

JENNIFER A. LEWIS

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617-834-5408

EDUCATION

Emerson College: Master of Arts, Theatre Education May 2018

Initial License: MA Teacher of Theatre, All Levels PreK- 12+: Pending

Finalist: Winifred Ward Scholarship, American Alliance for Theatre & Education

New York University Tisch School of the Arts: BFA with Honors, Acting May 1997

Circle in the Square & Classical Studios

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Bunker Hill Community College, Boston MA Sept. 2018- present

Adjunct Faculty: Theatre Program

- Create Acting 1 curriculum and assessments for diverse class of young adults of varying experience levels
- Guide students in developing presence, connection, and textual analysis skills
- Select and coach scenes and monologues, culminating in public performance

Emerson College, Boston MA Sept. 2017- Aug. 2018

Instructor: Pre-College Acting Studio, Shakespeare

- Created and taught curriculum for highly-motivated high school students receiving college credit
- Explored verse structure, enlivened imagery, and focused on relationship to connect students to the text
- Collaborated with Voice, Movement and Scene Study teachers for a comprehensive student experience
- Assisted in developing and directing final showcase performance with Program Director

Teaching Assistant: Sophomore Scene Study

- Coached actors in contemporary scenes, monologues and exercises using Meisner Technique
- Created and led warm-ups to enhance focus, relaxation and imagination
- Taught class in absence of Assoc. Professor

Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, Cambridge MA January - May 2018

Student Teacher: Acting & Play Study (Honors), Elements of Theatre, and Musical Theatre.

- Designed and taught Shakespeare unit on *Much Ado About Nothing* using feeding in and image work to engage students in the language immediately and improvisational games to connect to lived experiences
- Chose and led warm-ups and check-ins to support teaching goals, adjusting for students' daily needs
- Oversaw classes of 10-18 ninth through twelfth graders
- Shadowed and assisted Brett Cramp in Greek Drama, Improvisation, and Song Interpretation

Roberts Elementary School, Medford MA April-June 2017

Teaching Artist: Third-grade

- Initiated and planned project including design, coordination with teachers, and writing grants
- Taught weekly workshops with six classes (including one ELL class) in a diverse suburban city
- Investigated issues of home, relationships, and forgiveness through Process Drama
- Created and directed performances for families and other students using devised material
- Conducted parent, teacher and student surveys to present to town School Committee

Wheelock Family Theatre, Boston MA**Seasonal, Summers 2014-2018***Teaching Artist, ages 6-16*

Designed and taught camps in collaboration with co-teachers and assistants, creating curricula and developing final presentations for families. Representative classes include:

- Sorcery School: (9-12 year olds) Discovered the world of Wizardry through puppetry and theatre games; created a unique adventure plot that led to exploring a mystery throughout the building
- Shakespeare Rocks: (6-9 year olds) Introduced students to status, physical embodiment, and heightened text through Fairies (*Midsummer*), Witches (*Macbeth*) and Monsters (*Tempest*)
- Acting 101: (9-12 year olds) Investigated character, relationship, given circumstances and vocal and physical engagement through games and improvisations
- Actor/Director Process: (12-16 year olds) Taught directing concepts including stage pictures, dramatic structure, and working with actors through games and scene work; coached student directors and actors in blank scenes and classic American texts

Go!Audition, StageSource, Boston MA**One-day event Annually March 2012-2015***Teacher/Coach: Audition skills for Adults and Children*

- Consulted with StageSource to plan format of this day of professional development workshops
- Used games and play to help actors work through nerves, and delved into given circumstances, relationships, objectives, tactics, and obstacles.
- Coached monologues in small group classes
- Led warm-ups and facilitated round-table discussion on audition best practices

Greater Boston Stage Company (Stoneham Theatre), Stoneham MA**June-August 2014***Summer Program Teaching Artist: Creating Your Own Work and Shakespeare and Gender*

- Explored contemporary and period ideas of gender, and its effect on performing Shakespeare
- Led teens in devising monologues and scenes through improvisational, physical and writing exercises

Mitchell Elementary School, Needham MA**March 2010 & March 2011***Teaching Artist, Third grade*

- Developed Twisted Fairytales performances for four classes as part of their ELA curriculum
- Explored characters and given circumstances through games and improvisation
- Cast, staged, and coached actors on characterization, projection, and dramatic action

Huntington Theatre Company at Frederick Pilot School, Dorchester November 2006- March 2007*Lead Teaching Artist: Dramatic Developments*

- Collaborated with 6th grade teacher leading arts-in-literacy program for three classes
- Conceived, planned and directed after-school drama program for 6-8 graders

SELECTED DIRECTING*The Outsiders**The Hapa Project**Hatched**Stick and Move**Charlotte's Web**Much Ado About Nothing**Do I Know You: Frosh 10-minute plays**Pride and Prejudice* (Asst. Director)*Our Class* (Asst. Director)*Reparations**the girls**Not A Box New Play Fest* (2 plays)

Beaver Country Day Upper School

Developmental workshop, Emerson College

Boston Theatre Marathon/Emerson Stage

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School

Winsor Lower School

Newton North & South High Schools

Newton South High School

Emerson Stage, Courtney O'Connor

Boston University College of Fine Arts, Judy Braha

5 & Dime Festival, NUTLab, Boston

Boston Theatre Marathon/GAN-e-meed

GAN-e-meed Theatre Project, Boston

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

AEA Stage Actor, Greater Boston

1997- Present

Performed with companies including Wheelock Family Theatre, Lyric Stage Company, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Stickball, Merely Players, and Theatre Espresso under Actors' Equity Association contracts

Producer/Founder, Merely Players

March-August 2016

Produced all aspects of 3-week run of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, performing in two Cambridge Public Parks for free to over 800 people under Actors' Equity Association's Members' Project Code

Playwright

May 2014- Present

Developed several short plays and a one-woman autobiographical one-act and submitted to festivals.

GAN-e-meed Theatre Project

May 2009-June 2013

Director of Career Labs and Board Member

- Created a series of seminars and workshops to build skills for female theatre artists, including negotiating, networking, and self-promoting.
- Secured co-sponsors, presenters, panelists and volunteers.
- Produced "BOOBFest" (Bringing OnStage Opportunities to Babes), a benefit variety show

Private coaching and audition prep

2001-Present

English-Speaking Union's Shakespeare Competition, Boston Chapter

February 2018

Semi-Finals Judge

Voice-over Artist and On-camera Actor

1999-Present

See Resume

UNIONS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2005

SAG-AFTRA

2005

Actors Equity Association

1999

StageSource

SERVICE

Committee Member, Gender Parity Task Force: Audience Engagement Subcommittee, StageSource, 2014-2017

Board Member, GAN-e-meed Theatre Project, 2014-16

President, Friends of the Medford Family Network, 2009-10

Board Member, Gentle Dragon Preschool, Medford MA, 2011-13 and 2007-09

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Shakespeare & Company Month-long Acting Intensive (Teacher Trainee)

January 2018

Shakespeare & Company Month-long Acting Intensive (Actor/Participant)

January 2015

Shakespeare & Company: Teaching Shakespeare with Kevin Coleman

June 2015

Sharing Your Story with Tori Rhoades

March 2015

Alexander Technique with Jessica Webb

May 2015-Sept 2017

Actors Write Plays seminar with Melinda Lopez through Mellon Foundation

Sept. 2014-Dec. 2014

Lecoq training with Deborah Lake Fortson and Jay Dunn

Oct. 2002-April 2003, Sept., 2012

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EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Throughout recorded history, theatre has existed as a communal experience for humanity to work out who we are and who we want to be. We change lives- and worlds- by addressing the heart, mind and spirit. In our current culture of alienation and divisive partisanship, we need theatre more than ever to experience transformative moments in classrooms, rehearsal halls, and audiences.

To accomplish these goals, I:

- address each of my students as an artist. All humans are inherently creative artists, and can be theatre artists given the opportunity. I believe that studying theatre brings people more fully alive in knowledge of themselves, in their ability to connect with collaborators, and in their confidence to be truly seen;
- support students (including those not-yet-identified-as-artists) in creating theatre to explore and share their unique selves and life experiences. Each individual has their own vital truth which, when conveyed by actors through their own words or others', bring the audience closer to our shared humanity;
- collaborate to form communities of artists who support each other to continually raise each others' expectations and abilities;
- celebrate and help tap into the wisdom artists possess in their oft-overlooked bodies and imaginations;
- incorporate teachings from Shakespeare & Company, Alexander, Linklater, Meisner, Action Theatre, Lecoq, and devising, as well as anything else that works in the moment;
- challenge students to view society with a critical eye, tracing external systems of oppression and internal unhelpful habits; and
- create playful explorations, incorporating joy as a foundation of our work and lives.