

Vanessa Lauren Strahan

Teaching Artist, Director, Choreographer, Arts Administrator

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Directing/Writing

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

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

- 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 2nd-8th 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

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

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