

CHRIS GIORDANO (he/him)

C/V

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Residing in: Westchester County, NY

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Theatre Educator | Director | Actor | Producer

Twelve years experience in theatre industry enhances classroom instruction. Kindergarten through college conservatory levels. Artistic director for over twenty educational theatre productions. Leading with curiosity and a collaborative spirit. An organizational godsend. NYSED: Theatre certified.

Teaching Experience

- Jan. 2022 – Currently
- Play Group Theatre** - White Plains, NY
Teaching Artist, Theatre/Improv (K-5th Grade)
- Developing and teaching improv and theatre game after-school residency programs at Roaring Brook Elementary school, Heathcote Elementary school, and Greenacres Elementary School, representing the values and pedagogy of the organization.
- Sept. 2021 – Currently
- Dobbs Ferry Middle and High School** – Dobbs Ferry, NY
Guest Director & Per-Diem Sub, Theatre Arts Department (6th-12th Grade)
- Appointed to direct middle school musical by school board and administrators, getting rave reviews from administrators and parents for successful execution of the show.
 - Created alternative solutions for production and artistic needs, due to COVID-19 restrictions and space availability, resulting in streamlined performances.
- Oct. 2018 – Aug. 2021
(Summer '21)
- AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts** – New York, NY
Lead Acting Teacher, AMDA's GAP Program
- Designed and delivered a rigorous curriculum in collaboration with National Director of Curriculum Development, two weeks ahead of schedule.
 - Developed original syllabus, depicting expectations, achieving a 50% boost in student class preparedness.
 - Wrote daily reports, outlined students' individual growth or concerns, thereby accelerating student intervention.
 - Recruited content teachers, ensuring unified vision for program for all teachers.
- (Summer '19)
- Lead Acting for the Stage Teacher, AMDA's High School Summer Conservatory*
- Established detailed curriculum and syllabus, facilitated classes and rehearsals, and communicated students' individual growth and concerns in daily supervisor reports, resulting in seamless process and improved student confidence and skills.
 - Directed performances for parents, awarded "Most Organized Director" by program technical director.
 - Networked theatre industry connections to coordinate a Q&A career panel.
- (Oct. '18 - June '20)
- Acting Faculty Member, AMDA's College and Conservatory*
- Enhanced and implemented four-part curriculum in Audition Technique: Cold Readings, fostering student-centered learning by promoting student reflections and peer assessments.
 - Advised drama showcase directors in four productions, leveraging student feedback in all facets of the process.
 - Taught two sections of Improv Fundamentals, improving students' physical improv and storytelling skills.
 - Lessons: "Introduction to basics of physical improv", "Thinking on Our Feet", "Exploring the use of 'Who' & 'Where'", and "Conveying a Beginning, middle, and End in Improv Storytelling."
- (Summer '17 & '18)
- Monologue Audition Instructor, AMDA's High School Summer Conservatory*

- Designed and taught three-part curriculum, exploring basic acting techniques with monologues, assigning appropriate material accenting actors' personalities and strengths, for 135 students.
 - Content: exploring basic acting foundations on selecting & applying technique with monologues. Including, lecturing basics of script analysis (objectives, tactics, obstacles, beats, & stakes) and emotional recall techniques (highlighting Stanislavski, Meisner's Method, & Chekhov's Physiological Gesture)

Sept. 2020 – June 2021

Todd Elementary School – Briarcliff Manor, NY
Teaching Assistant, 4th Grade General Education

- Managed and facilitated the learning for two-class cohorts.
- Guided individual and small group reteaching and support for reading, writing, math, and science to students with a wide range of abilities.
- Informed direct observations of instruction and learning offered actionable feedback to the main teacher and support services, working with colleagues to create responsive learning opportunities, leading to student growth.
- Planned lessons with clear learning objectives, meeting NYC Theater Blueprint and state learning standards and ensuring students had hands-on experiences through arts integration.
- Corrected student work, providing student feedback, collaborating with headteacher to meet students' learning needs.
- Led effort to restructure classroom library, resulting in a library with more diverse appeal and increased circulation of materials.

Oct. 2019 – Mar. 2020

KJK Productions - Westchester, NY
Assistant Director/Choreographer, After-School Musical Intensives (Grades 1-5)

- Asst. Directed/Choreographed for three productions, "Disney's Aladdin Jr." at Parsons Elementary School and "Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Jr." at Trinity Elementary School, supporting director in casting, auditions, blocking, choreography, rehearsal reflections, assessments, and modifications observations.
- Led and coordinated parent volunteers for backstage crews.

Sept. 2017 – Mar. 2020

92nd Street Y, New York, NY
Musical Theatre Teaching Artist

- Developed and taught 5th grade in-school residency program for three years. Directed, wrote, and choreographed original script for parent and school performance, meeting needs of parents, teachers, and staff. Projects consist of ethnodrama work, student adaptations, and use of imagination.
 - Including: "One World, Our Journey" (2 classes, 20 Sessions) at P.S. 527. Directed, wrote, and choreographed original script using musical theatre material, based on interviews conducted by 50 students. Choreographed: "There's Gotta Be Something Better Than This" (*Sweet Charity*), "Bright Star" (*Bright Star*), "Ease on Down the Road", "Brand New Day" (*The Wiz*), & "We Tell the Story" (*Once on This Island*).
- Subbed 5th grade classes, choreographing: "Supercali..." (*Mary Poppins*) & "Green Eggs in Ham" (*Seussical*).
- Researched and supervised three-class field trips to The New Victory Theatre, connecting class concepts to real-world applications.

May – June 2018

Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning - Queens, NY
Theatre Teaching Artist, CASA program (Grades 4-5)

- Correlated curriculum discussion with Education Director, demonstrating thoughtful assessments and modifications.
- Prepared P.S. 86 students for public performance, exhibiting best work.

Jan. – Dec. 2017

Inside Broadway, New York, NY
Theatre Teaching Artist, In School Residencies and CASA programs (Grades 3-12)

- Taught an Improv residency in non-theatre transfer school setting, increasing student attendance by 40%.
- Facilitated 3rd-grade residencies for three years with 120 students per year, receiving praise from 95% of classroom teachers and administrators for well-operated process and polished product.
 - Directed, wrote, choreographed original Dr. Seuss adaptations: *What Pet Should I Get? I'm Not Getting Up Today*, *Horton Hears A Who*, and *The Lorax*.
Choreographed: "Beautiful City" (*Godspell*), "Day with The Cat-in-the-Hat", "Alone in the Universe", "It's Possible", & "Green Eggs in Ham" (*Seussical*).
- Modified instructions and goals for D75 school, increasing inclusion of students with special needs.
- Devised musical, integrating social studies unit study, celebrating student heritage and community culture with 120 4th and 5th-graders, mentoring student-driven community interviews regarding the immigrant experience.
 - Choreographed: "There's Gotta Be Something Better Than This" (*Sweet Charity*), "Bright Star" (*Bright Star*), "Follow That Dream" (*All Shook Up*), "Brand New Day" (*The Wiz*), "We Tell the Story" (*Once On This Island*), "Carnival Del Barrio" (*In The Heights*).
- Directed and choreographed "Jellicle Cats on Parade," a TYA version of the musical *CATS*, for 2nd-grade CASA grant program at P.S. 45.

June 2017

TexARTS, Lakeway, TX
Guest Theatre Production Director

- Directed "Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.," collaborating with professional design team, creating cohesive production vision and performance, endowing 100% student responsibility on stage and backstage.
- Designed and facilitated a week-long "Moana Camp" exposing process drama techniques to students and assistants, creating a performance share for parents.

Mar. - June 2018

Brooklyn Acting Lab, Park Slope, NY
Teaching Artist

- Directed "Seussical Jr.," organizing a formal rehearsal schedule, promoting collaboration with students on 70% of staging and choreography maintaining cohesive production vision.
- Led Storybook Theatre at P.S. 9 and P.S. 10 and Musical Theatre at P.S. 107, teaching afterschool residency programs, submitting lesson plans and class reflections each week.
- Aided director of "Into the Woods Jr.," and "Musical Showcase" in casting, blocking, stage pictures, and choreography while executing modifications.
- Coordinated full day process drama-based programming. Using process drama techniques to create an original story with elementary aged actors, to later be performed for parents.
- Assistant stage managed "Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.," helping with quick changes and backstage etiquette.

Sept. 2014 - Dec. 2014

Kidville, Upper West Side, NY
Dance Instructor

- Exhibited full personality, bringing a high level of enthusiasm to each class while following Kidville's guidelines, and curriculum as an assistant dance teacher in Ballet, and lead teacher for Hip Hop Dance with a focus on social skills, fun, and wellbeing of students.

Summer 2013

Camp Broadway, New York, NY
Teaching Artist/Performer

- Guided students throughout final presentation, pacing all choreographic staging and musical rehearsals and workshops, while encouraging students to give best performance.
 - Toured camp to Jacksonville, FL, Providence, RI, Atlanta, GA, & Buffalo, NY.
 - Performed leading role in *The Pajama Game* with 50 3rd-7th graders.

- Prepared for program by attending all scheduled meetings and rehearsals. Learned music, choreography, and dialogue prior to the beginning of the program.
- Communicated positively all program correspondence to students, families, and presenters, and monitored students during breaks and transitions.

Summer 2011

The Putney School, Putney, VT

Musical Theatre Instructor, Theatre Apprentice, and Dorm Head

- Administered three musical theatre workshops, teaching choreographed numbers, song analysis, audition technique, enriching dance numbers to meet needs of ELL students.
 - Teaching combos: "You Can't Stop the Beat" (*Hairspray*), Mein Herr (*Cabaret*), "We're All in This Together (*Disney's High School Musical*), "I Hope I Get It" (*A Chorus Line*).
- Assisted main instructor in theatre and playwriting classes, leading activities in dance, character work, and stage combat.
- Served as co-head of a dormitory, supervising in-dorm activities and student camping trips.

Summer 2007

Boys and Girls Club, San Juan Capistrano, CA

Summer Program Theatre Director

- Developed first specialize, month-long theatre summer program called "Catch A Rising Star" for ages 7-12.
- Managed a team of high school & college students, coordinating visiting artist schedule and touring Broadway productions field trips.

Freelance

Musical Theatre Workshops (Multiple Locations)

Masterclass Instructor

- **Kent School, Kent, CT** - Taught four-hour musical theatre seminar. Led warm-ups, and cross-the-floors. Students learned combination to "Ease on Down the Road" (*The Wiz*) & "You Can't Stop the Beat" (*Hairspray*), and four-character centers of the body (head, heart, gut, and pelvis); voice and movement work, utilizing character to an open scene.
- **Dana Hills High School, Dana Point, CA** - Led 9th grade musical theatre class, including warm up, dance combination, & theatre games. Monologue coaching for Actor's Repertory class.
- **Marco Forster Middle School, San Juan Capistrano, CA** - Choreographed "Be Our Guest" (*Disney's Beauty and the Beast*) for 30 students, 6th-8th grade.

Student Teaching Experience

Sept. – Dec. 2021

Dobbs Ferry Middle & High School – Dobbs Ferry, NY

- Created and conducted differentiated curriculum, accommodating special needs students, and meeting individual learning styles and preferences.
- Developed assessments using NYP standards, resulting in stronger feedback and revisions from 92% of students.
- Organized and digitized the school's chorus library, creating a cleaner learning environment.
- Coached students vocally in musical theatre repertoire, resulting in successful high school and college auditions for students who didn't have access to outside coaching.

Jan. - May 2018

New York Film Academy's Musical Theatre Conservatory, New York, NY

- Originated three lessons on crafting story structures, combining tableaux and musical theatre technique for a Musical Theatre exploratory studio class, which increased student's creativity resulting in stronger performances.
- Shared assessments and modifications on student development and curriculum, thereby strengthening overall class instruction.

Oct. 2017 – Jan. 2018

Lifetime Arts, Brooklyn, NY

- Completed the Creative Aging Mentorship Program as a Teaching Artist Mentee.
- Analyzed best practices on assessments and modifications when teaching older adults.
- Led lesson plan, adapting memoir storytelling into lyrics structures.

Arts Administration and Management Experience

Feb. 2017 – June 2020

Theatre Now New York, New York, NY

Producing Director (1st year as Managing Director)

- Initiated production handbook covering policies and procedures. which ensure event's successful and smooth execution
- Executed and coordinated contract negotiations for all volunteers and production personnel, including 30 writing teams & directors, and over 100 equity & non-equity actors and personnel, reducing contract execution time by a week.
- Inducted an inclusive and diverse committee of adjudicators for selections and served as Adjudicator for festival submissions.
- Secured Merkin Hall as a venue, negotiating discounts while ensuring continuation and enhancement of services.
- Enlisted industry professionals for judging panel consisting of casting directors, Broadway composers, literary managers, producers elevating visibility of organization.
- Strengthened artist relationships, web content, and grant applications by editing 33 video production reels.
- Curated and edited first anthology of 25 short musicals, overseeing design and content while fostering artist relationships when negotiating contracts, leading to faster contract execution duration.
- Conceived and spearheaded licensing of short musicals for schools, adding an additional income stream, and partnership with Music Theatre International thus growing brand to over 60 countries worldwide.
- Produced nine different programming events, managing a team of 115 actors, directors, writers, and volunteers.
- Spearheaded meeting agendas for production meetings ahead of schedule, resulting in fewer ad hoc meetings and increase in team focus and productivity.
- Recruited new senior members of staff who became integral to the team, making a positive impact on the production process.
- Participated in board meetings, providing valuable insights into the organization's strategic direction birthing new programming.
- Advised Artistic Director on re-branding organization, including e-branding, logo, mission statement, and company core values, resulting in increased donations, sponsorships, and ticket sales by 25%.
- Managed concerned or disgruntled patrons and artists, ensuring resolution satisfaction.
- Maintained company website and created alumni Facebook group to cultivate a community of online fans and promote brand awareness, resulting in growth of sign-ups.
- Incorporated customer feedback, driving improvements in programming and strategic plans.

Sept. 2015 - Aug. 2016

Brooklyn Acting Lab, Park Slope, NY

Managing Director

- Developed and instructed process drama-based camp programming, applying the NYC Theater Blueprint standards to the curriculum, culminating in performance for parents.
- Managed and trained five new hires, providing feedback in evaluations, increasing performance ratings.
- Assembled staff handbook, setting new policies and procedures, achieving an 40% increase in productivity.
- Implemented integration of internal project managing system (*Dropbox* and *Basecamp*) in use by 12 employees, resulting in faster project turnaround times.
- Designed show program template for all external events, instituting consistent branding.
- Oversaw box office system (*Brown Paper Tickets*), for productions, establishing ticket prices, enforcing policies related to refunds and exchanges, and accounting transactions.
- Created profit and loss excel spreadsheets for programming.

Affiliations

Educational Theatre Association

Member (June 2017-Current)

- Musical Solo Adjudicator: 9th Annual NY Educational Theatre Festival
- Taught Cold Readings Workshop at 10th Annual NY Educational Theatre Festival

NYC Arts in Education Roundtable

Member (2017-2019)

- Volunteered on the Teaching Artists Affairs Committee.
- Blog Contributor: “Maintaining Parallel Careers; A Teaching Artist Perspective.”

Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival

- Play Adjudicator for the 43rd and 44th Annual Festival

Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)

Union member (2012-Current)

- Six years of Television and Film set experience as stand-in, photo double, and background acting work under the union.

The Teaching Artist Podcast

Host & Creator

Education

The City College of New York

Master of Science in Education: Educational Theatre (GPA: 3.9)

Thesis; Ethnotheatre Performance and Paper: “Land of the Free, Home of the Brave: A Qualitive Research on the Effects of the DACA Repeal to Families in America”

Pace University, NYC

Bachelor of Fine Arts: Musical Theatre

Bachelor of Arts: Theatre Arts Directing, Dance Minor (GPA: 3.4)

Certifications

NYSED: (BPSS) - Licensed Private Career School Teacher in Acting (exp: 10/22)

NYSED: Theatre Classroom K-12 (exp: 8/31/27)

NYSED: CTE Drama 7-12 (exp: 1/31/27)

NYSED: Level 1 Teaching Assistant (exp: 1/31/24)

Lifetime Arts, Creative Aging Mentorship Program

Certification Courses: Autism Awareness, Violence Prevention, Recognizing Child Abuse

Trainings and Professional Development

American Musical Dramatic Academy

Accessibility: Your Role in Helping Create an Accessible & Inclusive Campus Community

Inclusion and Equity at AMDA: Why Now? AMDA’s New Path

LGBTQ+ Allyship: Part 1 & 2

Anti-Racism Practices in the Classroom

Briarcliff Manor Union Free School District

Representation Matters

Using Nearpod in Hybrid and Remote Learning

Opportunity + Access + Empowerment = Efficacy

Integrating Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices in Elementary Curriculum

Compliance Training - NYS Mandated Videos

Alliance of Resident Theatres Producing Touring Engagements
Branding Through Social Media
Intro to Producing Non-Profit Theatre
Leading Arts Boards

4th International Teaching Artist Conference:

Creating Sustainability for Teaching Artists
Theatre and Community: Engaging, Responsive and Inclusive
Instigating Honest Practice: Perfection, Flaws and Reflection
Teaching Artist as Administrator
The Role of Philanthropy in Preparing and Supporting Teaching Artists
Strategies for Trauma-Aware Lesson Planning
Supporting the 21st Century Teaching Artist
The Business of Teaching Artistry: Compensation 101
Activating Artistry in Schools: A Global Conversation

Face to Face 2018 Conference Best Practice for Teaching artist Applications & Auditions
Advocacy & Government: After-School Programs in NYC
Creating Self-Directed Learning Environments
Sustaining Lifelong Teaching Artist Careers: Talking Honestly About Age
OMG, We're Dancing! Creating Dance that Sparks Joy

New York TIOS Broadway Celebrates Theatre in Our Schools

Tonya Pinkins Masterclass Teaching Musical Theatre Without an Accompanist or Music Director

Lifetime Arts Mentorship Writing Curriculum for Creative Aging Classes

Face to Face 2017 Conference Positive Classroom Management Techniques for Teaching Artists
Games That Stick: Adding to Your Toolbox
Trends in Teaching Artist Compensation & Work Structures
Musical Theatre & Young Performers: Accessible, Low Risk, & Efficient Auditions

The Red House Arts Center Glaser Beauvoir Theory Seminar
What Urban Students Say About Good Teaching Workshop
Classroom Management Theories with Practical Application
Understanding Aggression with Dr. David Keith
Teaching Students to be Peacemakers with Peaceful Schools

Syracuse City School District Restorative Justice & Poverty Simulation
Poverty Simulation & Crisis Prevention Practices
ERD Effective Group Management
Research on Teacher Praise & Time on Task

The City College of New York Psychology of Teaching and Learning
Intro to Special Education
Literacy for the Arts
Exploring the History of Theatre
Fundamentals of Teaching Theatre
Theatre for Youth and Young Audiences
Drama in Education
Arts Education in an Urban Setting
Fundamentals of Teaching Technical Theatre
Developing Curriculum in Nontraditional Settings
Integrating Theatre and Related Arts into the Classroom
Conflict Resolution Through Drama

**Available Upon Request:
Letters of Recommendation, References, Directing & Performance Resume**