



Professional Theatre for Young Audiences & Families
Producing Directors Holly Barkdoll & Dennis O'Connell

Bio: Dennis O'Connell

Dennis O'Connell began his career in the Theatre as a professional actor while still in elementary school. Before graduating from college (University of Akron, B.A.) he became the Director of Drama at Walsh Jesuit High School for three years. He then spent six years as a free-lance stage actor and director, working in 16 states and Canada. Dennis began directing professional productions in 1989 and also got his feet wet in arts administration at the numerous theatres where he was acting and directing. They include: Gateway Playhouse (FL), Starlight Productions (FL), Nebraska Theatre Caravan (NE), White Hart Inn (CT), Petrucci's Main Street Theatre (MD), Fort Salem Theatre (NY) and Naples Dinner Theatre (FL).

He has had the pleasure of directing or acting with Connie Britton, Jami Gertz, Melina Kanakaredes, Doug McKeon, Kelly Preston, and Carrie Ann Spellman, as well as internationally known playwrights Fred Carmichael and the late Aurand Harris.

Professional affiliations include: Ohio Alliance for Arts Education, Ohio Citizens for the Arts, and SAG-AFTRA. He is Past President of the Akron Area Arts Alliance and served on the Board of the Summit County Regional Arts District. Dennis was named Co-Producing Director of Magical Theatre Company in 1992 - making him one of the longest-tenured arts leaders in Summit County. He shares the title of Co-Producing Director with his wife, the wonderful and redoubtable Holly Barkdoll.