

CURRICULUM VITAE

LYDIA GASTON
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MEMBERSHIPS

Screen Actors' Guild/American Federation of Television Artists (SAG/AFTRA)
Actors' Equity Association (AEA)
United University Professors' Union (UUP)

EDUCATION

M.A. in Applied Theatre, 2013 -- School for Professional Studies, CUNY
B.A. in Theater and Dance, 2004 -- Empire State College, SUNY

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

SEPT 2015 to Present
EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

Adjunct Professor/Evaluator

- Review written essays by students seeking college level credits in their life experience of the arts: dance, theatre, film, playwriting, and arts education,
- Interview the students to assess their knowledge on the area of their expertise
- Write an evaluation report and rationale for the number of credits given to student

MAR 2018 to Dec 2019
Teaching Artist at Enact

- Co-teacher for residencies at suspension centers Grades 6 – 12

- Each session focused on a life skill through drama exercises and a short scene presented to the students, and processed through scaffolded questions

2004 TO PRESENT

WHITE BIRD CREATIVE THEATRICALS SUMMER CAMP, Brooklyn, New York

Teaching Artist, Theatre and Creative Movement, Grades K – 5

- Movement and Dance Specialist for students aged 4 to 11 years. Through the introduction of theatre conventions and simple dance concepts, such as sound and movement exercises, the students discovered ways to collaborate on a devised scene performed at the end of each week.

MAR – MAY 2018

Florence E. Smith Senior Center, Corona, Queens

Facilitator, Drama Workshop

JAN 2012 TO MAY 2015

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY, Old Westbury, New York

Adjunct Professor, Cultural and Diverse Language of Dance

- Instructor for college level class teaching dance history as a performing art, incorporating academic readings, and learning simple dances from different cultures
- Curriculum was designed to give students opportunities to share their own experiences of dance in the social scene they inhabit.
- A collaborative learning atmosphere achieved through theatre games, opening up students to each other's diverse ways of learning
- Students gained new perspectives on how particular societies reflected their values through the dance.

SPRING 2015 and FALL 2013

THE CHINATOWN KIDS' PLAYMAKING PROJECT AT P.S. 124 – YUNG WING

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, New York City, as part of Leviathan Lab's Artist Residency at University Settlement (LMCC grant)

Co-Creator and Co-Facilitator

- Through Leviathan Lab designed, developed and implemented curriculum for a 10-week playwriting workshop for 5th graders at Yung Wing Elementary School. Young

writers were encouraged and guided to write their own 10-minute plays using theatre games and exercises, and a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art

- The 2013 playmaking project culminated in a 3-day series of performances wherein the young participants had the opportunity to see their plays performed by professional actors at performances held at the University Settlement in New York.
- In Spring of 2015 the plays were performed by professional actors and presented at The Yung Wing Elementary School for 4th and 5th graders and faculty, as well as an outside performance at the Asian American Writers Workshop also attended by some of the young playwrights and their families.

SPRING 2014

STRIDE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM at Houston Street Center, New York City, as part of Leviathan Lab's Artist Residency at University Settlement

Teaching Artist, Grades 6 – 8

- Co-Teacher for 8-week Afterschool Theatre Program with middle school-aged students of predominantly Asian background
- Through drama and movement exercises, creative writing, and brainstorming, including a visit to MOCA (Museum of Chinese in America), the participants devised short scenes which they shared with friends and family members in a public performance at the end of the workshop.

SPRING 2013

Senior Women's Theatre Project, Queens, New York

Co-Creator and Co-Facilitator

- Initiated and taught a 6-week drama workshop for senior Filipino immigrant women, aged 65 to 80, wherein participants were guided through drama activities which encouraged group dialogue and sharing of past experiences.

2011

BACOLOD ARTISTS' MOVEMENT AND THEATRE WORKSHOP, Bacolod, Philippines
Master Class for Professional and Pre-professional actors, dancers and singers

- Facilitated a workshop using the collective artists' talents in dance, music, acting and theatre design

2002 to 2008

BROOKLYN FREE SPACE, Brooklyn, New York

Dance and Creative Movement, Pre-K (2 ½ years to 5)

- Taught two separate classes of ten students each (2 ½ years to 3 ½ years and 4 to 5 years) using Laban-based exercises for students to access awareness of space, movement and rhythm.

DIRECTOR/ CHOREOGRAPHER

2013

THE CHINATOWN KIDS' PLAYMAKING PROJECT AT P.S. 124 – YUNG WING SCHOOL, New York, New York

- Directed professional actors in two ten-minute plays written by P.S. 124 fifth graders for the Leviathan Lab's Playmaking Project
- Collaborated on program concept with Leviathan Lab producer and fellow directors

WRITER/PRODUCER/PERFORMER

2011 – 2013

'ROUND MIDLIFE – A CABARET MUSICAL

- Co-creator and performer of a three-person musical theatre cabaret about growing older in New York City

2007

FRINGENYC–NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL, New York, New York

- Choreographer for children's musical, *Angela's Flying Bed*

FILM, TV, COMMERCIALS, AND NEW MEDIA

The Blacklist	Restaurant Mgr	NBC
Late Night With Seth Meyers	Presidential Candidate	NBC
The Path	Maria	HULU
The Sopranos	Rosie	HBO
The Unusuals (Pilot)	Interpreter (Co-Star)	ABC
WEB MD Industrial	Patient	
Rubraca (commercial Pharma)		

PROFESSIONAL STAGE

Broadway

THE KING AND I	Ensemble	Lincoln Center Theatre
THE KING AND I	Lady Thiang (U/S AND PERFORMED)	Neil Simon Theatre
JEROME ROBBINS' BROADWAY	Featured Lead Roles	Imperial Theatre
MISS SAIGON	Yvonne; Gigi (u/s)	Broadway Theatre
SHOGUN, THE MUSICAL	Mariko (lead standby)	Marquis Theatre
THE RED SHOES	Miss Hardiman	Gershwin Theatre

Off- and Off-Off-Broadway

THE DEAL	Mrs. Li	Urban Stages
2008 SHAKESPEARE LAB	Emilia, OTHELLO	The Public Theatre
DOGEATERS	Barbara/Imelda/Trini (U/S)	Imperial Theatre
THE ENCOUNTER	Maria	DiverseCity Theatre
HEADING EAST	Mother	The Asia Society
JOY LUCK CLUB	Ying Ying	PanAsian Repertory
CAMBODIA AGONISTES (REVIVAL)	My Huoy (principal)	PanAsian Repertory
FUENTEOVEJUNA	Laurencia (principal)	NAATCO
HE WHO SAYS YES/ NO	Mother	NAATCO
NIKIMALIKA (LI'L BROWN BROTHERS)	Malika/Alonay	Ma-Yi Theatre
PEREGRINASYON	Manang/Lelang	Ma-Yi Theatre

National Tours | Regional

PRECIOUS NONSENSE	Angelina/Ruth	Kitchen Theatre, Ithaca
SOUTH PACIFIC	Bloody Mary	Reagle Players, Greater Boston
THE KING AND I (2007)	Lady Thiang	Reagle Players
DAMN YANKEES	Lola	Hangar Theatre, Ithaca
WONDERFUL TOWN	Featured Singer	Goodspeed Opera House
WEST SIDE STORY	Anita	Virginia Opera

WEST SIDE STORY	Maria	Paper Mill Playhouse
A CHORUS LINE	Connie Wong	Paper Mill Playhouse

Concerts, Cabarets, and International Tours

SUITES BY SONDEHIM	Featured Soloist (Lincoln Center Gala starring Lea Salonga)
'ROUND MIDLIFE	Co-Creator Co-Producer Performer
CAMBODIA AGONISTES	Cairo International Theatre Festival; Arts Alive, Johannesburg, S.A.

Additional Training and Experience

Acting/Movement/Voice

- 2012 Dance Exchange Summer Institute – Takoma Park, Maryland
- 2008 Public Theater Shakespeare Lab – New York, NY
- Film – Robert McCloskey
- SITI Viewpoints Training, 2004-2005 – New York, NY
- The Barrow Group School (Seth Barrish), 2007-2008 – New York, NY
- Grace Zandarski (voice and speech) – New York, NY

Vocal Training

- Mary Saunders-Barton
- Christy Turnbow

Ballet and Modern Dance

- Soloist – Ballet Philippines
- Principal Dancer – Baltimore Ballet
- Soloist – Rachel Lampert & Dancers

Teaching Artist Training

- Conflict Resolution Through Dance with Martha Hart Eddy
Dance Education Laboratory (DEL), 92nd St Y, 2003
- Creative Movement and Dance with Anne Green Gilbert
New York City Center, 2000