**Samantha Galarza**

**SAG-AFTRA ; Alternate ROOTS**

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Samantha Galarza is mixed-race, Puerto Rican screen actress/writer/singer/performance artist/educator/director.

As an art-ivist, her work explores anti-colonial aesthetics, queer identity politics, fluidity, systemic and internalized racism, substance abuse, immigration/migration, the U.S. prison industrial complex and policy that disproportionately affects ethnic minorities. Ultimately a storyteller, her dream is to bridge the gap between mainstream media and progressive "de-colonial" political art, facilitating the representation of diverse identities/experiences and dialogue between them.

**PERFORMANCE ART**

Self Love Confessions Dixon Place Manhattan, NY

Don’t Mess with my Cunt The New School Manhattan, NY

Overcoming JACK Brooklyn, NY

Pink Ribbon 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 Paolo, Brazil

Tranzac Club Toronto, ON

Bare Bones Unbound (collaboration 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; video installation) Mexico City, MX

**TELEVISION/FILM**

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 Cmpny

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

**LIVE SIMULATIONS**

1 year contract with Administration Jada/Mom CUNY- Prof. Studies

for Children’s Services (ACS)

**DIRECTORIAL CREDITS**

Eddie’s Perejil 4th 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

Dance of the Pillow Queen: Hungry Ghosts BAX (*Redux!* Submerge Series) BK, NY

**PUBLISHED TEXT**

“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)

**TEACHING ARTIST/FACILITATOR**

**Actor Teaching Artist** | Creative Arts Team @ CUNY, Manhattan NY, November 16’-Present

* Teach conflict resolution skills using vignettes, tableaux, scenes, and discussion with students grades 3-8.
* Workshops that use theater, ice breakers, and discussion to help high school seniors breakdown the process of applying to college/universities.
* Work with young adult (18-24) and older adult (40+ years) male population at Rikers Prison to do 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.
* Devise original theater with 3-5 graders and 9-12th graders at different schools across NYC in 12 weeks residencies

**Theater Specialist** | City School of the Arts, Manhattan NY, Sept 16’- Present

* Develop a 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

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

* Develop 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

**Workshop Facilitator** |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’

* workshop on 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 2 Conference, Brooklyn NY, Nov. 14’

* 2 part workshop on how to explore the layers of one’s identity through performance.
* Workshop participants in grades 7-12 created individual and collective pieces that were celebratory and investigatory of the complexities of all our identities.

**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

**Guest Speaker** for Latino 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 Latinos in NJ

| Brooklyn Friends SchoolinBrooklyn NY, Sept. 14’

* Talked with 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

**GRANTS**

League of Independent Theater Space Grant

(2016)

**RESIDENCIES**

EMERGELAB Brooklyn Arts Exchange Brooklyn, NY

• 10 month residency to develop new full-length solo work “Medusa Found Her Body Cabron”

• facilitate workshop sessions to help other artists with respective creative projects

**COLLECTIVES**

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

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

**CERTIFICATIONS**

Restorative Practices and Circle Keeping (Compass: Beyond the Basics, 2016)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

*COMPASS BEYOND THE BASICS, SEL Advanced Training Series, Manhattan NY, 2016.*

* 8 month training on Restorative Justice, Restorative Practice, & Circle Keeping in the classroom.

*Allied Media Conference*. Detroit, Michigan. 2016[

* 5 day [media-based organizing](https://www.alliedmedia.org/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. Sau 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)” ; Participant.

*ROOTS Week: 38th Annual Meeting & Artists’ Retreat*. Asheville, NC. 2014

* 5 day performance festival 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.

**PERFORMANCE TRAINING**

Needing It All Dan Fishback Brooklyn, NY

• Queer Performance Methodologies

EMERGENYC (Hemispheric Institute) George Emilio-Sanchez Manhattan, NY

• Theatre of the Oppressed, Methods in Performance + Politics

La Pocha Nostra Workshop Guillermo Gomez-Pena Oaxaca, Mexico

• Public and Archaeological Interventions, Installations, Jams

John Robert Powers Bob Luke, Bobi Beige Manhattan, NY

• Cold Reading; Scene Study; Improvisation; Commercial; Voice Over

• Singing (Mezzo-Soprano)

HOLA Fabrica Tony Plana, Charles Carrol Manhattan, NY

• Auditioning for the Camera; Film Acting

**EDUCATION**

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

Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ, May 2011, GPA: **3.95** (Graduated 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

*Honors*

Rutgers James Dickson Carr Scholarship, Deans List, CLAC Undergraduate Research Grant, University College Scholarship, Rutgers Academic Excellence Award, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, University Honor Society Scholarship