

Rachel Tuggle Whorton

www.racheltugglewhorton.com

EDUCATION

New York University, New York City

Ph. D., Educational Theater (2012-2018)

Study Abroad: Community-Engaged Theatre-Ireland; Global Research Fellowship-Italy

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)

Piano performance minor

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

- Courses: 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), New Student Seminar.

-Music Director: *Meta, Little Shop, Brief Encounter, Peter and the Starcatcher*. Accompanist: Musical Theatre Directing

-Curator: *Theatrix!* new works festivals in partnership with musical theatre composition students

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

-Gallatin Colloquium Panelist (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: 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)

-Directed fall play and spring musical; Taught daily high school theatre and music classes

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 (January 2015)

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

The Leadership Program, New York City (2011-2017)

- Facilitate after-school theatre and music programs with secondary 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 and secondary students in Manhattan and the Bronx (musical theater, devising, and playwriting)
- 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*

DIRECTING/CURATING EXPERIENCE

***Peter and the Starcatcher*, New York University, New York City (2018)**

- Music director/conductor for this playful work, featuring an ensemble of developmentally diverse performers.

***Two Noble Kinsmen*, Looking for Shakespeare Program, New York City (2018)**

- Music director of this original adaptation incorporating contemporary music with classical text
- Orchestrated original arrangements based on unique instrumental and vocal needs

***Cinderella*, Harlem Prep High School, New York City (2018)**

- Music director and piano conductor of this classic Rodgers & Hammerstein musical

***It Shoulda Been You*, Gallery Players, Brooklyn (2017)**

- Music director and piano conductor of this contemporary musical comedy

NYSUMMERFEST, Hudson Guild Theater, New York City (2017)

- Director of *My Other Job*, an ethnodramatic work telling the true stories of 5 working New York actors.
- Awarded "Best Director" out of over 80 participants.

***Hall Pass*, Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing Arts, New York City (2017)**

-Director and music director for this collaborative site-specific play cycle

***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

-Orchestrated original arrangements based on unique instrumental and vocal needs

***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 at 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

-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

***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 for this cabaret featuring 90s R&B hits

-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/Music Director: *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/Music Director: *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* and *Little Shop of Horrors*

-Designed and built sets for all productions

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE (Proud member: AEA)

***Mamma Mia!*, Royal Caribbean International, Allure of the Seas (2019)**

-Appeared as Rosie, one of the Dynamos, traveling throughout the Caribbean with this full-scale production.

Verbatim Performance Lab, New York City (2018)

-Performed verbatim, gender-reversed versions of the Access Hollywood tapes and the Kavanaugh hearing.

***Her Opponent*, The Theater Center, New York City (2017)**

-Performed Off-Broadway as “Brenda King” in this ethnodramatic re-staging of the 2016 presidential debates with gender-reversed casting. Featured in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, & *MSNBC*.

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

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

***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*, Halleloo Productions, New York City (2015)**

-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* (2016) and *8th Shire International Film Festival* (2017) 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 (Originated roles of Zookeeper/Rachel)

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

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

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

-Co-created this site-specific interactive theatrical song-cycle
-Originated roles of Judy and Love Master Z

***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)

PLAYWRITING/SCREENWRITING EXPERIENCE

My Other Job

-Co-wrote this ethnodramatic work telling the true stories of 5 working New York actors.
-Produced at NYSUMMERFEST 2017 in NYC; nominated for “Best Play” and “Most Creative Play”

Bottleneck

-Wrote this new work about gendered assumptions and relationships
-Produced at the Radioactive Festival (New York Theater Workshop’s 4th Street Theater) and Act 1 Nashville’s One-Act Wednesday series.

Micro

-Wrote and performed in this short film about negotiating space and relationships
-Premiered as an official selection at Cinewest’s *Women in Media Arts and Film Festival* (2016) and *8th Shire International Film Festival* (2017) in Sydney, Australia

***Through the Glade*,**

-Co-wrote this 90-minute semi-autobiographical satirical comedy
-Produced at Emerging Artists Festival in Manhattan and UnFringed Festival in Queens.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Phenomenon of the Acting Bug: Interrogations of Self-Identification and Career Decision-Making Processes of Professional Actors, *ProQuest* (2018)

-A phenomenological arts-based dissertation about professional actors, identity, and vocational choice

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

-An 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)

-An 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)

-A co-written article on site-specific theatrical considerations as a performer, creator, and educator.

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

-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

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS, & MEMBERSHIPS

-Proud Member – Actors’ Equity Association

-Awarded “Best Director” at NYSUMMERFEST (2017)

-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 +25 years of experience including theory, pedagogy, and performance

-Linklater voice workshop with Liz Eckert (2017)

-Voiceover Masterclasses with Andy Roth and Marla Weber-Greene (2016/2017)

-Viewpoints Masterclass with Anne Bogart and SITI 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-present)

-Finisher, New York City Marathon (2014)

-Lead vocalist in Durant, award-winning a cappella group based in Nashville, TN (2006-2010)

-Vanderbilt dance program: hip hop, tap, swing