

# Vanessa Lauren Strahan

Teaching Artist, Director, Choreographer, Arts Administrator

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## Directing/Writing

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Treasure Island	Director/Playwright	Mudlark Theater
Sleepaway Camp	Director	Mudlark Theater
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	Director	Baker Demonstration
Valdivia	Director/Playwright	Mudlark Theater
Journey to the Center of the Earth	Director/Playwright	Mudlark Theater
Yasmin's Alien Invasion Adventure	Director	Northwestern University
3:35PM	Associate Director	Mudlark Theater
Candide	Assistant Director	Mudlark Theater
The Frogs	Assistant Director	Chiravalle Montessori
The Tragedy of Harriet Denmark	Assistant Director	Mudlark Theater

## Choreography/Music

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Catch Me I'm...	Creator/Choreographer	Northwestern University
A Christmas Carol	Music Director/Choreographer	Mudlark Theater
As You Like It	Choreographer	Mudlark Theater
Powers	Choreographer	Frenchwoods Festival

## Teaching Experience

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### **Mudlark Theater, Evanston, IL**

**May 2018-Present**

- Teach after school classes and camps for ages 5-14 with focus on devising, musical theater, stage combat, and creative improv.
- Direct & write for youth ages 8-14, creating rehearsal rooms and stories which honor and highlight their experiences and value as young people.

### **The Actor's Gymnasium, Evanston, IL**

**September 2018-Present**

- Teach youth ages 2-14 in tumbling, gymnastics, and aerial & ground circus arts.

### **Northlight Theatre, Skokie, IL**

**June 2017-Present**

- Adapted & piloted 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.

### **Seesaw Theatre, Evanston, IL**

**June 2016-June 2018**

- Led classroom workshops in sensory creative play for students with developmental disabilities.
- Served as adventure guide (show companion) during original productions.

### **Victory Gardens Theatre, Chicago, IL**

**May-September 2016**

- Taught high school classroom theatre curriculum with emphasis on playwriting.

## 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

## 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

**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