



# REVUE

## News from the Program in Educational Theatre

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS PROFESSIONS

NUMBER NINETEEN • SPRING 2016

### 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 and on stage. The graduate curriculum includes integrated course offerings in drama, dramatic literature and theatre, which are tied to the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts. This integrated course of study enables graduates to be educated as teaching artists and become certified as teachers of theatre, all grades.

##### **ETED – Educational Theatre with Teacher Certification in Theatre, All Grades, and English, Grades 7-12**

This 54 point program provides opportunities for students to explore ideas and concepts through 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



**Karin Amano** BS, 1996  
After graduation, Karin 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, 1979  
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 Pay!* and co-author of the graphic book *Wings of Wax and Feathers*, a retelling the Icarus myth.



**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).



**Naomi Avadanei** BS, 2013  
Naomi 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, Naomi applied for and was granted the Disney Musicals in Schools Grant, a three year partnership with Disney. Her students will be performing at the New Amsterdam Theatre in June. In her spare time, Naomi is also a director/choreographer with TADA! Youth Theater.



**Tanya (Jones) Baffa** MA, 2005  
Tanya is currently an English teacher at Proctor High School in Utica, New York, where she 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, 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 professional development workshops and panels on the business of acting and the greater entertainment industry. Feel free to connect with him at [dennisbaker.net](http://dennisbaker.net)



**Micaela Blei** MA, 2004  
Micaela is now the Senior Manager of Education at the national storytelling nonprofit The Moth. She's also a storyteller 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. Boddie** MA, 2003  
Courtney is Director of Education/School Engagement at The New Victory Theater, the largest provider of performing arts 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).



**Steve Borowka** MA, 2001  
Steve is a drama teacher and the Performing Arts Chair at Friends Seminary in NYC. He is also the co-owner of Acting Manitou, 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 Awards" 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.



**Lauren Burner-Lawrence** BS, 2009  
Lauren advocates for special needs students and specializes in educational technology. She lives with her husband in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.



**Jamie Cacciola-Price** MA, 2013  
Jamie 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.

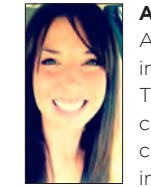
## Alumni Updates



**Rosalie H. Contino** PhD, 1997  
Rosalie is a costumer, co-founder of the UFT Players, and a playwright. Rosalie won the Venus Thespi Theatre Playwriting Award for Women Playwrights for *Transitions* and Honorable Mention from the Writer's Digest Playwriting Contest and Runner Up status from the Robert J. Pickering Award as well. She is 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, Rosalie is a caregiver to her brother who is mentally challenged.



**Durell Cooper** MA, 2014  
Durell is currently 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 fellowship initiatives.



**Amy Cordileone** MA, 2006; 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 Steinhardt 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: Noël Coward's *Brief Encounter*, *Meta* (premier), *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Heart Cycle* (premiere), *Underground: An Unauthorized Ben Folds Jam Session* (premiere), *Two Noble Kinsmen*, and *Alice: The Looking Glass Girl*.



**Sharon Counts** MA, 2006  
Sharon taught middle school students at Village Community School for 5 years. She then went on to create a brand new theater program for high school students with learning disabilities at the Mary McDowell Friends School. Sharon is now the Director of Education and Community Engagement at New York City Center.



**Susan Courtney-Weissman** MA, 1994  
Susan is a theatre professor at Westchester Community College. She wrote a two-act, five-character play about Mary Cassatt called, *Girl In Blue Armchair*, which was produced in 2011 with a grant from NYFA. Susan is currently working on a one-person show about Cassatt. Member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and Dramatists Guild.



**Khristal Curtis** MA, 2012  
Khristal works as Deputy Director for Drama Club, a new NYC-based nonprofit organization that provides theatre programming to court-involved 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, 2002  
After teaching visual art at the Beekman 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 Deemar** MA, 1995  
Stacy teaches elementary and middle school drama in Evanston, Illinois, and is the recipient of the 2015 Award of Excellence in Creative Drama from the Illinois Theatre Association. Stacy is also an actress, playwright, and director and proud member of SAG-AFTRA, Dramatists Guild of America, and Chicago Dramatists.



**Gaspare DiBlasi** MA, 2014  
Gaspare is a proud graduate of the Steinhardt Educational Theatre program at NYU. He is currently an elementary school theatre teacher at P.S. 217 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.



**Jay DiPrima** PhD, 1998  
Jay was a teacher and Director of Performing Arts at the O'Maley Innovation Middle School in Gloucester, MA (2002 - 2015). He is currently Visiting Assistant Professor in Graduate Arts & Learning Programs at Endicott College, Fitchburg State University, MA (2000 - current).



**Jim DeVivo** MA, 2001  
Jim is Director of Education for Writers Theatre of New Jersey, a doctoral candidate in the Program in Educational Theatre, and adjunct instructor at Manhattanville College and NYU. Jim's current research explores the history and impact of playwriting programs for youth in the United States. He is the father of three.



**Jack Dodd** BS, 2013  
Jack has been working as a full time middle and high school drama teacher at the Carol Morgan School in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic for the last three years. Productions have included *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Urine-town*, *Once on this Island*, *Still Life with Iris*, and *The Zoo Story*.



**Sheng-Tao Fan** PhD, MA, 2008  
Dr. Fan (Fulbright Recipient from Taiwan) is an Assistant Professor at NTNU, where his research concerns performance in corporate training. Dr. Fan has published in professional journals such as *The Journal of Drama and Theatre Education in Asia*, *Development and Learning in Organizations: An International Journal*, and *Journal of Applied Arts & Health*.



**Diane Feldman** MA, 2001  
This year, CCLO (Children's Civic Light Opera), the educational musical theatre company Diane founded, celebrates 29 years! In addition to directing/musical directing/instructing with CCLO, Diane is in her 5th year as Director of the award-winning Drama, Musical Theatre & Vocal Performance program at deToledo High School in West Hills, CA.



**Zachary Ferentz** MA, 2015  
Zachary is currently working as an academic coach for students in Westchester County. He hopes to continue his education by pursuing a PhD in the near future.

# A Look Back

## 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.



Nancy teaching at NYU, 1960s



Medieval Theatre Movement class with John Hodgson, Bretton Hall, Study Abroad UK, late 1980s



Nancy and Lowell Swortzell, Nellie McCaslin, Alistair Martin-Smith and Philip Taylor, Happy Christmas 2001 at the Swortzell residence, Greenwich Village



Lowell and Nancy in the Provincetown for New Plays for Young Audiences

# On Stage and Abroad 2015 - 2016



New Plays for Young Audiences *Mario and the Comet that Stopped the World* Book and Lyrics by Gabriel Jason Dean Music and Lyrics by David Dabbon, Directed by Courtney Sale Photo by Chianan Yen



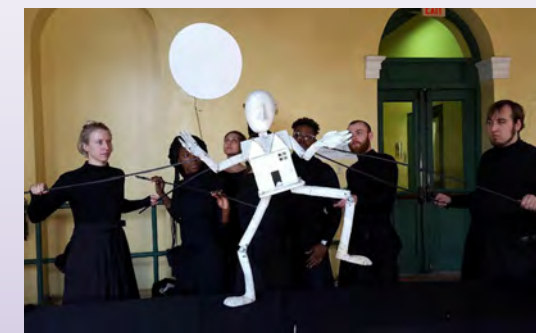
Devising at Giant's Causeway Study Abroad, Dublin Photo courtesy of students



Looking for Shakespeare *Hamlet* Directed by Jonathan Jones Photo by Chianan Yen



Fall Mainstage Production *Tales of the Lost Formicans* by Constance Congdon, Directed by Nan Smithner Photo by Chianan Yen

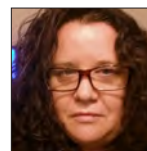


Puppetry in San Juan Study Abroad, Puerto Rico Photo courtesy of students



Spring Mainstage Production *Noël Coward's Brief Encounter* Adapted by Emma Rice Directed by Amy Cordileone Photo by Chianan Yen

## ALUMNI UPDATES *continued*



**Teresa Fisher** MA EDTC, 2007; PhD, 2012  
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, 2003; MA, 2005  
Since 2004, Krista has been working with the CUNY-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 Manger 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 BTN/The 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.



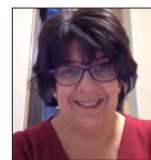
**Lisa (Berg) Goldberg** MA, 2004  
Lisa has been working at Trevor Day School for the past 13 years as the Director of Auxiliary Programs, overseeing the After-school, Music Conservatory, and Summer Camps. She married Seth Goldberg and has two daughters.



**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 theatre teaching artist for many years she moved into arts administration full time.



**Laurie Gruhn** 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 18 years. She is also the mother of a ten year old girl, who she adopted in China 7 years ago.



**Clare Hammoor** 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 EdD in Educational Theatre at NYU.



**Jennifer Miranda Holmes** MA, 2006; 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.



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



**Laura Josepher** MA, 1990  
A New York-based theatre director, Laura has been directing, teaching, and coaching professionally for the past 25 years. With business partner David Sisco, she runs ContemporaryMusicalTheatre.com, a resource that helps teachers, students, and professionals find well-written, largely unpublished contemporary musical theatre songs. Laura has been married for 23 years with two daughters. laurajosepher.com



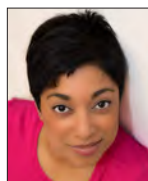
**Devin Miranda-Weise Klugh** MA, 2015  
Devin is a counselor at a state prison in a programmatic dorm, where she teaches acting, playwriting, and several other groups, as well as individual counseling. Her playwriting group just finished writing individual short plays and is currently working on a group piece inspired by the recent presidential debates.

## Alumni Updates



**Jennifer Katona** MA, 2005  
Jennifer currently serves 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 P.S. 161 Harlem. She is also completing her PhD in Urban Education with focus on Arts Education Policy from The Graduate Center, CUNY.



**Sobha Kavanakudiyil**  
MA, 2003

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 literary/art journal, The Grapevine Art and Soul Salon at Grapevine.

Barbara is also an award-winning poet and fiction writer with residence in Atlanta, Georgia.



**Christina Kosyla** MA, 2011

Christina currently teaches drama and theology to grades K - 4 at Stuart Country Day School in Princeton, NJ. She directs the Upper School fall play and brought her actors

to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival last summer. Christina is still acting and singing - both on stage and to her students.



**Julianna Krawiecki** MA, 2012

Julianna is in her fifth year as a Theatre and Music Teacher for the Manalapan-Englishtown Regional Schools in New Jersey. She directs the middle school's vocal ensembles,

and drama and musical theatre productions, in addition to teaching the Music and Performing Arts Cycle Class, for which she wrote the curriculum.



**Sungmin Lee** MA, 2011

Sungmin's journey as a drama educator in NY has been ongoing since graduating from the EDTC program. She is working with Asian women and kids from immigrant

families at nonprofit organizations, and is thrilled to continue learning many new things.



**Jamie Lerner** BS, 2015

Jamie is living in Barcelona teaching English through dramatic activities. She is currently working with Escapade Theatre as Alice in a production of *Alice in*

*Wonderland* and performing stand-up comedy throughout Barcelona and Europe.



**Robin Levenson 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 1st, 2nd & 3rd place Awards for Speech since 2011. Neil Postman and Lowell Swartzell 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 fifth season. He and his wife (Joye Cook, MA, 1999) have two glorious children!



**Meredith Lewis** MA, 2009

As Steinhardt's first graduate of the ETSS program, Meredith went on to graduate from Harvard's Arts in Education MEd Program in 2009. She then taught middle school history for five years in the Bronx. Now, as a National Board Certified teacher in YA History, Meredith brings her "teacher as actor" philosophy to a STEAM middle school in Oakland, California.



**Natalie Mack** 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 Sidekick Theater Company and St. Fortune Theater Collective, and makes music for all sorts of creative projects.



**Rebecca Strulowitz Lopkin**  
BS, 1996; MA, 1998

Rebecca founded and is Artistic Director of Envision Theater, an educational theatre company serving schools throughout New York and New Jersey.

Envision Shakespeare, a high school Shakespeare competition, and Stand Up/Speak Up—a bully prevention program using theatre for elementary and middle school students—are two original programs that she designed which are currently running in schools in NY and NJ. [envisiontheater.com](http://envisiontheater.com)



**Steven McIntosh** MA, 2008

Steven currently serves as the Director of Education & Family Programs at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) overseeing in-school and out-of-school K-12 arts education programming, digital education initiatives, the BAMkids performing arts and concert series, and the annual BAMkids Film Festival.



**David Montgomery**

MA, 2000; PhD, 2006

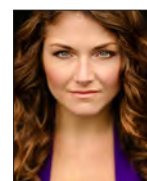
David is director of the Program in Educational Theatre at NYU, as well as artistic director for the New Plays for Young Audiences series at the Provincetown Playhouse. He lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn, with his wife Annie (MA, 2006) and three children.



**Christiana Moore** MA, 2008

Chrissy is currently teaching an awesome film course at A. Mario Loiederman Magnet Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts in Montgomery County, Maryland.

She recently married her wife Vanessa and resides near the water in southern Maryland.



**Christina Neubrand** MA, 2007

Christina is a freelance teaching artist and curriculum consultant based in Brooklyn, New York. She has partnered with organizations to develop, implement, and facilitate arts

integrated programming and professional development for Counseling in Schools, Ludlam Dramatics, CityKids, Stages on the Sound, Brooklyn Children's Theatre, and Power Brain Education. She is currently launching a support organization for emerging artists, The AJ Project ([www.4theajproject.org](http://www.4theajproject.org)), in memory of her fellow artist and friend A.J. Perrelli.

## Alumni Updates



**John Newman** PhD, 2006

John taught and directed theatre at Highland High School in Salt Lake City until 2010, hosting playwrights and running the Playwrights In Our Schools Project. He is now an

Associate Professor of Theatre at Utah Valley University and Director of the Noorda Theatre Center for Children and Youth at UVU.



**Karl O'Brian Williams** MA, 2010

Karl is the artistic director of Braata Productions, a Caribbean nonprofit arts organization focused on

the promotion and preservation of Caribbean performance art, and traditional & contemporary folk culture. An award winning actor and playwright from Kingston, Jamaica, his work has been produced to critical acclaim Off-Off-Broadway in New York City, the NY Tri-State area, the UK, and the Caribbean.



**Jay Pecora** PhD, 2005

Jay is currently director of the theatre education program and associate professor at SUNY Potsdam. His two daughters are now 13 and 16.



**Katie Pelkey** BS, 2008

Katie is the Company Manager for Aurora Theatre, the largest arts organization in Gwinnett County and the fastest growing professional theatre in the state of Georgia. She married Michael

Ansardy this past fall and they are expecting their first baby in June.



**Jessica Perich Carleton**

MA, 2005

Returning to NYC from Paris, France, after studying at the Sorbonne Nouvelle, Jessica is Founder & CEO of Carleton Curriculums, providing

professional development services in theatre-in-education. She is the Associate Director, Schools Partnership Program, Center for Educational Outreach at 92nd Street Y. Her book, *Story Drama in the Special Needs Classroom: Step-by-Step Lesson Plans for Teaching through Dramatic Play* was published (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London, 2012).



**Kimberly Poppiti** HD, 2003

Kimberly chairs the Department of Communication & Performing Arts at Dowling College, where she is an Associate Professor and a working theatre artist. Her

publications include the articles "War Horse," which won the 2013 Herbert D. Greggs Award, and "Galloping Horses," which won the 2007 Greggs Merit Award.



**Jennifer Pytleski** MA, 2009

Jennifer is currently in her second year as the Performing Arts Department Chair at the Darrow School, a boarding school in New Lebanon, NY. She has the joy of teaching

English and Theater courses as well as directing a fall production and the winter Darrow on the Fringe, which is a student written, acted, directed, designed, and produced show.



**Marco Santarelli** BS, 2014

Marco is currently working as a Credit Risk Associate at Fidelity Investments, vetting retail and institutional clients in the broker dealer space. Outside of the office, he collaborates and assists in the art community in New York City and New Jersey.



**Alexander Santiago-Jirau**

MA, 2009

Alex is currently Director of Education at New York Theatre Workshop (NYTW) and Adjunct Faculty for the Program in Educational Theatre at NYU, teaching courses in Theatre of the Oppressed.



**Alex Sarian** BS, 2006; MA, 2007

Alex is the Director of Lincoln Center International, a boutique division of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts that focuses on global consulting projects and international affairs. Prior to his current position, he was Director of Business Development for Lincoln Center Education and Director of Education at MCC Theater.



**Heidi Schoenenberger** BS, 2011

After graduating, Heidi did a teaching artist internship with McCarter Theatre Centre in Princeton, NJ. She continued working as an Education Assistant at Two River Theater in Red Bank, NJ. She currently lives and works in Dublin, Ireland, after completing a Master's in Education at Trinity College Dublin.



**Beth G. (Shery) Sisk** BS, 1979

Beth spent 20 years following her dream as a professional stage manager, earning her Actors' Equity Association card from Off-Off- to Off-Broadway, Summer Stock,

Regional Theatre, and Broadway. She retired from the "glamorous life" in 1997 when she married her husband Donald R. Sisk, and is now a magazine editor.



**Joe Stanley** MA, 1997

Joe has used his training in interactive education across the spectrum of his career including local and national political and advocacy campaigns.



**Elena Stephenson Campbell**

MA, 2015

Elena is currently working as a teaching artist for The Coterie. She is thrilled to be presenting twice at this year's forum. In addition to creating theatre with young people, Elena loves spending time with her husband Ryan and daughter Anna Noel.



**Robert M. Stevenson**

BS, 2013; MA, 2014

Robert is a teaching artist, actor, and designer. He teaches for The New Victory Theater, the Metropolitan Opera Guild, Lincoln Center Education, New York Theater Workshop, and the Park Avenue Armory. He is an artistic associate with Trusty Sidekick Theater Company, creating bold theatre for young people. @rstevies



**Phil Taylor** MA, 1988; PhD, 1992

Phil was director of the NYU Educational Theatre program 2003-2012. He is now Director of Doctoral Studies for the Steinhardt Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions and author of influential texts. He is an avid vintage movie poster collector, and enjoys writing at Katharine Hepburn's table (she was a four-time Oscar winner).

# 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 Theater'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 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 Vivancos** 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.



**Tamara Weisz** MA, 2015

Since graduating, Tamara has become the General Manager of Bravo Academy for the Performing Arts, a prominent music and theatre school in Toronto, Canada, where she

manages and trains the faculty and produces over 15 full musicals per year.



**Rachel Tuggle Whorton**

MA, 2011

Rachel is NYU adjunct faculty and a PhD candidate in the research/writing phase of her dissertation. She works as a teaching artist with New York

City Center and The Leadership Program, and as a music director and performer. She recently published an article in *RiDE: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*.



**Rachel Wolf** BS, 2013

Rachel is a working actress living in Los Angeles, where she is pursuing a career in film. She is proud to say that since she graduated she has commercial representation

and is SAG eligible.



**Rachel Wolf Heyman** MA, 2006

Rachel is currently living in the Boston area, where she teaches Lower School Drama at the Brimmer and May School.



**Emily Wolper** MA, 2002

Emily is an educational consultant with a focus on college and graduate school admissions. She was already in this field before she pursued the MA in Ed Theatre, and

continues to love it! Emily uses her Ed Theatre degree in mock interview training and other creative aspects of her work. She is also a singer with Harmonium Choral Society, for whom she directs a cabaret troupe.



**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.