

Samantha Galarza

SAG-AFTRA ; Alternate ROOTS

Samantha Galarza is a queer, Puerto Rican, SAG-AFTRA actress, writer, performance artist, educator, and director. Her work explores queer identity, internalized and systemic anti-black racism, generational trauma, migration, gender-based violence, substance abuse, and policies that disproportionately affect marginalized communities. Ultimately a storyteller, her dream is to bridge the gap between mainstream media and progressive “de-colonial” political art. Her work has been published in award winning anthologies and she’s performed throughout the U.S. and internationally. Sam is co-founder and co-host of the femme/queer/Latinx centered podcast Latinas en Queerantime, co-founder of the queer performance-art collective A Beautiful Desperation, and Alternate Roots member.

PERFORMANCE ART

Accented Gal	Dixon Place	Manhattan, NY
Take Me to Your River	Abrons Art Center	Manhattan, NY
Self Love Confessions	Dixon Place	Manhattan, NY
Don't Mess with my Tootie	The New School	Manhattan, NY
Overcoming	JACK	Brooklyn, NY
Pink Ribbon	Lutheridge Conference Center	Arden, NC
	JC Arts Exchange	Jersey City, NJ
	Starr Bar	Brooklyn, NY
	Brooklyn Arts Exchange	Brooklyn, NY
	Dixon Place	Manhattan, NY
Brain Poison Heirlooms	Brooklyn Arts Exchange	Brooklyn, NY
	Nuyorican Poets Café	Manhattan, NY
Misogynistic Stench	Bowery Poetry Club	Manhattan, NY
I'm Not Your Mofo' Ally	La Sala Rossa	Montreal, QB.
	La Mama Experimental Theatre	Manhattan, NY
	Branded Saloon	Brooklyn, NY
Gender Cost(a) (collaboration w/Naty Tremblay)	SP Escola de Teatro,	Sao Paulo, Brazil
	Tranzac Club	Toronto, ON
Bare Bones Unbound (collab. w/Naty Tremblay)	Dixon Place	Manhattan, NY
Awaken, Sleeping Dummies	La Mama Experimental Theatre	Manhattan, NY
	Panoply Performance Laboratory	Brooklyn, NY
	Queens Museum of Art	Queens, NY
Those Girls (in collaboration with Carol Montealegre)		Mexico City, MX

TELEVISION/FILM

Who is Shinobi Redeye	Calypso	BLC Compound Productions
Law & Order SVU	Gina	NBC, Universal Television
Dead of Night	Laura	NBC Peacock Productions
Hip Hop High	Alex	Z Man Film Company
The Lady's Man	Amy	Now Is The Time Productions
As The World Turns	Graduation Scene; feature	CBS, Telenext Media Inc.
Pebble of Love in the Shoe of My Life	Pilar	Hossein Keshavarz
528 New York	Kate	Minty Productions
Naked Brothers Band	Fan Talking about the Group	Naked Brothers Productions
Bringing Out the Dead	Crying Scene w/Nick Cage	Axium Entertainment
Theo's Crush	Tyla	Steve Stole

THEATRE

My Two Grandfathers	Mom, Mostly True	Lincoln Center
American Passover	The Wise One	Organs of State Company
Rumors	Cassie	VPA Theatre Company
Twelve Angry Jurors	Juror #10	VPA Theatre Company
Downtown	Saskia	VPA Theatre Company
Dear Maudie	Blanca	VPA Theatre Company
Little Shop of Horrors	Skipsnit	VPA Theatre Company

DIRECTORIAL CREDITS

Eddie's Perejil	4 th Street Theatre (The One Festival)	Manhattan, NY
	Alianza Dominican Cultural Center	Manhattan, NY
	Duke University	Durham, NC
	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
	Brown University	Providence, RI
	TCNJ	Ewing, NJ
	John Jay College	Manhattan, NY
	Carol Morgan School	Santo Domingo, DR
	Providence College	Providence, RI
	Syracuse University	Syracuse, NY
	New York University	Manhattan, NY
	University of South Carolina	Columbia, SC
	Hostos College	Bronx, NY
Dance of the Pillow Queen: Hungry Ghosts BAX (<i>Redux!</i> Submerge Series)		Brooklyn, NY

TEACHING ARTIST

Curriculum Specialist/Lead AT | Creative Arts Team, CASA unit @ CUNY, Manhattan NY, August 21'-Present

- Create devised theater curriculum arc for actor teachers to implement as guides for their residencies in schools throughout NYC
- Run weekly planning sessions and monthly training intensives to strengthen the facilitation skills of Actor Teachers
- Meet with CASA partners to figure out logistics of how the schoolyear at each respective site will look
- Pair AT's with a compatible partner-site and problem-solve as issues come up

Actor/Producer | School of Professional Studies/ACS @ CUNY, Manhattan NY, May 18' -Present

- Portray characters in improvised scenarios during live simulations with graduate students and front-line employees of Administration for Children's Services and Juvenile Detention Staff
- Immerse self in character and backstory of respective characters and collaborate with trainers and participants for effective, realistic simulation experiences
- Produce virtual simulations and trainings via Zoom

Actor Teacher | Creative Arts Team, CASA unit @ CUNY, Manhattan NY, September 16'-June 21'

- residencies with NYC students ages 6-19 that help them build community, develop a strong sense of different theater skills i.e. improv, creative writing, character development, movement, etc. and facilitate conversations through activities in which they can voice their views about the world and use those ideas as a starting point for the creation of original theater pieces that can be shared with an audience
- 12 week residencies with 9-12th graders that focus on the use and creation of spoken word poetry to reflect issues, beliefs, and personal life experiences; discuss social issues affecting their lives and analyze the way pop culture and institutions either reinforce or push against the status quo

Actor Teaching Artist | Creative Arts Team, Sound Thinking unit @ CUNY, Manhattan NY, July 18'

- Work with cohort of 50 students from across NYC in the 11th and 12th grade interested in careers in the music industry; with gender equity in the music industry as the focus, support students in navigating the music industry by creating curriculum for theme-based workshops looking at self-esteem, self-care, and self-advocacy
- Build a strong community of women who felt confident enough to ask questions and take risks; build trust and keep it by establishing a culture of affirmation; identify the areas they needed growth in and come up with innovative, fun ways for them to practice skills they were lacking without it feeling like work; examine how privilege and an intersection of varying identities affects how we experience the world
- Mentor and supervise them on field trips

Youth Advocate Specialist | Edgies Teen Center, Educational Alliance, Manhattan NY, Sept 17' - April 18'

- Provide 9th and 10th grade youth with effective skills and tools to succeed throughout high school, while actively supporting the development of future career plans.
- Help youth build skills in the areas of critical thinking, conflict resolution and de-escalation, self-advocacy, self-care, and general awareness about the high school completion process; these skills are approached through a socio-emotional learning lens by building positive peer relationships, communication exercises, networking, goal setting and achievement, restorative justice strategies, herbal practices and community building.
- Co-create a post-high school plan with students that includes a variety of possible career paths and financial literacy and expose them to college campuses.
- Additional weekly one-on-one meetings during which each student works directly with me in a mentorship relationship. During one-on-one sessions, ideas and concepts discussed in the class are reinforced and each student's progress in their respective schools is closely monitored.

Actor Teacher | Creative Arts Team, CAP unit @ CUNY, Manhattan NY, November 16' - June 17'

- Work with young adult (18-24) and adult (50+ years) male incarcerated population at Rikers Prison doing workshops focusing on themes of power, the cycle of violence, legacy, rape culture, masculinity, wealth, mental health, immigration, and parenthood by using theater as the entry point tool to exploration.
- Facilitate workshops that use theater, exploration of multiple intelligence(s) and discussion to help high school seniors prepare for the process of applying to college/universities.
- Teach conflict resolution skills and the "A-Game" strategy (advocacy, accountability, adaptability, aptitude, & attitude) using vignettes, tableaux, interactive scenes, and discussion with students grades 3-8 during in-school hours.

Theater Specialist | City School of the Arts, Manhattan NY, Sept 16' - June 17'

- Develop and created year-long curriculum for in school Devised Theater program for 6th graders at a magnet school for visual and performing arts
- Teach/hone performance skills ie. improvisation, poetry, theater of the oppressed, tableaux, writing, singing and creative writing with students

Arts Director | Camp Felix, Peekskill Valley NY, July 16' - Aug 16'

- Develop concept and curriculum for an Arts Program for campers ages 8-15 who are currently in the Foster Care system
- Lesson plan based on needs of each cabin and lead each cabin through daily arts activities that support and promote the learning of different artistic skills, self-esteem, leadership, and fun.
- Order materials necessary to run sessions successfully, set up the Arts & Crafts Cabin, and other related logistical tasks.

Teaching Artist | Central Park East 2 School, Harlem NY, Oct. 13' - June 15'

- Facilitate bi-monthly "Express Yourself!" performance workshops with 2 & 3rd graders in an inclusion (combined | special ed. & reg ed. students) classroom
- Use tableaux, scene work, songs, brain storm poetry, theatre of the oppressed & movement activities as ways for students to express their feelings and explore relevant social topics via performance.
- Check in about process of doing our performance work at end of each session & discuss ways to strengthen the community trust that we're building

Camp Arts Counselor | AMARD&V, New Brunswick NJ, Jun. 09' - Aug. 09'

- Facilitated workshops that focused on adolescent health issues and improvement of self esteem/self-image
- Mentored campers on questions/issues pertaining to sexuality, race, & edu. and used different performing art genres to further explore the topics that were most pressing
- Created two murals at local park and performed folk Afro-Puerto Rican dance for community with campers

Workshop Facilitator

Young Womyn of Strength 5 Conference: Reclaiming Our Time and Creating and Owning Our Narratives, Brooklyn NY, Nov. 17'
“#METOO #SAYHERNAME”

- looked at how artists and organizers have used their creativity to address violence against women and femicide
- statistical breakdown of how femicide affects womyn of different populations
- map out ways that the devaluation of womyn shows up both in the home and institutions
- discuss safety measures to take for oneself when confronted with toxic masculinity and its manifestations

Young Womyn of Strength 4 Conference: Livin' Out Loud, Brooklyn NY, Nov. 16'

“Purging the Labels, Re-claiming Our Worth”

- examine the labels that society, communities, and even our friends and family have put on us
- discuss the weight of having to carry identities that are not self-defined and the ways we cope
- de-construct the roots of the most common ones (stigmas related to race, gender, sexuality, body image, class)
- begin the work of healing those wounds and symbolically purging those labels with fun visual arts activity

Moonifest 16, Brooklyn NY, Jan. 16'

- workshop for local community (all ages) that focused on connecting with your own body and getting to know a stranger through a series of performance exercises, in celebration of the new lunar year.

Young Womyn of Strength 3 Conference, Brooklyn NY, Nov. 15'

“Leading with your Authentic Self”

- learn how to “lead with your authentic self” by exploring concepts such as race, gender, perfection and societal expectations that we’ve been conditioned to internalize versus answers that are rooted in self truths.
- Workshop participants in grades 7-12 explored these ideas via discussion, writing prompts, poetry, and dance.

Young Womyn of Strength Conference 2, Brooklyn NY, Nov. 14'

“Performance as Narrative”

- Begin process of exploring the layers of one’s identity through performance.
- create individual and collective pieces that are celebratory and investigatory of the complexities of all our identities.

Key Note Speaker for Latinx Heritage Month | PS # 27 in Jersey City NJ, Oct. 14'

- Presented to 6-8 graders on the impact of education in the job market and the legacy of Latinx in NJ
| Brooklyn Friends School in Brooklyn NY, Sept. 14'
- Presented to 6-8 graders about the legacy of Puerto Rican activists in NYC & how art is a form of activism
- Facilitated discussion about community and the responsibilities/ expectations that come with being a part of one

EDUCATION

B.A., Latino & Caribbean Studies and Women & Gender Studies (with minor in Sociology)

Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ, May 2011, GPA: 3.95 (Summa Cum Laude)

- Presented at Caribbean Cityscapes Conference, 2011
- Developed Honors Thesis on the structural and social causes for heroin addiction among Puerto Ricans from the 1960s-1980s in the NJ/NY metropolitan area
- Recipient of: Rutgers James Dickson Carr Scholarship, CLAC Undergraduate Research Grant, University College Scholarship, Rutgers Academic Excellence Award, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, University Honor Society Scholarship

PERFORMANCE/ACTING TRAINING

Cold Reading; Scene Study, Monologue

Instructed by Gregory Sims, Bob Luke and Bobi Beige (NYC and LA)

Scene Study; Improvisation; Commercial

Instructed by Rob Decina, Jon Goracy, Clint Alexander, Judy Henderson, Jenny Ravitz, & Barry Shapiro (Actors Connection- NYC)

Auditioning for the Camera; Film Acting

Instructed by Tony Plana, Charles Carrol (HOLA Fabrica- NYC)

Singing (Mezzo-Soprano)

Instructed by Robert Marks, Yumi Tosha (private lessons, NYC)

Needing It All, Queer Performance Methodologies

Instructed by Dan Fishback (Helix Queer Performance Network-NYC)

EMERGENYC, Theatre of the Oppressed, Methods in Performance + Politics

Instructed by George Emilio-Sanchez (Hemispheric Institute- NYC)

La Pocha Nostra, Public and Archaeological Interventions, Installations & Jams

Instructed by Guillermo Gomez-Pena (Oaxaca, Mexico)

HONORS/DISTINCTIONS

FELLOWSHIP/RESIDENCIES

Take a Breath | The Action Lab, Ossining, NY (2021)

NALAC Leadership Institute | NALAC, (2021)

EMERGELAB | Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Brooklyn, NY (2016)

PUBLICATIONS

“Glitter & Grit: Queer Performance from the Heels on Wheels Femme Galaxy” edited by Damien Luxe, Heather Maria Acs and Sabina Ibarrola; Excerpt of my piece “Brain Poison Heirlooms” is in this anthology.

**Winner of Lambda Literary Award (<http://www.out.com/art-books/2016/6/07/winners-28th-annual-lambda-literary-awards>)

GRANTS

League of Independent Theater Space Grant (2016)

CLAC Undergraduate Research Grant (2011)

COLLECTIVES

Latinas en Queerantime

- **co-founder** and **co-host** of podcast series that centers the queer, femme, Latinx experience

A Beautiful Desperation (<https://abeautifuldesperation.carbonmade.com>)

- **co-founder** of an all queer, mostly poc, female, gender non-conforming, and trans, multimedia, experimental, performance art collective that uses personal narrative and character work as entry points into pressing societal issues.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT /CONFERENCES

ACS Trainings. Manhattan and Queens, NY. 2018-2020

- Motivational Interviewing: A Strengths-Based Practice
- Motivational Interviewing: Engaging Families with Repeat Involvement in the Child Welfare System (2 day)
- Building Coaching Competency (2 day)
- Safety and Risk: Investigation, Synthesis, and Assessment
- Implicit Bias

42nd Annual ROOTS Week: RE/NEWing. Arden, NC. 2018

- 6 day conference for artists and cultural workers/supporters whose work is rooted in community, tradition or spirit.
- Separate intensive workshops that look at race, gender/queer liberation, decolonization, and indigeneity alongside performances and video installations
- Performer, “Pink Ribbon”

Compass Beyond the Basics, SEL Advanced Training Series, Manhattan, NY. 2016.

- 8 month training on Restorative Justice, Restorative Practice, & Circle Keeping in the classroom
- *** **CERTIFICATION** in Restorative Practices and Circle Keeping

Allied Media Conference. Detroit, Michigan. 2016

- 5 day media-based organizing conference that focuses on people using media, art, or technology to address the roots of problems and advances holistic solutions towards a more just and creative world.

Manifest! Choreographing Social Movements in the Americas, El Encuentro. Montreal, Quebec. 2014

- 10 day conference focused on how performances mobilize and syncretize in civic, community, and cultural contexts to create manifold forms of political expression.
- Performer, “I’m Not Your Motherfucking Ally”

Symposium on Decolonial Aesthetics from the Americas. Toronto, ON. 2013

- 3 day symposium featuring papers, workshops and performances, that engage the diversity of contemporary aesthetic practices informed by decolonial thought.
- Performer, "Gender Cost(a)"
- Presenter, "Contemporary Aesthetic Practice"

Cities/Bodies/Action – The Politics of Passion in the Americas, El Encuentro. Sao Paulo, Brazil. 2013

- 10 day conference examining the broad intersections between urban space, performance, and political/artistic action in the Americas.
- Performer, "Gender Cost(a)"

38th Annual ROOTS Week: A Call to Action-Aesthetics. Asheville, NC. 2018

- 6 day conference for artists and cultural workers/supporters whose work is rooted in community, tradition or spirit.
- COOP Leader (Kitchen Choreographer); Alternate Roots Member

NYCoRE Conference: Radical Possibilities. Brooklyn, New York. 2014

- Training for NYC based educators interested in radical/non-traditional ways of engaging students

Feminist Constellations: Intercultural Paradigms in the Americas, NY, NY. 2013

- 2 day conference spotlighting the work and struggles of feminist scholars and activists at the forefront of contemporary debates on democracy, economic, cultural, and racial justice.