

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 Dem. School
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 5-18 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 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 "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

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