

DUSTIN ROTHBART

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Co-Artistic Director, Blank Theatre Company

www.blanktheatrecompany.org

EDUCATION

Illinois State University: BS Theatre (Acting Concentration) 2012
William Rainey Harper College: AA Arts 2010

FURTHER TRAINING

Berneche Vocal Studios (Acting the Song & Private Voice – Alicia Berneche) 2025-Present
Ellenwood Studios (Alba Method & Private Voice – Matthew Ellenwood) 2016-2024
Susan Hart Shakespeare (Folio Technique - Susan Hart, Jeffrey Carlson) 2014-2016
Acting Studio Chicago (Monologues & Viewpoints – Kurt Naebig, Sasha Gioppo) 2013-2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Invictus Theatre Company

“Musical Theatre Intensive”	Instructor	Chicago, IL	2025
“The Director’s Series”	Guest Instructor	Chicago, IL	2025

INVITED LECTURES

“Alumni Roundtable: What I Wish I Knew When I Graduated”
Presented at Illinois State University 2025

ACTING EXPERIENCE

REGIONAL

<i>Little Bits of Light*</i>	Honza/SS Guard (Supporting)	Hampstead Stage Company, NH	Bronwyn Steinberg	2019
<i>A Year with Frog and Toad</i>	Frog	Canterbury Summer Theatre, IN	Ray Scott Crawford	2013
<i>I’m Just Wild about Harry</i>	Benjamin Babberly	Canterbury Summer Theatre, IN	Kevin Hippler	2013
<i>Swinging on a Star</i>	Man 2	Canterbury Summer Theatre, IN	Chelsea Hockaday	2013
<i>Ripe Conditions</i>	Lester	Canterbury Summer Theatre, IN	Victoria Chavis	2013
<i>Sunday in New York</i>	Adam	Canterbury Summer Theatre, IN	Kevin Hippler	2013

CHICAGO

<i>Sweet Charity</i>	Oscar Lindquist	Blank Theatre Company	Johanna Mckenzie Miller	2025
<i>Les Misérables</i>	Prouvaire/Others	Uptown Music Theatre	Scott Shallenberger	2024
<i>On The Twentieth Century</i>	Owen O’Malley	Blank Theatre Company	Danny Kapinos	2024
<i>Bright Lights, Big City</i>	Secretary/Ensem	The Beautiful City Project	David Fiorello	2023

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<i>Rosenberg*</i>	ble			
<i>Merrily We Roll Along</i>	Sam Goodstein	Open Space Arts	Michael Graham	2023
<i>The Wild Party (Lippa)</i>	Charley Kringas	Blank Theatre Company	Danny Kapinos	2023
<i>Anyone Can Whistle</i>	Burrs	Blank Theatre Company	Jason A. Fleece	2022
	Comptroller	Madkap Productions		2021
	Schub		Jason A. Fleece	
<i>The Mystery of Edwin Drood</i>	The Chairman	Blank Theatre Company	Danny Kapinos	2019
<i>Camelot</i>	Mordred	Janus Concert Series	Jenn Cox	2019
<i>Spring Awakening</i>	Georg	Blank Theatre Company	Danny Kapinos	2018
<i>Monticello*</i>	u/s Edgar Allen	Aurora Theatre Works	Anthony Irons	2017
	Poe			
<i>25th ...Spelling Bee</i>	William Barfee	Madkap Productions	Wayne Mell	2017
<i>The History Boys</i>	Ensemble/u/s	Eclectic Full Contact Theatre		2017
	Posner, Scripps, Timms, Crowther		Katherine Siegel	
<i>Funny Girl</i>	John/Ensemble	Madkap Productions	Stephen M. Genovese	2016
<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Dickon	Lake Forest Theatre	Steve Malone	2016
<i>The Little Mermaid</i>	Flotsam	Jedlicka Performing Arts Center	Dante Orfei	2016
<i>Lester's Dreadful Sweaters*</i>	u/s Lester	Lifeline Theatre	Heather Currie	2016
<i>Oliver</i>	Noah/Knife Grinder	Citadel Theatre	Pat Murphy	2015
<i>Buffy: Once More with Feeling</i>	Ensemble	Mary's Attic	Jason A. Fleece	2015
<i>Kiss of the Spiderwoman</i>	Ensemble	Benevolent Theatre	Jessica Harling	2015
<i>Hair</i>	Margaret Mead/Tribe	Big Noise Theatre	Stacey Flaster	2015
<i>The Wedding</i>	Yatz	Red Theater	Aaron Sawyer	2014
<i>Cabaret</i>	Herman	Brightside Theatre	Jeffrey Cass	2014
<i>Ragtime</i>	Ensemble	Big Noise Theatre	Stacey Flaster	2014
<i>Joseph...Dreancoat</i>	Zebulan	Theatre Nebula	Kevin Wiczer	2013
<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Dickon	Deerfield Family Theatre	Stephen M. Genovese	2013
<i>The Rocky Horror Show</i>	Dr. Scott	Underscore Theatre Company	Alex Higgin- Houser	2012
<i>Hair</i>	Tribe/u/s Claude	The Hideout	Sarah Giacomo	2012
<i>Electra*</i>	Farmer's Servant	Mary-Arrchie Theatre Co.	Sonja Moser	2012
<i>Man of La Mancha</i>	Ensemble	Jedlicka Performing Arts Center	Austin Cook	2011

EDUCATIONAL THEATRE

[Title of Show]+	Hunter	Oakton College	Jason A. Fleece	2026
<i>Cabaret</i> +	The Emcee	Oakton College	Jason A. Fleece	2017
<i>Heathers</i> +	Kurt Kelly	Oakton College	Jason A. Fleece	2016
<i>Parade</i> +	Britt Craig	Harper College	Kevin Long	2013
<i>Pullman, WA</i>	Tom	Illinois State University	Vanessa Stalling	2012
<i>Boom</i>	Jules	Illinois State University	Josh Raether	2012
<i>A Flea in Her Ear</i>	Baptistin	Illinois State University	Don LeCasse	2011
<i>Picasso at the Lapin Agile</i>	Schmendamin	Illinois State University	Jeremy Garrett	2011

* World Premiere +Guest Artist

FILM/NEW MEDIA/MUSIC VIDEO

<i>Sunshine</i>	Vocalist/Dancer	Stacey Flaster Productions	Stacey Flaster	2021
<i>Holiday</i>	Featured Player	MDOG Productions	Deric Gochenauer	2021
<i>Man About Town</i>	Featured Player	MDOG Productions	Deric Gochenauer	2020
<i>Fixed Up</i>	Supporting	Melted Butter Productions	Joy Borgardt	2017
<i>Coffee Talk S1 E2</i>	Lead	Skyrider Films Inc.	Stefan Fister	2016
<i>Lost Signals</i>	Supporting	Independent Feature	Coleman Ranahan	2016
<i>Deprived</i>	Supporting	Red Brick Studios	Mike Horky	2013

Special Skills

Dance: Jazz/MT (Intermediate); Ballet, Tap (Basic); **Stage Combat:** Single Sword, Rapier and Dagger, Unarmed
Numerous Dialects, Alba Method level 2 Practitioner, puppet experience, ice/roller skating, valid US passport and driver's license

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

<i>Songs for a New World: In Concert</i>	Blank Theatre Company	Chicago, IL	2017
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UNIVERSITY DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

<i>What She Found There</i>	Illinois State University	Normal, IL	2011
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PRODUCING EXPERIENCE

Blank Theatre Company	Founder & Co-Artistic Director	2017 – Present
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- Founded Blank Theatre Company and established its artistic mission, leading to consistently sold-out performances and sustained audience growth.
 - Managed a \$95K annual budget across 2–3 mainstage productions and multiple concerts per season, ensuring efficient and strategic resource allocation.
 - Produced and cast 13 mainstage productions and 12 concerts, overseeing all creative and logistical aspects of production and talent selection.
 - Led fundraising strategy and donor engagement, growing annual revenue from \$500 to \$70,000 over seven years in collaboration with managing and development directors.
 - Handled all media and public relations outreach, personally securing opening night coverage from over 15 press outlets and building strong critic relationships.
 - Built and maintained a proprietary casting database of Chicagoland talent, supporting the development of early-career performers and strengthening the company's casting strategy.
 - Curated season programming, reviewing scripts, librettos, and scores, and crafting casting breakdowns aligned with the company's artistic goals.
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HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

Northwestern University	Graduate Coordinator – Electrical and Computer Engineering	2025 – Present
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- Assist with recruitment, applications, and admissions for the graduate program; oversee PhD visit days, orientation, and student milestones in coordination with The Graduate School (TGS).
- Manage course planning and scheduling in CLSS and SES/CAESAR, ensuring accuracy in section offerings and compliance with academic deadlines.
- Draft and issue verification letters for graduate students, maintain records of academic progress, and facilitate communication with TGS.
- Maintain and update the ECE department website, ensuring accurate, accessible, and timely content for students, faculty, and prospective applicants.
- Provide administrative support including reimbursements, event coordination, vendor communication, and database management to streamline departmental operations.

Administrative Assistant – School of Theatre

2024 – 2025

- Processed reimbursements for faculty and guest artists in compliance with fiscal policies; analyzed multi-year payment data to support accurate budgeting and informed decisions.
- Coordinated travel arrangements for prospective faculty and visiting scholars, assisted with catering and event logistics, and supported a grant-funded symposium on trans and queer singing.
- Researched and compiled nationwide contacts for the Retention, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT) process, gathering detailed bios and CVs to support faculty applications for full professorships and ensuring a comprehensive evaluator pool.

ARTS ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

Northbrook Theatre Box Office Manager/Assistant to the Artistic Director 2006 – 2011

- Managed ticketing, customer service, and office operations for Equity TYA productions and year-round youth theatre programming.
- Initiated proactive follow-up calls, boosting party bookings, class registrations, and strengthening overall customer retention.
- Assisted with casting coordination for Equity TYA and youth productions, including monitoring non-union auditions and managing callback logistics.

SKILLS

Acting | Directing for the Stage | Public Speaking | Dramaturgy & Script Analysis | Theatre History & Criticism | Executive Producing & Line Producing | Grant Writing & Arts Fundraising | Arts Marketing & Audience Development | Event & Production Management | Casting & Talent Scouting | Team Leadership & Collaboration | Academic Scheduling | Student Services | Document Management | Event Coordination | Process Improvement | Mac & PC Proficient

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

During my tenure as Co-Artistic Director, Blank Theatre Company received 28 Jeff Award nominations and won 5. Below is a representative selection of my nominations for producing, casting, and acting.

Chicago

Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination, Best Musical – <i>On the Twentieth Century</i>	2024
Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination, Best Musical – <i>The Wild Party</i>	2022
Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination, Best Musical – <i>She Loves Me</i>	2022
Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination, Best Ensemble of a Musical – <i>Promises, Promises</i>	2023
Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination, Best Ensemble of a Musical – <i>The Wild Party</i>	2022
Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination, Best Ensemble of a Musical – <i>She Loves Me</i>	2022

MEDIA MENTIONS/PUBLICITY

Sweet Charity – Blank Theatre Company

“Dustin Rothbart is utterly charming as Oscar Lindquist. Rothbart has already proven himself a more than capable singer in his previous roles, so it’s a treat to see him in a role that allows him to show off his comedic chops and skills as a romantic lead.” – Zac Thriffiley, Broadway World

On the Twentieth Century – Blank Theatre Company

“Dustin Rothbart and Nick Arceo as O’Malley and Webb are a dynamic duo, masterfully executing their roles as the masterminds behind Jaffe’s desperate scheme. Their efforts to concoct and sell the idea of a non-existent play keep the audience in stitches.” – Frank Meccia, Around Town Chicago

***Merrily We Roll Along* – Blank Theatre Company**

"The trio at the core of "Merrily," played here by Christopher Johnson (a fine young vocalist), Dustin Rothbart (a company co-founder) and Brittney Brown, all are deeply invested in what they're doing[...]this is the kind of crew capable of rejuvenating the city's storefront theater scene just when it needs them the most." Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune

"Franklin Shepard, Inc." is an explosive number about selling one's soul, and Rothbart handles it superbly."
- Karen Topham, Chicago On Stage

***The Wild Party* – Blank Theatre Company**

"Rothbart gave us a temper that was larger-than-life, making you want to slink from his wake. His raucous rendition of Let me Drown had me spellbound with a maniacal aura that teetered on the edge of genius and madness."- Kathleen Anwar, Broadway World

REFERENCES

Henry Godinez
Resident Director/Department Chair - Theatre
Goodman Theatre/Northwestern University
hgodinez@northwestern.edu – (847) 491-3157

Kevin Long
Director & Professor of Theater
Harper College
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Jason A. Fleece
Senior Lecturer
Oakton College
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