Valleri J. Robinson, Ph.D.

307 S. Willis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821 Email: <u>valleri2@illinois.edu</u> Phone: 217-607-7268

Education

Eureka College, Eureka, IL; B.A.; English; 1994
Illinois State University; M.S.; Theatre; 1996
The Ohio State University; Ph.D.; Theatre; 2001
Dissertation: "Beyond Stanislavsky: Russian Modernism and the American Stage," Dec. 2001. Adviser: Thomas Postlewait

Administrative Positions

2022-present, Head, Department of Theatre, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2014-2018, 2019 – 2022, Area Head of Theatre Studies, Director of Graduate Studies

Academic Positions

2014-present, Associate Professor, University of Illinois

2008-2014, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois

2006-2008, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Illinois

2001-2005, Assistant Professor, University of Arizona

Honors, Recognitions, and Outstanding Achievements

Public Voices Fellow/the OpEd Project, University of Illinois, 2021-22

Fellow, Center for Ballet and the Arts, NYU, Spring 2020

Fellow, Building Pathways for Emerging Leaders, University of Illinois, 2019-2020

College of Fine and Applied Arts Faculty Excellence in Service Award, 2017

Fulbright Scholar Award, "Visuality and Musicality in Nikolai Kolyada's Ekaterinburg Theatre," Ekaterinburg, Russia, Spring 2014

Faculty Research Award, American Theatre and Drama Society, "Russian-American Cold War Cultural Diplomacy," 2012

Books Authored

Hohman, Valleri. 2011. Russian Culture and Theatrical Performance in America, 1891-1933. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan)

Robinson, Valleri. (Scheduled, Aug 2024) *Belarusian Theatre and the 2020 Pro-Democracy Protests: Documenting the Resistance*. (Under Contract, Anthem Press)

Chapters in Books

Robinson, Valleri. Commissioned and forthcoming 2023. *Cambridge World Encyclopedia of Stage Directors and Directing*, eds. Simon Williams and Maria Delgado. "Lev Dodin" "Oleg Efremov" "Anatoly Efros" "Sergei Eisenstein" "Javor Gardev" "Nikolai Kolyada" "Theodore Komisarjevsky" "Vsevolod Meyerhold" "Alexander Tairov" "Georgii Tovstonogov" "Evgeny Vakhtangov"

Robinson, Valleri. 2017. "Arthur Miller: the Individual and Social Responsibility." in *Modern American Drama: Playwriting in the 1940s: Voices, Documents, New Interpretations*, ed. by Felicia Londre. (Bloomsbury)

Robinson, Valleri. 2016. "Adapting Chekhov: A Primer for Dramaturgs." In *Approaches to Teaching Chekhov*, eds. Michael Holquist and Michael Finke. (Modern Languages Association of America)

Robinson, Valleri. 2015. "Foreign Artists." *Dictionary of American History, Supplement: America in the World, 1776 to the Present.* (Scribner and Sons).

Hohman, Valleri. 2015. 35 biographical essays for *Cambridge World Encyclopedia of Stage Actors and Acting*. Ed. Simon Williams. (Cambridge University Press). Entries include:

"Serafima Birman" "Bolshoi Dramatic Theatre" "Mikhail Chekhov" Oleg Dal" "Vladimir Davydov" "Lev Dodin" "Oleg Efremov" "Anatolii Efros" "GITIS" "Iurii Iurev" "Aleksander Iuzhin" "Vasalii Kachalov" "Mikhail Kedrov" "Mariia Knebel" "Evgenii Lebedev" "Aleksandr Lenskii" "Lev Abramovich Dodin" "Evgenii Leonov" "Iurii Liubimov" "Maly Drama Theatre" "Aleksandr Martynov" "Ivan Moskvin" "Aleksei Popov" "Benno Schneider" "Boris Shchukin" "Iakov Shumskii" "Ruben Simonov" "Innokentii Smoktunovskii" "Sovremmenik Theatre" "Taganka Theatre" "Georgii Tovstonogov" "Evgenii Vakhtangov" "Konstantin Varlamov" "Vladimir Vysotskii" "Iurii Zavadskii" Hohman, Valleri. 2013. "'A Seagull Flew to Us from Yalta': Stanislavsky's Life in Chekhov." In *The Routledge Companion to Stanislavsky*, ed. Andy White, pp. 26-36 (London and New York: Routledge)

Hohman, Valleri. 2011. "Jacob Gordin and Jewish Socialism in America." In *To Have or Have Not: New Essays on Commerce and Capital in Modernist Theatre*, ed. James Fisher, pp. 86-96 (Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press)

Hohman, Valleri. 2008. "Paula Vogel." In *Dictionary of Literary Biography Vol. 341: Twentieth Century American Dramatists, Fifth Series*, ed. Garrett Eisler, pp. 246-255. (Detroit: Gale Research)

Hohman, Valleri. 2007. "Russian Futurism." In *Columbia Encyclopedia of Modern Drama*, eds. Gabrielle Cody and Evert Sprinchorn, pp 500-501. (New York: Columbia University Press)

Hohman, Valleri. 2004. "Leslie Pinckney Hill." In *African-American Playwrights*, ed. Emmanuel Nelson, pp. 217-223. (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press)

Articles in Journals

Robinson, Valleri. Forthcoming. "Degradation in Hypermasculine Cultures of Disposability and Forgetfulness: Nikolai Kolyada's Ekaterinburg Theatre" *Theatre and Performance Notes and Counternotes* (Inaugural issue 2023).

Robinson, Valleri. June 2023. "Javor Gardev's Productions in the Bulgarian Repertoire," *Critical Stages/ Scènes critiques* No. 27. Commissioned performance review essay.

Robinson, Valleri. Invited performance review essay for September 2021, submitted. "Insulted. Belarus. Worldwide Readings," *Theatre Journal*.

Hohman, Valleri. 2014. "Kak Stanislavskii stal zvezdoi v Amerike" (Stanislavsky's Path to American Stardom,) *Stanislavskii Zhurnal*, 01-02 (36-37): 60-64. Project Funded by the Russian Ministry of Culture.

Hohman, Valleri. Winter 2011. "Translating Chekhov for the American Stage." Review Article. *Slavic and East European Journal* 55.4: 629-632.

Hohman, Valleri. 2010. "Living Adaptations: An Interview with Sergey Kuryshev." *Contemporary Theatre Review* 20.4: 497-501.

Hohman, Valleri. 2009. "The Final Straw: Producing James Purdy at the Trinity Square Rep." *Theatre History Studies* 29: 95-102.

Hohman, Valleri. Fall 2007. "Hard Travel: American Encounters with the Modern Russian Theatre." *Journal of American Drama and Theatre* 19.3: 79-94.

Hohman, Valleri. 2003. "Morris Gest and the Russian Invasion of the American Theatre." *New England Theatre Journal* 14: 81-100.

Essays/Editorials

Robinson, Valleri. "OpEd: Even in the US, freedom of assembly is under threat," *Chicago Tribune*, 30 Sept. 2021: Section 1, Pg. 11

Robinson, Valleri. "Even in Exile, Belarus' Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya fights Authoritarianism," upi.com, 11 October 2021. https://www.upi.com/Voices/2021/10/11/belarus-Sviatlana-Tsikhanouskaya-Belaruselection/5201633953273/

Robinson, Valleri. "Belarus Needs Our Help," *Public Seminar*, 29 Nov. 2021. https://publicseminar.org/2021/11/belarus-needs-our-help/

Robinson, Valleri. "Justice Dept. Wants Cases That Stick," *San Francisco Chronicle*, 7 January 2022: Section A, Pg. 12.

Robinson, Valleri. "Ukrainian President Builds Global Solidarity through Social Media," News-Gazette, 3 March 2022 https://www.news-gazette.com/opinion/guest-commentary/guest-commentary-ukrainian-president-builds-global-solidarity-through-social-media/article_cf549679-9cd1-5ef0-8fea-5f0f519a4aac.html

Hohman, Valleri. "Imaginative Geographies: Eric Overmyer's *On the Verge*." Commissioned Program Essay, *Playbill*, Remy Bumppo Theatre, 2008.

Invited Lectures and Conference Presentations

"Documentary Theatre as Resistance," Melpomene Tavrii Theatre Festival, Kherson, Ukraine (via Skype), June 8, 2022.

"Re-animating the Past through Performance: the Revival of Stanislavsky and Lenin in MAT's 1965 US tour," Association for Slavic, East European, Eurasian Studies (via Zoom), November 7, 2020.

"Cold War Stagings: 'Multicultural' Dance and Soviet Folk Culture," Center for Ballet and the Arts, NYU (via Zoom), May 11, 2020.

"Cold War Stages: Performing Peace and Friendship," Lighting Talks, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, September 22, 2019.

"Degradation and Humiliation on the Kolyada Stage: Ekaterinburg Love Stories." Russian East European Center Noontime Lecture, February 17, 2015.

"Adapting *From Here to Eternity* for Film and Stage." Invited Panelist, From Here To Eternity: The Musical, panel discussion with Composer Tim Rice. Virginia Theatre, December 7, 2014.

"Borsch, Beets, and Eggs: Emotional Eating at the Kolyada Theatre" American Society for Theatre Research, Baltimore, MD, November 22, 2014.

"Cold War Stages: When Lenin Played America." American Theatre and Drama Society Sponsored Panel, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Orlando, June 2013.

"The Moscow Art Theatre's Haunted Return to America." Russian, East European, Eurasian Center Noontime Scholars Series, University of Illinois, November 27, 2012.

"Cold War Performances: MXAT's Second Discovery of America." Global Theatre Histories Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research, November 3, 2012.

"Cold War, Whispering Campaigns, Office Bombs and the Theatre Historian." Keynote Address, "In Dialogue," 11th Annual Theatre and Drama Graduate Student Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison Campus, March 24, 2012.

"Staging the Russian-Jewish Diaspora in America." Association for Jewish Studies; Washington D.C.: December 19, 2011.

"Lev Dodin and the Politics of Food." American Society for Theatre Research; Montreal, Canada: November 20, 2011.

"Searching for Benno Schneider." Association for Theatre in Higher Education Theatre Historiography Pre-Conference; Chicago, IL: August 11, 2011.

"Embodied Adaptation: Lev Dodin's *Life and Fate*." American Society for Theatre Research; Seattle, WA: November 9, 2010.

"Beyond the Lower East Side: Jacob Gordin on Broadway." Mid-America Theatre Conference; Cleveland, OH: March 5, 2010.

"Chekhov the Diplomat: Russian Chekhov Performances in America." Keynote Address, "Chekhov and After: Russian Theatre in a Revolutionary Age," Department of Theatre Graduate Symposium, The Ohio State University, May 15, 2009.

"Sol Hurok's Balancing Act: Managing Russian Artists in America, 1921-1974." American Society for Theatre Research; Boston, MA: November 11, 2008.

"The Final Straw: Producing James Purdy at the Trinity Rep." Mid-America Theatre Conference; Kansas City, MO: March 1, 2008.

"Keystone and Trestle: Approaching the Work of Oliver M. Sayler." Mid-America Theatre Conference; Minneapolis, MN; March 2, 2007.

"Embodying Anna Pavlova." American Society for Theatre Research Annual Meeting; Durham, NC; November 20, 2003.

"Performing the Impresario: Morris Gest's One-Man Show." Association for Jewish Studies; Boston, MA; December 21, 2003.

"Nikita Balieff and the Chauve-Souris in the United States." 27th Comparative Drama Conference; Columbus, OH; April 25, 2003.

"Mysticism and Stylistic Innovation: The Legacy of S. Ansky's *The Dybbuk* in America." American Society for Theatre Research Annual Meeting; Philadelphia, PA; November 14, 2002.

"Defining Russia for Americans." International Federation for Theatre Research; Amsterdam, Holland; July 2, 2002.

Grants Received

George A. Miller Visiting Artist Grant for Andrei Kureichik, "Documentary Theatre as Resistance with Belarusian Playwright Andrei Kureichik," 2021-22, \$14,900. \$10,000 additional Project support from the Russian, East European, Eurasian Center, University of Illinois.

Campus Research Board, Research Support Award, University of Illinois, "Cold War Performances: Soviet-American Cultural Exchange and the Theatrical Public Sphere," 2017-18, \$4,550

Creative Research Award, University of Illinois, College of Fine and Applied Arts, "*The Tempest* Sustainability Project," 2013, \$2,000

Creative Research Award, University of Illinois, College of Fine and Applied Arts, "Cold War Performances: The Moscow Art Theatre Returns to America," 2011, "\$4,300

Lorado Taft Lectureship in the Arts Award, University of Illinois, College of Fine and Applied Arts, 2011, \$400 (to Dassia Posner)

Research Assistant Support, University of Illinois Campus Research Board, 2009, \$9,250 (to R.A.)

Humanities Released Time Award, University of Illinois, Campus Research Board, "Russian Performance in America," 2009, \$15,000 (\$13,000 to Department of Theatre)

Creative Research Award, University of Illinois, College of Fine and Applied Arts, "American Impresarios and Russian Theatrical Performance," 2008, \$4,000

Creative Works

Producer, *Voices of the New Belarus*, by Andrei Kureichik. Film. Co-directed by Andrei Kureichik and Nisi Sturgis. Premiere Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, May 11, 2022. Presented, Orwell Day, Center for Contemporary Culture in Barcelona, May 30, 2022; Melpomene of Tavria Theatre Festival, Kerson, Ukraine (Online), June 13, 2022.

Producer, Dramaturg, *Voices of the New Belarus*, by Andrei Kureichik. Staged reading, Co-directed by Andrei Kureichik and Nisi Sturgis, Krannert Art Museum, April 28, 2022.

Producer, Co-Director, *Insulted. Belarus(sia)* by Andrei Kureichik, trans. John. Freedman. Zoom reading, Illinois Theatre, attended by author in Ukraine and translator in Greece, October 1, 2020.

Co-Director, *That's What She Said*. She Said Project, Virginia Theatre, October 21, 2015.

Dramaturg, *That's What She Said*. She Said Project, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, July 19, 2014.

Dramaturg and Production Manager, *That's What She Said*, She Said Project, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, October 5. 2013.

Dramaturg, On the Verge, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Chicago, 2008

Dramaturg, adaptation of *Eustace Chisholm and the Works*, with Mark Ring and Robert Anderson, new work, staged reading, TV Studio, KCPA, 2007

Associate Dramaturg, *The Philadelphia Story*, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Chicago, 2007

Dramaturgical Associate, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Chicago, 2006

Dramaturgical Associate, Sonia Flew, Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago, 2006

Production Dramaturg, *Love of the Nightingale*, 6th Act Theatre, Rochester, NY, 2006

New Play Dramaturg, *Home/Abroad* by James Hesla, Beowulf Alley Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Tucson, AZ, 2004

Dramaturg/Literary Manager, Arizona Repertory Theatre, 2000-2004

Book Reviews

Robinson, Valleri. 2016. "Stanislavsky: A Life in Letters by Laurence Senelick." *Theatre Survey*.

Hohman, Valleri. 2012. "*Memories of Chekhov* by Peter Sekirin." Book review, *Contemporary Drama* 46.4: 548-51.

Hohman, Valleri. 2010. "*Dramaturgy and Performance* by Cathy Turner and Synne K. Behrndt." *Theatre History Studies* 30: 251-254.

Hohman, Valleri. 2010. "*Historical Dictionary of Russian Theatre* by Laurence Senelick." *Theatre Journal* 62.3: 475-476.

Hohman, Valleri. 1997. "*Greek Tragedy on the American Stage* by Karelisa Hartigan." *Theatre Studies*, 42: 86-87.

Public Engagement

Coordinator/Host, Pre-show with Writers of Oya teenage writers' group for *A Darkling at Nightfall* by Mallory Raven-Ellen Backstrom, KCPA, September 22, 2022

Coordinator, World Premiere Screening of *Voices of the New Belarus* dir. Oksana Mysina, Logan Center for the Arts, University of Chicago, May 18, 2022

Moderator, "Performing Resistance to Authoritarianism: a talk with Andrei Kureichik," Online event open to the public, April 21, 2022.

Coordinator, "Performing Resistance to Authoritarianism," MillerComm Lecture by Andrei Kureichik, Foellinger Great Hall, KCPA, April 14, 2022.

Coordinator, Screening of *Insulted*. *Belarus(sia)* dir. Oksana Mysina with talkback by Andrei Kureichik and Dr. Maria Ignatieva, Spurlock Museum, March 31, 2022.

Moderator, "The Power of the Intimate Story in Our Search for Meaning," Public talk with playwright Christopher Benson, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, March 2, 2015.

Director and Adaptor, *How the Rooster Got His Crown*. South Side Elementary, Champaign, IL, April 2011

Moderator, "Staging *Vanya*: In conversation with the Maly Drama Theatre." Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, March 13, 2010

Advisor, Student Playwriting Outreach Program (SPOT), Booker T. Washington Elementary School and Theatre Studies Collaboration, Armory Free Theatre, 2006-2007

Service to Disciplinary and Professional Societies or Associations

Member, Barnard Hewitt Book Award Committee, American Society for Theatre Research, 2014-2019

Peer Reviewer, Modern Drama, 2019

Co-chair, New Paradigms in Graduate Education, American Society for Theatre Research, 2012-2014

Peer Reviewer, 2014-2018, Fulbright Award

Respondent, "New Perspectives on Russian Theatre: Legacies of the 18th and the 19th Centuries" Panel, AATSEEL, San Francisco, February 2017

Co-coordinator and presenter, "Performing the Graduate Curriculum," Roundtable, American Society for Theatre Research, Baltimore, November 22, 2015

University of Illinois Representative, National Association of Schools of Theatre Annual Meeting, March 26-28, 2015

University of Illinois Representative, URTA, March 27, 2015

University of Illinois Representative, Big Ten Theatre Consortium, Annual Meeting, Lincoln, NE, Nov. 8-10, 2014

Peer Reviewer, 2013, Harvard University Press

Co-chair, "The Applied Ph.D." Roundtable, American Society for Theatre Research, scheduled November 2013

Co-coordinator and presenter, "Avoiding the ABD Cliff." Brown Bag Luncheon, American Society for Theatre Research, scheduled November 2013

Invited Presenter, "Show Me the Money: Funding Individual Research and Program Development," American Society for Theatre Research Conference, Nashville, TN, November 2012

Co-chair, New Paradigms in Graduate Education Committee, American Society for Theatre Research, Fall 2012-2014

Peer Reviewer, 2012, Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism

Peer Reviewer, 2012, Austrian Science Fund

Peer Reviewer, 2012-2015, Theatre Survey

Faculty Ambassador, KCACTF (Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival) Region III, January 2012

Presenter, "Shifts in Doctoral Education 1990-2010." Conference on Doctoral Programs in Theatre and Performance, Department of Theatre, University of Illinois. 2008-2009

Co-coordinator, Conference on Doctoral Programs in Theatre and Performance, Department of Theatre, University of Illinois. 2008-2009

Recent University/Campus Service

Chair, Search Committee Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 2019-2020

Advisory Board, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, 2019-2021

Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, College of Fine and Applied Arts, 2018. Member, 2016-2021

Member, George A. Miller Committee, University of Illinois, 2016-2022

Member, Educational Policy Committee, University of Illinois, 2019

Participant, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Leadership Series, University of Illinois, 2018-2019

Member, Advisory Committee, Department of Theatre, 2016-2019

Member, Chancellor's Strategic Planning Task Force on the Arts, 2017-2018

Member, Curriculum Revision Committee, Department of Theatre, 2017-2018

Chair, Curriculum Committee, Department of Theatre, 2012-2015

Member, Curriculum Committee, College of Fine and Applied Arts, 2013-2015

Member, Steering Committee, College of Fine and Applied Arts, 2014-2016

Member, Executive Committee, Russian East European Eurasian Center, 2014-2015; 2020-2022

Member, Movement Instructor Search Committee, 2015; 2020

Member, General Education Committee, University of Illinois, 2015-2016

Member, Campus Budget Advisory Task Force, University of Illinois, 2015-2016

Chair, Theatre Studies, Department of Theatre, 2014-present

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Theatre, 2014-present

Member, Department Head Search, Department of Theatre, 2016-present

Member, Executive Committee, College of Fine and Applied Arts, 2011-2013; 2015-2017; 2021-2023

Member, Associate Vice Chancellor of Research in the Humanities, Arts, and Related Fields, 2016-2017

Member, 1917-2017 "10 Days That Shook the Campus," Russian Revolution Commemoration Planning Committee

Recent Courses Taught

Graduate:

Documentary Theatre on Global Stages; Introduction to Theatre and Performance Historiography; Historiography and the Actress; Contemporary Theatre and Performance Theory; Adaptation in Theory and Practice; 20th Century Russian Theatre; Chekhov in Translation and Adaptation

Undergraduate:

Theatre History II: Remaking Worlds Through Performance; 21st Century Dramaturgy; Creativity and the Arts; Dramatic Analysis; Dramaturg's Workshop: Documentary Theatre; Dramaturg's Workshop: Adaptation; Contemporary Theatrical Forms

Theses and Dissertations Directed

Katayoun Salmasi, Ph.D. Summer 2022; "The Disintegrated Dream: Immigrant Plays and Modern American Drama in the 21st Century."

Jennifer Sears Scheier, Ph.D. 2021; The Quest for Professionalization: A 20th Century Cautionary Tale for American Stage Managers"

Steinrock, Jessica, Ph.D. 2020; "Intimacy Direction: A New Role on Contemporary Theatre Making"

Yu-yun Hsieh, Ph.D. 2018; "Sound Design and the American Avant-garde"

Epplett, Shannon, Ph.D. 2018; "Chicago Theatre Habitus and Priming the Steppenwolf Scenario."

Rachel Price Cooper, Ph.D. 2016; "Marked For Death: The Tragic Body in Ireland's Retrospective Drama."

Michelle Salerno, Ph.D. 2016; "Performing American Citizenship during World War I."

Mina Sohaj, Ph.D. 2015; "Wars of Yugoslav Secession 1991-1995 and Theatre Practice in Three Warring Countries: Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia."

Zack Ross, Ph.D. 2014; "Constellations of Suffering: Historical Trauma in the Theatrical Adaptation of Greek Tragedy." Instructor, Eastern Illinois University.

Diana Jaher, Ph.D. 2014; "Painting with Faces: The Casting Director in American Theatre, Cinema, and Television." Lecturer, Film Studies, University of Illinois.

Vicki Hoskins, M.A. 2013; "Musicalizing Murder: American Landscapes and the True Crime Musical." Currently enrolled in Ph.D. program, University of Pittsburgh.

Sara Boland-Taylor, M.A., 2012; "Conversations with Shakespeare: Three Contemporary Adaptations for the Stage." Currently enrolled in Ph.D. program, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Mina Sohaj, M.A., 2010, "The Representations of Serbian and Western Identities in Biljana Srbljanovic's Dramatic Works, 1997-2007." Currently enrolled in Ph.D. program, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Scott Harman, M.A., 2009, "Attention, Absorption and Habit: The Stanislavski System Reexamined as a Cognitive Process." Currently enrolled in Ph.D. program, University of Wisconsin-Madison.