

SARAH PLOTKIN

Director, Educator, Cultural Worker

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EDUCATION

- 2018 - 2020 **Emerson College**, MA Theatre Education and Applied Theatre
Merit-Based Graduate Fellowship
Professors: Lizzie Cooper-Davis, Bethany Nelson, Damon Krometis
- 2010 - 2014 **Sarah Lawrence College**, BA Directing and Literature
Professors: David Neumann, Tom Lee, Robert Lyons

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

- 2023 **Rural Humanities Grant**, *Cornell Rural Humanities Initiative* - Ithaca, NY
Action Grant, *Humanities New York* - New York State
- 2022 **Strategic Opportunity Stipend**, *Community Arts Partnership* - Ithaca, NY
Artist In Residence, *Urbano Project* - Boston, MA
- 2021 **Arts & Culture Community Impact Grant Fund**, *CJP* - Boston, MA
Opportunity Fund Grant, *The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture* - Boston, MA
Mass Cultural Council Grant, *Brookline Commission for the Arts* - Brookline, MA
- 2017 **Creative Space Grant**, *The Alliance of Resident Theatres / New York* - New York, NY
Observership Class, *Stage Directors and Choreographers Federation* - New York, NY
- 2016 **Rough Draft Residency**, *The Drama League* - New York, NY
Sunday Residency, *The Tank* - New York, NY
- 2014 **Dorothy Stickney Theatre Arts Scholarship**, *Zonta Club of New York*
- 2014 **Activist for Social Development Fellow**, *All Stars Project* - New York, NY

TEACHING AND FACILITATION

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

- 2023 **Guest Artist**, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY
Taught workshop for undergraduate students on Documentary Theatre.
- 2022 **Workshop Facilitator**, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Co-facilitated two workshops with the Dyson School as part of collaboration with Civic Ensemble.
Used theater-based exercises to lead undergrad TAs in identifying and moving through challenges.
- 2019 **Teaching Assistant, Advanced Directing Class**, Emerson College, Boston, MA
Assisted professor Damon Krometis in preparing syllabus and lessons for undergraduate advanced directing class. Sole taught unit on technology in immersive theater.
- 2018-2020 **Guest Artist**, Emerson College, Boston, MA

Taught four workshops with undergraduate and graduate students on facilitating devising processes.

2016 - 2017 **Guest Artist**, Sarah Lawrence College, Boston, MA
Taught two workshops in theater outreach undergraduate course on devising with youth and theater education.

ADULT WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- 2022 - Present **Story Circle Facilitator**, Civic Ensemble, Ithaca, NY
Facilitate story circles as part of bi-annual Civic Ensemble event “Community Soup.”
- 2022 - 2023 **Facilitator, Storytelling Through Movement**, CSMA, Ithaca, NY
6 week course focused on embodied storytelling, expanding movement vocabulary, and gathering inspiration from our lives and the world around us.
- 2022 **Guest Teacher**, BOCES, Ithaca, NY
Led Professional Development workshop for teachers at school for youth with disabilities focusing on puppetry as a tool for exploring Social Emotional Learning.
- 2020 - 2022 **Facilitator, Our Liberation is Bound Together**, Kavod, Boston, MA
Co-facilitated and co-produced curriculum exploring connections between systemic racism and antisemitism with Jewish adults in Boston.
- 2019 - 2022 **Teaching Artist, Play Reading Book Club**, ArtsEmerson, Boston, MA
Facilitated reading and in-depth dramaturgical discussions with adults using plays in ArtsEmerson season. Directed community response / adaptation of each play with book club participants.
- 2017 - Present **Teaching Artist, adults with disabilities**, Boston, MA and New York, NY
2022 - Back of the Hill, Boston, MA: Four workshops exploring climate change through theater.
2022 - Yachad, Boston, MA: Two virtual improv workshops.
2017 - JCC Manhattan, New York, NY: Four workshops, communication and collaboration.

YOUTH WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- 2020 - 2022 **Combat Hate Facilitator**, Museum of Tolerance, New York, NY
Facilitated virtual workshops to engage middle and high school students in critical thinking for decoding and rejecting online hate.
- 2020 - 2021 **Waterfront Ambassadors Program Manager**, The Trustees, Boston, MA
Designed and facilitated summer work/learn program for high school students focused on environmental justice and open space issues.
- 2011 - Present **Freelance Teaching Artist, K-12**, Boston, MA, New York, NY and Ithaca, NY
Teach original curriculum in theater, storytelling, devising, puppetry, movement, and improv. Extensive experience working with English as a New Language students and students with disabilities in school, outside-of-school and camp settings. Selected roles include:
- 2023 - Present Hangar Theatre, Ithaca, NY - Teach 16 session residency with 4th grade classes to write and stage an original play connected to the 4th grade curriculum.
- 2022 - Present Ithaca City School District, Ithaca, NY - Direct plays and musicals, mentor and advise

- high school student directors.
- 2022 - 2023 Ithaca Youth Bureau, Ithaca, NY - Theater classes for 4 -11 year olds.
- 2021 - 2022 Open Door Arts, Boston, MA- Taught full-year theater residency with K-2nd graders, all inclusion classes, many English Language Learners.
- 2021 - 2022 Arlington Center for the Arts, Arlington, MA - Taught week-long camps with elementary school students focused on puppetry and theater.
- 2019 - 2022 Wheelock Family Theatre - Taught theater residencies and camps with K-8th graders.
- 2018 - 2022 Somerville Arts for Youth - Taught theater workshops, K-2nd and high school.
- 2018 - 2020 Torit Montessori School, Boston, MA - Led afterschool program for elementary students and taught puppetry class to Kindergarten students.
- 2016 - 2019 New Country Day Camp, NYC, NY - Taught summer-long creative movement class with elementary and middle school students.
- 2016 - 2018 LeAP NYC, NYC, NY - Taught 30 week residencies in theater, SEL skills and literacy.
- 2014 - 2016 Arts for All, NYC, NY - Taught theater workshops and residencies with grades K-5.
- 2012 - 2013 Sarah Lawrence College Outreach Program, Yonkers, NY - Taught year-long theater residencies with middle and high school students.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Acting, Community-Engaged / Applied Theater, Directing, Documentary Theater, Movement for Actors, Physical Theater, Puppetry, Theater Education, Theater of the Oppressed, Theater for Social Change

ARTISTIC WORK

COMMUNITY ENGAGED THEATER PROJECTS

- 2015 - Present **Artist Gym**, Ithaca, NY / Boston, MA / New York, NY
Founder and Lead Facilitator
 Unique program bringing together professional and community artists to practice collaborative theater-making through series of over 50 workshops. Funded by CAP Strategic Opportunity Stipend and ART/NY Creative Space Grant. Produced in partnership with the All Stars Project of New York, The JCC Manhattan, the Educational Alliance, Emerson College, 5Sisters, and Story House Ithaca.
- 2024 **Play of Delights**, Ithaca, NY
Co-director and Producer
 Intergenerational theater project inspired by Ross Gay's *The Book of Delights*, and in collaboration with the author. Facilitated teenagers and adults in creating original work exploring delight in everyday life, which was woven into original Dance Theater performance and large-scale community celebration. Funded by the Cornell Rural Humanities Initiative and Humanities New York. Produced in partnership with Story House Ithaca and Civic Ensemble.
- 2022 **Through Our Eyes**, Boston, MA
Facilitator and Director
 Intergenerational project using documentary theater and other performance-based practices to amplify stories of climate justice activism in participants' communities. Produced through residency with Urbano Project.
- 2022 **Kol Isha**, Boston, MA

Co-facilitator and Co-producer

Theater project with Jewish teens exploring the intersections of racial identity, gender identity and Jewish identity in their lives. Produced in partnership with Temple Israel, Boston.

2020 - 2021 **Coming Together Project**, Boston, MA

Co-director and Co-producer

Virtual storytelling project exploring how we built Jewish community during the pandemic.

Funded by Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Mass Cultural Council and Opportunity Fund Grant and produced in partnership with Temple Israel, Boston.

2020 **Creating Our Stories**, Emerson College, Boston, MA

Director and producer

Production exploring Jewish identity with intergenerational group of community artists. Produced as part of Emerson College master's capstone project.

DIRECTING

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| 2024 | Sisters Fitz&Startz Cook with Kids! | Rachel Lampert | Walking on Water Productions / Fitz&Startz Productions |
| 2024 | Pete the Cat | Sarah Hammond and Will Aronson | Hangar Theatre |
| 2024 | Play of Delights | Ross Gay, original adaptation | Civic Ensemble / Story House Ithaca |
| 2023 | Dance or Die | Eliyah Roberts | Finger Lakes Photo/Plays |
| 2022 | Something Blue (<i>staged reading</i>) | Gordon Leary and Julia Meinwald | Walking on Water Productions |
| 2022 | She Kills Monsters | Qui Nguyen | Arlington Children's Theatre |
| 2022 | Swapped | Devised | Young Audiences of Massachusetts |
| 2022 | The Play of Delights (<i>workshop</i>) | Ross Gay, original adaptation | Beaver Country Day School |
| 2021 | The Apocalypse Project | Briandaniel Oglesby | Beaver Country Day School |
| 2021 | *The R/J Project | Shakespeare, original adaptation | Arlington Children's Theatre |
| 2020 | *The Nest | Devised | Beaver Country Day School |
| 2020 | *Once Upon a Time on Zoom | Various (One Act Festival) | Newton South High School |
| 2018 | Molting | Devised | Object Movement Residency |
| 2018 | The Cave | Melanie Monaco | The Daughter's Collective |
| 2017 | Every Feeling I've Ever Felt | Ellen Winter | Ars Nova |
| 2017 | Earthrise | Devised | Electric Eye Ensemble / Dixon Place |
| 2017 | Welcome to the Doll Den | Sarah Plotkin and Joshua Langman | Electric Eye Ensemble / The Tank |
| 2016 | Welcome to the Doll Den (<i>staged reading</i>) | Sarah Plotkin and Joshua Langman | Electric Eye Ensemble / Dixon Place |
| 2016 | Juniper Tree | The Brothers Grimm, original adaptation | Dixon Place Puppet BloK |
| 2015 | Ain't Never Been Easy (<i>staged reading</i>) | Dan Friedman | Castillo Theatre |
| 2014 | Casper Hauser (<i>staged reading</i>) | Dan Friedman | Castillo Theatre |
| 2014 | Home in Motion: A Road Trip Play | Ellen Winter and Sarah Plotkin | Electric Eye Ensemble / WOW Cafe Theatre |
| 2014 | Dubliners | James Joyce, original adaptation | Sarah Lawrence College |
| 2013 | Pockets | Devised | Running to Places Theatre Company |
| 2013 | Runny Eggs | Devised | Downstage Theatre Company |
| 2012 | Spring Awakening | Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater | Soundstage Productions |
| 2012 | Hidden Exit (<i>staged reading</i>) | Toby Lurio | Sarah Lawrence College |
| 2012 | Macbeth | Shakespeare, original adaptation | Sarah Lawrence College Outreach |

*Performed virtually

ASSOCIATE AND ASSISTANT DIRECTING

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| 2023 | Monsters of the American Cinema (Associate) | Christian St. Croix | Kitchen Theatre Company (dir. Rachel Lampert) |
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| 2023 | Heading into Night (<i>Assistant</i>) | Devised | The Cherry Arts (<i>dir. Beth Milles</i>) |
| 2015 | Antigone (<i>Assistant</i>) | Sophocles, original adaptation | Castillo Theatre (<i>dir. Craig Pattison</i>) |
| 2012 | First Lady of Christmas (<i>Assistant</i>) | Cheri Magid and Evan Palazzo | Sarah Lawrence College (<i>dir. Jackson Gay</i>) |

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION WORK

- 2022 - 2024 **Student Engagement and Community Outreach Coordinator**, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Collaborate with Cornell students, staff, and faculty to create programming around international studies that engages K-12 students and teachers in upstate New York.
- 2023 **Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator**, Kitchen Theatre Company, Ithaca, NY
Coordinated targeted outreach and pre- and post-show engagement programming for production of *Monsters of the American Cinema* at the Kitchen Theatre Company.
- 2022-2023 **Community Engagement Coordinator**, Cherry Arts, Ithaca, NY
Produced engagement programming for older adults for production of *Heading into Night* in partnership with GIAC Seniors Program and Longview Senior Living Community.
- 2014-2016 **Volunteer and Intern Coordinator**, All Stars Project, New York, NY
Recruited, trained and managed volunteers and interns at youth development non-profit.

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2023-Present **Artistic Ensemble Member**, Civic Ensemble, Ithaca NY
- 2022-Present **Associate Member**, Stage Directors and Choreographers Union
- 2014-2018 **Producing Artistic Director**, Electric Eye Ensemble, New York, NY
Directed devising process for multidisciplinary plays and theatrical events that examined American myths and stories through revisionist, feminist lens.
- 2016-2018 **Ensemble Member**, The Daughter's Collective, New York, NY
Theater company rooted in ritual and storytelling.
- 2015-2018 **Member**, Alliance of Resident Theatres / NY, New York, NY
- 2015-2018 **Member**, Indie Theater fund, New York, NY

CONFERENCES

- 2024 **Virginia Levine Second Language Educators Conference - SUNY Cortland, Cortland, NY**
Presented session on using authentic cultural resources in K-12 classrooms and creatively engaging in culture learning.
- 2023-2024 **International Summer Studies Institute - Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**
Produced annual conference for K-12 educators focused on internationalizing curricula.

- 2020 **Arts Equity Summit** - *Arts Connect International, Boston, MA*
Presented session on navigating the pandemic for college students at three day conference celebrating equity in arts & culture sector.
- 2019 **Change the Stage** - *Emerson College, Boston, MA*
Logistics Coordinator for two day conference on equity, diversity and inclusion in casting. Facilitated creative movement workshop with undergrad and graduate students.
- 2018 - 2019 **All-Staff Conference** - *Educational Alliance, New York City, NY*
Yearly staff conference for large educational non-profit in NYC with almost 1,000 employees. Presented sessions on community building and creative communication through theater.
- 2018 **Remaking Education Conference**, *Emerson College, Boston, MA*
Conference exploring and celebrating transformative learning. Led exercises on positive learning models as part of session hosted by Emerson Theatre Ed Graduate Program.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ARTISTIC (Selected)

- 2024 **Puppeteers of America**, Weekend intensive: Puppet building, puppet manipulation, mask
- 2019 **Ping Chong and Company**, Week intensive: Documentary theater and ethical storytelling
- 2016 **A.R.T./NY**, Workshops on developing collaborative, non-hierarchical organizational structures
- 2016 **The TEAM**, Devising Within a Democracy workshop: Directing devised work
- 2013 **Double Edge Theatre**, Summer internship: Grotowski-based physical theater, devising
- 2013 **Accademia dell'Arte**, Study abroad semester: Commedia, Linklater, devising
- 2012 **Moscow Art Theater**, Study abroad semester: Stanislavski, Droznin movement
- 2012 **SITI Company**, Summer Intensive: Suzuki, Viewpoints, composition

TRAUMA-INFORMED AND ANTIRACIST FACILITATION (Selected)

Extensive training in antiracist pedagogy, trauma informed practices, healing centered facilitation, trans inclusion, disability rights, and bystander intervention. Recent trainings include:

- 2022 **SPEAC: Supporting the Processing of Experiences through the Arts during Crises**, 10 part intensive training for arts educators
- 2021 **Trauma, Social Justice, the Arts and Healing**, 2 part workshop with Mass Cultural Council
- 2020 **Antiracism in TYA**, 11 part intensive training with Theater for Young Audiences
- 2020 **Healing Centered Community Engagement**, 2 part workshop with Mel King Institute