

# Becca McCracken, C.S.A.

(630).209.7723 • [McCrackenCasting@gmail.com](mailto:McCrackenCasting@gmail.com)

---

## RELATED EXPERIENCE

### McCracken Casting Casting Director

Chicago, IL  
November 2018 - Present

- Casting Director for all projects, but also partners with other casting directors to come alongside them and magic casting magic happen.
- Excels in all casting software and a quick study when learning something new. Extensive experience running Zoom sessions, using Breakdown Express, Cast It, Google Docs and Drop Box. Experienced in all aspects of the audition including, but not limited to recording sessions, uploading, and editing sessions and tapes.
- Known for keep meticulous records and lists (always alphabetized because I am A type), online research and getting stronger every day at social media!
- Maintains healthy and positive relationships with agents, actors, and clients. Believes that information is power and that we are all players and on the same level, just with different roles. I believe in empowering the artists and anyone that joins me in the casting room. I run an inclusive and upbeat session and create an environment of respect, creativity, and joy.
- With more than a decade of experience, I know I will always have more to learn. I thrive when working with others and find great value in learning as much as I can from my collaborators.
- Recent clients include HBO (Season One of Somebody Somewhere), the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Forsight Theatricals (Djembe! The show), and a variety of commercial, industrial and event projects.
- Deeply rooted in theatre, understanding that actors with theatre chops often make the strongest options for on-camera projects – yet also, in the biz long enough to know just how to work with and inspire on-camera artists to nail their auditions.

### Court Theatre Casting Director

Chicago, IL  
November 2017 - Present

- Casting Director for all projects
- One of 3 members of the Artistic Team for the theatre
- In my first season with the theatre, I have introduced many new faces to our stage, stayed well ahead of schedule in casting, and have been honored to work with Pulitzer Prize Winning author, David Auburn on his upcoming World Premiere, *The Adventures of Augie March*.
- Humbled to be in a casting home in Chicago's historic Hyde Park neighborhood on Chicago's Southside, partnered with the University of Chicago. This casting home provides the unique opportunity to be steeped in the African American experience. The mission of the theatre has always been to be inclusive and reflect the neighborhood we call home, which has placed us at the lead for diversity and inclusion in the Chicago theater community.
- Maintains excellent relationships with Chicago's premier talent agents and the acting community at large.
- Happy to be back in the saddle and picking up where I left off as a leader in Chicago's theatre casting community.

### HBO Casting Consultant

Chicago, IL  
April, 2021 – June 2021

- Worked alongside Nicole Arbusto (CD) to cast Season One of Somebody Somewhere.
- Expert on local talent, providing all audition lists, building all schedules and offering a supportive and engaging audition environment for all actors and Nicole.
- Responsible for coordinating, running and recording all casting sessions for writers, directors and producers.
- Made the offers and booked the talent.

### Lyric Opera Chicago Casting Director

Chicago, IL  
September 2018 - Present

- Casting Director for all theatrical (musical) projects
- Works with the Artistic Administrator and Artistic Teams for each project. Most recent work here includes West Side Story & 42<sup>nd</sup> Street – prepping for upcoming season.

### Vagabond School of the Arts Co-Director (Managing Director), Co-Founder

Chicago, IL  
October 2013 - 2017

- Built the school from the ground up with partner, Michael McCracken, taking it from a weekend workshop training program in borrowed space to one of the top training centers in Chicago operating out of three studios in our loft space in just two years.
- Develops curriculum, hires all teachers, teaches and coaches.
- Curriculum includes On-Camera Training, Theater Training, Business of Acting classes and Professional Workshops. We also offer free wellness classes for actors (yoga & meditation) and regular Volunteer Opportunities to encourage actors to use their time for good.

- Pursues relationships cultivated over years of working in this community to insure our teachers are the top in this city. Teaching roster includes Janet Ulrich Brooks, Amy J. Carle, Robyn Coffin, Maura Kidwell, Patrick Mulvey, Jeff Parker, Rebecca Spence, Stef Tovar, and Ashley Wickett with guest teachers including Mary Beth Fisher, Claire Simon, Laura Durham, Erica Sartini-Combs, Adam Belcuore, Erica Daniels, Marisa Ross, Kimberly Senior and Sam Samuelson (amongst others – including Jonathan Berry as one of our first teachers!)
- Coordinates and manages the entire school calendar, including all classes, coaching sessions, private rentals, rehearsals and casting sessions for all three studios and manages the schedules of our instructors, who are working actors and always shifting.
- Hired Administrative and Education Assistant as well as a Marketing Director. Oversees these roles on a day to day basis, delegating and managing the team.
- Works tirelessly to insure that Vagabond stays true to its mission and that all who join the “family” recognize our heart for the actors in this city and our desire to build a “home for weary travelers.”

**Claire Simon Casting, Inc.**

**Chicago, IL**

**Director of Casting, Theater Division, Casting Associate for TV/Film**

**September 2005 – March 2008 & March 2010 – 2015**

- Artios Award Winner for casting the Lyric Opera of Chicago’s *Carousel* (in collaboration with Jay Binder, NYC).
- Coordinates, and directs casting sessions and runs camera for film, television, commercial and countless theatre projects
- Directs sessions with authority, warmth, collaboration and expertise, aiming to make both the creative team and actors comfortable and at ease in the audition setting
- Built the Theater Division of Simon Casting and pursued regional theaters, national tours, and Broadway companies to come to Chicago to cast. Also, permitted to work on Chicago storefront projects as my heart lives in this community
- Reads and analyzes scripts from casting perspective, developing character breakdowns and makes lists for each role
- Communicates directly with project creative team, working closely with director to insure I am capturing the vision, color, and life of the piece with the talent brought in
- Responsible for making offers to talent agents and direct talent, known for communicating details clearly and thoroughly
- Experience working on high profile projects including NBC’s hit television series *Chicago Fire* & *Chicago PD*, films *Contagion* (Warner Brothers) & *Divergent* (Summit Entertainment)
- Discovers hidden talent by regularly attending the theatre, showcases, holding general auditions and conducting extensive research
- Marketing liaison for Open Calls – coordinating campaigns with radio, print, and internet advertising/promotional departments
- Acts as a resource and liaison to all agents, managers, actors, and clients in the expedition and preparation of auditions and bookings, cultivating and maintaining strong relationships with all colleagues (agents, managers, actors & other casting directors)
- Experience teaching audition workshops with for Act One, Columbia College, Actor’s Training Center, Gainesville Theatre Alliance, Green Room, Loyola, DePaul, Roosevelt & Vagabond School of the Arts
- Please see attached projects list

**Becca Knights Creative Services**

**Chicago, IL**

**Freelance Event Producer and Casting Director**

**September 2009-March 2010**

- Produces events, pulling together teams on an as needed basis to provide high-end event management at the best possible cost.
- Provides services in event production, management, coordination and consulting.
- Utilizes strong relationships with vendors and venues to guarantee aggressive pricing for clients.
- Excels in creative development, and managing the big picture as well as acute attention to details to provide clients with confidence and peace, making each event a fun and rewarding process.
- Casting Director for theatrical and commercial services – using knowledge of talent and theatrical productions to inspire and create ideal, innovative, and imaginative events – always reinventing the special event.

**Columbia College  
Casting Consultant**

**Chicago, IL**

**June 2009 – March 2010**

- Developing database of talent for the student filmmakers to access.
- Equipping the students with the tools and knowledge to cast a film and work with professional actors.

**Jam Entertainment and Creative Services  
Account Executive**

**Chicago, IL**

**March 2008 – September 2009**

- Quarterbacks the production team, coordinating the various areas of production and is the liaison between clients and Jam.
- Responsible for account acquisition and management, onsite management and overall event coordination.
- Managed budgets for high profile events, insuring that our production and entertainment costs were within budget
- Books travel, negotiates contracts, acquires city of Chicago permitting, liaison between client and celebrity talent.
- Produces events and projects, excels in seeing the big picture with the ability to bring all the pieces together.
- Works in hundreds of venues and has strong relationships with vendors.
- Event portfolio includes The Modern Wing Opening Gala (Project Bandaloop and Taiko Project, BizBash Award Recipient), The Boys and Girls Club of Chicago Anniversary Gala (Frankie Valli), the Auxiliary Board of the Art Institute’s 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (DJ Samantha Ronson), Peddinghaus Oktoberfest (Bare Naked Ladies), Epilepsy Foundation Mardi Gras Ball (CJ Chenier)

**Nancy Hays Entertainment, Inc.**

**Chicago, IL**

**Account Manager and Producer**

June 2006 – March 2008

- Provides innovative ideas and celebrity entertainment for corporate and private events
- Develops effective organizational strategies for the growing business
- On-site producer at events insuring a seamless program and client satisfaction

**Uncommon Ground**

Chicago, IL

**Promotions Manager**

June 2007-December 2007

- Creator and writer for the Uncommon Ground weekly newsletter
- Coordinating with the press and the community to market special projects and events

**Steans Institute, Ravinia Festival of Music**

Highland Park, IL

**Production Assistant**

April 2005-September 2005

- Coordinated and managed artist arrangements including housing, meals, rehearsals, and concerts
- Dorm Manager for the artists. Acting as point of contact for the artists, the college and the Institute
- Stage Manager sound, recording, and light technician

**Theatre Royal, Drury Lane**

London, United Kingdom

**Front of House Supervisor**

November 2004-April 2005

- Managed all issues pertaining to theatre patrons insuring a positive theatre-going experience
- Coordinated Special Events for the Cast, Crew, and Staff of Mel Brook's *The Producers*, including the Opening Night Party and the Christmas Party

---

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE****Joseph Jefferson Awards**

Chicago, IL

**Committee Member**

May 2010-November 2013, July 2015-Present

- Recruited by Broadway In Chicago (Working The Musical) Client Libby Mages
- Serves the theater community by recognizing excellence and honoring the community at the annual awards
- Sees 2-4 plays a week
- Serves on the Events Committee, planning the Non-Equity and Equity Awards annually

**Chicago's Coalition for the Homeless**

Chicago, IL

**Auxiliary Board President**

January 2006-December 2013

- HOPEEFST (2006 - 2009), Chicago Blues Reunion (2008)

**Rock For Kids, Jam Productions**

Chicago, IL

**Production Team and Volunteer Coordinator**

January 2006-August 2009

- The Kids Are Alright Art Auction (2006), Music Mix Party (2006) Rock and Roll Charity Auction (2006 - 2008), School of Rock Battle of the Bands (2007), Pitchfork Music Festival (2007)

---

**INTERNSHIPS**

- Marketing Intern at Broadway in Chicago, 2003
- Promotions for Michael Cavanaugh, 2003-2005
- Guest Relations at Walt Disney World, 2001

---

**SKILLS**

- Excellent written and oral communication skills. Extremely organized and detail oriented.
- Proficient in casting software including Breakdown Services, Eco-Cast, Casting Networks, Now Casting
- Proficient in camera work, editing, iMovie (taping, editing, uploading)
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook
- Highly networked throughout the city – passionate about connecting people together and providing opportunities for others