THE PROGRAM IN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE currently offers seven degree programs as follows:

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE
Bachelor of Science in Educational Theatre
Students take a total of 128 credits, including courses in Liberal Arts, Content Core, and Pedagogy Core. They choose to concentrate their studies in one of three specialized pathways at the end of the sophomore year – Drama in Education, Applied Theatre, or Theatre Performance and Production – and demonstrate their knowledge and expertise in a culminating field experience and senior seminar.

MASTER’S DEGREES
EDTC – Educational Theatre in Colleges and Communities
Students take 36 credits created to empower students as they design, implement, and evaluate theatrical work in a wide range of community settings, and prepare candidates who elect to pursue college teaching for innovative research and scholarship in the field. The program is structured to support students with specialized interests in arts-based, outreach oriented, and educative initiatives, as they develop new strategies in teaching and learning through drama, and experiment in the creation and presentation of theatre for audiences of all ages.

EDTA – Educational Theatre, Initial Certification, All Grades
This 47 point program provides opportunities for students to explore ideas and concepts using drama strategies and theatre forms in the classroom or on stage. The curriculum provides integrated course offerings in drama, dramatic literature and theatre, which are tied to the four New York State Learning Standards for the Arts. Successful completion of this program enables graduates to be certified as a teacher of English, grades 7-12 and Theatre, all grades.

ETSS – Educational Theatre with Teacher Certification in Theatre, All Grades, and Social Studies, Grades 7-12
Social studies and theatre have a powerful alliance when learners are provided with the chance to explore a period of history, historical concepts, and historical debates through the use of drama-based frameworks. Given the growing student and applicant interest in a program combining social studies certification with theatre certification, we offer this innovative 47 point dual certification program, whose curriculum is built on the school’s programs in Educational Theatre, All Grades, and Teaching Social Studies, Grades 7-12.

DOCTORAL DEGREES
EdD – Educational Theatre in Colleges and Communities, Doctor of Education
This 42 point program provides specific pathways for specialized study at the doctoral level in three areas of educational theatre praxis: Drama in Education, Applied Theatre, and Theatre for Young Audiences and Play Production. It is a practice-based doctorate with an emphasis on arts-based research methods.

PhD – Educational Theatre in Colleges and Communities, Doctor of Philosophy
This 54-60 point program prepares students for careers as scholars and academics in Educational Theatre. The program provides specific pathways for specialized study at the doctoral level in three areas of educational theatre praxis: Drama in Education, Applied Theatre, and Theatre for Young Audiences and Play Production.
Alumni Updates

Karim Aman MA, 1996
After graduation, Karim acted in Off-Off-Broadway shows and played equity principal roles as a full-time actor at Walt Disney World for 11 years. She still performs as a freelance storyteller at Walt Disney World, schools, and Japanese cultural festivals.

Michael Aquilante MA, 1992
Michael is a writer, producer, and director. He is co-translator of Italian Nobel playwright Dario Fo’s acclaimed political farces frequently produced worldwide. Accidental Death of an Anarchist and They Don’t Pay? We Won’t Play! co-author of the graphic book Wings of War and Feathers, a retelling the Ician myths

Rebecca Ashley MA, 2007
Rebecca remains the Lower School Drama Teacher at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Manhattan, where she has taught since graduating with her MA. For the last 6 years, Rebecca has been delighted to be an adjunct faculty member in the department, and is happily married with two children, Elliott (4.5) and Emilia (3).

Nancy Avadaniel BA, 2015
Nancy is currently the theatre teacher at P.S. 52 in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, where she teaches grades 1-5. At the start of this year, Nancy applied for and was granted the Disney Musicals in Schools Grant, a three year partnership with Disney. Her students will be performing in the New Amsterdam Theatre in June. In her spare time, Naomi is also a docent/choreographer at TADA! Youth Theater.

Tonya (Jones) Baffa MA, 2001
Tonya is currently an English teacher at Proctor High School in Utica, New York, where she was previously taught drama and directed the school’s musical. Prior to her work at Proctor, she was an English teacher at Franklin Central School in Franklin Park, New York. This spring, she welcomed her sixth child.

Dennis Baker MA, 2009
Dennis is an actor living in Los Angeles and was last seen on Criminal Minds. He is also The Business’ program director for the SAG-AFTRA Foundation where he facilitates processes to connect actors and panels on the business of acting and the greater entertainment industry. Feel free to connect with him at dennisparker.net.

Micaela Blisi MA, 2004
Micaela is now the Senior Manager of Education at the national storytelling nonprofit The Moth. She’s also a story-teller touring nationally with The Moth, and a doctoral candidate in Educational Theatre with a research focus on personal narrative, performance, and teacher identity.

Courtney J Biddle MA, 2016
Courtney is Director of Education/School Engagement at The New Victory Theater, the largest provider of performing arts programming in NYC, serving 40,000 students. She is also Co-Artistic Director of A Space Between - theatre for young adults, President of the board of directors for The Association of Teaching Artists, and NYU adjunct faculty (The Teaching Artist).

Lauren Burner-Lawrence BA 2008
Lauren advocates for special needs students and specializes in educational technology. She lives with her husband in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

Evan Cameron MA, 2015
Evan currently teaches advanced acting, directing, playwriting, and musical theatre at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts. He returns to NYU Steinhardt this summer as a student in the EdD program.

Steve Borowka MA, 2003
Steve is a drama teacher and the Performing Arts Chair at Friends Seminary in NYC. He is also the co-creator of Acting Manhattan, a performing arts camp in Oakland, Maine.

Laurie Brooks MA, 1991
Laurie Brooks is an award-winning playwright whose Interactive Forum Designs are changing post-performance experiences across the country. Her sixteen commissioned plays include The Wrestling Season, printed in American Theatre, and winner of “Best of the West” in Seattle, Kansas City, and Dallas. Afflicted Daughters of Salem is her most recent play.

Nora Stillman Burke MA, 2006
Nora is currently the Director of Education at Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, Maryland. After graduation Nora moved overseas to London and then Dublin where she continued to work in arts education, returning to the States with husband Paul in 2011. Young sons Tobias and Eamonn keep her on her toes.

Rosalee H. Contino PhD, 1997
Rosalee is a costume designer and co-founder of the FIT UPLifters, and a playwright. Rosalee won the Venus Theatre Playwriting Award for Women Playwrights for Transitions and Choosing Timeout from the Writer’s Diet Playwriting Contest and Runner Up status from the Robert J. Pickering Award as well. She is the author of Underground Stories: Born to Create, And As Life Goes On: Lessons One Doesn’t Want to Have to Learn (Lit Fire, 2015). Additionally, Rosalee is a caregiver to her brother who is mentally challenged.

Dorell Cooper MA, 2016
Dorell went on to correctly a Program Manager at Lincoln Center Education where he works to support the recruiting, training, and development of LCE’s teaching Artist Faculty. He also provides operational and logistical support to several of LCE’s fellowships initiatives.

Amy Cordeiro MA, 2000, PhD, 2010
Amy is a full-time faculty member in the Program in Educational Theatre at NYU, where she continues to develop innovative content for a variety of Fellowships and Initiatives. Additionally, Amy is the Editor-in-Chief of the Teaching Artist Journal, a Taylor and Francis publication. Amy’s recent directing and choreography credits include: Haléd Coadir’s Brief Encounter, Mela (premier), Little Shop of Horrors, The Heart Cycle (premier), Underground An Urban Myth, Ben Fields Jam Session (premiere), Two Noble Kinsmen, and Alice: The Locking Glass Girl.

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Amber Chabot MA, 2009
Amber Chabot is an Associate Professor at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her work focuses on how democratic arts and education can improve inequality and political polarizations.

Khrystal Curtis MA, 2012
Khrystal works as the Assistant Director for Drama Club, a new NYU-based nonprofit organization that provides theatre programming for underfunded and incarcerated youth. In this role, she develops curricula, facilitates classes, and works with Drama Club’s Founder and Director to establish policy, build relationships, and source funding as the organization grows.

Elizabeth Dahmen MA, 2012
After teaching visual art at the Beecken School in Manhattan for 6 years, Liz relocated to the Hudson Valley where she works as a teaching artist with the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival.

Stacy Deemer MA, 1995
Stacy teaches elementary and middle school drama in Evanston, Illinois, and is the recipient of the Illinois Edwardsville Glory of Excellence in Creative Drama Award from the Illinois Education Association. Stacy is also an actress, playwright, and director and proud member of SAG-AFTRA, Dramatists Guild of America, and Chicago Dramatists.

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Gaspare DiBiasi MA, 2016
Gaspare is a proud graduate of the Steinhardt Educational Theatre program at NYU. He is currently an elementary school theatre teacher at P.S. 127 in Brooklyn.

Riana DiPalma (Hershenfeld) MA, 2005
Riana spent eight years as Lead English/Theatre teacher at the Brooklyn School for Music and Theatre, where she worked to infuse the arts into classrooms and curriculum. In 2013, she became an Assistant Principal and Director of the Television and Media Arts Academy at Port Richmond High School.
LOWELL AND NANCY SWORTZELL Theatre Arts Collection, Child Drama Collection, Arizona State University

By Jonathan Jones

As we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the NYU Program in Educational Theatre, we have created a special timeline of 50 years in Educational Theatre which is currently accessible from the Program’s website. We would like to draw your attention to one of our resources: the Lowell and Nancy Swortzell Theatre Arts Collection, Child Drama Collection, Arizona State University. About 15 years ago, Lowell and Nancy Swortzell donated all of their papers, pictures, pamphlets, etc. to the Child Drama Collection at Arizona State University to preserve the legacy not only of our innovative founders, but also of our Program, the first of its kind in the world. We express sincere gratitude to archivist Kathy Krzys and the Lowell and Nancy Swortzell Theatre Arts Collection, Child Drama Collection, Arizona State University for their support in this project.

ALUMNI UPDATES continued

Teresa Fisher MA, 2001, PhD, 2007
An Assistant Professor at Bronx Community College, Teresa also produces New Plays for Young Audiences at NYU and authored Post-Show Discussions in New Play Development (2014, Palgrave). She is an Artistic Associate with the New Visions/New Voices Play Festival and Reviews Editor for The Journal of Applied Arts and Health.

Krista M. Fogle BS, 2005, MA, 2005
Since 2004, Krista has been working with the CUNY-SETC Creative Arts Team (formerly at NYU), the oldest & largest Educational Theatre organization in the US, still under the direction of another Ed Theatre alum. CAT uses educational & applied theatre practices in classrooms and communities all over NYC every single day.

John Foster PhD, 2000
Playwright, director, and arts administrator, John recently completed 9 years as Education Manager and a producer at Brooklyn Academy of Music, and he is a playwriting mentor for The Gallatin School at NYU. He is National Vice President for BTW/Black Theatre Network conference, and will become the organization’s President in fall 2016.

Allison Manion Gilbert BS, 2000
Since graduating from NYU, Alli has been in Washington, DC, managing programs and partnerships that connect students to the arts. Currently she works with the Arts Education Office/Department of Instruction in Arlington Public Schools (Arlington, VA) and spends the remaining hours with her sweet family and/or on the yoga mat.

Lisa (Berg) Goldberg MA, 1994
Lisa has been working at Trevor Day School for the past 13 years as the Director of Auxiliary Programs, overseeing the After-School, Music Conservatory, and Summer Camps. She married Seth Goldberg and has two daughters.

Russell Granet MA, 1995
Russell Granet is currently the Executive Vice President for Lincoln Center Education, Community Engagement, and International.

Alicia Green MA, 2009
Alicia is currently the Director of Education and Community Outreach at A Noise Within Theatre in Los Angeles. She is a working actor with a passion for bringing the arts into the lives (and classrooms) of everyone. After working as a teaching artist for many years she moved into arts administration full time.

Laurie Grohn MA, 1991
Laurie has been Head of the Lower School/Assistant Head of School at The Browning School, a school for boys, for the past 16 years. She is also the mother of a ten year old girl, who she adopted in China 7 years ago.

Clare Hammoir MA, 2013
Clare is a theatre practitioner and educator who collaborates with folks in private schools, public spaces, and prisons. Clare is currently the Drama Specialist at Blue School and is working toward his EdS in Educational Theatre at NYU.

Jennifer Miranda Holmes MA, 2000; PhD, 2013
Jennifer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre and Speech at City College of New York. She is the Founder and Director of Global Empowerment Theatre (getheatre.org), an international applied theatre company.

Jess Honovich BS, 2013
Jess is currently pursuing her MFA in Dramatic Writing from Carnegie Mellon University.

Clare is currently the Director of Education and Community Outreach at A Noise Within Theatre in Los Angeles. She is a working actor with a passion for bringing the arts into the lives of everyone. After working as a teaching artist for many years she moved into arts administration full time.

Jonathan Jones MA, 2004; PhD, 2014
Jonathan wears many hats at the Program in Educational Theatre at NYU: teaching, advising MA and EdS students, supervising student teachers, and working as Coordinator for doctoral studies for Music and Performing Arts.

Laura Josepher MA, 1983
A New York-based theatre director, Laura has been directing, teaching, and consulting professionally for the past 25 years. With business partner David Siiss, she runs ContemporaryMusicalTheatre.com, a resource that helps teachers, students, and professionals find well-written, largely unproduced contemporary musical theatre songs. Laura has been married for 23 years with two daughters, laura@josepher.com.

Devin Miranda-Weise Klugh MA, 2015
Devin is a counselor at a state prison in a programmatic dorm, where she teaches acting, playwriting, and several other groups, as well as individual counseling. Her playwriting group just finished writing individual short plays and is currently working on a group piece inspired by the recent presidential debates.
Jennifer Katona MA, 2005
Sobha’s master’s career began as the Director of the Graduate Program in Educational Theatre at The City College of New York. In this role, she created the master’s level program and started the after-school theatre program at the neighboring school (PS 161). She is also completing her PhD in Urban Education with focus on Arts Education Policy from The Graduate Center, CUNY.

Sobha Kavanakudiyil
Sobha currently works as faculty in the Graduate Program in Educational Theatre at the City College of New York and as an Arts Education Consultant. Sobha is proud to train future theatre teachers and teaching artists of tomorrow!

Barbara J. Knott, PhD, 1995
Barbara is a retired drama therapist and college teacher in humanities. She presently hosts an online Sufi philosophy journal, The Grapevine Art and Soul Cafe at www.soulcafe.com.

Christina Kosyala MA, 2011
Christina currently teaches drama and theatre to grades K-4 at Stuart Country Day School in Stuart, Florida. She directs the Upper School fall and spring musicals, the senior play and acted in the Stuart Fringe Festival for 2 summers. Christina is still active and singing – both on stage and to her students.

Juliana Krawciw MA, 2011
Juliana is an artist, producer and theatre arts educator for the Hanlan’s-Englishtown Regional Schools in New Jersey. She directs the middle school vocal ensembles, and drama and musical theatre productions, in addition to teaching the Music and Performing Arts Class Cycle, for which she wrote the curriculum.

Sungmin Lee MA, 2015
Sungmin’s journey as a drama educator in NY has been ongoing since graduating from the ETD program. She is working with Asian women and kids from immigrant families at a non-profit organization and thrilled to continue learning many new things.

Jamie Lerner, MA, 2015
Jamie is living in Barcelona teaching English through dramatic activities. She is currently working with Escapade Theatre as Alice in Wonderland andPerforming stand-up comedy throughout Barcelona and Europe.

Robin Lovenson Andrews PhD, 2007
Robin is now Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at LaGuardia Community College, CUNY. She enjoys teaching performance skills to students from all over the world. Her students have won IATSE 2nd and 3rd place Awards for Speech since 2011. Neil Postman and Lowell Switzel at NYU were her influential mentors.

Scott RC Levy, MA, 1999
Scott is currently the Executive Director of Performing Arts and Producing Artistic Director of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, where he is in his 15th season as the Producer (Joyce Cook, MA, 1999) have two glorious children.

Meredith Lewis MA, 2009
As Starbird’s first graduate of the ETSS program, Meredith went on to graduate from Harvard’s Art in Education ED Program in 2009. She then taught middle school history for five years in the Bronx. Now, as a National Board Certified Teacher’s Assistant in History, Meredith brings her “teacher as actor” philosophy to a STEAM middle school in Oakland, California.

Natalie Hack MA, 2013
Natalie is the Drama and Humanities teacher at The Institute for Collaborative Education in the East Village. She is a member of Trusty Soldier Theater Company and St. Fortune Theatre Collective, and makes music for all sorts of creative projects.

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Alumni Updates

Meredith Towne MA, 2008
Since graduation, Meredith has taught both theatre and English in NYC high schools. She currently works at the Academy For Software Engineering where she is the English Department Lead Teacher and works to develop interdisciplinary learning between theatre and computer science for all the 9th graders who take her class.

Jason Tyne-Zimmerman
MA, 2003
Jason is currently the head of the Arts Department and head theatre teacher at Longleaf School of the Arts in Raleigh, NC. Since moving to Raleigh, he has directed for Capitol Opera, Cary Playwrights, and Carrboro Arts Center and has acted with Raleigh Little Theatre, Bare Theatre, and Burning Coal Theatre’s Oakwood Series.

Nicole (Losurdo) Upton
MA, 2005
Ingenuity works with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Department of Arts, certified teachers, and Chicago’s arts and cultural community to ensure excellence in arts education for every student in CPS. As Director of Partnerships and Professional Learning, Nicole develops sector-wide strategies to bolster existing arts programs and reduce arts deserts. ingenuity-inc.org

Lisa Beth Vettoso MA, 2004
Lisa joined The New York Pops in November 2015 as its Director of Education and is responsible for all PopsEd programming. Prior to her position with the Pops, she was the Director of Educational and Community Programming for American Repertory Ballet, and the first Managing Director of the New York City Arts in Education Roundtable, where she produced the 2012 Face to Face conference. She has also held positions at Carnegie Hall, the State Theatre of New Jersey, and Arts Horizons.

Blanca Vivanco
MA, 2014
Upon graduating, Blanca has been consistently working as a teaching artist, a consultant, and an actress in theatre (she recently performed in an all-female version of 12 Angry Jurors, and she’s currently rehearsing Trusty Sidekick’s next show), as well as TV and film (with internationally acclaimed directors like Julia Solomonoff and Naghmeh Shirkhan).

Dennis J. Walters
BS, 1999
Dennis joined American Ballet Theatre in 2000 and currently serves as the Associate Director of Education and Training where his programs serve over 17,000 New York City students. Additionally, he manages ABT’s Make a Ballet program and founded ABT’s Internship Program. He is currently an adjunct faculty member at Steinhardt, teaching a graduate course in Performing Arts Administration.

Carol Weinstein
MA, 1997
Carol was the Education Director for San Francisco Opera 1999-2006 and thereafter, arts administrator for Margaret Jenkins Dance Company. More recently, she has been arts administrator for San Francisco State University College of Liberal and Creative Arts and playwriting mentor for incarcerated youth with Each One Reach One (eoro.org ), 2004-2016.

Carolyn Marie Wright
MA, 2008
Carolyn currently lives in Los Angeles where she serves as Manager of Education & Community Engagement at Geffen Playhouse. She performs with The Second City, Humanity Play Project, and various Shakespeare companies. Her clients have included MCC Theatre, New Victory Theater, UCLA ArtsBridge, and Theatricum Botanicum. Education: Yale (BA); NYU (MA); UCLA (MFA).

Christina Zagarino
BS, 2007
Christina is a children’s media producer and researcher. She has led production at Speakaboos, a digital literacy app for kids ages 2-7, and now works with Adecco at Google. She is currently based in San Francisco, CA, with her husband Tyler and their cat, Piccadilly.

Lynda Zimmerman
MA, 1977
Since 1974, as CAT’s founder and Executive Director, Lynda has spearheaded the growth of CAT’s applied theatre programs throughout NYC schools and communities. CAT moved to CUNY in 2004 and continues to use interactive drama to build the academic and social skills of more than 15,000 young people each year.