

Francesca Betancourt

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Theatre artist, educator, and consultant with over eight years of education experience with ages 3-adult. Specializes in expressive movement, social justice, and social/emotional development through the arts. Artistic resume available upon request.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Art with Impact | Facilitator | *Remote* • August 2021 - present

I facilitate mental health workshops for college students both in person and remotely.

Consent, Body Autonomy, + Intimacy in Collaborative Work | Facilitator | *Remote* • March 2020 - present

I facilitate workshops on consent and intimacy in performance for theatre and film artists, educators, and leaders. Places I have facilitated these workshops include: Jet City Improv, AATE, New York Thespian Festival, Washington Thespian Festival, The Shattered Glass Project, and Flying V Theatre.

RE: THEATRE (formerly Theatre Ruminare) | Facilitator + Consultant | *Regional* • Sept 2017 – Present

I provide professional development training in theatre education for both students and staff, as well as travel to schools in rural areas of the U.S. for week long residencies coaching students and consulting staff. Most recently I taught an online course for high school teachers on casting equity and intentional show selection in high school theatre.

CUNY School of Professional Studies | Guest Facilitator | *New York City, NY* • Jan 2020

Facilitated a workshop on trauma informed arts and theatre facilitation for the Master of Arts in Applied Theatre cohort.

Creative Arts Team | Actor-Teacher | *New York City, NY* • Sept 2019 – Feb 2020

I taught after school theatre programs at two elementary schools in Brooklyn and the Bronx.

Foundry10 | Teaching Artist | *Seattle, WA* • January 2017 – June 2018

I taught theatre for a variety of ages in schools through the teaching organization Foundry10. Most recently I worked with high school students to devise a piece about mental health and inequity in health care.

Lakeside Summer School | Hip Hop Teacher | *Seattle, WA* • July 2016 - August 2017

Taught several week-long hip hop classes at a Summer program geared towards low income students.

Intiman Theatre | Facilitator | *Seattle, WA* • August 2016 - March 2019

Co-facilitated storytelling and connection workshops to corporate employees. I also coordinated all logistics and operations, managed the budget for, and assisted in creating and facilitating curriculum for the Intiman Emerging Artist Program, a training program for theatre artists in the Seattle area who want to hone their craft as artists and develop best practices for equity, diversity, and inclusivity in the arts.

International Rescue Committee | Facilitator | *Seattle, WA* • December 2015 - May 2017

Ran a high school girls group for recently resettled refugees focused on building community and exploring identity and social/emotional skills through the arts.

Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart | Choreographer | *Seattle, WA* • January – March 2016

Choreographed and taught the dance numbers for the musical "All Shook Up" at an all girls private high school.

Path with Art | Volunteer Teacher | *Seattle, WA* • March - May 2015

Taught as an assistant for an eight week Page to Stage class for adults coming out of homelessness and addiction in which they learned to write pieces for their own performance.

Artists Striving to End Poverty | Teaching Artist + On-Site Administrator |

India, The Philippines, Florida, New York City • September 2013 – August 2015

Taught theatre, music and dance to students in Southern India, South Florida, and the Philippines. Also worked with public schools in Pune, India to incorporate the arts into their regular curriculum and help develop a child protection protocol for Teach For India. Facilitated two workshops at national education conferences on integrating art and academics, and technique workshops for professional actors at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila. I then managed a team of twelve dance, music, visual art, and drama teachers at the Refugee Youth Summer Academy in NYC, a six week school simulation program for recently arrived and resettled refugee children and teens. Also acted as an administrator, mediator, and counselor.

Imagination Stage | Teacher | *Baltimore, MD* • September - November 2014

Taught two ten week musical theatre classes for grades 1-4 in which I choreographed their dance numbers and directed songs and scenes, as well as taught basic theatrical skills.

Bellingham Children's Theatre | Teacher | *Bellingham, WA* • August 2012

Taught a two week Shakespeare intensive workshop for middle schoolers on technique and text analysis.

Axis Arts Centre & Community Resource Centre | Intern | *Dublin, Ireland* • May – August 2011

Interned at Axis as an assistant teacher for their arts/drama/dance programs for ages 4-18.

EDUCATION

Western Washington University Bachelor of Arts, Double Major | *Bellingham, WA* • 2008 – 2013

Theatre Arts: acting + directing | Sociology: social inequality + intimate relationships

City University of New School School of Professional Studies | *NYC, NY* • 2019

Applied Theatre

SKILLS

- Trained in abuse prevention, cultural sensitivity, accessibility, and inclusivity
- Certified to facilitate healing arts programming for survivors of trauma and displaced persons (First Aid Arts)
- Certified in Mental Health First Aid
- Intermediate Spanish and experience working with immigrant/refugee/migrant communities
- Professional actor, dancer, choreographer, and director

TESTIMONIAL

More testimonials available upon request.

Metacognitive work: By asking the students "why are we playing this game?" after the YES/NO switching places activity, you encouraged students to think critically about their own learning process.

Respect for self and others: I loved the modeling you did around asking permission before touching someone else's body or entering their space. If a student wasn't comfortable being touched, you honored this and—more importantly—taught the students to respect others' bodies and spaces! What a wonderful way to teach respect and consent. Everything you did in this class involved movement, from the name game to the activity you did to introduce the concept of storytelling in dance. Rather than telling students WHY storytelling is an important aspect of dance, you allowed students to discover this through a game of "artist and sculpture." What a wonderful way to appeal to kinesthetic and visual learners!

Fun, welcoming atmosphere: From the music you chose to the friendly rapport you have with the students, you make dance fun rather than intimidating. I could tell that there were some reluctant dancers in this class, but all students were participating and felt comfortable asking questions when needed. Cessa, you have constructed a class that gives campers a chance to explore their physicality through dance. They are learning how to express themselves verbally and physically. And, they are doing all of this while having fun! We are fortunate to have you working with our campers this summer!

- Kat Yorks & Stephanie Wright, Lakeside Summer School