

Stephanie C. Cunningham

Theatre Director & Educator

Steph.C.Cunningham@gmail.com

www.stephanieccunningham.com

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Strategic-thinking Higher Education Teaching Professional and Artistic Director with experience working with a wide range of students while being recognized for unique ability to engage and empower classes. Extensive experience developing curriculum for a wide variety of creative subject areas while managing administrative tasks for the educational institution. A resourceful and forward-thinking Theatre Director and Educator effective at providing quality instruction while fostering a positive learning and performing environment for all students or theatre players. A flexible, adaptive and compassionate facilitator and former actor seeking to leverage background into an Associate/Assistant Professor or Artistic Director/Associate Artistic Director for a progressive institute or company.

EDUCATION

Master of the Fine Arts, Directing, The New School for 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 & Bachelor of Arts, Music, Anna Maria College, Paxton MA, 2009

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Theater of the Oppressed NYC Workshop 2016

Urban Arts Partnership: Everyday Arts for Special Education- 2015

Viewpoints Master Class- Erica Fae- 2013

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

Doug Hughes Directing Fellowship-The New School 2013-2014

Robert B. Westfall Academic Award- 2012-2014

Lambda Iota Tau Award- 2008

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Wide Eyed Productions New York, NY

Associate Artistic Director

November 2014 - current

- Co-develops theatrical seasons and additional programming
- 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

The Summer Acting Intensive, The New School *Program Director* **December 2013 - current**

- Developed and maintains yearly budget for program growth
- Hires all staff and faculty including developing relationships with project partners & organizations
- Oversees space usage
- Designed curriculum for program

Naked Angels***Festival Supervisor*****Twice a Year 2013-2017**

- Budgeted festival funds
- Secured space for rehearsals and performance
- Oversaw festival mentors and judges

The Shakespeare Stories, Worcester MA***Company Director*****August 2009 - August 2011**

- Oversaw season budget and assisted with musician hires
- Booked spaces and transportation for performers
- Assisted Artistic Director with tasks and research

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**Associate Member**, Stage Directors & Choreographers' Society, 2015-Present**Electronic Learning Committee**, New School University, 2015-Present**Editorial Board**, Etudes-Peer Review Arts Journal, 2014-Present**Associate Artistic Director**, Wide Eyed Productions, 2014-Present**Education Committee Member**, Wide Eyed Productions, 2013-Present**Member**, ATHE, 2012-Present**Board Member**, Wide Eyed Productions, 2013-2014**COURSES TAUGHT****GRADUATE****The New School for Performing Arts**

MFA Directing Thesis Casebook Studio, Graduate Drama Department

Fall 2016

UNDERGRADUATE**The New School for Performing Arts:**

Directing: Collaborative Theater Practice, BFA Drama Department

Fall 2016

MFA Directing Thesis Casebook Studio, Graduate Drama Department

Spring 2017

Collaborative Research Studio: Arts Education Methods, Civic Engagement Dept.

Fall 2016

Portfolio I: Learning About Learning, BFA Drama Department

Fall 2016

Classical Scene Study, Drama Department

Summer 2016

Teaching Artistry Fieldwork, Civic Engagement Department

Spring 16/17

Portfolio II: Synthesis and Synergy, BFA Drama Department

Spring 2016

Collaborative Theatre Practice, BFA Drama Department

Fall 2015

Collaborative Studio: African Dream Initiative, BFA Drama Department

Fall 2015

Boston College- Assistant Teaching Fellow

Advanced Acting

Spring 2011

Harvard University- Teaching Assistant

Acting II, Extension School, Harvard University

Fall 2010

TEACHING ARTISTRY & COMMUNITY CLASSES

Classical Acting Technique, Mendocino Arts Center, Mendocino CA: 2016

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, Bancroft School, 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

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Instructional Proficiencies

- Coached students preparing for BFA/MFA college auditions with monologue and scene work selection/preparation, application essays, headshot selection, voice, speech, and movement for actors, and cold reading practice.
- 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.
- Initiated new learning methods, ensuring total student comprehension while maximizing learning time.
- Partnered with other instructors to share best practices for optimized student learning.
- Supported students on difficult subjects by conducting individual tutoring sessions.
- Assisted students with written assignments and brainstorming, planning, and organizing ideas for inclusion into assignment for improving overall outcome.
- 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.

Faculty Proficiencies

- 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.
- Maximized student outreach by adapting to student's identity and learning about student's background and culture to find common ground for enhancing student's learning.
- Retained interest and maximized receptive learning by educating students on creative art, history or arts, and drama courses utilizing instructional techniques including hands-on curriculum.

- Maximized productivity by supervising, mentoring and advising students to optimize receptive learning and performance.
- Leveraged trends in the education industry to shape value-added solutions and approaches.
- Taught monologues and scene work from contemporary American plays, and techniques from Stanislavsky, Meisner and Hagan.

Administrative Proficiencies

- 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.
- 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.
- Enhanced sensory/perceptual-motor skills, language, cognition, and memory development, employing educational strategies and techniques.
- Created educational presentations to creatively communicate departmental objectives.
- Delivered conflict resolutions, moderating all disputes and grievances between parties with the goal of speedy and fair resolution.

EARLY CAREER

Internship Coordinator, Wingspan Arts, 2015-Present

Associate Artistic Director & Education Committee Member, Wide Eyed Productions, 2014-Present

Summer Intensive, Program Director, The New School, 2013-Present

Academic Assistant, Directing Department Chair, New School for Drama, 2014-Present

Site Director, Wingspan Arts, 2013-2015

Coordinator, Emerson College, Majestic Theater: School Tours and Tickets, 2009-2011

Program Director, Bancroft Summer Theater Camp Bancroft School, 2010-2013

PRODUCTION CREDITS

NEW YORK (SELECTED) *- denotes a premiere

Production	Written By	Produced By	Year
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 and Strenuous Exercise	Harry Kondoleon	New School for Drama	2012

U.S. Stage Productions

Buyer and Cellar	Jonathan Tolins	Mendocino Theater Co. (CA)	2016
Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike	Christopher Durang	Mendocino Theater Co. (CA)	2015
Once on This Island	L Ahrens /S 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

ASSISTANT DIRECTING (SELECTED) Playwright & Director

Awake and Sing!	Clifford Odets, Dir. Stephen Fried	NAATCO (at SOHO Rep)	2013
An Ideal Husband	Oscar Wilde, Dir. Karen MacDonald	Gloucester Stage Company	2010
The Blonde, the Brunette & the Vengeful Redhead	Robert Hewitt, Dir. Melia Bensussen	Merrimack Repertory Theater	2009
Hamlet	W. Shakespeare, Dir. Molly Martin	Emerson College	2011

READINGS

Gingerbread	Anthony Noack	Regent Theatre	2014
The Dotted Line	Chris Widney	Rising Sun Performance Co	2014
The Taming of the Shrew	W. Shakespeare	Wide Eyed Productions	2013
Hot Air	Matt Herzfeld	Peculiar Streams	2013

NYC PRODUCING

Produced By:

Venue:

CREDITS

Short Play Festival	Naked Angels	The New School	2014
Dead Special Crabs	Wide Eyed Productions	TBG Theatre	2014
24 Hour Play Festival	Naked Angels	The New School	2014