

Shannon Agnew

Teaching Artist CV

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OBJECTIVE

To use the performing arts to connect students of all ages to their inner wells of creativity, empathy, confidence and imagination, thus allowing richer connections to their creative pursuits in and out of the theater. Using theatrical study as a framing device, students are encouraged to reach a deeper understanding of various culture, experience, value systems, narrative, and societies outside of their world view so they may become finer, more specific artists, and more inquisitive, attentive, world citizens. I develop all of my original curriculum in collaboration with the artistic goals and mission statements of the companies for which I teach. I also have been a private acting and creative coach and master class instructor for ten years.

Sundog Theatre Company

Teaching Artist / Curriculum Writer | February 2020 - 2021

Video Immigration Residency | Spring 2020 | Grades 1 - 5

Working with the Sundog Theatre Company, I created six, twenty minute long documentary videos. Each video highlighted a piece of American immigration history focused on the height of Ellis Island. Each video contained a historical lesson, and an arts tie in that culminated in an interactive arts activity. Videos were distributed, and are currently still in circulation, among the New York Public school system and have been viewed in over 100 classrooms.

Teaching Artist | February - May 2021

Video Immigration Residency | Spring 2021 | Grades 2 - 5

Working with the Sundog Theatre Company, I taught remotely in over thirty classrooms in the New York Public school district. I wrote curriculum for and was the artist in residence for a seven week cycle of 45 minute, remote sessions. Lessons surrounded the topic of Ellis Island Immigration and the artistic and cultural impact of immigrants. Topics explored in the classroom were geographical impact of immigration in New York City, immigrant food, songs and celebrations, first person narratives, photography, and immigrant made fine arts and folk arts.

Ocean City Theater Company | Ocean City, New Jersey

Teaching Artist / Curriculum Writer | April 2017 – 2020

Adult Acting Class | Spring 2018 | Ages 18+

This six-session class introduces non-professional / early professional actors to the different fundamentals of theater. Each lecture/exercise hybrid session is two hours and focuses on different significant pillars of theatrical study for early career actors and interested adults. Sessions: Acting Fundamentals - Stanislavski, Strasberg, and Adler; Acting Fundamentals - Laban, Viewpoints, Moment Work; Script analysis; Building a Character; Scene Study; Audition Technique.

Creative Drama Class | Spring 2017, Spring 2018 | 2nd - 5th Grades

This six-session class introduces theater to beginner level elementary school students. The breath of material covered is designed to expose them to every aspect of the performing arts so they may more

fully understand the varying paths of study available. Sessions: Acting fundamentals and theater anatomy; Becoming a character – understanding archetypes and building characters; Improvisation; Scene Study; Musical Theater Performance; Audition Technique.

My First Theatre Camp | Spring 2018 | Ages 4 – 7

This hour long, four session, workshop introduces the basics of narrative structure and storytelling to beginner students. Through the dissection of fairy tales, we explore dance, music, and use our imaginations to create a base layer of theatrical understanding.

What Happens Backstage | Spring 2018 | 6th - 12th Grades

This four-session class is an intensive look at the administrative, technical, design, and "backstage" theater vocations available. Students through lecture and exercises explore stage management, design, direction, and arts administration.

Audition Technique for Musical Theater | Spring 2017, 2018

Four sessions for each level: Intermediate 3rd - 7th Grades; Advanced 8th - 12th Grades

The Millbrook Playhouse | Mill Hall, PA

Teaching Artist / Curriculum Writer / Artistic Associate | May 2015 - present

Little's Camp | Summer 2015, 2016 | K – 4th Grades

This week-long experience introduced beginner students to narrative structure, improvisation, and acting fundamentals. The week of games, exercises, and lectures culminates in a presentation combining Commedia archetypes and movement with fairy tale narratives. Students actively participate in the "fracturing" (analysis and restructuring) of a fairy tale narrative and present an improvised scene from their fairy tale.

Adult Master Class | Summer 2017, Winter 2018 | Ages 18+

This five-session intensive designed for beginner/intermediate adults cultivates interest in the arts through a combination of performance and study. After exercise and lectures introducing students to acting fundamentals, scene study, musical theatre styles, and script analysis, each student selected a scene/monologue and a song to present for an informal showcase. This process-based class allows participants to more deeply explore their own artistic process and push their creative boundaries through the exploration of new material.

Creative Drama | Winter 2018 | Ages 8 – 12

This two-session workshop introduces beginner students to performing and auditioning. Session one focuses on performance through scenes, improv games, and monologues. Session two focuses on audition preparedness, and technique.

Audition Technique Teen Intensive | Winter 2018 | Ages 13 – 17

This two-session workshop helps intermediate / advanced teens prepare for a Musical Theatre and non-musical audition. Students receive private coaching before each session to prepare a monologue, resume, and song. During the session, students experience group feedback and direction to further their connection to their audition material.

Summer Institute for the Gifted | Bryn Mawr / Princeton University

Teaching Assistant | Summer 2011 – 2013

Musical Theater History and Styles

This lecture/performance class introduced students to the musical theater cannon, while also increasing their repertory through the assignment of songs from the period being studied. Students finished the sessions with six 16 bar cuts. Students also prepared two production numbers as a group to perform as a final showcase.

The Hedgerow Theatre Summer Fellowship | Rose Valley, PA

Teaching Artist | Summer 2010

Summer Shakespeare Intensive | Summer 2010 | Ages 14 – 18

Advanced students studied the milieu in which Shakespeare wrote and created his work. Using this cultural understanding of the conventions of society and theater in the Elizabethan era, students presented *The Tempest*.

The Secret Garden Youth Ensemble | Summer 2010 | Ages 7 – 15

Young, advanced, actors received special guidance, training, and professional development workshops to perform alongside the professional resident company in the theater for young audience production of *The Secret Garden*.

Philadelphia Arts in Education Partnership | Philadelphia, PA

Samuel Gompers Elementary Artist in Resident | Spring / Summer 2009

This after school, early summer program for students of all ages introduced theater as a healthy, creative form of expression. Every session explored something different including playwriting, poetry, music, dance, acting, to musical theater. The two month residency culminated in a school wide performance where students could showcase original work, or prepared material from published work.

The Centre Theater | Philadelphia, PA

Teaching Artist | Spring / Summer 2008

Cultural Theater Exploration Teacher

This after school program introduced beginner / intermediate teens to theater across a spectrum of cultures. Students analyzed different narrative structure, theatrical conventions, and performance styles to create a cross cultural presentation exploring puppetry, mime, kabuki, commedia dell'arte, pantomime, and musical theater.

College Prep and Audition Technique

Students worked on their packages, branding, and material to prepare for college auditions for BA and BFA acting and musical theater programs.