

DR. ROBERT E. AUFRANCE

Inducted May 29, 2016

Paulding High School		1987
University of Findlay	B.A.	1991
Kent State University	M.A.	1996
University of Missouri	Ph.D.	2004



Dr. Robert E. AuFrance: Educator, Playwright and Artisan

Dr. Robert E. AuFrance serves as the Director of Theatre, Director of Fine Arts Administration and The Dean of Fine Arts for Waldorf University, Forest City, IA. Dr. AuFrance completed his Ph.D. in Theatre History and Criticism, and Playwriting from The University of Missouri, his Master of Arts in Theatre History and Criticism, and Playwriting from Kent State University, and his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre/Speech Secondary Education and History Secondary Education from the University of Findlay. Professor AuFrance directs and teaches the acting, directing, playwriting, theatre histories, theatre education pedagogy and film studies programs for Waldorf University. Dr. AuFrance is responsible for creation of The Waldorf University's Musical Theatre Major, founded three chapters of Alpha Psi Omega (the national honorary theatre society), originated the "Loose Change" student theatre program and the annual "Haunted House Food Drive," as well as co-creating the "24 Hour Theatre Festival," and the University's traveling theatre troupe. Additionally, Bob serves as the University's playwright, and his works have been presented on three continents. He is a recognized authority in the field of playwriting education, and has won several writing awards (including being a two time American College Theatre Festival, Region V winner of the celebrated Mark David Cohen National Playwriting Award, a three time winner of the Gephardt Writing Award, and the Rhynsberger Award in Original Playwriting, as well as being awarded The Purple Mask Award in Playwriting). Dr. AuFrance has also been recognized for his service in the classroom. In 2011, Bob was honored by his students for his service to the Waldorf University Theatre Department when they named the black box theatre "The B.O.B." Also in 2011, he was recognized by Waldorf University by being presented the Outstanding Faculty Trustee's Award. Other awards for Professor AuFrance include the Donald K. Andersen Award for Outstanding Teaching, being listed in "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals," as well as being a member of the Rollins Society. Dr. AuFrance began his professional career by serving as the Head of Theatre for Paulding Exempted Village Schools, 1991-1993. During his time as a student at Paulding High School, he was selected to serve as the Congressional Scholar representing the State of Ohio in 1987. A proud fourth generation Paulding County resident, Bob credits his success and achievements to the support and love of his family (parents: Larry and Vicki AuFrance; sister: Miss Tami AuFrance, also an educator), as well as the valued education and many experiences provided by the Paulding Exempted Village School System and its many dedicated teachers, staff members, and his classmates.