

# Vanessa Lauren Strahan

Teaching Artist, Director, Choreographer, Actor

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## Education

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**Northwestern University, June 2018** / B.S. in Theatre / Musical Theatre Certificate /  
Political Science Minor / Musical Theatre Choreography Module  
Cumulative GPA 3.91 / Dean's List / Magna Cum Laude

## Directing, Writing, and Choreography

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As You Like It	Choreographer	Mudlark Theater
Journey to the Center of the Earth	Director/Playwright	Mudlark Theater
Candide	Assistant Director	Mudlark Theater
The Frogs	Assistant Director	Chiravalle Montessori
The Tragedy of Harriet Denmark	Assistant Director	Mudlark Theater
Catch Me I'm...	Creator/Choreographer	Northwestern University
Yasmin's Alien Invasion Adventure	Director	Northwestern University
Powers	Choreographer	Frenchwoods Festival

## Administrative and Teaching Experience

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### Mudlark Theater, Evanston, IL

*Education Associate / Teaching Artist / Education Fellow*

**(May 2018-Present)**

- Develop, promote, and execute all education programming at Mudlark Headquarters including after-school classes, half day workshops, Winter and Spring Break camps, and assist in outreach and planning for in-school residencies, after-school classes, and other partnerships.
- Spearhead day-to-day summer camp administration and operation as part of education team; teach and assist in variety of camps.

### Northlight Theatre, Skokie, IL

*Teaching Artist / Education Intern*

**(June 2017-Present)**

- Adapted the Northlight on Campus program for Special Education classrooms, working with 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students to explore agency and creative decision making through storytelling & play.
- Assisted in running logistics of Northlight Summer Camps.
- Researched and created dramaturgy packets for Mainstage productions.
- Recorded and organized feedback from in school residencies, as well as contributed to planning meetings for new potential school partnerships and founding of the Northlight Youth Council.

### Actor's Gymnasium, Evanston, IL

*Circus Instructor*

**(September 2018-Present)**

- Teach tumbling and aerial skills to 2-14 year old students at Actor's Gymnasium facility and in local schools. Combine imaginative play with work ethic and technical skills.

### Seesaw Theatre, Evanston, IL

*Outreach Director / Teaching Artist*

**(June 2016-June 2018)**

- Expanded outreach and programming with schools and community partners by 600% over two years; established and maintained relationships with all outside organizations and individuals.
- Led classroom workshops in sensory creative play for students with developmental disabilities.

### Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago, IL

*Arts Education Intern*

**(May-September 2016)**

- Led the Victory Gardens Teen Arts Council in weekly meetings, planned and executed summer events including a night of original performance and poetry by students around Chicago.
- Taught high school classroom theatre curriculum based on Victory Gardens' Teaching Artist program in partnership with Robert Cornelius, Arts Education Director.

## Other Relevant Work / Skills

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American Alliance for Theatre Education Conference 2018 – Presenter (Seesaw Theatre)

Sensory-Friendly Production Planning/Inclusive Programming

Experience in Special Education Classrooms

**Microsoft Word** Word / Excel / PowerPoint **Apple** Pages / Keynote / Numbers **Google** Docs / Sheets/ Slides

**Performing Arts** Stage Combat / Physical Theater / Devising / Creative Improv

**Dance** Choreography / Jazz / Modern / Improv / Contact Improv

**Music** Soprano / Sight Reading / Coaching / Performance / Choral Conducting

**Design** Costume Design and Construction / Basic Sound Design