

# Vanessa Strahan

Arts Administrator, Teaching Artist, Director, Choreographer

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## Arts Administration and Teaching Experience

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### Theatre Aspen, Aspen, CO

*Director of Education*

*October 2021 - Present*

- Schedule, staff, and administer all education programming including after school classes, summer and break camps, and residencies
- Hire and manage cohort teaching artists and assistants, including curriculum review, observation and feedback, training, and professional development
- Teach, direct, and choreograph young artists ages 5-18 in productions, camps, and classes
- Pursue new partnerships and programs throughout the Roaring Fork Valley and Western Colorado, collaborate with Development department on grant applications and reports to support programs

### Mudlark Theater, Evanston, IL

*Education Director*

*July 2020 – December 2021*

- Schedule, staff, and administer all education programming including residencies, after school classes, and summer and break camps
- Hire and manage cohort of 20 teaching artists, including curriculum review, observation and feedback, training, and professional development
- Develop department budget, collaborate with Development Director on grant applications and reports
- Design marketing strategies and materials for all education programming
- Create and execute comprehensive plans for safe return to outdoor programming in COVID-19 crisis

*Teaching Artist*

*June 2018 – December 2021*

- Direct, choreograph, and teach young artists ages 5-18 in productions, classes, and camps

*Education Manager*

*June 2018 - June 2020*

- Developed, promoted, and executed all education programming at Mudlark Headquarters including after-school classes, half day workshops, and Winter and Spring Break camps
- Facilitated a 44% growth in programming revenue and 40% growth in program offerings
- Administered day-to-day summer camp operation
- Contributed to creation of department mission statement & five year strategic plan
- Co-developed plan and transitioned to virtual programming in COVID-19 crisis

### Northlight Theatre, Skokie, IL

*Teaching Artist*

*September 2017 - Present*

- Adapted “Northlight on Campus” programming to meet the needs of Special Education students, exploring agency and creative decision making through storytelling and play
- Teach “Speak Up!” social responsibility curriculum through a dance and movement practice

*Education Intern*

*June - September 2017*

- Ran logistics of Northlight Camps, contributed to planning new school partnerships and the founding of the Northlight Youth Council
- Researched and created season dramaturgy packets for student and general audiences

### The Actor’s Gymnasium, Evanston, IL

*Teaching Artist*

*September 2018 - Present*

- Teach youth tumbling and circus arts with a focus on developing confidence & mind body connectivity

### Seesaw Theatre, Evanston, IL

*Outreach Director*

*June 2016 – June 2018*

- Achieved 500% growth in school and community partnerships over two years, including the expansion of in-school classes (70-75 per year from 12-15) and audiences (70-75 audience members from 30-35)
- Developed and launched touring program in partnership with The Park School in Evanston
- Served on senior leadership team developing five year strategic plan for organizational growth

### Teaching Artist

September 2015 – June 2018

- Led classroom workshops in sensory creative play for students with developmental disabilities

### Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago, IL

#### Arts Education Intern

May - September 2016

- Led the Victory Gardens Teen Arts Council in weekly meetings, planned and executed summer events
- Taught high school classroom theatre curriculum with emphasis on playwriting
- Researched and created season dramaturgy packets for student audiences

## Other Work Experience

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### Northwestern University Visitor Center, Evanston, IL - Tour Guide

October 2016 - June 2018

### Peet's Coffee & Tea, Evanston, IL - Barista

June 2016 - August 2018

### KrollDiscovery, Mclean, VA - Human Resources Assistant

June - September 2014 & 2015

## Select Directing and Choreography

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|                                    |                              |                         |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| You on the Moors Now               | Director                     | Theatre Aspen Education |
| Urinetown                          | Choreographer                | Theatre Aspen Education |
| Treasure Island                    | Director/Playwright          | Mudlark Theater         |
| Sleepaway Camp                     | Director                     | Mudlark Theater         |
| Journey to the Center of the Earth | Director/Playwright          | Mudlark Theater         |
| The Wonderful Wizard of Oz         | Director                     | Baker Dem. School       |
| Catch Me I'm...                    | Creator/Choreographer        | Northwestern University |
| Yasmin's Alien Invasion Adventure  | Director                     | Northwestern University |
| A Christmas Carol                  | Music Director/Choreographer | Mudlark Theater         |
| 3:35PM                             | Associate Director           | Mudlark Theater         |
| Candide                            | Assistant Director           | Mudlark Theater         |
| Powers                             | Choreographer                | Frenchwoods Festival    |

*Performance resume available upon request*

## Education

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### Northwestern University

B.S. in Theatre / Musical Theatre Certificate / Political Science Minor / Musical Theatre Choreography Module  
Cumulative GPA 3.91 / Dean's List / Magna Cum Laude

## Relevant Work / Skills

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- American Alliance for Theatre Education Conference 2018 – Presenter (Seesaw Theatre)
- Sensory-Friendly Production Planning, Inclusive Programming, Experience in Special Education Classrooms
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, Google Tools Suite, Zoom, iMovie, QLab, Social Media Platforms