

# Kolton Keetch Nielsen (he/him/his)

| 801-885-5751 | [koltonnielsen1115@gmail.com](mailto:koltonnielsen1115@gmail.com) | 5'11", 200lbs, Brown Hair, Green Eyes  
| 329 W Strawberry Pl, Saratoga Springs, UT 84045 | Vocal Range: E2-G4

## Theatrical Production Experience

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Assistant Director	<i>Silent Sky</i>	Utah Shakespeare Festival - dir. Melinda Pfundstein	2024
Director	<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i>	Southern Utah University	2023
'Actor 1/Flip Benham'	<i>Roe</i>	SUU - dir. Scott C. Knowles	2024
Assistant Director	<i>Little Women</i>	Cedar High School - dir. Richie Uminski	2024
Assistant Director	<i>Bulrusher</i>	SUU - dir. Darius Omar Williams	2023
Director	<i>The White Liars</i>	SUU	2022
Scenic Designer	<i>Nunsense</i>	SUU - dir. Ali Damavandi	2022
'Puck'	<i>A Midsummer Night's...</i>	SUU - dir. Adriana Villalobos	2021
'Mercutio'	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	SUU - dir. Adriana Villalobos	2021

## Leadership & Teaching Experience

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Drama Specialist Teacher	Trailside Elementary	2024-Present
Teaching Artist	Utah Shakespeare Festival - Education	2021-2024
HSSC Workshop Instructor	USF - Education	2022-2023
House Manager Supervisor	USF - Guest Services	Summer 2023
Artistic Director	2nd Studio - SUU TDAA	2022-2023
Lead Instructor/Curriculum Dev.	Thunder Theatre - North Elementary	2022-2023
Assistant Performing Arts Instructor	Discovery Ranch for Girls - Cedar City	Summer 2022
Teaching Assistant	Thunder Theatre, North Elem.	Spring 2022

## Education

Southern Utah University	Major: BS Theatre Arts Education Minor: Arts Administration	Grad: April 2024 <b>Secondary Education License, Theatre (6-12) - Professional</b>
Westlake High School	Theatre Arts Sterling Scholar '20 3.97 GPA, Top 5% of Class	Grad: May 2020

## References

Education: Jenna Behm, Brianne Kramer, William Davis, Lauren Graves, Tony Pelligrini, John Meisner  
Acting: Peter Sham, Melinda Pfundstein, Jeb Branin, Scott C. Knowles  
Directing: Peter Sham, Britannia Howe, Richard Bugg, Darius Omar Williams, Melinda Pfundstein  
Theatre Ed & Arts Admin: Michael Bahr, Wendy Sanders, Josh Stavros, Stewart Shelley, Rachel C. Parker

## Awards & Recognition

Utah Honors in Education Award - Utah Shakespeare Festival Education Department (2024)  
Fred C. Adams Renaissance Man Endowed Scholarship (2023-2024)  
Outstanding Theatre Educator Award (2023)  
artsFUSION Scholarship Recipient (2022-2023)  
T.H Bell Education Scholarship Recipient (2020-2024)

## Special Skills

| Bilingual: Spanish | Dialects: British, Irish | 12 years of Music Experience (Euphonium, Trombone, Tuba, Vocal)

## **Kolton Keetch Nielsen's *Philosophy of Teaching***

Transformation is critical in the classroom. That is why the focus of my classroom is providing a space where my students' own artistic abilities can achieve a state of constant growth, which is reflected in this transformation. Students that enter my classroom will develop & cultivate theatrical skills, discover & create pieces of art, as well as experience & share stories together.

Full participation in my program will provide students with the essential tools of theatre and facilitate ample opportunities to use them in both practical and authentic assessments. Units first begin with introducing theatrical concepts, then allow for practical application of those concepts that build on the previous units. Putting an emphasis on scaffolded learning will lead my students down a clearer path to knowledge and mastery. Amongst this knowledge, students will not only learn about the physicality, vocality, and creativity of performing, they will also be introduced to essential steps in the theatrical process like theatre vocabulary, script work, collaboration, and directing.

Students are at the center of their own learning experiences in the classroom. Learning will rely on students growing inside of Vygotsky's 'Zone of Proximal Development', where their abilities will be stretched, not snapped, allowing for additional skills to be learned and developed. There will also be an emphasis on the practicality and application of these learned theatrical skills into their current and future art. Students will be provided with the framework to analyze their own world through the lens of these same learned theatrical skills. Instruction in the classroom will be based on constructivist ideas that focus on the passing of knowledge to the students as individual learners. This focus will again create those scaffolds that allow students to build upon previous theatrical principles and creatively adapt them in their works.

Theatre has everything to do about the process of creating, as the performance aspect of theatre makes up but a small percentage of work compared to vast amounts of preparation and learning that is done beforehand. This process focused approach to theatre is reflected in not only the daily structure of my classroom, but the way I grade the work that is given to my students. Students will be rewarded with a higher grade if they dedicate themselves to the journey of preparing a performance, rather than weighing the entire grade on a singular performance at the very end.

My classroom is a bright and freeing space where all students should feel connected to each other and to the space itself. Structure will be evident in the clearly defined organization, however, there must be a capacity for both working and de-stressing, as creativity cannot take place without a feeling of safety and comfort.

Not only will my classroom be a space for my students to grow and transform, it will also be a space for myself to grow and develop as an educator. Everyday in the classroom is another opportunity to test our preconceived notions and biases, grow as artists and teachers, and transform into powerful human beings who can make significant changes in our world.

