

Vanessa Strahan

Arts Administrator, Teaching Artist, Director, Choreographer

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Arts Administration and Teaching Experience

Mudlark Theater, Evanston, IL

Acting Education Director

July 2020 - Present

- Schedule, staff, and administer all education programming including residencies, after school classes, and summer and break camps
- Hire and manage cohort of 20 teaching artists, including curriculum review, observation and feedback, training, and professional development
- Develop department budget, collaborate with development team on grant applications and reports
- Design marketing strategies and materials for all education programming
- Create and execute comprehensive plans for safe return to outdoor programming in COVID-19 crisis

Teaching Artist

June 2018 - Present

- Direct, choreograph, and teach young artists ages 5-18 in productions, classes, and camps

Education Manager

June 2018 - June 2020

- Developed, promoted, and executed all education programming at Mudlark Headquarters including after-school classes, half day workshops, and Winter and Spring Break camps
- Facilitated a 44% growth in programming revenue and 40% growth in program offerings
- Administered day-to-day summer camp operation
- Contributed to creation of department mission statement & five year strategic plan
- Co-developed plan and transitioned to virtual programming in COVID-19 crisis

Northlight Theatre, Skokie, IL

Teaching Artist

September 2017 - Present

- Adapted "Northlight on Campus" programming to meet the needs of Special Education students, exploring agency and creative decision making through storytelling and play
- Teach "Speak Up!" social responsibility curriculum through a dance and movement practice

Education Intern

June - September 2017

- Ran logistics of Northlight Camps, contributed to planning new school partnerships and the founding of the Northlight Youth Council
- Researched and created season dramaturgy packets for student and general audiences

The Actor's Gymnasium, Evanston, IL

Teaching Artist

September 2018 - Present

- Teach youth tumbling and circus arts with a focus on developing confidence & mind body connectivity

Seesaw Theatre, Evanston, IL

Outreach Director

June 2016 – June 2018

- Achieved 500% growth in school and community partnerships over two years, including the expansion of in-school classes (70-75 per year from 12-15) and audiences (70-75 audience members from 30-35)
- Developed and launched touring program in partnership with The Park School in Evanston
- Served on senior leadership team developing five year strategic plan for organizational growth

Teaching Artist

September 2015 – June 2018

- 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
- Taught high school classroom theatre curriculum with emphasis on playwriting
- Researched and created season dramaturgy packets for student audiences

Other Work Experience

Northwestern University Visitor Center , Evanston, IL - Tour Guide	<i>October 2016 - June 2018</i>
Peet's Coffee & Tea , Evanston, IL - Barista	<i>June 2016 - August 2018</i>
KrollDiscovery , Mclean, VA - Human Resources Assistant	<i>June - September 2014 & 2015</i>

Select Directing and Choreography

Sleepaway Camp	Director	Mudlark Theater
Journey to the Center of the Earth	Director/Playwright	Mudlark Theater
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	Director	Baker Dem. School
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

Performance resume available upon request

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

Relevant Work / Skills

- 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, Zoom, iMovie, QLab, Social Media Platforms