

Vanessa Lauren Strahan

Teaching Artist, Director, Choreographer

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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

Select Directing & Choreography

Sleepaway Camp	Director	Mudlark Theater
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	Director	Baker Demonstration
Valdivia	Director/Writer	Mudlark Theater
Journey to the Center of the Earth	Director/Writer	Mudlark Theater
Yasmin's Alien Invasion Adventure	Director	Northwestern University
3:35PM	Associate Director	Mudlark Theater
Catch Me I'm...	Creator/Choreographer	Northwestern University
A Christmas Carol	Musical Director/Choreographer	Mudlark Theater
As You Like It	Choreographer	Mudlark Theater
Powers	Choreographer	Frenchwoods Festival

Administrative and Teaching Experience

Mudlark Theater, Evanston, IL

Education Manager / Education Associate / Teaching Artist

(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 and after school classes.

Northlight Theatre, Skokie, IL

Teaching Artist/Education Intern

(June 2017-Present)

- Adapted 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.
- Assisted in running logistics of Northlight Camps, contributed to planning meetings for new potential school partnerships and founding of the Northlight Youth Council.
- Researched and created dramaturgy packets for Mainstage productions.

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 with emphasis on playwriting.

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