

# JULIA WHITTEN

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## CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

### Head of Drama Programs

St Mary of the Assumption School | August 2022 - present

- Develops and facilitates the comprehensive critically-oriented drama curriculum for PK-8 students, ensuring alignment with educational standards and the school's mission, while fostering creativity, accessibility, and agency.
- Collaborates with classroom teachers to integrate drama into the broader academic curriculum, leveraging theatrical activities to enhance learning across subjects such as language arts, history, foreign language, and social studies.
- Cultivates partnerships with arts organizations, professionals, and community members to enrich students' experiences through workshops, student-devised performances, field trips, and arts outreach, fostering a lifelong appreciation for theater and the arts.
- Founded the drama program at the school-coordinating and collaborating on all aspects of arts integration, performance production.

### Resident Teaching Artist

Boston Lyric Opera | October 2023 - present

- Leads interactive workshops, rehearsals, and residencies in schools and community settings, guiding students and artists in vocal and composition techniques, stage presence, character development, and ensemble performance skills, and opera devising.
- Plans and facilitates interactive experiences for community groups to directly engage them in dialogue with and in the Boston Lyric Opera's main stage productions through guided school group tours and performing in the Opera Stories Opera for Young Audiences Tour.
- Develops and adapts age-appropriate opera productions and materials, including scripts, scores, and educational resources, to accommodate diverse learning styles, cultural backgrounds, and developmental stages of young learners.
- Aids in the cultivation of partnerships with schools, arts organizations, and community stakeholders to expand the reach and impact of the department of community and learning, facilitating opportunities for community members to attend live performances, collaborate with professional artists, and showcase their creative talents.

## EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

2024            **Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Education and Applied Theatre**  
Emerson College- Boston, Massachusetts

2020            **Bachelor of Arts in Theatre**  
Georgia College- Milledgeville, Georgia

**Research Interests:** Inclusive Arts Education, Theatre for Young Audiences, Theatre for the Very Young, Applied Theatre, Arts Integrated Environmental Education and Disability Theatre

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Education and Programming Management Team Member

Emerson College | September 2022-present

- Collaborate with team members to develop and implement innovative educational and community engagement initiatives and wrap-around programming for Emerson Stage (the producing organization within Emerson College's Performing Arts Department).
- Aids in the development and facilitation of outreach events, workshops, masterclasses, and pre-show discussions that provide audiences of all ages with enriching experiences and deeper insights into the performing arts, fostering lifelong learning and appreciation.
- Creates interactive education and dramaturgical guides for artistic production teams, audiences, and school groups to activate dialogue and greater understanding of Emerson Stage performances

## **Theatre Instructor**

Summerville Arts for Youth | 2022-2023

- Guided high school students in technical theatre fundamentals, including stagecraft, lighting, sound design, set construction, and stage management, fostering a comprehensive understanding of production processes.
- Facilitated hands-on learning experiences in puppetry techniques, ranging from Bunraku puppet construction, table top object puppetry manipulation, character development and collaborative storytelling

## **Drama and Collaborative Arts Specialist**

Fairwinds Family Camp | Summer 2023

- Developed and implemented a diverse range of arts and theatrical activities and lessons suitable for a wide age of campers at a family camp for gender nonconforming young people and their loved ones.
- Collaborated with other program directors, and individual families to prepare and facilitate a culminating performance showcasing each family's unique talents.
- Worked with camp leadership to integrate arts activities into the overall camp schedule, ensuring a balanced and enriching experience for all participants.

## **Time for Partners Program Early Childhood Music and Movement Specialist**

City of Newton, Massachusetts Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture | Summer 2023

- Led engaging and age-appropriate music and creative movement sessions for children aged 18 months to 4 years and their caregivers, fostering early musical development through creative movement, singing, and instrument and sound exploration.
- Collaborated with the program coordinator and art instructors to create a cohesive and enjoyable experience, encouraging creative movement and social interaction among toddlers and their caregivers in a fun and supportive environment.

## **Inclusive Arts Education Teaching Artist**

Gwinnett County Public Schools | August 2018 - May 2022

- Served populations with profound and complex cognitive and physical support needs high behavior and emotional support needs.
- Supported a drama club for students ages 14-22 to spend a year creating a performance that showcases theatrical skills in both performance and design.
- Planned and facilitated school-wide project-based learning projects rooted in drama based pedagogy that anchor literacy skills and community service to learning.

## **Pre-K - 12 Substitute**

Gwinnett County Public Schools | 2020-2021

- Filled long term teacher vacancies for grades 9-12 Biology and Spanish classrooms, a long term vacancy in an elementary ASD level 3 classroom.
- Filled short term vacancies in grades Pre-K through 12, and quickly became the "go-to" substitute for a Title 1 Elementary School, Title 1 Middle School, arts integrated High School, and a Center Based Special Education School
- Used multiple languages and communication modes to serve diverse populations

## **Production Associate, Writer, and TYA Teaching Artist**

Cloud Theatrics | 2020-2021

- Organized, supported, and collaborated with artists, donors, and audience members for an international digital theatre company aimed at bringing together global talent for both original and classic productions
- Wrote, produced, edited, and released TYA content for an international platform; Videos included content about movement, storytelling, and intro to theatre

## **Community Dance Theatre Production Stage Manager**

Milledgeville Community Dance | 2017-2020

- Hired as an independent contractor for the annual community production of *The Nutcracker Ballet* to oversee over 150 students aged 2-22, as well as parent volunteers and other staff members.
- Collaborated closely with students, educators, collegiate artists, professional guest artists, community partners, and institutional administrators throughout the Middle Georgia region for annual educational outreach performances around the community.

## **Guest Teaching Artist**

Gwinnett County Public Schools | 202-2023

- *Collins Hill High School*: Taught lessons on stage management to high school theatre students
- *Archer High School*: Taught lessons on 5Rhythms and theatrical professionalism to high school theatre students
- *Oakland Meadow School*: Organized and served as point of contact for school field trips to a local region theatre for a TYA performance and talkback; Taught lessons in AutoCAD Design, Theatre Appreciation, and Literacy to students with complex access needs aged 5-22; Helped with literacy activities specializing in community service to elementary aged students with emotional behavioral disorders.

## **Theatre for Social Change Specialist**

Georgia College | Fall 2019

- Collaborated with the lead professor to teach an interdisciplinary course for undergraduate students that centered around Theatre of the Oppressed, Applied Theatre, and Youth Participatory Action Research Development.
- Coordinated and advised students to devise forum theatre pieces for the greater Milledgeville community, as well as interactive workshops for primary and secondary school groups.

## **Guest Teaching Artist**

Georgia College | 2018-2020

- *Music and Conflict*: Researched, devised, and performed in interactive performance-based workshops surrounding memory and trauma for an interdisciplinary course for undergraduate students.
- *Theatrical Heritage*: Taught beginning acting workshops (featuring Meisner and Suzuki techniques) and stage management workshops to undergraduate students who were not studying theatre.
- *Stage Management*: Presented a master class on digital production management, community collaboration, and content creation to undergraduate stage management students.

## **Guest Teaching Artist**

Mercer University | Spring 2019

- *Absolutely in Charge of Absolutely Everything?*: Presented a master class on stage management theory and practice to undergraduate stage management students

## **Project Coordinator: Access Festival**

Georgia College | Spring 2018

- Organized and managed an interdisciplinary community outreach project between liberal arts undergraduate students and a local advocacy group for disabled teens and young adults
- Coordinated and collaborated with students, case workers, and community members to plan and implement a spring carnival centered around those in the local disability community

## Accessible Education Summer School Teaching Assistant

Gwinnett County Public Schools| 2015-2018

- Collaborated with lead teachers, caregivers, and support staff to teach theatre and core-area subjects to students with intellectual and physical disabilities at a month-long summer school.
- Coordinated and implemented lessons for interdisciplinary therapeutic activities.
- Organized, performed, and implemented a virtual field trip to the Georgia Aquarium for students age 5-22 (“Aquarium Adventures”).

## Magical Mornings Outreach Teaching Artist

Alpha Psi Omega Fraternity Theta Beta Chapter| 2017-2019

- Organize, facilitate, and perform interactive story drama sessions at local early childhood education facilities, using engaging storytelling techniques to captivate young audiences and enhance their early literacy skills.
- Collaborate with educators and program coordinators to tailor performances to the developmental needs of preschool-aged children, fostering a love of reading and imaginative play through dynamic and educational dramatic presentations.

## SELECTED CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

### Devising and New Work Development

<i>Why Polliwogs Wiggle</i>	Director/Teaching Artist	BLO at Henderson Inclusion School
<i>The Little Red Hen Cycle</i>	Playwright/Teaching Artist	BLO at Edward Everett School
<i>Decomposing (In development)</i>	Playwright/Teaching Artist	Whitten and Fletcher Productions
<i>The Red Line: An Anthology</i>	Playwright/Ensemble	Cloud Theatrics

### Directing, Dramaturgy and Programming

<i>The Magic Flute</i>	Assistant Director	BLO at Boston Arts Academy
<i>24 Hour Plays on Sustainability</i>	Educational Programming Team	Emerson College
<i>Old Jake's Skirts</i>	Educational Programming Team	Emerson Stage
<i>Matilda: The Musical</i>	Educational Programming Team	Wheelock Family Theatre
<i>How We Got On</i>	Educational Programming Team	Emerson Stage
<i>Heathers: The Musical</i>	Assistant Director/Dramaturg/SM	Georgia College
<i>The Laramie Project</i>	Assistant Director/Sound Designer	Georgia College
<i>Lady Windermere's Fan</i>	Dramaturg	Cloud Theatrics
<i>Aladdin (Adaptive Version)</i>	Director/SM	Oakland Meadow School (GCPS)
<i>Beauty and the Beast (Adaptive Version)</i>	Director/SM	Oakland Meadow School (GCPS)

### Professional/Educational Performance

<i>Opera Stories: La Cenerentola</i>	Clorinda, Narrator	Boston Lyric Opera Spring '24 Tour
<i>The Devil's Eye</i>	Young Boy/Old Man	International Festival Theatre: European Regions
<i>The Vagina Monologues</i>	Company Member	Georgia College
<i>Grow Up Juliet</i>	Mercutio, Friar Lawrence, Rosaline	Edgefest 2019
<u>Standardized Patient Work:</u>	Boston University School of Medicine (2023-present), Georgia College School of Nursing (2019-2020)	

### Management and Design

<i>Heart's Desire</i>	Graphic Designer	Villanova Theatre
<i>Frozen Jr</i>	SM for Youth Programs	Suwannee Performing Arts Academy
<i>Barbecue</i>	Scenic Charge, Sound/AV Design	Georgia College
<i>Ballet Russes</i>	Scenic Charge	Georgia College
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	SM	Georgia College
<i>The Nutcracker Ballet</i>	SM	Milledgeville Community Dance

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- **Whitten, Julia**, Sofia Lingren Galloway, Kayla Tomas, and Kylie Fletcher. "TYA in Times of Transition: Embodying Resilience for Early Career Artists". TYA/USA 2024 National Conference: Atlanta, GA, 2024.
- **Whitten, Julia**, Lily Lipman, Shanna Sorrells, and Madeline Geier. "Insights to Advancing Access: Disability Justice in TYA", TYA/USA 2023 National Conference, Tempe, Arizona, March 10, 2023.

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS

2022	Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (TYA/USA)- <i>USA contingent of ASSITEJ International</i>
2022	American Alliance for Theatre & Education
2020	Guild of Scenic Artists
2018	Phi Kappa Phi- <i>Gained admission from being in the top 2% of undergraduate scholars</i>
2017	Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honors Fraternity- <i>Theta Beta Chapter</i>

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

2024	Emerson Education Enhancement Fund Scholar - <i>To present at the TYA/USA 2024 National Conference</i>
2022	Winifred Ward Scholarship Nominee- <i>American Alliance for Theatre &amp; Education</i>
2021-2024	Emerson College Community Scholarship
2020	Valedictorian- Georgia College
2019 , 2020	KCACTF Region Four Stage Management Fellowship Nominee-Kennedy Center American Collegiate Theatre Festival
2018 , 2020	Washington Women in Theatre Foundation Scholar- <i>For research in the Czech Republic</i>
2017 -2020	Weylene Ewards Bucklin Scholar- <i>Georgia College</i>
2017 -2020	Georgia College Honors College Scholar

## REFERENCES

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