

## MELISSA D NEWTON

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### EDUCATION

Columbus State University, Columbus, GA <b>Masters of Education in Theatre</b> (completed 20 hours; writing thesis)	<b>2015 to date</b>
University of West Alabama, Livingston, AL <b>Masters of Arts in Teaching, Language Arts Education</b>	<b>2004</b>
Livingston University, Livingston, AL <b>B.A. in Language Arts</b> Minor: Sociology	<b>1995</b>
Louisiana Tech University	<b>86-89</b>

### AWARDS

Alabama Director of the Year, Alabama Educational Theatre Association	2009
SETC Wilson Scholarship Recipient	2014
Director, Alabama Chapter Select One Act for the International Thespian Festival Represented the Alabama at ITF in June 2014	2014
Advanced to Area in UIL One Act Play	2016, 2017

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texarkana High School, Texarkana, TX <b>Theatre 1; DC Theatre 1; Theatre 2,3,4; DC Theatre 2; Advanced Theatre Performance</b> <b>Tiger Theatre Company Director</b> <b>Troupe Director, Troupe 2526</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Plan, direct, and produce all Tiger Theatre Company productions (6 to 8 per year)</li><li>Work extensively with students auditioning for college theatre programs</li><li>Teach Dual Credit Theatre classes as adjunct faculty through Texarkana College</li><li>Work collaboratively with musical director, technical director, and choreographer</li><li>Work to positively promote program</li><li></li></ul>	<b>2015 to date</b>
Thomasville High School, Thomasville, AL <b>Theatre I and Theatre II Teacher</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Envisioned and implemented theatre program at Thomasville City Schools</li><li>Helped to create district Fine Arts curriculum and curriculum guide</li><li>Theatre I – teach basic elements of acting, playwriting, and directing to 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade</li><li>Theatre II – supervise advanced theatre students in independent studies or either technical or performance areas of theatre</li><li>Technical Theatre RTI Class – teach all areas of technical theatre</li><li>Acting RTI Class – guide students to explore different methods and techniques to help them become better actors</li></ul> <b>English Language Arts Teacher – 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teach Honors English 9 along with other 9<sup>th</sup> grade English classes</li><li>AP trained</li></ul>	<b>2001 to 2015</b>

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Alabama Educational Theatre Association, member of EdTA <b>Chapter Director</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Director of the Alabama chapter of the Educational Theatre Association. The ALEdTA sponsors the Alabama Thespian Festival and supports theatre education in Alabama</li></ul>	<b>2003 – 2008</b>
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Troupe 5073, Thomasville High School

**Troupe Director**

**2002 – to date**

- Reinstated Thomasville High School to active troupe status. As the troupe director, I have supported arts education in the school system and excellence in theatre education through the Thespian honor program. I have taken students not only from my school but throughout the state to the International Thespian Festival for numerous festivals.
- Main stage performances, Alabama Thespian Festival – Troupe 5073 was invited to bring their productions of *Annie* and *Little Women, the Musical* to the Alabama Thespian Festival

Alabama Conference of Theatre, member of SETC

**District V Chairperson**

**2012 - 2013**

- Chaired the District V Walter Trumbauer Secondary Theatre Festival

**Director**

- One Act and individual event superiors rankings and winners at both the state and district level

**2001-2014**

TCS Tiger Theatre, Thomasville City School System

**Theatre Director**

**2001 – to date**

- Direct one to two one acts per year for competition and/or school
- Direct one to two main stage productions per year. Many of the large productions include students from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Produce one play per year that is student directed and “teched” by high school students with middle school actors
- Direct students in individual events for theatre festivals, district, state, and national level
- Work with students on auditions for performing arts intensives including Broadway Theatre Project and The Performing Arts Project and college auditions including Unified Auditions
- Have had students accepted to and receive scholarships from theatre programs around the United States including University of Alabama, Troy University, University of Montevallo, TCU, SCAD, and the University of Mobile

Rambling Rose Players, Arts Council of Thomasville

**2009 – to date**

**Performer and Lighting Designer**

- Since 2009 have performed in or was lighting designer/lighting operator for summer productions including *Big River*, *The Music Man*, and *Damn Yankees*

Ballet and Theatre Arts Performing Companies, Gilbert Town, AL

**2013 – to date**

**Board Member, Stage Manager**

**PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS**

*Peter Pan... Oklahoma... Annie....The Crucible...Bye Bye Birdie... Little Women, the musical ... School House Rock Live...The Wizard of Oz... The Importance of Being Earnest...“The Babysitters”...“The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County”...“The Grimm Brothers Spectaculathon”...“Wings”... “The Cagebirds”...“Altar Egos” Seussical the Musical ....“Dancing Solo” ... Chemical Imbalance, a Jekyll and Hyde Play... Emma ... R & H Cinderella... Cheaper By the Dozen... Dracula ... The Last Illusion... Peter/Wendy... Axeman’s Requiem*

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