

# 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  
Dorothy Stickney Theatre Arts Scholarship, *Zonta Club of New York*  
Professors: David Neumann, Tom Lee, Robert Lyons

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

- 2022 **Artist In Residence**, *Urbano Project*
- 2021 **Arts & Culture Community Impact Grant Fund**, *Combined Jewish Philanthropies*  
**Opportunity Fund Grant**, *The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture and The City of Boston*  
**Mass Cultural Council Grant**, *Brookline Commission for the Arts*
- 2017 **Creative Space Grant**, *The Alliance of Resident Theatres / New York*  
**Observership Class**, *Stage Directors and Choreographers Federation*
- 2016 **Rough Draft Residency**, *The Drama League*  
**Sunday Residency**, *The Tank*
- 2014 **Activist for Social Development Fellow**, *All Stars Project*

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING

- 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 using technology in immersive theater.
- 2018-2020 **Guest Artist**, Emerson College, Boston, MA  
Facilitated four workshops with undergraduate and graduate students on facilitating devised processes and acting in devised work.
- 2016-2017 **Guest Artist**, Sarah Lawrence College, Boston, MA  
Facilitated two workshops in theater outreach undergraduate course on devising with youth and theater education.

## TEACHING ARTIST AND FACILITATOR - ADULTS AND YOUTH

- 2020 - 2022 **Our Liberation is Bound Together Facilitator**, Kavod, Boston, MA  
Co-facilitated and co-produced curriculum exploring connections between systemic racism and antisemitism with Jewish adults in Boston.
- 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.

- 2019 - 2022 **Play Reading Book Club Teaching Artist**, 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.
- 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.
- 2017 - Present **Theater workshops with adults with disabilities**, Boston and New York City  
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
- 2011 - Present **Freelance Teaching Artist, K-12**, Boston, New York City and Ithaca, NY  
Teach original curriculum in theater, storytelling, devising, puppetry, movement, and improv. Extensive experience working with English Language Learners and students with disabilities in school, outside-of-school and camp settings.  
Regularly create original performances with students at end of residencies.

### **In-school and after-school residencies and workshops (selected)**

- 2022- Present Ithaca City School District, Ithaca, NY - Mentoring and advising student directors for fall Shakespeare production at Lehman Alternative Community School
- 2022 Arlington Community Ed, Arlington, MA - Taught 7 week acting residency with K-2nd graders
- 2021-2022 Open Door Arts, Boston, MA- Taught full-year theater residency with K-2nd graders, all inclusion classes, many English Language Learners
- 2022-2022 Young Audiences of Massachusetts, Boston, MA - Taught 16 week residency focused on devising with middle school students. Created original show exploring gender norms
- 2018-2020 Torit Montessori School, Boston, MA - Led afterschool program for elementary students and taught puppetry class to Kindergarten students
- 2017-2018 JCC Harlem, NYC, NY - Led afterschool program for elementary 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 short residencies with elementary students
- 2012-2013 Sarah Lawrence College Outreach Program, Yonkers, NY - Taught year-long theater residencies with middle and high school students

### **Outside-of-school residencies, workshops and directing (selected)**

- 2022 Newton Community Education, Newton, MA - Taught week-long camps with elementary school students focused on creative movement and improvisation
- 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 vacation camps with K-8th graders
- 2018-2022 Somerville Arts for Youth - Taught theater residencies and intensives, K-2nd and high school
- 2016-2019 New Country Day Camp, NYC, NY - Taught summer-long creative movement classes with elementary and middle 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

## COMMUNITY-ENGAGED THEATER PROJECTS

- 2015 - Present **Artist Gym**, Ithaca, NY / Boston, MA / New York, NY  
Founder and Lead Facilitator  
Unique community-engagement program bringing together professional and community artists to practice inclusive, accessible theater-making through series of over 50 workshops. Funded by ART/NY Creative Space Grant and produced in partnership with the All Stars Project of New York, The JCC Manhattan, the Educational Alliance, Emerson College and Story House Ithaca.
- 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

2022	Something Blue ( <i>staged reading</i> )	Gordon Leary and Julia Meinwald	Walking on Water Productions
2022	Through Our Eyes	Devised	Urbano Arts
2021	*Coming Together	Devised	Temple Israel of Boston
2020	*Creating Our Stories	Devised	Emerson College
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	Antigone ( <i>Director of Puppetry</i> )	Sophocles, original adaptation	Castillo Theatre ( <i>dir. Craig Pattison</i> )
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

## DIRECTING - EDUCATIONAL THEATER

2022	She Kills Monsters	Qui Nguyen	Arlington Children's Theatre
2022	Swapped	Devised	Gardner Pilot Academy
2022	The Play of Delights	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
2016-2018	Original Puppet Shows	Devised by students	Marquis Studios
2012	Macbeth	Shakespeare, original adaptation	Sarah Lawrence College Outreach

\*Performed virtually

## PUPPETRY PERFORMANCE AND CREATION

2016	The Ori Project	Puppeteer ( <i>dir. Rachael Shane</i> )	The Freight Residency
2016	Tuffy Tiger	Puppeteer ( <i>dir. Tim Young</i> )	Puppetry Arts Festival of Brooklyn
2016	The Digger: A Subterranean Allegory	Puppeteer ( <i>dir. Mike Kelly</i> )	La MaMa ETC
2016	Discrepancies - meditation 1	Puppeteer ( <i>dir. Amanda Friou</i> )	St. Ann's Warehouse
2015	Gravity Cannot be Held Responsible	Puppeteer/Creator	La MaMa Puppet Slam
2015	Dinner for Two	Puppeteer/Creator	La MaMa Puppet Slam
2014	Shank's Mare	Puppeteer ( <i>dir. Tom Lee</i> )	Sarah Lawrence College

## ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2014-2018	<b>Producing Artistic Director</b> , 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	<b>Ensemble Member</b> , The Daughter's Collective, New York, NY Theater company rooted in ritual and storytelling.
2015-2018	<b>Member</b> , Alliance of Resident Theatres / NY, New York, NY
2015-2018	<b>Member</b> , Indie Theater fund, New York, NY

## CONFERENCE PRODUCTION AND FACILITATION

2020	<b>Arts Equity Summit</b> - <i>Arts Connect International, Boston, MA</i> Three day conference celebrating a more equitable arts & culture sector. Facilitated discussion on navigating the pandemic with college students. Produced opening night celebration.
2019	<b>Change the Stage</b> - <i>Emerson College, Boston, MA</i> Two day conference on equity, diversity and inclusion in casting. Facilitated creative movement workshop with undergrad and graduate students. Served as logistics coordinator.
2018 - 2019	<b>All-Staff Conference</b> - <i>Educational Alliance, New York City, NY</i> Yearly staff conference for large educational non-profit in NYC with almost 1,000 employees.

Facilitated workshops 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 workshop session hosted by Emerson Theatre Ed Graduate Program.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - THEATER**

- 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

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - TRAUMA-INFORMED AND ANTIRACIST FACILITATION**

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 presented by Wheelock Family Theatre, Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts, and Open Door Arts  
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