *Head Over Heels*
SU Drama, Co-Directors: Kiira Schmidt Carper and Kathleen Wrinn

Choreographer, *A Christmas Story*
The Redhouse, Director: Robert Ross Parker

Choreographer, *Sweet Charity*
SU Drama, Director: David Lowenstien

Choreographer, *Urinetown*
SU Drama, Director: Temar Underwood

Associate Choreographer, *Little Me*
New York City Center
Director: John Rando
Choreographer: Josh Bergasse

Associate Choreographer, *Secondhand Lions*
5th Avenue Theater
Director: Scott Schwartz
Choreographer: Josh Bergasse

Associate Choreographer, *It's a bird, It's a plane, It's Superman*
New York City Center
Director: John Rando
Choreographer: Josh Bergasse

Associate Choreographer, Fred Astaire Awards
New York City, Choreographer: Josh Bergasse

Choreographer, *Winterguard*
SU Drama, Director: Christine Albright-Tufts

Choreographer, *Guys and Dolls*
Texas State University, Director: Tom Debello

Choreographer, *Ragtime*
Texas State University, Director: Michael Rau

Choreographer, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
Texas State University, Director: Neil Patrick Stewart

Choreographer, *Legally Blonde*
Texas State University, Director: Cassie Abate

Choreographer, *HAIR*
Sam Houston State University, Director: Penny Hasekoester

Choreographer, *Cabaret*
Sam Houston State University, Director: Penny Hasekoester

Choreographer, *Funny Thing…Forum*
Sam Houston State University, Director: Laura Avery

Choreographer, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*
Heritage Theater Festival, Director: Robert Chapel

Choreographer, *Anything Goes*
Heritage Theater Festival, Director: Robert Chapel

Choreographer, *Spamalot*
Heritage Theater Festival, Director: Robert Chapel

Choreographer, *All Shook Up*
TexArts, Director: Keenah Armitage

Choreographer, TD Bank WOW!
Southeast Region Tour, Director: Julianna Schauerman

Assistant Choreographer, *Grease*
Music Theater Wichita
Director: Wayne Bryan
Choreographer: Sara Edwards

AWARDS AND HONORS

Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Award
"Excellence in Choreography"
A Funny Thing Happened…Forum
Sam Houston State University (2014)

Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Award
"Excellence in Choreography"
25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Texas State University (2016)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Diversity and Inclusion, Managing Bias, and Culture and Communication training (Syracuse University Office of Equal Opportunity, Inclusion, and Resolution Services, 2020)
- Creating Culturally Responsive Classrooms (Jeffery Mangram & Melissa Luke, Syracuse University, 2021)
- "Voices Matter: Why You Need to Talk About Race" (Syracuse University Orange Academy 2021)
- "Mindfulness Practices to Support Mental Health in Schools" webinar (Breathe for Change, 2021)
- "Enhancing Student and Educator Well-Being" webinar (Breathe for Change, 2022)
- Living Mental Wellness certification program (2021-present)

SERVICE

Texas State University Department of Theater Dance and Film

- Co-head of Musical Theater, Curriculum and Recruitment (Fall 2025 – present)
    - Musical Theatre curriculum updates and revisions
    - Program budget management, guest artists and scholarship allocations

- MT Choreography Track student mentorship
- Texas State University Musical Theatre BFA New York Showcase
- BFA program auditions
- Responsible for the planning and execution of annual auditions in Chicago, LA, San Marcos and on-line for students pursuing a BFA in Musical Theater
- Review audition videos (over 800) and live auditions (over 200)
- Make recommendations and send acceptance/rejection letters

- Arranged master classes with industry professionals and alumni. Selected list:
  - Sammi Cannold—MT Department Q&A with renowned Drama Desk Award-winning, Broadway, film, and television director.
  - Tyler Wesley – MT department Q&A with TXST alumni currently starring as Dallas "Dally" Winston in the Broadway national tour of *The Outsiders*
  - Emma Hearn – MT department Q&A with TXST alumni currently starring as Cherry Valance in the Broadway national tour of *The Outsiders*
  - Jamestown Revival – MT Department Q&A with Tony award winning and Grammy-nominated composers Jonathan Clay and Zach Chance of *The Outsiders*
  - Kyra Bell Johnson – Q&A in TH 4271 with TXST alumni who is currently starring as Belle in Disney's North American Tour of *Beauty and the Beast*
  - Cameron Thomas – dance master class in TH 4271 with TXST alumni who is currently starring as Babette in Disney's North American Tour of *Beauty and the Beast*

Syracuse University College of Visual and Performing Arts:
- Faculty Council (Fall 2021– 2023)
- Bylaws Committee (Fall 2021– 2023)

Syracuse University Department of Drama:
- Chorographer, Syracuse University Lewis B. Hecker Drama Showcase, (2020, 2021, 2022)
- Choreographer, Musical Theatre Department program audition virtual and in-person dance callbacks (2020-present)
- Department entrance auditions adjudicator and prescreens
- Search committee member for Professor of Practice of Musical Theater Dance (2023)
- Search committee member for tenure-track Assistant Professor of Musical Theater Dance (2020-2021)
- Search committee member for Tepper Semester Director (2021)
- Search member for Part-time Tap instructor (2022)
- Production Planning Working Group Task Force (2020)
- Sorkin Week selection panel (2020)
- Member, Core Values Statement revision faculty committee (2022)
- Annual classroom observation and written evaluation of Part-Time Instructors
- Participation in tri-annual faculty retreats (Spring, Fall, Winter) including faculty development workshops
- Arranged masterclasses with: Greer Gisey, Richard Yoder, Ali Solomon, LaTasha Barnes, Lloyd Culbreth, Mayte Natalio, Jonalyn Saxer, Nathan Levy, Adam Cates, Monique Williams
- Full academic advising load: 18 B.F.A. musical theater majors per graduating class
- Choreographer: *Winterguard*, SU Drama. Directed by Christine Albright-Tufts
- Significant course description revisions and curricular development

SELECTED RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE CREDITS

BROADWAY:
The *MYSTERY of EDWIN DROOD*, Studio 54
Miss Gwendolyn Pynn
Director: Scott Ellis
Choreographer: Warren Carlyle

ANYTHING GOES, Sondheim Theatre
Passenger/Reno understudy (performed)
Director/Choreographer: Kathleen Marshall

FOLLIES, Marriot Marquis Theatre
Margie/ Young Phyllis Understudy (performed)
Director: Eric Schaeffer
Choreographer: Warren Carlyle

IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS, Marriot Marquis Theatre
Rita
Director: Walter Bobbie
Choreographer: Randy Skinner

NO, NO NANETTE, New York City Center
Ensemble
Director: Walter Bobbie
Choreographer: Randy Skinner

STAIRWAY TO PARADISE, New York City Center
Ensemble
Director: Jerry Zacks
Choreographer: Warren Carlyle

REGIONAL:
MAME, The Kennedy Center
Ensemble
Director: Eric Schaeffer
Choreographer: Warren Carlyle

REEL TO REAL, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland
Cyd Charisse
Director/Choreographer: Lynn Taylor Corbett

A CHORUS LINE, Gateway Playhouse, Bellport, NY
Cassie
Director/Choreographer: Mitzi Hamilton

SWEET CHARITY, Gateway Playhouse, Bellport, NY
Charity Hope Valentine

Director/Choreographer: Mitzi Hamilton

A CHORUS LINE, The MUNY, St. Louis, MO.
Judy Turner
Director/ Choreographer: Denis Jones

CHICAGO, Riverside Theater
Merry Murderess
Director: Bill Castellino
Choreographer: Darren Lee

CATS, The MUNY, St. Louis, MO
Cassandra

DANCING IN THE DARK, The Old Globe, San Diego, CA
Annie/ Gabbie Understudy

OKLAHOMA!, Papermill Playhouse, Millburn, NJ
Gertie/ Ado Annie Understudy/Dance Captain

"Cool" – Career Transition for Dancers Gala
Graziella
Original Jerome Robbins Direction/Choreography: Josh Bergasse

TELEVISION
SMASH, NBC STUDIOS EPISODE 108
Tap Dancer

SMASH, NBC STUDIOS EPISODE 201
Runway Dancer

2012 TONY AWARDS, CBS
Best Revival of a Musical Performance
FOLLIES, "Margie"

2008 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS
Tap Dancer

CAST RECORDINGS
The Mystery of Edwin Drood
New Broadway Cast Recording 2012
DRG Records

Follies
New Broadway Cast Recording, 2011
PS Classics

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS
Actor Equity (2005-present)
Yoga Alliance (2017-present)

MTEA (Musical Theater Educators Alliance) (2020-present)