

# SARAH PLOTKIN

Director, Educator, Cultural Worker

[www.sarahplotkin.com](http://www.sarahplotkin.com) | sarahbplotkin@gmail.com | (607) 342-3639

## 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 **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 **Guest Artist**, 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 **Guest Artist**, *Emerson College, Boston, MA*  
Facilitated creative movement workshop with undergrad and graduate students during conference on equity, diversity and inclusion in casting.
- 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 undergraduate Theater Outreach class on devising with youth and theater education.

#### ADULT WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- 2022 - 2023 **Storytelling Through Movement**, CSMA, Ithaca, NY  
Taught six week course on embodied storytelling and expanding comfort and ease with movement.
- 2020 - 2022 **Our Liberation is Bound Together**, Kavod, Boston, MA  
Co-facilitated and co-produced curriculum exploring connections between systemic racism and antisemitism with Jewish adults across the Northeast.
- 2019 - 2022 **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 **Adults with disabilities**, Boston, MA and New York, NY  
2022 - BOCES, Ithaca, NY: Professional development workshop for teachers of youth with disabilities focusing on puppetry as a tool for Social Emotional Learning.  
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 exploring 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 Language Learners and students with disabilities in school, outside-of-school and camp settings.

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

- 2023-Present Civic Ensemble, Ithaca, NY - Co-teach Theater for Social Change classes for middle and high school students in Tompkins County.
- 2022-Present Ithaca City School District, Ithaca, NY - Mentor and advise student directors for Shakespeare productions at Lehman Alternative Community School.

- 2023 Hangar Theatre, Ithaca, NY - Taught 16 session residency with 4th grade class to write and stage an original adaptation of a Haudenosaunee legend.
- 2022-2023 Ithaca Youth Bureau, Ithaca, NY - Taught 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.
- 2018-2020 Torit Montessori School, Boston, MA - 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 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.

### **Outside-of-school (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 camps with K-8th graders.
- 2018-2022 Somerville Arts for Youth - Taught theater workshops, K-2nd and high school.
- 2016-2019 New Country Day Camp, NYC, NY - Taught summer-long creative movement class with elementary and middle school students.

## **TEACHING INTERESTS**

---

Acting, Applied Theater, Directing, Documentary Theater, Movement for Actors, Physical Theater, Puppetry, Theater Education, Theater of the Oppressed, Theater for Social Change, Theater for Young Audiences

## **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 55 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, OJI:SDA' Sustainable Indigenous Futures 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 capstone project.

## DIRECTING

2024	Play of Delights ( <i>upcoming</i> )	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 DIRECTING, ASSISTANT DIRECTING AND CONSULTING

2023	Monsters of the American Cinema ( <i>Associate</i> )	Christian St. Croix	Kitchen Theatre Company ( <i>dir. Rachel Lampert</i> )
2023	The Wedding Show ( <i>Consultant</i> )	Devised	The Cherry Arts ( <i>dir. Sylvie Froncek</i> )
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 - Present **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, Ithaca, NY  
Coordinated targeted outreach and pre- and post-show engagement programming for production of *Monsters of the American Cinema* at the Kitchen Theatre.
- 2023 **Line Producer**, Civic Ensemble, Ithaca, NY  
Managed ticketing, front of house, transportation, meals and outreach for world premier of *Fertile Grounds*, a community based play about a BIPOC farming co-op.
- 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

## CONFERENCE PRODUCTION AND FACILITATION

---

- 2023 **International Summer Studies Institute - Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**  
Produced conference for K-12 educators focusing on culturally responsive engagement with migrant students and migrant narratives.
- 2020 **Arts Equity Summit - Arts Connect International, Boston, MA**  
Co-produced three day conference celebrating a more equitable arts & culture sector. Facilitated discussion on navigating the pandemic with college 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.  
 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

---

### ARTISTIC (Selected)

- 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