

SAMANTHA GALARZA

SAMGALARZA611@GMAIL.COM
(551) 208-0828

10+ years as NYC educator working with historically marginalized groups in schools, colleges, foster care, and prison

20+ years SAG-AFTRA actress

4 years in arts-based leadership

Writer, director, performance artist, and podcaster.

Published in award winning anthology

NALAC Leadership Institute, Intercultural Leadership Institute, EmergNYC, and Pocha Nostra fellow

EDUCATION

B.A. LATINO & CARIBBEAN STUDIES

B.A. WOMEN & GENDER STUDIES

(MINOR IN SOCIOLOGY)

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

GPA: 3.95 (Summa Cum Laude, *Honors Thesis)

Awards: 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

Certification

- ◇ Restorative Practices and Circle Keeping (Compass Beyond the Basics, SEL Advanced 8 month Training Series- NY)

SKILLS: Spanish Speaker, Actor, Motivational Interviewing, Improvisation, Curriculum Development, Research, Writing, Budgeting, Public Speaking, Stakeholder Engagement, Content Creation, Video Editing, Marketing, Program Management, SEL, Producer, Facilitation, Tax Preparation

MANAGERIAL

CREATIVE ARTS TEAM

Assistant Program Director (Promotion) | TFL @ CUNY Sept 23' - Aug 24'

| CASA @ CUNY Sept 22' - March 23'

- Devise & facilitate all Actor-Teacher (AT) trainings and PDs for 3 separate programs under Theater for Learning (TFL): Cultural Afterschool Adventures (CASA), Early Learning Program (ELP), and Adolescent Literacy Program (ALP)
- Conceptualize curriculum arcs for various residency lengths and thematic tracks for 3 separate programs for learners ages 3-18
- Strengthen AT facilitation through observation & on-site feedback
- Creatively plan formation of new partnerships with schools of interest & source funding to provide services with Prog. Dir. and Exec. Dir.

Interim Program Director | CASA @ CUNY - Manhattan, March 23' – Aug 23'

- Oversee a Program Manager and team of Actor Teachers to design and deliver programs for varied audiences including: PD for teachers & residencies for DOE students grades 2-12
- Conduct auditions/interviews, onboarding, & training for new staff
- Budget Oversight and timesheet tracking/collection
- Liaison/cultivate relationships with school partners, city council members & funders; support development needs via project descriptions and reporting

Curriculum Specialist (Promotion) | CASA @ CUNY Aug. 21' - Aug. 22'

- Co-designed a Devised Theater Curriculum Arc for Actor Teachers to implement as guides for residencies in NYC public schools
- Customized Games/Activity Catalogue separated into categories (exploring power dynamics, devising, storytelling, focus, rhythm, etc.) depending on the goal(s) of the session.
- Facilitated weekly planning sessions and monthly training intensives to strengthen skills of Actor Teachers
- Supported Actor Teachers with strategies to problem-solve facilitation issues as they came up
- Created system for cross-school "twinning" sessions and step by step facilitation handbook

EDUCATOR

Training Consultant/Actor Facilitator | Workforce Institute. CUNY May 18'-Present

- Authentically portray array of characters in over 350 simulations with CUNY grad students & staff across child welfare and juvenile justice orgs. (ACS, ACSWI, JSA; <https://nycacstraining.org/>)

PERFORMER/DIRECTOR

*Full Actor Resume available upon request

Television/Film

- Professional SAG-AFTRA actress since 1997

Theater

- Lead and supporting theater roles in tri-state area since 1997.

Performance Art

- Devised & performed original material at over 20 off-Broadway venues across the US as well as Brazil, Canada and Mexico.

Director

- Eddie's Perejil- Presented at 15 universities and cultural centers across US and 2 international venues.

Voice Overs

- Narrator for commercials, podcasts, short audio stories, and Industrials/E-Learners

Training

Improvisation, Cold Reading, Scene Study, Monologue, Commercial, Film Acting, Singing, Queer Performance Methodologies, Theatre of the Oppressed, Methods in Performance Politics, Public and Archaeological Interventions, & Installations (from various teachers in NYC & Mexico)

Fellowships/Residencies

Intercultural Leadership Institute fellow (22'-23')

NALAC Leadership Institute fellow (21')

Take a Breath Residency (21')

EMERGELAB fellow – BAX (16')

EmergeNYC- Hemispheric Institute fellow (12')

Other Notable Experience

Finance Coach | Magic Tax-NJ, Jan 15- Aug 17'

- Credit repair, Budget creation
- Marketing/branding advice for small businesses
- Tax Preparer for Schedule C businesses

- Collaborate with trainers to offer safe educational environments that optimize learning/practice by making real time adjustments and debriefing in-role afterwards
- Lead actor in professionally produced Industrials & E-Learners
- Produced 80+ virtual trainings
- Completed over 120 hours of training in relevant social work courses for effective family engagement and coaching

Actor Teacher | (for 3 separate programs within CREATIVE ARTS TEAM, CUNY)

Cultural Afterschool Adventures (CASA): September 16' - June 21'

- 12 week residencies with 2nd-8th graders introducing them to theater literacy/skills and showing them how to devise original theater
- 24 week residencies with 9-12th graders focused on use and creation of spoken word poetry to reflect issues, beliefs, and personal life experiences; discuss social issues & analyze how pop culture and institutions reinforce or push against the status quo

Sound Thinking (summer program): July 18'

- Supported cohort of 50 female identified 11 - 12th graders interested in careers in music to navigate the music industry by creating/facilitating daily workshops focused on self-esteem, self-care, and self-advocacy
- Built trust/community by establishing a culture of affirmation

College and Adults Program (CAP): November 16' - June 17'

- Theatre of the Oppressed workshops with young adult (18-24) and mature adult (50+ years) population of men incarcerated at Rikers Prison; theater used as tool to explore themes of power, cycles of violence, legacy, rape culture, masculinity, wealth, mental health, immigration, and parenthood
- Conflict resolution skills and the "A-Game" strategy (advocacy, accountability, adaptability, aptitude, & attitude) using TIE interactive scenes w/ students grades 3-8 during in-school hours

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

- Guided 9th and 10th grade youth in building critical thinking, conflict resolution, de-escalation, and self-advocacy skills to help them succeed in high school, using a holistic and socio-emotional learning lens (restorative justice strategies, goal setting, herbal practices, networking)
- 1-on-1 weekly student mentorship and co-creation a post-high school plan that included financial literacy & exploring multiple intelligence(s)

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

- Pioneered year-long Devised Theater program that fortified original content creation for 6th graders at magnet school for performing arts
- Instructed/honed performance skills i.e. improvisation, poetry, theater of the oppressed, tableaux, writing, singing and creative writing with students

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

- Conceptualized new arts program focused on community and identity for campers ages 8-15 who were in the Foster Care system.
- Lead each cabin through daily arts activities that promoted the learning of visual arts skills (storyboard concepts, drip-technique painting, collaging), self-esteem, leadership, and fun.