

KATHRYN CESARZ

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CLOWN - EDUCATOR - DIRECTOR - WRITER - PERFORMER

EDUCATION

M.F.A. – Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre, Ensemble Devised Physical Theatre, June 2019

Community Based Arts Project - Families Advocating Autism Now, “A Spectrum of Stories” - 2018

Bali Intensive Study Abroad - Ubud, Bali, January-February 2019

Cohort Performance at Festival Internacional Teatro Universitario, UNAM, Mexico City, awarded “Best Scenographic Movement” and “Most Relevant to Our Time,” February 2019

B.S. Theatre Performance, associated study in Writing and Literature, 2012 at the University of Evansville

Graduated Cum Laude

Completed the University Honors Program

Study abroad - Harlaxton College, Harlaxton, England, 1 semester

The Golden Triangle – André DeShields Master Class at Victory Gardens Theater

SELECTED THEATRE

DIRECTOR & CORE DEVISING ENSEMBLE

Tigre! Tigre! - Fox & Beggar Theater, Director of 2025 Touring Production

Heck - The Devil Herself, St. Croix Festival Theatre (Direction, Playwright, Composer/Songwriter, Performer, Producer)

The Unstrung Harp - Shadow (Direction, Scenography, Writing Adaptation, Performer, Producer)

This Simply Can't Be How It's Done - Dell' Arte Baduwa't Festival (Ensemble Directed)

Citizens of Nowhere - Baba, Festival Internacional de Teatro Universitario, UNAM, Mexico City (Sayda Trujillo)

CommedAI - Pantalona, Colombina, Isabella, St. Croix Festival Theatre (Jesse March)

OTHER NEW WORKS

Kamikaze Cutesauce: MKE TO NYC - The Quasimondo @ FringeNYC 2015 (Brian Rott, Jenni Reinke)

The Nautical Tragedy of Dick III - Anne the Pirate Queen, The Quasimondo (Brian Rott, Jessi Miller)

Giraffe on Fire - Ensemble, The Quasimondo (Brian Rott, Jenni Reinke)

SCRIPTED THEATRE & ADAPTATIONS

Ms. Holmes, Ms. Watson, Apartment 2B - Sherlock Holmes, St. Croix Festival Theatre (Traci Ledford)

Venus in Fur - Vanda, North Coast Repertory Theatre (Co-directed with Jesse March)

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [Revised] - Self, North Coast Repertory Theatre (Co-director)

The Beggar's Opera - Elizabeth/Lucy, Theatre Gigante (Isabelle Kralj, Mark Anderson)

A Woman's Place - Abusive Language, Cooperative Performance Milwaukee (Kelly Coffey)

CABARET

B.O.N.K. - The Devil Herself, Fox & Beggar Theater

Kaboom Cabaret - The Devil Herself, Cahoot?! Physical Theatre

The Red Light Cabaret - Bugoslavian Shot Slinger, Dell' Arte International Baduwa't Festival

Keep the Fires Burning Cabaret - Singing Sheep, Dell' Arte International (Michael Fields)

TEACHING

Clown Workshop (May 2025) Cahoot?! Physical Theatre workshop @ Soma Studio, Minneapolis, MN

One hour workshop exploring the “Golden Thread” of finding the funny while interacting with the audience. Adult artists and self-identifying “non-artists” explored how to play and respond to what an audience likes.

Vaudeville Workshop (June 2024) St. Croix Festival Theatre, St. Croix Falls, WI

Taught two workshops - a youth workshop, and a teen/adults workshop, exploring vaudeville techniques. The group explored examples of vaudeville-style acts, in both historical and contemporary contexts, and then devised their own vaudeville acts. The resulting acts included a youth magician, jugglers, teen comedians, and amateur stage-combat performance! The youth magician went on to show their piece in the community talent show weeks later.

Commedia Dell'Arte Workshop (Feb. 2024) St. Croix Festival Theatre, St. Croix Falls, WI

Taught a cohort of professional artists the renaissance mask theatre form of Commedia Dell'Arte. Workshops were 5 days of 3 hour classes, in which we explored mask technique, improvisation and clowning, games, and the character archetypes of commedia. Fellow instructors included Bob Rosen, Stephanie Thompson, Jesse March and Evan Grande.

Shadow Puppetry Artist Residency - Teaching Assistant (2022) Pacific Union School, Arcata, CA

Supported teaching artist Sarah McKinney in two 3rd and 4th grade classrooms with 10-week shadow puppetry course, facilitating small-group work for kids as they adapted storybooks to shadow puppetry performances.

Daily Practice Group Facilitator (Jan. 2021- April 2023) Virtual Zoom Workshop

Casual but rigorous group zoom "daily" practice Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays since January 2021 between circle of colleagues to maintain our sanity and enjoy collaboration over the distance during quarantine. Included strength and conditioning, flexibility, imaginative theatre practice, and explorations to help us keep it sharp and stay grounded.

"Freedom to Fail" Clown Workshop (2019) 53212 Presents Studio, Milwaukee, WI

Three-session master class focusing on actors' ability to take risks onstage, through the lens of Clown. Professional and adult performers returned for three weeks of Saturday morning classes to focus on physical integration and expression, spontaneity and play, and clown.

MFA Candidate Teacher (2017 – 2019) Dell'Arte International, Blue Lake, CA

The Reversal --- 50 minute session // Planned and led cohort in physical laboratory on the comic reversal.

"Cultivating Joy" Daily Practice --- 50 minute session // Planned and led Dell'Arte students in morning warmup which aimed to cultivate joy in the work, including games, song and rhythm, and cool dance moves showdown.

Warmup --- 50 minute session // Planned and taught Dell'Arte International Bali program students (of varying skills and abilities) warmup class that expanded the senses and grounded students in the present, in their bodies and out of their heads.

Comic Improv --- Single 50 minute session // Planned and taught MFA cohort short-form comic improv.

Traditions of Suzuki --- Single 50 minute session // Planned and taught cohort Suzuki-based physical theatre exercises.

Voice --- Single 1 hour session // Planned and taught artist peers and amateur community members Linklater-based speech and voice technique at Spring Valley, CA rural residency.

Teacher (2013 – 2014) Pius XI High School, Milwaukee, WI

Acting 1B --- 1 Semester (Fall 2013) // Planned and taught students grades 10-12 introductory acting course. Curriculum included acting scenes, monologues, physical theatre, and creative journaling.

Acting 1A --- 1 Semester (Spring 2014) // Planned and taught 9th grade students introductory acting course. Curriculum included acting scenes, monologues, physical theatre, and creative journaling.

Long-term Substitute Teacher (2015)

Pius XI High School, Milwaukee, WI

Acting 1B --- 6 weeks (Spring 2015) // Completed the semester for Introductory Acting class for 10th-12th grade students.

Teaching Artist (2019) Ferndale Repertory Theatre, Ferndale, CA

Two week workshop; instructed youth ages 10-17 in musical theatre workshop. Taught theatre techniques, singing, music, and directed students in 1-hour culminating performance of selections from the musical *Matilda*, for families.

Teacher (2015) Quasimondo Milwaukee Physical Theatre, Milwaukee, WI

Voice --- 1 hour session // Planned and taught Linklater-based speech and voice technique to the ensemble.

Teacher Pius XI High School, Milwaukee, WI

Makeup Workshop --- 2 hour session // Taught makeup captains of spring musical *West Side Story* stage makeup application and design techniques.

Tutor (2013 - 2015) Pius XI High School, Milwaukee, WI

AVID Program --- 3 Semesters // Served as tutor to AVID students for this college preparatory program.

AVID students are those who make high test scores and low grades.

Substitute Teacher / Supervisor (2013 - 2015) Pius XI High School, Milwaukee WI

Various Areas --- 3 Semesters // As short-term sub, covered class for sick teachers. Supervised resource in various rooms around the school. Supervised lunch room.

Teaching Artist (Summer 2010, 2011, 2014) St. Croix Festival Theatre, St. Croix Falls, WI

The Frogs --- Coached and taught middle to high school students in theatre company's summer youth intensive (2014). Planned and taught devising workshop where students composed original 5-minute works of theatre in a 45-minute devising session and then performed for one another.

Seussical --- Coached and taught middle to high school students in theatre company's summer youth intensive (2011). Instruction focus was in acting and musical theatre performance, to culminate in full company production of the youth performance of *Seussical*.

Creativity Camp --- Numerous week-long workshops (Summer 2010, 2011, 2014) // Taught creative drama and movement workshops, and assistant taught visual art and music workshops for kindergarten - 5th graders.

Teaching Artist - A.K.A. Sisterhood Camp, St. Croix Falls, WI

Taught theatre to 6th-8th grade girls in this camp that focused on young women empowering one another and building healthy relationships with each other.

Director / Teacher (2010) Pius XI High School Summer Theater Lab

Speech Class --- Planned and taught Linklater-based voice and speech workshop for advanced high school theatre students, 9th-12th grade.

Director --- Cast of 9th-12th grade students, abridged production of Eric Overmyer's *On the Verge*

Director/Teacher (2009) Pius XI High School Musical Theater Workshop

Taught and directed 2nd through 8th graders in week-long summer musical theatre workshop, culminating in a thirty-minute mini-production of *Godspell* performed for students' families.

TRAINING

Acting: Lauren Wilson, James Peck, Michael Fields, Joan Schirle, R. Scott Lank, Christia Ward, André DeShields, John David Lutz, Kevin Schwartz, Joanne Woodard, Peter Reeves

Clown: Stephanie Thompson, Matt Chapman, Joe Kreinke, Lauren Wilson, James Peck

Commedia Dell'Arte: Lauren Wilson, Bruce Marrs, James Peck, Bob Rosen, Stephanie Thompson

Mime: James Peck & Joan Schirle - Carlo Mazzone Clemente Showers, Lauren Wilson, Jesse March

Buffon: Eric Davis, Josh Matthews

Melodrama: Michael Fields, Lauren Wilson

Alexander Technique: Joan Schirle, Joe Kreinke, Alyssa Hughlett, James Peck

Acrobatics: Alyssa Hughlett, Joe Kreinke,

Movement: Laura Muñoz;

Dance and Movement: Laura Muñoz, Posy Knight (Contemporary,) Jenni Reinke, Gail Golike (Dance Survey, Hip Hop,) J. Anderson (Ballet) Edwin Olvera, Cleo DeOrio (Salsa, Contemporary)

Comic Improvisation: James Peck, Joan Schirle (Carlo Mazzone Clemente Showers), Lauren Wilson, Jaclyn Johnson, Comedy Sportz Milwaukee

Vocal Music: Leira Satlof, Richard Williams

Voice and Speech: Sayda Trujillo (Roy Hart, Linklater), Christia Ward, Jesse March

Playwriting: Lauren Wilson, R. Scott Lank

Writing: Dr. William Baer (Metrical Poetry,) Arthur Brown (Poetry,) Dr. Mark Cirino (Short Stories), Lauren Wilson (Poetic Voice)

Directing: Lauren Wilson, Michael Fields, John David Lutz,

Stage Elements Summer Theater Institute (2007) University of Minnesota

Independent Study: *Sleeping Postures* – Full length play written with faculty guidance by R. Scott Lank

B.S. Honors Research: A Theatre and Its Community – University of Evansville, Interviewed colleagues, patrons, and employees of St. Croix Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, WI. Culminated in fifteen minute presentation before the Department of Theatre, University of Evansville, April 2012.

INTERNSHIPS

Senior Artistic Intern St. Croix Festival Theatre Summer 2011

Spent the summer working at the theatre almost every day. Performed in the summer musical, on the Sew Good Improv Comedy team, and in company-devised play. Worked the box office answering phone calls and interacting with theatre patrons, ushered and seated guests for live theatre and music events, worked as hospitality assistant for visiting band, interacted with community at local businesses, events, and door-to-door as advertising Street Team member.

Artistic Intern St. Croix Festival Theatre Summer 2010

Performed in summer play "To Fool the Eye" and as an inaugural member of the Sew Good Improv Comedy team, assisted in arts education program for local elementary students, provided rehearsal musical assistance for youthLiterary Intern musical, assisted in Scenic and costuming building and repairs, worked about two nights weekly on changeovers for rotating repertory performances.

Intern - New Harmony Project 2010

Provided copy room, script binding and distributing, stage direction reading, and dramaturgical assistance on playwright's workshops for "Woof" (Y. York,) and "Brilliance" (Anthony McCarten.)

Student Director/Assistant Summer Musical Theatre Workshop (2006) Pius XI High School

RELATED WORK

Executive Artistic Director (June 2023- Oct.2024) St. Croix Festival Theatre

Led rural non-profit professional theatre company through one and half seasons of producing, presenting, and theatre education. Oversaw the Curtain Rising Capital Campaign, in which a team of staff and volunteer patrons raised \$750,000 for the transition into the theatre's restored home at the Historic Auditorium of St. Croix Falls. Coordinated the purchase, contracting and installation of a new theatrical sound and lighting system for the restored Auditorium. Devised and executed a new collaborative Artistic Direction process, which has now been used to program both the 2024 and 2025 seasons. Developed new Human Resources practices designed to encourage personal accountability while emphasizing equity, diversity and inclusion for a small staff organization. Deepened our marketing strategy to invite our audiences to the theatrical "homecoming" back to the revitalized Historic Auditorium. Coordinated and partnered with the volunteer Board of Directors, working together to vision, support staff, and raise financial resources for the theatre. Brought adult and community education opportunities to artists, interns, and community members of St. Croix Falls.

Virtual Game Show Host (2020-present) Game Show Battle Rooms