

JULIA WHITTEN

TEACHING ARTIST

WWW.JULIAWHITTEN.COM

470.365.4582

JULIA.WHITTEN99@GMAIL.COM

PROFILE

She/Her or They/Them

Educator, Theatremaker, Scholar

Passionate about exploring how applied theatre practice, theatre for young audiences, disability studies, and justice studies informs her work with young people.

Co-Conspirator, creator, and collaborator with an extensive background in inclusive arts education in various community, educational, and artistic settings.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Emerson College: MFA in Theatre Education and Applied Theatre, May 2024

Georgia College & State University: BA in Theatre, May 2020

STRENGTHS

Curricular Development

Inclusive Arts-Based Education

Theatre for Young Audiences

Creative Youth Development

Drama Based Pedagogy

Arts Integration with a STEM and ELL Emphasis

Technical Theatre Education: Design, Management, and Production

Devising and Playmaking

Extensive Experience in Special Education: Early Intervention, Emotional Behavioral Disorders, Neurodivergency, and High Support Needs

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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 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

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ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

American Alliance for Theatre Education

Theatre for Young Audiences, USA

- National Conference Presenter:
 - Atlanta, 2024: "TYA in Times of Transition: Embodying Resilience for Early Career Artists"
 - Tempe, 2023: "Insights to Advancing Access: Disability Justice in TYA"

SCHOLARSHIP

Practices Scholarship and Reflexive Research in Accessible Education, Theatre for Young Audiences, Applied Theatre, and Disability theatre

Current Works:

- "Examining Play at Play: How A TVY New Work's Dramaturgy Can Be Informed by the Play of Young People", Emerson College Theatre Education and Applied Theatre MFA Thesis, May 2024

REFERENCES

Rebecca Kirk

Director of Community and Learning

Boston Lyric Opera

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617.500.3891

Dr Christine Nadjarian

Principal

St Mary of the Assumption School

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617.566.7184

Nick Teich, LCSW

Director

Fairwinds Family Camp

nick@fairwindsfamilycamp.org

207.200.5228

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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.

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.

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.