



Rick Davis, DFA

Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts
Professor, School of Theater

Education

DFA, Dramaturgy, Dramatic Literature, and Criticism, Yale University

Key Interests

The Arts, History, and Society | The Arts, Science, and Technology | Translation/
Adaptation | Directing Theater and Opera | Dramaturgy and Criticism

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SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- › In Review: Davis, R. (2018).
Translating for singing: The
theory, art and craft of
translating lyrics. *The
Mercurian*.
- › Davis, R. (2014). Plays by
women, one theater's story.
Howlround Theatre Commons.

Research Focus

I am interested in the ability of the arts to create, sustain, and enhance communities on several levels. Artistic practice often involves asking difficult questions in a public space, allowing for communal reflection, sharing of experiences and emotions, and developing new understandings. The arts can tell stories that access core truths -- historical, personal, imagined -- freed from the distracting clutter (or noise) of daily life. An example is "The Hundredth Meridian Project," our collectively developed multi-modal theater piece on the historical roots of the Western water crisis and its contemporary implications. This work-in-progress traces the discovery of the truth about land use in the Arid Region, the policy debates that ensued, and the subsequent lessons both learned and unlearned as they play out cyclically in modern times, creating an extended parable about how good science can lead to bad outcomes when ignored or distorted by forces that transcend the rational. The arts and history have a powerful interplay in this project and in many others that I have worked on, and I am always interested in exploring this nexus more deeply.

Current Projects

- Librettist, "Stations for Mychal," a song cycle for tenor, viola, and piano, commissioned for the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks by Texas State University. Kevin D. Salfen, composer.