

# Stephanie C. Cunningham

Theatre Director & Educator

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Strategic-thinking theatre professional with experience working with a wide range of theatre practitioners while being recognized for unique ability to engage and empower artists and young people. Experience developing meaningful curriculum while managing administrative tasks for an educational institution. A resourceful and forward-thinking director whose priority is fostering a positive working environment for all theatre artists to do their best work. A flexible, adaptive and compassionate facilitator seeking to leverage background into an artistic leadership position with progressive institute or company.

## ARTS EDUCATION LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### **The Juilliard School, *Drama Curriculum Specialist* November 2017-current**

- Works collaboratively to shape the overall principles and goals of the drama curriculum
- Identifies important, representative works from a wide variety of traditions to serve as the foundation of a repertoire-based curriculum
- Writing and curating repertoire-based teaching resources and materials for different learning stages
- Travels internationally to provide professional development and support to partner teachers

### **The New School University *Summer Programs Director* December 2013 - November 2017**

- Developed and maintained yearly budget for program growth
- Designed adaptive curriculum for seven core classes and electives to meet with accreditation
- Hires all staff and faculty including developing relationships with project partners & organizations
- Oversees and schedules space usage

### **Wide Eyed Productions New York, NY *Associate Artistic Director* November 2014 - current**

- Co-develops theatrical seasons and educational programming to work within the NY standards
- Producer on all WEP events and shows
- Assists visiting artists with logistical/environmental needs to ensure their best work
- Work with the Board of Directors to create and maintain strategic & sustainability plans
- Select actors for Artist in Residency positions
- Represent Wide Eyed at functions, conferences and fund development events

### **Wingspan Arts New York, NY *Internship Coordinator* August 2015-November 2017**

- Matches teaching artist mentors with apprentices for three partner organizations
- Supervises teaching artist apprentice progress and offers support where needed
- Develops and executed three professional development sessions per semester

### **The Bancroft School, Worcester, MA *Summer Program Director* April 2010- August 2013**

- Developed curriculum in collaboration with the school's mission
- Taught three classes and coordinated other theatre educators
- Directed two productions a season with the Middle & High School students

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Wide Eyed Productions	<i>Education Committee</i>	2014-present
New School for Drama	<i>Assistant to the Directing Department Chair</i>	2014-2016
Wingspan Arts	<i>Site Director &amp; Teaching Artist</i>	2013-2016
Emerson College	<i>Majestic Theater: School Tours and Tickets</i>	2009-2011
Performing Arts School of Worcester	<i>Reviewer/Teaching Artist</i>	2003-2009
The Shakespeare Stories	Managing Director	2009-2010
Naked Angels	Teaching Artist Coordinator	2011-2015

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

<u>Title of Course, Department</u>	<u>Semester(s)</u>
<b>The New School University: College of Performing Arts, Faculty</b>	
New Play Collaborative Practice: Writopia	Spring 2018
Directing: New Works Collaborative Theater Practice, BFA Drama Department	Spring 2017
MFA Directing Thesis Casebook Studio, Graduate Drama Department	Fall 2016/17
Arts Education Methods, Civic Engagement Dept.	Fall 2016/17
Portfolio I: Learning About Learning, BFA Drama Department	Fall 2016/17
Classical Scene Study, Drama Department	Summer 2016/17
Teaching Artistry Fieldwork, Civic Engagement Department	Spring 2016/17
Portfolio II: Synthesis and Synergy, BFA Drama Department	Spring 2016/17
Collaborative Theatre Practice, BFA Drama Department	Fall 2015
Collaborative Studio: African Dream Initiative, BFA Drama Department	Fall 2015
<b>Boston College <i>Teaching Fellow, Advanced Acting</i></b>	Spring 2011
<b>Harvard University <i>Extension School, Teaching Assistant, Acting II</i></b>	Fall 2010

## TEACHING ARTISTRY & COMMUNITY CLASSES

**Classical Acting Technique**, Mendocino Arts Center, Mendocino CA: 2016 & 2017

**Audition Preparation and the Cold Read**, Mastodon Theatre Company, NYC 2015

**Theater & Music** (Elementary Level) Wingspan Arts, New York, NY: 2013-2016

**Contemporary Scene Study**, Mendocino Arts Center, Mendocino CA, 2016

**Directing Basics**, Mendocino Arts Center, Mendocino CA: 2015

**Professional Resume Workshop for Actors**, Brooklyn Arts Space, NY, 2015

Audition Preparation Coach & Acting Coach, 2009-Present

**Shakespearean Text**, Worcester MA: Bancroft Summer Theater, Bancroft School, 2010-2013

**Puppetry 101**, Bancroft School, Worcester MA: Summer 2011

**Theater Instructor**, Performing Arts School of Worcester, Worcester MA: Acting for Beginners (Adults) Middle School Musical Theater, Vocal Coaching, Ibsen Scene Work, Shakespearean Text, Performing Arts School of Worcester, 2005-2009

## EDUCATION

**Master of the Fine Arts, Directing** The New School of Drama 2014

**Masters of Arts, Theater Education** Emerson College, Boston MA 2011

**Classical Theater Certificate**, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London 2010

**Bachelor of Arts, English & Classical Vocal Performance** Anna Maria College, Paxton MA 2009

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Theater of the Oppressed NYC Workshop 2012

Urban Arts Partnership: Everyday Arts for Special

Education- 2015

Viewpoints Master Class- Erica Fae- 2013

## ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

The Doug Hughes Directing Fellow-The New School 2013-2014

Robert B. Westfall Artist Academic Award- 2012-2014

Lambda Iota Tau Award- 2008

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & ASSOCIATIONS

**Etudes**- Peer Review Arts Journal, Editorial Board 2014-Present

**Stage Directors & Choreographer's Society**- Associate Member

**Cultural Diversity Training Committee**- New School University 2016-present

**Electronic Learning Committee**- New School University 2015-present

**Wide Eyed Productions** – Board Member 2013-2014

**Association for Theatre in Higher Education Member**- 2012-current

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Administrative Proficiencies

- Efficiently managed partnerships internationally and created materials for digital learning and professional development
- Helped design a successful summer program to increase revenue 15% during every year of operation.
- Trained 30+ faculty and staff on best practices and protocol during a summer program to ensure optimal production value.
- Executed on-time, under-budget project management on complex issues for senior leadership.
- Saved time, spearheading special projects through effective emergency resolution.
- Directed professional development workshops for Teaching Artists to assist with classroom entry.
- Efficiently managed day-to-day operations including safety protocol, supplies procurement, inventory monitoring, curriculum implementation, and continuous improvement of industry best practices.
- Oversaw crisis management, educating and mentoring students to help them surmount academic obstacles and personal difficulties.
- Created educational presentations to creatively communicate departmental objectives.

### Instructional Proficiencies

- Optimized learning plans for students with learning differences and difficulties in both k-12 and college settings
- In-depth knowledge of a variety of course materials, collaborating with colleagues to implement shared interactive learning media.
- Partnered with other instructors to share best practices for optimized student learning.
- Leveraged effective classroom management techniques to maximize instructional delivery, including identifying skills within groups and pairing groups to mutually learn from one another about cultures around the world.

- Assisted students with written assignments and brainstorming, planning, and organizing ideas for inclusion into assignment for improving overall outcome.
- Leveraged up to date learning data from educational research to shape value-added solutions and approaches.
- Automated office operations, managing student and instructor correspondence, record tracking, and data communications.
- Strengthened operational efficiencies and traceability by developing organizational filing systems for confidential records, agendas and reports.

**PRODUCTION CREDITS-NEW YORK** (SELECTED) -\* denotes a premiere

<b>Production</b>	<b>Written By</b>	<b>Produced By</b>	<b>Year</b>
The Viewing (U.S. Premiere)	Ross Howard	New Light Theater Company	2016
Swashbuckling Sam*	Leonora Bernstein	Wide Eyed Productions	2016
Keep*	Francesca Pazniokas	Wide Eyed Productions	2016
Butcher*	Sam Byron	Stella Adler Studios	2015
Salt*	Peter Turo	Samuel French Festival	2015
Die Kleinen*	Molly Haas-Hooven	Mastodon Theatre Co.	2015
The House Itself Does Not Burn*	Molly Haas-Hooven	New School for Drama	2014
Eurydice	Sarah Ruhl	New School for Drama	2013
Worst Year Ever*	Charlotte Miller	Fringe NYC	2013
As You Like It (Associate)	W. Shakespeare	New School for Drama	2013
The Spark	Sam Byron	New School for Drama	2013
Homos! As the World is Ending	Daniel Kitrosser	New School for Drama	2013
First Love*	Alex Rubin	RAL Productions	2012
Self-Torture & Strenuous Exercise	Harry Kondoleon	New School for Drama	2012

**U.S. PRODUCTIONS**

The Flick	Annie Baker	Mendocino Theater Co. (CA)	2017
Buyer and Cellar	Jonathan Tolins	Mendocino Theater Co. (CA)	2016
Vanya and Sonia... and Spike	Christopher Durang	Mendocino Theater Co. (CA)	2015
Once on This Island	Lynn Ahrens /Stephen Flaherty	The Bancroft School (MA)	2011
Trifles	Susan Glaspell	Williamsville Players (MA)	2010
The Changeling	Thomas Middleton	Emerson College (MA)	2010
The Medium	Gian Carlo Menotti	Worcester Opera Co. (MA)	2010
The Trojan Women	Euripides/ Seamus Heaney	QRHS Drama (MA)	2009
Women Beware Women	Thomas Middleton	Anna Maria College(MA)	2009
Trifles	Susan Glaspell	Anna Maria College (MA)	2008
A Burial at Thebes	Seamus Heaney	MA High School Drama Guild	2008
Twelfth Night	W. Shakespeare	Anna Maria College (MA)	2007

**ASSIST. DIRECTING**

	<b>Plw/ Dir</b>	<b>Produced By</b>	
Mr. Joy (NYC AD)	Daniel Beaty/Lou Jacob	City Theatre (PA)	2015
Awake and Sing!	Clifford Odets/ Stephen Fried	NAATCO (at SOHO Rep)	2013
An Ideal Husband	Oscar Wilde/Karen MacDonald	Gloucester Stage Company	2010
The Blonde, the Brunette...Redhead	Robert Hewitt/Melia Bensussen	Merrimack Repertory Theater	2009
Hamlet	W. Shakespeare/Molly Martin	Emerson College	2011