

Rachel Tuggle Whorton

EDUCATION

New York University, New York City

Ph. D. candidate (ABD), Educational Theater (2012-2017 expected)

Study Abroad: Community-Engaged Theatre-Ireland

New York University, New York City

M.A., Educational Theater for Colleges and Communities (2010-2011)

Study Abroad: Theatre Practices-Puerto Rico

Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN

M.Ed., Instructional Leadership (2008-2010)

Tennessee Teaching License, K-12 Theatre

Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN

B.A., Theatre and Communication: Journalism (2002-2006)

Study Abroad: City as Text and Music Management/PR Internship – London, UK

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor, New York University, New York City (2012-present)

- Courses include: Voice and Speech for the Actor, Acting Pedagogy (including Youth Ensemble Showcase), Dramatic Activities in the High School, Theater as Art Form (Recitation), Problems in Play Production (New Plays for Young Audiences series)

-Student Teacher Supervisor for pre-service elementary and secondary teachers (provide instruction and feedback regarding EdTPA requirements, facilitation, lesson planning, and assessment)

-Gallatin Colloquium Panelist (thesis focused on Theater and Technology)

-Faculty Affiliate for Theater Arts Community in Grammercy Green Residence Hall (plan and implement experiential learning events related to the performing arts)

Teaching Assistant, New York University, New York City (2010-2013)

- Courses included: Global Honors Seminar (with experiential learning component in London), Devising Theater, Methods and Materials of Research, Theater as Art Form (Lecture)

-Shakespeare-to-Go booking manager for traveling student performance troupe

Director of Theatre & Assistant Choral Director, David Lipscomb High School, Nashville, TN (2008-2010)

-Directed fall plays, spring musicals, talent shows, and one-acts each year

-Accompanied and directed award-winning freshmen and concert choirs

-Taught daily theatre, speech, and choir classes

-Sponsored Standing Room Only drama club & International Thespian Society

-Organized field trips to competitions, conferences, performances, and arts-immersion spring break: NYC

Director of Theatre and Chorus, Friendship Christian School, Lebanon, TN (2006-2007)

-Taught daily high school and middle school theatre and music classes

-Directed fall play and spring musical

TEACHING ARTIST EXPERIENCE

New York City Center, New York City (2015-present)

- Facilitate musical theatre and songwriting workshops in connection with the *Encores!* performance series
- Develop specialized curriculum for each separate show in collaboration with other teaching artists

National YoungArts Foundation, Miami, FL (2015)

- Created and facilitated workshops on devising, Viewpoints, and musical improv for national finalists

The Leadership Program, New York City (2011-present)

- Facilitate after-school theatre and music programs with middle school and high school students in Brooklyn and Manhattan
- Direct, music direct, and build sets for full-length musical productions with high school students
- Member of summer curriculum team, writing and collaborating on multidisciplinary curriculum
- Facilitate professional development workshops for NYC DOE teachers and administrators
- Recognized with Core Value Award (2012) for "foster[ing] an inclusive community through communication, connection and common purpose"

Lower Manhattan Arts Academy, New York City (2011-2014)

- Served as piano conductor for spring musical each year: *Hair, The Wiz, In the Heights, Little Shop of Horrors*

Wingspan Arts, New York City (2011-2013)

- Planned and facilitated in-school and after-school performing arts programming with elementary, middle school, and high school students in Manhattan and the Bronx
- Taught music courses for the Wingspan Arts Summer Conservatory

StudentsLive, New York City (2010-2011)

- Assisted with music, choreography, curriculum development, and administrative tasks of Broadway education programs for college students from Brazil and elementary students from South Korea
- Served as piano accompanist for vocal/dance workshops with Broadway cast members from *Chicago, Catch Me If You Can, The Book of Mormon, and The Lion King*

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE/WRITING EXPERIENCE

***Her Opponent*, Provincetown Playhouse, New York City (2017)**

- Performed as "Brenda King" in this ethnodramatic re-staging of the 2016 Presidential debates with gender-reversed casting, directed by Joe Salvatore. Featured in *The New York Times* & *The Guardian*.

***Last Night in Town*, San Diego Musical Theater/Blindspot Collective, San Diego, CA (2016)**

- Co-creator of this site-specific, immersive theatrical song cycle based on the music of Ben Folds
- Originated the role of "Annie"

Radioactive Festival, TRG Productions, New York City (2016)

- Playwright of the short play *Bottleneck*, presented at 4th Street Theater @ New York Theater Workshop

***The Christians*, Playwrights Horizons, New York City (2015)**

- Performed as a choir member in this critically acclaimed play by Lucas Hnath, directed by Les Waters

***Micro*, Hallelou Productions, New York City (2015)**

- Screenwriter and lead actor in this short film about negotiating space and relationships
- Premiered as an official selection at Cinewest's *Women in Media Arts and Film Festival* in Sydney, Australia

***Sapien Sapien Sapien*, The New School for Drama/NY Theatre Barn, New York City (2015/2016)**

- Cast member in this new musical about a human zoo exhibit (Zookeeper/Rachel)

***Lakeside Lullaby*, Provincetown Playhouse, New York City (2015)**

- Cast member in this new dramatic work by Joe Salvatore

***One Night Only* with Aretha Franklin, Havas Luxe Events, New York City (2015)**

- Featured vocalist/dancer in this private event performance starring Aretha Franklin

***The Runaway Clone*, Ruckus Rockwell, New York City (2014)**

- Cast member in this new science fiction musical comedy (Deanna/Mom/Clone Trio)

UNFringed Festival, The Secret Theatre, Long Island City, Queens (2014)

- Playwright of *Through the Glade*, a 90-minute semi-autobiographical satirical comedy

New Works Series, Emerging Artists Theatre, New York City (2014)

- Playwright of *My Other Job*, an interview-based play about the lives of working actors

New Plays for Young Audiences, Provincetown Playhouse, New York City (2012/2013)

- Cast member in productions of *Zachary Briddling...* by Finegan Kruckemeyer (dir. Emelie Fitzgibbon) and *Shahrazad 1001* by Ramon Esquivel (dir. Deirdre Kelly Lavrakas)

Writer's Roundtable, New York University, New York City (2013)

- Performer in staged readings of new works by Joe Salvatore and Greg Kotis

Mainstage Productions, Educational Theatre, New York City (2010-2012)

- Cast member in premier productions of *Alice: The Looking-Glass Girl* (Fresia), *Plays from the Provincetown Playhouse* (Susan Glaspell), and *The Triangle Project* (Celia/Featured Vocalist)

DIRECTING/CURATING EXPERIENCE

***Brief Encounter*, Provincetown Playhouse, New York City (2016)**

- Music director for this production of Emma Rice's theatrical adaptation of the classic Noël Coward film

***Dreamgirls*, Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing Arts, New York City (2016)**

- Director and music director for this school-wide production
- Arranged for *Dreamgirls* composer Henry Krieger to visit and speak with the cast

Radioactive Festival, TRG Productions, New York City (2016)

- Director of the short play *Bottleneck*, presented at 4th Street Theater @ New York Theater Workshop

***Underground: The Ben Folds Project*, Soho loft, Fontana's, & Spike Hill, New York City (2012/2015)**

- Co-creator and music director of this site-specific interactive theatrical song-cycle
- Originated roles of Judy and Love Master Z
- Recipient of Lincoln City Fellowship grant for further artistic development

***Little Shop of Horrors*, New York University, New York City (2014)**

-Music director for this mainstage production

UNFringed Festival, The Secret Theatre, Long Island City, Queens (2014)

-Director of *Through the Glade*, a 90-minute semi-autobiographical satirical comedy

New Works Series, Emerging Artists Theatre, New York City (2014)

-Director of *My Other Job*, an interview-based play about the lives of working actors

***META*, a new play by Deborah Zoe Laufer, New York City (2013)**

-Music director and onstage band leader for the world premiere of this new work

Funky Divas R & B Cabaret, The Bitter End, New York City (2013)

-Music director, accompanist and background vocalist

-Created original arrangements for 3 and 4-part vocals and 4 piece band

***Theatrix!*, 10-minute Play Festival, New York City (2012-2015)**

-Curator of this annual festival of original short plays and musicals

***Instant Gratification*, 24-hour Play Festival (2012-2014)**

-Curator of this annual festival of original short plays written, rehearsed, and performed in one day

David Lipscomb High School, Nashville, TN (2008-2010)

-Director for productions of *Dearly Departed*, *Hello Dolly*, *Hush Little Celia*, *Paper or Plastic*, *Wait Until Dark*, & *Crazy for You*.

-Managed and organized rehearsal schedule for up to 60 cast and crew members and 6 piece professional band

-Designed and built sets for all productions

Friendship Christian School, Lebanon, TN (2006-2007)

-Director for productions of *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* and *Little Shop of Horrors*

-Designed and built sets for all productions

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Responsible Inspiration: The Role of Arts Educators in Career Choice, *Teaching Artist Journal* (2017)

-Author of this article reflecting upon expectations and realities regarding the arts in both educational and professional settings

“I don’t sing!”: Teaching Music in After-School Settings with Untrained High School Male Voices, *Teaching Artist Journal* (2016)

-Author of this article offering reflections on, observations of, and pedagogical approaches to musical theatre teaching artist work with high school boys

Site-specific Theatre: New Perspectives on Pedagogy and Performance, *RiDE: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance* (2015)

-Co-author of this article on site-specific theatrical considerations as a performer, creator, and educator.

Dissertation Proposal, New York University, New York City (2015)

-Approved doctoral dissertation proposal: *The Phenomenon of the Acting Bug: Investigations of Identity Formation and Career Decision-Making Processes of Professional Actors*

Harding University, Study in Theater Arts Course, New York City (2012-2017)

- Guest lecturer for this experiential course for students from Harding University in Searcy, AR
- Created and implemented *Bright Lights/Big City*, a downtown theatre walking tour and devising workshop

NYU Forum on the Teaching Artist, New York City (2014)

- Selected panelist for interdisciplinary dialogue on sustainability in teaching artistry

New York State Theatre Education Association, Callicoon, NY (2014)

- Facilitated workshops on ensemble performance at the annual NYSTEA student conference
- Ran auditions on behalf of the Program in Educational Theatre at NYU

Incorporating Theatre Education Methods into Standard Curriculum, Action Research, Nashville, TN (2010)

- Designed and implemented a mixed-methods study on drama integration at David Lipscomb High School
- Presented findings to a committee of research and education faculty at Lipscomb University

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- Global Research Fellowship – NYU research fellowship for dissertation work in Florence, Italy (2016)
- Speranza Foundation – Lincoln City Fellowship grant for artistic development of *Underground* (2014)
- The Myoung-Cheul Chung Scholarship in Educational Theatre (2012)
- Sigma Alpha Iota Sword of Honor for Leadership and Service (2006)
- Lipscomb University Presidential Academic Scholarship (2002-2006)
- Lipscomb University Piano Performance Scholarship (2002-2004)

ADDITIONAL INTERESTS/EXPERIENCE

- Classically trained pianist with 17 years of formal study including theory, pedagogy, and performance
- Voiceover Masterclasses, Andy Roth and Marla Weber-Greene, (2016/2017)
- Viewpoints Masterclass, Anne Bogart and SITTI Company (2015)
- Sketch Comedy Writing, People's Improv Theatre (2014) and Magnet Theater (2015)
- Screenwriting with Kate Cortesi, ESPA at Primary Stages (2015)
- Musical Improvisation, Magnet Theatre (2014)
- Accompanist and Cabaret Performer with CO/LAB Theater, a non-profit working with individuals with developmental disabilities (2014-2016)
- Finisher, New York City Marathon (2014)
- Stage vulnerability workshop, Deanna Fleysher, Triskelion Arts (2014)
- Accompanist, *The Shining: The Musical*, Upright Citizen's Brigade, New York City (2013)
- Lead vocalist in Durant, award-winning a cappella group, Nashville, TN (2006-2010)
- Vanderbilt Dance Program – hip hop, tap, swing, Nashville, TN (2006-2008)
- Youth Counselor at Camp Orion and Camp Connect, Brisbane, Australia (Summer 2004/2005)