

# Vanessa Lauren Strahan

Arts Administrator, Teaching Artist, Director, Choreographer

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## Arts Administration and Teaching Experience

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

**May 2018-Present**

#### *Education Manager/ Teaching Artist*

- 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

**June 2017-Present**

#### *Teaching Artist/Education Intern*

- 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 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.

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

**September 2018-Present**

#### *Teaching Artist*

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

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

**June 2016-June 2018**

#### *Outreach Director/Teaching Artist*

- 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

**May-September 2016**

#### *Arts Education Intern*

- 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.

## Select Directing and Choreography

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

## 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

Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, Google Tools Suite