

Giana Blazquez

Director • Choreographer • Teaching Artist

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Education

**Master of Fine Arts, Drama and
Theatre for Youth and Communities**

The University of Texas at Austin

Anticipated Graduation: May 2022

Austin, TX

Bachelor of Arts, Theatre Arts

Rollins College

Emphasis in Directing

Minor in Dance

Magna Cum Laude

Graduation: May 2016

Winter Park, FL

Sarah Lawrence College

Dance Third

Attended: September 2012–May 2013

Bronxville, NY

Core Values

Equity • Agency • Learning • Innovation

Directing

Radiance Director The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Upcoming – to be produced Spring 2021 at part of UT New Theatre.

Girls in the Boat Director The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Upcoming – to be produced Spring 2021.

Dance With Me Director Milwaukee Chamber Theater
Milwaukee, WI

Upcoming – to be produced Winter 2021 as part of the Young Playwright’s Festival.

Willy Wonka Jr. Director/Choreographer Lancaster Public School
Milwaukee, WI

Directed and choreographed *Willy Wonka Jr.* at Milwaukee Public School Lancaster through a partnership with First Stage and Turnaround Arts.

Nobody Knows Director/Choreographer First Stage Children’s Theater
Milwaukee, WI

Directed, choreographed, and assisted in the creation of original world premiere musical by Patrick Thompson for Summer Academy Musical Company Class students in 9th-12th grade.

Madagascar Jr. Director/Choreographer Davis Boys & Girls Club
Milwaukee, WI

Directed and choreographed *Madagascar Jr.* at the Davis Boys & Girls Club through a partnership with First Stage and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

The Lion King Jr. Director/Choreographer MLK School
Milwaukee, WI

Directed and choreographed *The Lion King Jr.* at Milwaukee Public School – MLK through a partnership with First Stage, the Boys & Girls Club of Milwaukee, and Turnaround Arts.

Becky Shaw Director Rollins College
Winter Park, FL

Directed contemporary play *Becky Shaw* by Gina Gionfriddo for Senior Capstone project. Premiered in the black box space at Rollins College. Entirely student produced.

Reefer Madness Assistant Director/Choreographer Rollins College
Winter Park, FL

Fall musical at Rollins College. Responsible for assisting in creating and implementing choreography, cleaning choreography, working acting moments with the cast, giving notes, and assisting the Director in whatever capacity needed.

Cinderella G2K Assistant Director/Choreographer Orlando Repertory Theatre
Orlando, FL

Summer Youth Academy Production camp. Assisted Director in casting, blocking, and choreography creation and implementation.

The Wizard of Oz Assistant Director/Choreographer Orlando Repertory Theatre
Orlando, FL

Fall Youth Academy production. Assisted Director in casting, blocking, and choreography creation and implementation.

Choreography

*The Hero Twins:
The Blood Race* Movement Specialist The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Touring TYA piece for the University of Texas at Austin's 2019-2020 season. Advised and collaborated on storytelling through movement, puppetry, lifts, and physical interaction with scenic elements. Advised and helped to shape "The Awesome Ballet."

Shrek the Musical Jr. Choreographer Maple Dale School
Milwaukee, WI

Spring musical for Maple Dale School students 3rd-8th grade. Created and implemented original choreography and blocking for all musical numbers. Collaborated with the Director and school administrators to reach a cohesive artistic vision. Acted as a student/parent liaison.

Nate the Great Choreographer First Stage Children's Theater
Milwaukee, WI

Opening Mainstage production of the 2018-19 season. Created and implemented original choreography in the styles of jazz and tango. Collaborated with the artistic and production teams to reach a cohesive artistic vision. Attended production meetings, auditions, and rehearsals.

2018 Season Preview Event Choreographer First Stage Children's Theater
Milwaukee, WI

Season preview event for First Stage patrons, donors, and families. Created and implemented original choreography for selections from *Matilda the Musical* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical* for 50+ students in 3rd-12th grade to perform at the event.

Turn on the Talent Choreographer Kluge Elementary School
Milwaukee, WI

Milwaukee Public School Spring competition. Choreographed and taught the 2017 and 2018 routines for Kluge Elementary students grades 3rd-5th. Songs included "Freak Flag" from *Shrek the Musical* and "Ease on Down the Road" from *The Wiz*.

Seussical the Musical Jr. Choreographer Maple Dale School
Milwaukee, WI

Spring musical for Maple Dale School students 3rd-8th grade. Created and implemented original choreography and blocking for all musical numbers. Collaborated with the Director and school administrators to reach a cohesive artistic vision. Acted as a student/parent liaison.

St. Marcus Benefit Gala Choreographer St. Marcus Lutheran School
Milwaukee, WI

Performative component for the annual St. Marcus Lutheran School Benefit Gala. Created and implemented original choreography for the 2016 and 2017 Gala with students 3rd-8th grade based on the themes of “The Power of Purpose” and “Commit to Grit.”

Touring Company Choreographer First Stage Children’s Theater
Milwaukee, WI

Advanced school-year intensive touring ensemble for students 6th-12th grade. Collaborated with the students and Director to devise an original 45-minute show based on a Theater for Social Justice topic. Created and implemented original choreography for all musical numbers. Collaborated with the Director to reach a cohesive artistic vision.

Lovabye Dragon Choreographer First Stage Children’s Theater
Milwaukee, WI

Winter First Steps 2017 production. Created and implemented original choreography for actors and puppets. Collaborated with the artistic and production teams to reach a cohesive artistic vision. Attended production meetings and rehearsals.

Peter Pan Jr. Choreographer Maple Dale School
Milwaukee, WI

Spring musical for Maple Dale School students 3rd-8th grade. Created and implemented original choreography and blocking for all musical numbers. Collaborated with the Director and school administrators to reach a cohesive artistic vision. Acted as a student/parent liaison.

Welcome to Bronzeville Choreographer First Stage Children’s Theater
Milwaukee, WI

Winter 2017 Mainstage production. Created and implemented original choreography in the style of 1950s and 60s era dance. Collaborated with the artistic and production teams to reach a cohesive artistic vision. Attended production meetings, auditions, and rehearsals.

Attitudes Dance Concert Choreographer Rollins College
Winter Park, FL

Fall 2015 student choreographed and produced dance concert. Choreographed a contemporary piece entitled “Working Song” to Appalachian folk music with six dancers.

Teaching Artistry

Secondary

Teaching Artist

Pink Umbrella Theater Company

March 2020 - Present

Milwaukee, WI

Created and implemented curriculum in a variety of classes designed for individuals who identify with a physical, intellectual, or emotional disability under the mission of “accessible theatre for all.” Classes include:

Musical Theatre and Me: series of 10 asynchronous, downloadable lessons exploring stories and songs from movies and musicals. Each class includes a vocal and physical warm-up, acting strategy, and vocal/choreographic performance. Themes include:

The Happiest Place on Earth

Dance 101

Musical Theatre - Virtual: one-week one-hour virtual class designed for students ages 8-18. Students combined singing, dancing and acting to create dynamic characters each week. Designed to increase confidence, creativity and connection. Themes include:

Seussical the Musical

Matilda the Musical

Found Object Puppetry - Virtual: one-week one-hour virtual class designed for students ages 8-18. Students explored how to use objects in their own space to create puppets. Students learned about how to create their own puppet characters and stories through puppetry building and performance techniques.

One on One Coaching - Virtual: 8-10 week sessions of thirty-minute classes designed to serve the interests and needs of each student. Class subjects include:

Musical Theatre

Puppetry

Teaching Artist

ZACH Theatre

May 2019 – May 2020

Austin, TX

Created and implemented curriculum in a variety of classes designed to deepen technique, demonstrate performance skills, and prepare students for their next big role. Classes include:

Production Workshop: The Greatest Showman: twelve-week 90-minute class designed for students 6th-9th grade to prepare them for performance in professional productions. Students learned vocal and dance technique while preparing a musical revue of songs and short scenes from The Greatest Showman.

Intro to Acting: twelve-week 90-minute class designed for students in 4th-7th grade as the foundation of ZACH’s training program. Students learned the basic tools and vocabulary of an actor as they took cues from the script to identify relationships, objectives,

obstacles, tactics, and stakes for their characters. Students studied and prepared scenes from *The Hobbit*.

Resident Teaching Artist – Academy

First Stage Children’s Theater

January 2017 – May 2019

Milwaukee, WI

Created and implemented curriculum in a variety of classes designed to teach life skills through stage skills and provide students with a strong foundation in technique and collaboration. Classes include:

Semi-Private Dance: six-week one-hour Saturday Academy class. Provided students 6th-12th grade with individualized attention to develop physical awareness, balance, flexibility, and strength. Class structure included warm-up, across the floor, and combinations.

Musical Theatre- School Year: six-week one-hour Saturday Academy class designed for students 6th-12th grade based on musical theatre genre. Each session featured a different genre. Students learned how to identify genre in musical theatre and practiced applied storytelling through music and movement. Used a song from each genre to prepare a full song and dance for presentation. Genres and songs include:

The Golden Age of Broadway – “There’s No Business Like Show Business”
Song Cycles – “Macavity: The Mystery Cat”

Musical Theatre – Summer: four-week full-day Summer Academy class designed for advanced students 5th-12th grade. Students learned about storytelling through music and movement using shows currently running on Broadway. Prepped three full song and dance numbers for performance.

Voice & Movement: four-week full-day Summer Academy class designed for advanced students 5th-12th grade. Students learned about voice and movement techniques including, but not limited to: Alexander Technique, projection, resonance, and storytelling through movement. Collaborated with other 5th-12th teachers to implement Voice & Movement techniques into all other classes.

Next Steps Acting: six-week one-hour Saturday Academy class designed for students 6th-12th grade on the Autism Spectrum. Taught curriculum based on the skills of voice, body, imagination, expression, communication, and empathy. Devised a short 5-minute play with students using student created sock puppets for the Winter 2018 session. Blocked and performed scenes from the musical *Nate the Great* for the Fall 2018 session.

Next Steps Musical Theatre: six-week one-hour Saturday Academy class designed for students 6th-12th grade on the Autism Spectrum. Taught curriculum based on the skills of voice, body, imagination, expression, communication, and empathy. Students learned about the Rock/Pop musical genre and prepped a full song and dance number to “We’re Not Gonna Take It” by Twisted Sister.

Next Steps Musical Theatre - Summer: two-week half-day Summer Academy class designed for students 3rd-5th and 6th-12th grade on the Autism Spectrum. Taught curriculum based on the skills of voice, body, imagination, expression, communication, and empathy. Led students through ensemble activities to develop “All About Me”

profiles. Prepped song and dance numbers to short segments of each of the student's favorite song to help empower the students and build confidence.

Resident Teaching Artist – Education

August 2017 – September 2018

First Stage Children's Theater

Milwaukee, WI

Implemented arts-integrated curriculum at Milwaukee area and Milwaukee Public Schools designed to incite young people's desire for learning. Residencies and workshops include:

Antarctica, WI Residency: seven-week residency at Milwaukee Public School – Manitoba designed for students in 7th grade to develop a deeper understanding of the themes in the play *Antarctica, WI* and create curricular connections to the show through the use of dramatic learning techniques such as Reader's Theater, tableau, pantomime, role play, and collaborative devising.

PAGE (Partners for the Advancement of Gifted Education) Workshop Day: co-facilitated three Character Education workshops for 6th-12th grade students involved in the PAGE program at their schools. Techniques included pantomime, role play, and improvisation.

Teaching Apprentice – Academy

June 2016 – January 2017

First Stage Children's Theater

Milwaukee, WI

Shadowed and assisted Lead Teachers in creating and implementing curriculum in a variety of classes designed to teach life skills through stage skills and provide students with a strong foundation in technique and collaboration. Classes include:

Acting Theory: two-week full-day Summer Academy class designed for students 5th-12th grade. Students were guided through exploration of Stanislavsky technique and worked on scenes from the 2016-2017 First Stage season.

Teaching Artist

June 2014 – April 2016

Orlando Repertory Theater

Orlando, FL

Created and implemented lesson plans that corresponded with Florida State Standards in a variety of classes designed to provide students with a strong foundation in technique and collaboration. Classes include:

Potter!: one-week theatre camp designed for students 6th-10th grade based on the Harry Potter series. Incorporated themes from the books used the improvisation game Pop-Up Story Book to devise a re-telling of "The Tales of Beedle the Bard" with students.

Twisted TV: one-week theatre camp designed for students 6th-10th grade focused on the production and design elements of film. Led students through the creation of their own short films using different genres of television such as comedy and mockumentary for presentation viewing.

Pitched Perfect: Here Comes Treble: one-week theatre camp designed for students 6th-10th grade based on the Pitch Perfect movie series. Incorporated themes and songs from

the movies and used popular music to devise an original “riff-off” that included singing and dancing.

Associate Teaching Artist

Orlando Repertory Theater

June 2014 – April 2016

Orlando, FL

Shadowed and assisted in creating and implementing lesson plans that corresponded with Florida State Standards in a variety of classes designed to provide students with a strong foundation in technique and collaboration. Classes include:

Charms, Potions, and Spells with Harry Potter: one-week theatre camp designed for students 6th-10th grade based on the Harry Potter series. Incorporated themes from the books and used spells to devise duel scenes with students.

Elementary

Teaching Artist

Pink Umbrella Theater Company

March 2020 – Present

Milwaukee, WI

Musical Theatre Performance Workshop – Virtual: eight-week one-hour virtual class designed for students ages 8-13. Students combined singing, dancing, and acting to create dynamic characters and build their performance skills with the intention of training for performance. Designed to increase confidence, creativity, and connection. Themes include:

The Little Mermaid Jr.

One on One Coaching - Virtual: 8-10 week sessions of thirty-minute classes designed to serve the interests and needs of each student. Class subjects include:

Musical Theatre

Puppetry

Teaching Artist

ZACH Theatre

May 2019 – May 2020

Austin, TX

Created and implemented curriculum in a variety of classes designed to deepen technique, demonstrate performance skills, and prepare students for their next big role. Classes include:

Production Workshop: twelve-week 90-minute class designed for students 2nd-5th grade to prepare them for performance in professional productions. Students learned vocal and dance technique while preparing a musical revue of songs and short scenes. Themes include:

The Wizard of Oz

The Greatest Showman

Musical Theatre: one-week full-day class designed for students 3rd-5th grade to develop and hone their musical theatre skills. Students rotated through Acting, Singing, Dance, and Design classes throughout the day. Students prepared selections from the musical

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown including "My Blanket and Me," "The Kite," and "My New Philosophy."

Act the Story: one-week full day class designed for students K-2nd grade. Students rotated through Movement, Design, and Story Extension classes throughout the day. Students explored basic actor's tools and stage presence through themes and using their newfound techniques created guided improvisational stories together. Themes include:

The Jungle Book

Dragons, Wizards, and Faeries

Your Pal Mo Willems

Broadway Kids: one-week full day class designed for students K-2nd grade. Students rotated through Dance, Singing, and Design classes throughout the day. Students explored basic actor's tools and stage presence through dance and song. Students prepared short musical theatre pieces based on a theme. Themes include:

The Little Mermaid

Cinderella

The Wizard of Oz

Beauty and the Beast

Resident Teaching Artist – Academy

First Stage Children's Theater

January 2017 – May 2019

Milwaukee, WI

Created and implemented curriculum in a variety of classes designed to teach life skills through stage skills and provide students with a strong foundation in technique and collaboration. Classes include:

OM Summer and Spring Break Academy: one-week full-day Academy class designed for students 3rd-5th grade based on the musical *Matilda*. Students rotated through Voice & Movement, Acting, and Musical Theater classes throughout the day. In classes, students were guided through the entire plot of *Matilda* in preparation to present "Matilda Abridged." This included movement stories to "When I Grow Up", scenes from beginning to end of the play, and song and dance numbers to "Naughty" and "Revoltin' Children."

Musical Theatre: six-week one-hour Saturday Academy class designed for students 3rd-5th grade based on musical theatre genre. Each session featured a different genre. Students learned how to identify genre in musical theatre and practiced applied storytelling through music and movement. Used a song from each genre to prepare a full song and dance for presentation. Genres include:

The Golden Age of Broadway – "Oklahoma"

Song Cycles – "Oh the Things You Can Think"

Jukebox Musicals – "Hit Me With Your Best Shot"

Story Drama Dance: six-week one-hour Saturday Academy class designed for students 1st-2nd grade. Students were guided through creative drama activities that fostered self-expression, cooperation, and movement exploration. Students helped to create a movement piece using the characters and structures found in a featured book. Book titles include:

“Where’s My Mummy?” by Carolyn Crimi

“The Water Princess” by Susan Verde

Intro to Acting: eight-week one-hour Wednesday Academy class designed for students 3rd-5th grade in partnership with MPS Schools. Students were guided through activities to introduce the fundamentals of acting such as ROOTS (Relationship, Objective, Obstacle, Tactics, Stakes) and character building. Students collaborated in blocking scenes from *Luchadora* for presentation.

Resident Teaching Artist – Education

First Stage Children’s Theater

August 2017 – September 2018

Milwaukee, WI

Implemented arts-integrated curriculum at Milwaukee area and Milwaukee Public Schools designed to incite young people’s desire for learning. Residencies and workshops include:

Musical Theatre Dance: year-long residency at Kluge Elementary’s Community Learning Center program through First Stage. Designed for students K5-5th grade. Students were guided through the fundamentals of Musical Theatre and taught a new dance combination every 1-2 weeks. Students were given the ability to collaborate and create their own choreography by the end of the school year.

Early Literacy Residency: full-year K4 residency at MPS Spanish Immersion. Students were guided through creative drama activities that fostered expression, comprehension, and cooperation through a new book each book. Book titles include:

The Little Engine that Could

Pinkalicious

Ferdinand the Bull

Five Little Monkeys

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Spookley the Square Pumpkin

Silly Sally

Frog & Toad

The Three Little Pigs

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

The Cat in the Hat

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

Swimmy

Lovabye Dragon

Mole’s Hill

Caps for Sale

Kitten’s First Full Moon

Teaching Through Theater: workshops designed for K4-2nd grade that use dramatic activities directly linked to the Common Core State Standards, Wisconsin’s Model Academy Standards, and 21st Century Learning Skills. Curriculum is implemented through dramatic learning techniques such as role play, improvised scene work, movement-based exercises and pantomime. Themes include:

Cycles in Nature

Our Solar System

Edward Tulane Residency: seven-week residency at Milwaukee Public School – Trowbridge, designed for students in 4th and 5th grade to develop a deeper understanding of the play's (*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*) themes. Students worked to create curricular connections to the show through Reader's Theater, tableau, role play and pantomime.

Bully Ban Character Education: workshops designed for K4-8th grade students. Using Theater for Social Change, students identified tactics in problem solving, and practiced positive conflict resolution. Students developed creative and practical solutions to problems, worked to understand the points of view of others, and inspired others to make respectful and positive choices through example using role play, tableau, and collaborative devising.

Tales by the Fire with the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center: Led and performed in interactive performance events for children ages 3-10 at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center. Performances based on Education department workshop curriculum and plots of current season shows from the First Stage season. Shows included:

Spookley the Square Pumpkin

The Cat in the Hat

Teaching Artist

Danceworks Inc.

August 2017 – June 2018

Milwaukee, WI

Developed and implemented dance curriculum for students ages 3 and 4 in Creative Dance, Pre-Tap, and Pre-Ballet. Curriculum focused on creative imagery that encouraged the use of technique development and imagination. Choreographed and presented two dance numbers for the 2018 Spring Showcase.

Teaching Apprentice – Academy

First Stage Children's Theater

June 2016 – January 2017

Milwaukee, WI

Shadowed and assisted Lead Teachers in creating and implementing curriculum in a variety of classes designed to teach life skills through stage skills and provide students with a strong foundation in technique and collaboration. Classes include:

Playmakers: one-week full-day Summer Academy class designed for students 1st-2nd grade. Students were guided through creative drama activities that fostered improvisation, self-expression, and cooperation. Students were given agency to create their own story using the story structure of "story mountain" that revolved around a theme. Themes included:

Treasure Island

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

The Hobbit

Alice through the Looking Glass

Goosebumps

First Steps: eight-week one-hour Saturday Academy class designed for students age 3-4 with a parent. Students were guided through creative drama activities that fostered imagination, self-expression, and literary comprehension. A new book was introduced each week as the focus class.

Audition Prep: eight-week one-hour Saturday Academy class designed for students 3rd-5th grade. Students learned audition etiquette and received monologue coaching in preparation for auditions for the 2017-2018 First Stage season.

Guest Artist: Rockin' REP Rec Fest

Orlando Repertory Theater – College Park Community Center

April 2016

Orlando, FL

Led a residency based on the theme “Community Heroes” at the College Park Community Center designed for students in 2nd-5th grade in partnership with the City of Orlando. Students were guided through discussion, devised theme-based poems, and performed a song and dance number to “Thank You For Being a Friend” from the Golden Girls.

Workshop Facilitator: ACT Workshop

Orlando Repertory Theater

April 2016

Orlando, FL

Arts and Character Training workshop with Edgewood Children’s Ranch; Introduced theater fundamentals and explored story, characters, and themes found in *Skippyjon Jones* while simultaneously providing students with the skills to apply theater concepts to everyday life.

Teaching Artist

Orlando Repertory Theater

June 2014 – April 2016

Orlando, FL

Created and implemented lesson plans that corresponded with Florida State Standards in a variety of classes designed to provide students with a strong foundation in fundamentals and collaboration. Classes include:

Inside Out: Sweet Emotions: one-week theatre camp designed for students grade 1st-2nd. Incorporated themes from the movie into curriculum. Students were guided through creative drama activities that fostered comprehension of emotions and self-expression, cooperation, and creativity. Used the plot of the movie to devise an original retelling.

Pitched Perfect: Gone Platinum: one-week theatre camp designed for students 3rd-5th grade based on the Pitch Perfect movie series. Incorporated themes from the movies and used popular music to devise an original “riff-off” that included singing and dancing.

Danger in the Dark: A Magic Treehouse Adventure: one-week theatre camp designed for students 3rd-5th grade based on the Magic Treehouse series book “Danger in the Darkest Hour.” Incorporated themes from the book and devised a retelling of the story with students.

Disney’s CineMadness: one-week theatre camp designed for students 1st-2nd grade based on the theme of heroes and songs from the Disney movies *Frozen*, *Tangled*, *Lion King*, and *Hercules*. Students prepared song and dance numbers and explored what it meant to

be a hero themselves. Incorporated the theme of heroes and characters from the movies listed into curriculum.

Never Never Land Kinderdrama: one-week theatre camp designed for students 4-5 years old with no accompanying parent based on Peter Pan. Incorporated themes from the world of Peter Pan into age appropriate curriculum. Led students in creative play through song, obstacle courses, and guided improvisation.

Associate Teaching Artist

Orlando Repertory Theater

June 2014 – April 2016

Orlando, FL

Shadowed and assisted in creating and implementing lesson plans that corresponded with Florida State Standards in a variety of classes designed to provide students with a strong foundation in fundamentals and collaboration. Classes include:

Planet Pop: The Divas: one-week theatre camp designed for students 3rd-5th grade based on pop music divas such as Taylor Swift and Katy Perry. Led students through vocal technique basics and choreography to create a medley of songs.

Disney Movie Magic: one-week theatre camp designed for students 1st-2nd grade based on songs and themes from the Disney movies *Hercules*, *Lion King*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Pocahontas*, and *Toy Story*. Students prepared song and dance numbers and explored musical theater basics such as rhythm and tempo.

Dramaturgy

Wyeth Airlines Flight Thirteen

Dramaturg

The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Original TYA play by Lena Barnard for the University of Texas at Austin's 2020-2021 season. Advised on script creation and storytelling, authenticity of undergraduate students playing young people, and world building. Coordinated presence of young people in rehearsal and interviews of the cast and crew by young people. Curated and created a digital lobby display for the virtual production: <https://prezi.com/view/IS9CsKsR4dY0tRgogLQe/>

Administrative

Drama for Schools Summer Institute Facilitator

The University of Texas at Austin

June 2020

Austin, TX

Collaborated in creating original content for the first virtual Drama for Schools Summer Institute intended for Austin area schoolteachers. Content aimed to introduce teachers to Drama-Based Pedagogy theory and practice through 3-days of group-session work. Responsible for script-

writing and filming supplemental strategy videos, captioning videos, curating and creating Prezi presentations and documents, creating and managing a Slack channel and tech guide for the event, and facilitating strategies.

Hamlettes School Show Coordinator

The University of Texas at Austin

October 2019

Austin, TX

Managed and facilitated communication with Austin area high school teachers to invite them to attend weekend showings of *Hamlettes*. Created content advisories and coordinated funding for busses from high school campuses to the The University of Texas campus. Collaborated with the production team to create talkback structure and questions to engage with high school students in attendance.

Next Steps/K-4 Program Director

First Stage Children's Theater

September 2018 – May 2019

Milwaukee, WI

Managed and oversaw all aspects of K-4 and Next Steps programming – designed for students on the Autism Spectrum. Hired, supervised, and managed all K-4/Next Steps Teaching Artist staff. Developed, implemented, and advised on all K-4/Next Steps curriculum and classroom management. Managed and facilitated the Student Advisory Board for students in 5th-12th grade. Conducted Next Steps new student meet & greets and created student information sheets to ensure maximum success for every student. Oversaw county funding and claims submittal. Organized and facilitated all Sensory Friendly rehearsals and shows. Created social stories and other necessary accommodations as needed.

MPS All City Arts Festival Coordinator

First Stage Children's Theater

March 2018 – May 2018

Milwaukee, WI

Coordinated all aspects of First Stage's participation in the 1st annual Milwaukee Public Schools All City Arts Festival – a festival designed for students in K4-12th grade to expose them to different kinds of art within the Milwaukee community. Attended pre-planning meetings, communicated needs for programming, developed programming and curriculum for the event, and implanted curriculum during the event.

Resident Teaching Artist

First Stage Children's Theater

June 2017 – September 2018

Milwaukee, WI

Coordinated and managed booking for all Touring Company shows. Advised and collaborated on the creation of Academy brochures, calendar schedules, and program initiatives. Managed material check-out for adjunct Teaching Artists and t-shirt inventory. Completed other administrative duties as assigned.

Box Office Associate

Rollins College

September 2013 – May 2016

Winter Park, FL

Acted as frontline customer service through answering phone calls and e-mails made to the box office regarding ticket reservations and payments. Seated patrons for performances and accepted payment through Salesforce software. Fulfilled walk-up ticket orders and will call on the night of performances.

Vice President of Membership Recruitment

Alpha Omicron Pi – Rollins College

February 2015 – February 2016

Winter Park, FL

Managed a led a chapter of 100+ members through recruitment. Established recruitment objectives, trained members in recruitment procedures through workshops, and organized budget and logistics of recruitment events. Led all members through recruitment procedures and selection during recruitment week.

Social Chair

Alpha Omicron Pi – Rollins College

February 2014 – February 2015

Winter Park, FL

Managed and planned all social events for a chapter of 100+ members. Chose themes for events, coordinated committees, negotiated pricing with venues, set-up events, and facilitated clean up. Worked to ensure all procedures were completed to the highest standard of excellence.

Performance *(a selection)*

<i>Lovabye Dragon</i>	Mother/Magical	First Stage Children’s Theater Milwaukee, WI
<i>Mole Hill Stories</i>	Cucu	First Stage Children’s Theater Milwaukee, WI
<i>Sisters 8</i>	All Female Roles	First Stage Children’s Theater Milwaukee, WI
<i>Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook</i>	Female Understudy	First Stage Children’s Theater Milwaukee, WI
<i>Hello, Dolly!</i>	Ensemble	Rollins College Winter Park, FL
<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Serena	STL Performing Arts Orlando, FL

<i>Guys & Dolls</i>	Hot Box Girl	Rollins College Winter Park, FL
<i>The Wiz</i>	Scarecrow	STL Performing Arts Orlando, FL
<i>Working</i>	Candy Cottingham	Rollins College Winter Park, FL

Publications

Editorials

TYA Today: Spring 2018

“Internships and Fellowships in TYA: The Importance of Being Heard”

Honors, Awards, and Appointments

Awards

Provost Fellowship

The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Austin, TX

\$15,000 merit-based scholarship award.

S. Joseph Nassif Award

Rollins College

May 2016

Winter Park, FL

Theatre Arts award awarded to the graduating theatre major who has consistently made a positive, colorful, and unique contribution to the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Diana Holt Dance Scholarship

Rollins College

September 2016 – May 2016

Winter Park, FL

Scholarship awarded to the dance student who has demonstrated consistent excellence in classroom work and performance. This student is chosen by faculty of the Dance Department.

William & Helen Moore Endowment

Rollins College

September 2015 – May 2016

Winter Park, FL

\$3,000 grant awarded based on the wishes of the donors used in conjunction with the Rollins Grant Program.

Centennial Award

Rollins College

September 2013 – May 2016

Winter Park, FL

\$6,250 scholarship awarded based on academic performance, service, and involvement.

President’s List

Rollins College

September 2013 – May 2016

Winter Park, FL

Honor awarded to students who maintain a 3.8 GPA or higher during their time at Rollins College.

Dean’s Scholarship

Sarah Lawrence College

September 2012 – May 2013

Bronxville, NY

\$8,000 merit-based scholarship based on past academic and personal achievement in addition to the potential for accomplishments during the student’s time at Sarah Lawrence College.

Appointments

TYA BIPOC Affinity Group

TYA/USA

Present

Attends TYA BIPOC Affinity Group meetings in an effort to voice grievances regarding race in the Theatre for Young Audiences field and imagine possibilities for the future improvement of the field. The group aims to create a space for BIPOC artists in the name of community-building, healing, and restoration, but also to organize our ideas, build collective vision, and challenge our predominantly white field to self-examine and evolve.

Fine Arts Diversity Committee

The University of Texas at Austin

Present

Austin, TX

Serves on the Fine Arts Diversity Committee at the University of Texas at Austin. The Fine Arts Diversity Committee is a partnership between the college and UT’s Division of Diversity and Community Engagement to create and implement a comprehensive diversity strategic plan. Formed as a taskforce in 2012, the committee is made up of representatives from faculty, staff, graduate students and undergraduate students from the College of Fine Arts, the Department of Art and Art History, the Department of Theatre and Dance, Butler School of Music and Texas Performing Arts, as well as staff from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement and the Office for Inclusion and Equity. Serves as the graduate student member of the committee to

provide student voice and presence in the space. Serves on sub-committees such as student recruitment as needed.

Anti-Racist/Anti-Ableist Committee

Pink Umbrella Theater Company

Present
Milwaukee, WI

Serves on the Pink Umbrella Theater Company Anti-Racist/Anti-Ableist committee created in response to the social justice demands from the We See You White American Theater document. Assists and collaborates in crafting language for organizational statements regarding the culture surrounding race and ableism for public consumption. Offers a critical eye to ensure all programmatic decisions are considering the claims made in the outward facing anti-racism and anti-ableism statements.

Cohen New Works Festival Dramaturgy Committee

The University of Texas at Austin

Present
Austin, TX

Serves on the 2020-2021 Cohen New Works Festival Dramaturgy committee. The Dramaturgy Committee facilitates resource and knowledge sharing to enliven new works beyond the virtual stage. Dramaturgy oversees activities like rehearsal support, moderating panels and talkbacks, and the development and distribution of engaging resources-- all in service of deeper critical inquiry and collaboration across disciplines. Crafted festival mission and values and advises the Cohen New Works Executive committee on ensuring all programmatic decisions are intentional in serving that mission. Offers a critical lens on Executive committee documents and language when needed.

Cohen New Works Festival Selection Committee

The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2020
Austin, TX

Served on the selection committee for the 2021 Cohen New Works virtual Festival. Reviewed 60+ applications and pitch videos tracking project content, project lead identity, and project length in an effort to create as diverse a festival as possible. Collaborated with the rest of the committee to curate the 2021 festival line-up, prioritizing health and safety in choosing projects that honored the remote and virtual mission of the festival.

Research Assistant – Texas Performing Arts

The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2020
Austin, TX

Assisted Executive Director Bob Bursey and Programs and Events employees Brenda Simms and Tim Rogers in managing and researching Theatre for Young Audiences programming for current and future Texas Performing Arts seasons. Researched shows and companies leading the Theatre for Young Audiences field in innovation and touring with the intention of future booking possibilities for upcoming Texas Performing Arts seasons. Compiled research in a presentation

and curated a potential season considering budget, venue size, and Austin audiences. Created and managed a team of four undergraduate students to collaborate on the creation of content for Austin area schoolteachers about the University Interscholastic League set rules and requirements. Oversaw the script and storyboard development for videos to be filmed and edited.

Research Assistant – Drama for Schools

The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2020

Austin, TX

Assisted professors Katie Dawson and Lara Dossett in completing administrative tasks and projects for Drama for Schools. Collaborated on and facilitated strategies for the 1 Book, 1 BiH Master Teacher Training sessions for teachers in Bosnia in Herzegovina. Advised a pair of Master Teachers from Bosnia in Herzegovina on Drama-Based Pedagogy strategies and learning design. Curated and created supplemental resources for teachers in Bosnia in Herzegovina to teach the book *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone: <https://sites.google.com/view/1bih1book-teachingresources/home>. Transcribed Zoom interviews in preparation for research work for the new Drama-Based Pedagogy/Drama for Schools book to be published. Sourced and updated information for the 2020 Berkman Elementary Student-Teacher Learning Community Executive Report. Offered revision suggestions for *Dear Martin* lessons created in the Spring 2020 Drama-Based Pedagogy course to be posted on the Drama-Based Instruction Network website. Managed content to be posted on the Drama for Schools Facebook page.

Teaching Apprentice – Creative Drama II

The University of Texas at Austin

Spring 2019

Austin, TX

Assisted professor Sara Simons in leading junior UTeach Theatre undergraduate students through the Creative Drama II course. This is a required course for junior undergraduates who wish to student teach in their final Spring semester. Duties included grading and offering feedback on student assignments, supervision and feedback of student teaching at Austin area elementary schools, supervision and advisement on student lesson plans, facilitation of a class session on story drama curriculum and techniques, and leading weekly class warm-up strategies. Adhered to performance benchmarks and core competencies which reflect University expectations, values, and priorities for graduate teaching assistance including: teaching and presentation ability; quality of work; oral and written communication; accountability and self-management; subject knowledge and learning ability; and, flexibility and adaptability.

Teaching Apprentice – Latinx TYA

The University of Texas at Austin

Spring 2019

Austin, TX

Assisted professor Roxanne Schroder-Arce in leading undergraduate students through the Latinx TYA course. This course is open to all undergraduate and graduate students interested in reading, analyzing, and exploring Theatre for Young Audiences plays written by, for, and about

Latinx people and culture. Duties included syllabus advisement, grading and offering feedback on student assignments, facilitating two class sessions on topics related to Latinx TYA, facilitation of guest artist forms, and management of online Zoom reading. Adhered to performance benchmarks and core competencies which reflect University expectations, values, and priorities for graduate teaching assistance including: teaching and presentation ability; quality of work; oral and written communication; accountability and self-management; subject knowledge and learning ability; and, flexibility and adaptability.

Teaching Apprentice – Directing the Young Performer

The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2019

Austin, TX

Assisted professor Michael Avila in leading senior UTeach Theatre undergraduate students through the Directing the Young Performer course. This is a required course for senior undergraduates who wish to student teach in their final Spring semester. Duties included supervision and feedback of senior undergraduate directors at Austin area high schools, communication with cooperating high school teachers, facilitation of guest artist forms, one-week lecture on sensory friendly performances, and weekend show coordination. Adhered to performance benchmarks and core competencies which reflect University expectations, values, and priorities for graduate teaching assistance including: teaching and presentation ability; quality of work; oral and written communication; accountability and self-management; subject knowledge and learning ability; and, flexibility and adaptability.

Dance Captain

Hello, Dolly!, Rollins College

May 2016

Winter Park, FL

Shadowed the choreographer to learn all choreography for the show. Assisted in cleaning and working with actors who needed extra support in choreography. Maintained quality of choreography execution throughout the run of the show.

Dance Captain

Guys and Dolls, Rollins College

May 2016

Winter Park, FL

Shadowed the choreographer to learn all choreography for the show. Assisted in cleaning and working with actors who needed extra support in choreography. Maintained quality of choreography execution throughout the run of the show.

Research and Projects

Research

Teaching Play Thesis Collaborator

The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2020

Austin, TX

Served as a collaborator in the development, creation, and facilitation of third-year lighting design MFA Bill Rios' thesis project. The project aimed to explore how the ideas and vision of young people can be incorporated into the design process. Collaborated with Bill to shape research questions, provided insight on the development of young people and age-appropriate programming, and partnered with Creative Action and Foundation Communities in Austin, TX to create and facilitate two original workshop sessions on environmental activism for elementary aged students.

Performing Justice Project Thesis Collaborator

The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2019

Austin, TX

Collaborated with third-year Drama and Theatre for Youth and Community MFAs Faith Hillis and Laura Epperson on their thesis project, The Performing Justice Project. The Performing Justice Project was a residency set up in partnership with Settlement Home in Austin, TX that uses a performance-building process to devise original theatre that engages young people in imagining and enacting gender and racial justice in their own lives and communities. Offered opinions in curriculum development, kept field notes for future research reference, and modeled participation in residency sessions.

Interrogating EDI Initiatives in TYA: Professional Production Practices and the Inclusion of Young Performers of Color

The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2019

Austin, TX

Wrote an original research paper on interrogating equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives in the Theatre for Young Audiences field with a specific lens on analyzing the participation of young performers of color in professional productions. Utilized Tara J. Yosso's community cultural wealth theory and feminist pedagogy as frameworks to re-imagine the professional casting and rehearsal processes through proposed activities that work toward more effective inclusion of young performers of color in professional casting and rehearsal processes. It is important to note that this project does not claim to be a cure-all solution, but instead a set of suggestions to help theater practitioners work through their own oppressive practices.

“Du Iz Tak?” Performance Research

Summer 2019

Austin, TX

Participated as a researcher and performer in Taylor Jane Cooper’s adaptation of the children’s book “Du Iz Tak?” by Carson Ellis into an original Theatre for the Very Young piece. Partnered with Casa Marianella in Austin, TX to workshop performance vignettes with young refugees in their home spaces. Participated in devising sessions and reflection informed by previous interactions with the young people.

Projects

Supervised Teaching Portfolio

Fall 2020

The University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

Created an original teaching portfolio for the Supervised Teaching course taught by Dr. Rebecca Rossen. Edited a full curriculum vitae, wrote a teaching statement that articulates my values and expertise in teaching, created a syllabus and sample class plan to be used for future collegiate teaching, and developed descriptions for possible collegiate courses to teach in the future.

Strategies of Embodiment Scrapbook

Fall 2020

The University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

Created two original scrapbooks – one physical, one digital – as a final project to attempt to encompass the culture, theory, and practice created and experienced in the Fall 2020 Strategies of Embodiment course taught by Leah Cox. Scrapbooks created with the intention of being used for future research to investigate if the culture and ethic of creation created during the course is replicable.

Foundations of Arts Management Company Portfolio

Fall 2020

The University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

Created a hypothetical original Theatre for Young Audiences company entitled “The Young People’s Theatre Company.” Wrote an organizational overview intended for a grant application, articulated the artistic planning method for the company using approaches as outlined by Carpenter and Blandy, created an season calendar and exhibition plan, developed an evaluation plan for the organization’s school education program, and drafted a season budget.

Directing Audio Project: *Blue Suite*

Spring 2020

The University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

Directed, recorded, and edited an original interpretation of a segment of *Blue Suite* by Universes. Collaborated with two undergraduate actors to audio record readings of the material based on

ten different provocations. Took the individual actor recordings and edited them together to create the final audio piece using Audacity software.

Applied Theatre Project of Significance: Devising with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

Spring 2020
Austin, TX

The University of Texas at Austin

Conceptualized an original applied theatre project with colleague, Jake Young, centered around devising an original piece of theatre that centers young people in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community as co-planners and decision makers. Imagined future partnership planes with the Texas School for the Deaf and created supplemental materials in preparation for an initial inquiry meeting of the project.

Puppet Fabrication

Fall 2019
Austin, TX

The University of Texas at Austin

Created and fabricated two original puppet characters – one marionette and one hand and rod puppet in the style of The Muppets – from scratch. Produced to-scale renderings of each puppet, worked with shop equipment such as power saws, whittling tools, airbrush paint equipment, drills, power sanders, latex molds, and barge glue. Learned whittling techniques, airbrush painting techniques, pattern and sewing techniques, fabric dyeing techniques, and finishing techniques.

Professional Learning

Conferences

Leaders of Color Institute - Mentee

November 2020

American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE)

Attended the two-day Leaders of Color Institute as a program mentee. Mentees applied to be paired with a mentor in the field to continue conversation beyond the two-day institute and throughout the year. Institute programming centered around joys and challenges of BIPOC artists in the Theatre & Education field.

Alliance Theatre Educator Conference

June 2020

Attended the virtual Alliance Theatre Educator Conference for the month of June for a total of 24 hours of professional learning. Conference programming included keynote speakers and sessions on topics such as generating new work, documentary theatre, process drama, civic dialogue, and arts integration.

TYA/USA Virtual Festival and Conference

May 2020

Attend the three-day 2020 virtual festival and conference. Participated in artistic exchange, meaningful learning, and utilizing resources for navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. Festival and conference programming included keynote speakers, exclusive recordings of Theatre for Young Audiences performances, a song slam of new works, cross-community dialogue, and artistic creation exercises.

Jim Rye Fellow

January 2020

IPAY – International Performing Arts for Youth

Philadelphia, PA

Attend the four-day 2020 International Performing Arts for Youth Showcase in Philadelphia, PA. Represented the face of the IPAY organization as a Fellow. Given opportunities to meet and speak with leaders in the field in addition to regular showcase programming. Collaborated on planning and facilitating a Kitchen Table Session on Youth Activism & Incorporating Youth into the Creative Process. Provided reflections and evaluations on the fellowship program for future development.

University Interscholastic League Student Activity Conference – Presenter

October 2019

Austin, TX

Presented two workshop sessions at the University Interscholastic League Student Activity Conference for high school students entitled “Broadway Basics: Understanding Essential Dance Techniques,” and “Learn Choreography to “Nicest Kids In Town” From *Hairspray The Musical*.” Broadway Basics workshop aimed to provide students with common technical dance vocabulary and choreography to help them feel confident at their next audition or dance rehearsal. The *Hairspray* workshop provided students with an opportunity to learn a portion of the original Broadway choreography to “Nicest Kids in Town,” and hone their performance skills by performing for each other.

Colleen Toohey Porter Fellow

May 2019

TYA/USA

Atlanta, GA

Attended the five-day conference and festival hosted at the Alliance Theater in Atlanta, Georgia. Responsible for representing TYA/USA in all events and activities and conducting myself with professionalism as a participant. Worked alongside the Theatre for Young Audiences/USA board and staff during the event as needed. Duties included assisting with conference sessions and festival shows, local logistics, staffing the registration desk, and providing general administrative support.

Statera National Conference

October 2018
Milwaukee, WI

Attended the three-day conference about intersectional gender balance in the American theatre. Statera's goal is to take action to bring artists who identify as women into full and equal participation in the American theatre.

Webinars

Listen, Learn, Lead: Antiracism in TYA Webinar Series

Fall 2020
TYA/USA

Attend the eleven-session webinar series hosted by TYA/USA and Arts in Color designed to spark a national conversation about the racism and oppression that impacts the entire Theatre for Young Audiences field in personal, professional, and systemic ways. Webinar topics include: anti-racist casting practices, building an EDIJ action plan, honoring native stories, racism as a public health crisis, and the activist teaching artist.

Creating Immersive Theater for Families Online: Behind the Scenes of THE WIZARDS OF OAKWOOD DRIVE

August 2020
TYA/USA

Attended a one-hour fifteen-minute webinar on creating interactive and immersive Theatre for Young Audiences that utilizes the online platform as an integral part of the theatricality. The webinar featured *The Wizards of Oakwood Drive* from La Jolla Playhouse as a specific example of this kind of Theatre for Young Audiences.

The Virtual Special Needs Arts Classroom: Strategies for Teaching Theatre Remotely – Panelist

April 2020
TYA/USA

Served as a panelist and teaching artist representative for Pink Umbrella Theater Company among colleagues who shared ideas, strategies, and lessons learned from moving theatre instruction online for students with differing abilities. Shared personal experience with teaching one-on-one coaching sessions with students online.

Reshaping the Landscape: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in TYA February 2019 TYA/USA

Attended a one-hour fifteen-minute webinar investigating opportunities and questions surround equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiatives within the Theatre for Young Audiences field. The session particularly interrogated how organizations are actually living the missions and values they claim to have.

**Entering the Tent:
Resources for Emerging Professionals in TYA**

November 2018
TYA/USA

Attended a one-hour fifteen-minute webinar on ways for new and emerging TYA professionals to break into the field. The webinar highlighted opportunities and allowed time for questions. Information regarding the TYA/USA Fellowship Programs were also included.

Workshops and Training

Cry Havoc Devising Workshop

The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2020
Austin, TX

Attended a one-hour thirty-minute devising workshop with Mara Richards Bim and students from Cry Havoc Theater Company in Dallas, TX as part of the Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities Colloquium course. Gained insight into Cry Havoc's unique devising process and devised a short original piece of virtual theatre with a small group.

Pink Umbrella Teaching Artist Training

Pink Umbrella Theater Company

Fall 2020
Milwaukee, WI

Attended a six-session training for teaching artists working with Pink Umbrella Theater Company led by Founder, Katie Cummings, and Director of Accessibility & Inclusion, Mary Stone. Sessions focused on the theme of "Exploring Disabilities through a Theater Lens." Gained a better understanding of a wide variety of diagnoses, identified and shared best practices, and widened the teaching tools I use that can be used in every classroom.

Theatre for the Very Young Devising Workshop

The University of Texas at Austin

Spring 2020
Austin, TX

Attended to devising workshops with Dr. Megan Alrutz and Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities alumni Sam Provenzano and Tamara Goldbogen to aid in the development of a new piece of Theatre for the Very Young. The theme explored during the workshop was "belonging," and an emphasis was placed on a visual, movement-based aesthetic that experiments with scale. Small performance vignettes were devised and presented in small groups based on individually-made props and materials.

Next Steps Teaching Artist Training

First Stage Children's Theater

Summer 2016, 2017, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

Attended 4 two-hour training sessions led by Mary Stone – owner of Stepping Stones Educational Services. Sessions covered Autism 101, behavior interpretation, video modeling, best practices, review of student information, and collective discussion.

Trauma Informed Care – An Introduction

Saint A Human Services

May 2017
Milwaukee, WI

Attend a four-hour session led by Saint A professionals regarding Trauma Informed Care (TIC). Session covered local and state trends, organizational and self-reflection, description of types of trauma, triggers and effects of trauma, and steps laying out how to provide trauma informed care.

Teaching Apprentice Training

First Stage Children's Theater

Summer 2016
Milwaukee, WI

Attended bi-weekly professional development sessions led by Academy Director, Katie Cummings and Associate Academy Director, Brenna Kempf to improve skills as a Teaching Artist. Session topics included classroom management, lesson plan creation and implementation, curriculum development, and networking.

Teaching Artist Training

Orlando Repertory Theatre

March 2015
Orlando, FL

Attended a training session led by Community Engagement Director, Emily Freeman. Learned and played theatre games and collaborated with other Teaching Artists to share ideas regarding curriculum and classroom management.

Professional Affiliations

Theatre for Young Audiences/USA/ASSITEJ (TYA/USA/ASSITEJ)

American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE)

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