

Giana Blazquez Bultman

Director • Choreographer • Teaching Artist • Administrator

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Education

Master of Fine Arts, Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities

The University of Texas at Austin

Anticipated Graduation: May 2022
Austin, TX

Bachelor of Arts, Theatre Arts

Rollins College
Emphasis in Directing
Minor in Dance
Magna Cum Laude

May 2016
Winter Park, FL

Sarah Lawrence College
Dance Third

September 2012–May 2013
Bronxville, NY

Core Values

Equity • Agency • Learning • Innovation

Awards and Scholarships

Provost Fellowship

The University of Texas at Austin

Present

Jim Rye Fellow

IPAY – International Performing Arts for Youth

January 2020

Colleen Toohey Porter Fellow

TYA/USA

May 2019

S. Joseph Nassif Award

Rollins College

2016

Diana Holt Dance Scholarship

Rollins College

2016

William & Helen Moore Endowment

Rollins College

2015 – 2016

Centennial Award

Rollins College

2013 – 2016

President's List

2013 – 2016

Rollins College
Dean's Scholarship
Sarah Lawrence College

2012 – 2013

University Teaching and Appointments

Graduate Area Assistant – Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities

Spring 2022

The University of Texas at Austin

Assisted professor Katie Dawson in completing administrative tasks and projects for the Master of Fine Arts Graduate Program Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities. Scheduled and coordinated graduate student recruitment weekend, assisted in completing the Executive Report for the US Embassy from August 2021 projects, coordinated guest artist visits and payments, and assisted on tasks for the in-process Drama for Schools book.

Theatre for Young Audiences Tour Manager/Assistant Instructor

Fall 2021

The University of Texas at Austin

Managed and coordinated all touring aspects of the Fall 2021 Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) Tour “*Kimmy*” at The University of Texas at Austin. Communicated and completed all booking needs with Austin-area schools from start to finish, coordinated cast and crew transportation and schedules, and assisted in teaching and grading student course work.

Drama for Schools International Summer Institute Facilitator

July 2021

The University of Texas at Austin

Collaborated in crafting and preparing Drama-Based Pedagogy curriculum and resources with a team of two “Master Teachers” from Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Interdisciplinary Applied Drama Institute in partnership with The University of Texas at Austin and the US Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mentored my “master teachers” and co-led a 3-day institute for a group of 15 primary and secondary school teachers from the entire country of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Facilitated large group strategies for all groups in attendance at the Institute.

Assistant Instructor – Fundamentals of Acting

Spring/Fall 2021

The University of Texas at Austin

Created original curriculum to teach foundational acting methodologies and techniques to non-major undergraduate students. Class was divided into four performance units: devised storytelling through movement, open scenes, monologues, and scripted group scenes.

Research Assistant – Texas Performing Arts

Fall 2020

The University of Texas at Austin

Assisted Executive Director Bob Bursey and Programs and Events employees Brenda Simms and Tim Rogers in managing and researching Theatre for Young Audiences programming for current and future Texas Performing Arts seasons. Created and managed a team of four undergraduate students to collaborate on the creation of content for Austin area schoolteachers about the University Interscholastic League set rules and requirements.

Research Assistant – Drama for Schools

Fall 2020

The University of Texas at Austin

Assisted professors Katie Dawson and Lara Dossett in completing administrative tasks and projects for Drama for Schools. Curated and created supplemental resources for teachers in Bosnia in Herzegovina to teach the book *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone: <https://sites.google.com/view/1bih1book-teachingresources/home>.

Drama for Schools Summer Institute Facilitator

June 2020

The University of Texas at Austin

Collaborated in creating original content for the first virtual Drama for Schools Summer Institute intended for Austin area schoolteachers. Content aimed to introduce teachers to Drama-Based Pedagogy theory and practice through 3-days of group-session work.

Teaching Assistant – Creative Drama II

Spring 2020

The University of Texas at Austin

Assisted professor Sara Simons in leading junior UTeach Theatre undergraduate students through the Creative Drama II course. Graded and offered feedback on student assignments, supervised and gave feedback on student teaching at Austin area elementary schools, and facilitated class sessions on story drama curriculum and techniques.

Teaching Assistant – Latinx TYA

Spring 2020

The University of Texas at Austin

Assisted professor Roxanne Schroder-Arce in leading undergraduate students through the Latinx TYA course. Offered advice on the creation of the syllabus, graded and offered feedback on student assignments, facilitated class sessions on topics related to Latinx TYA, completed guest artist forms, and managed an online Zoom reading.

Teaching Assistant – Directing the Young Performer

Fall 2019

The University of Texas at Austin

Assisted professor Michael Avila in leading senior UTeach Theatre undergraduate students through the Directing the Young Performer course. Supervised and gave feedback on senior undergraduate directors at Austin area high schools, communicated with cooperating high school teachers, completed guest artist forms, facilitated class sessions on sensory friendly performances, and coordinated the student showcase.

Directing (a selection)

<i>When the Earth Moves, We Dance</i>	Director	Teatro Vivo
<i>Girls in the Boat</i>	Director	The University of Texas at Austin
<i>Radiance</i>	Director	The University of Texas at Austin
<i>Dance With Me</i>	Director	Milwaukee Chamber Theater
<i>Willy Wonka Jr.</i>	Director/Choreographer	Lancaster Public School
<i>Nobody Knows</i>	Director/Choreographer	First Stage Children’s Theater
<i>Madagascar Jr.</i>	Director/Choreographer	Milwaukee Davis Boys & Girls Club
<i>The Lion King Jr.</i>	Director/Choreographer	MLK School
<i>Becky Shaw</i>	Director	Rollins College

Choreography (a selection)

<i>The Hero Twins:</i>	Movement Specialist	The University of Texas at Austin
<i>The Blood Race</i>		
<i>Shrek the Musical Jr.</i>	Choreographer	Maple Dale School
<i>Nate the Great</i>	Choreographer	First Stage Children’s Theater
<i>Turn on the Talent</i>	Choreographer	Kluge Elementary School
<i>Seussical the Musical Jr.</i>	Choreographer	Maple Dale School
<i>Touring Company</i>	Choreographer	First Stage Children’s Theater

Lovabye Dragon
Peter Pan Jr.
Welcome to Bronzeville

Choreographer
Choreographer
Choreographer

First Stage Children's Theater
Maple Dale School
First Stage Children's Theater

Teaching Artistry

Pink Umbrella Theater Company
Milwaukee, WI

March 2020 – Present

Created and implemented curriculum in a variety of classes designed for individuals who identify with a physical, intellectual, or emotional disability under the mission of "accessible theatre for all." Classes include *Musical Theatre*, *Found Object Puppetry*, *Digital Storytelling*, and *1-1 Coaching* for ages 8-adult.

ZACH Theatre
Austin, TX

May 2019 – Present

Created and implemented curriculum in a variety of classes designed to deepen technique, demonstrate performance skills, and prepare students for their next big role. Classes include: *Production Workshop: The Greatest Showman*, *Production Workshop: The Wizard of Oz*, *Intro to Acting*, *Act the Story*, *Movement*, *Design*, and *Broadway Kids* for grades K5-8.

First Stage Children's Theater: Academy
Milwaukee, WI

January 2017 – May 2019

Created and implemented curriculum in a variety of classes designed to teach life skills through stage skills and provide students with a strong foundation in technique and collaboration. Classes include: *Semi-Private Dance*, *Musical Theatre*, *Voice & Movement*, *Next Steps Acting and Musical Theatre*, *Intro to Acting*, *Audition Prep*, *Playmakers*, *Story Drama*, and *Story Drama Dance* for grades K5-12.

First Stage Children's Theater: Education
Milwaukee, WI

August 2017 – September 2018

Implemented arts-integrated curriculum at Milwaukee area and Milwaukee Public Schools designed to incite young people's desire for learning. Residencies and workshops include: *Antarctica*, *WI Residency*, *PAGE (Partners for the Advancement of Gifted Education) Workshops*, *Early Literacy Residencies*, *Teaching Through Theatre*, *Edward Tulane Residency*, *Bully Ban Character Education*, and *Tales by the Fire with Sharon Lynne Wilson Center* for grades K4-12.

Danceworks Inc.
Milwaukee, WI

August 2017 – June 2018

Developed and implemented dance curriculum for students ages 3 and 4 in Creative Dance, Pre-Tap, and Pre-Ballet. Curriculum focused on creative imagery that encouraged the use of technique development and imagination. Choreographed and presented two dance numbers for the 2018 Spring Showcase.

Orlando Repertory Theater
Orlando, FL

June 2014 – April 2016

Created and implemented lesson plans that corresponded with Florida State Standards in a variety of classes designed to provide students with a strong foundation in technique and collaboration. Classes, workshops, and residencies include: *Potter!*, *Twisted TV*, *Pitched Perfect: Here Comes Treble*, *Inside Out: Sweet Emotions*, *Pitched Perfect: Gone Platinum*, *Danger in the Dark: A Magic Treehouse Adventure*, *Disney's CineMadness*, *NeverNeverLand Kinderdrama*, *Rockin' REP Rec Fest*, and *ACT (Arts and Character Training) workshops* for grades K4-8.

Administrative

Next Steps/K-4 Program Director
September 2018 – May 2019

First Stage Children’s Theater
Milwaukee, WI

Managed and oversaw all aspects of K-4 and Next Steps programming – designed for students on the Autism Spectrum. Organized and facilitated all Sensory Friendly rehearsals and shows. Created social stories and other necessary accommodations as needed. Managed and facilitated the Student Advisory Board for students in 5th-12th grade.

MPS All City Arts Festival Coordinator
March 2018 – May 2018

First Stage Children’s Theater
Milwaukee, WI

Coordinated all aspects of First Stage’s participation in the 1st annual Milwaukee Public Schools All City Arts Festival – a festival designed for students in K4-12th grade to expose them to different kinds of art within the Milwaukee community.

Academy Administrator
June 2017 – September 2018

First Stage Children’s Theater
Milwaukee, WI

Coordinated and managed booking for all Touring Company shows. Advised and collaborated on the creation of Academy brochures, calendar schedules, and program initiatives. Managed material check-out for adjunct Teaching Artists and t-shirt inventory. Completed other administrative duties as assigned.

Research and Publications

Editorials

TYA Today: Spring 2018

“Internships and Fellowships in TYA: The Importance of Being Heard”

Publications In Process

Thesis Research: Using Theatre for the Very Young Theory to Create New Possibilities for Teen Engagement in Theatre for Young Audiences

Interrogating EDI Initiatives in TYA: Professional Production Practices and the Inclusion of Young Performers of Color

Then and Now: Teaching the US Civil Rights Movement with Drama Based Pedagogy

The Young People’s Theatre Company: A Proposed Model for Youth Inclusion in Professional Theatre Companies

Conference Presentations

University Interscholastic League Student Activity Conference
Austin, TX

October 2019

Interactive workshops on Musical Theatre dance basics and original Broadway choreography from *Hairspray*.

Research

Teaching Play Thesis Collaborator
Fall 2020

The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Served as a collaborator in the development, creation, and facilitation of third-year lighting design MFA Bill Rios' thesis project. The project aimed to explore how the ideas and vision of young people can be incorporated into the design process.

Performing Justice Project Thesis Collaborator
Fall 2019

The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Collaborated with third-year Drama and Theatre for Youth and Community MFAs Faith Hillis and Laura Epperson on their thesis project, The Performing Justice Project. Used a performance-building process to devise original theatre that engages young people in imagining and enacting gender and racial justice in their own lives and communities.

"Du Iz Tak?" Performance Research
Summer 2019

Austin, TX

Participated as a researcher and performer in Taylor Jane Cooper's adaptation of the children's book "Du Iz Tak?" by Carson Ellis into an original Theatre for the Very Young piece. Partnered with Casa Marianella in Austin, TX to workshop performance vignettes with young refugees in their home spaces

Service to the Field

TYA BIPOC Affinity Group
Present

TYA/USA

Attends TYA BIPOC Affinity Group meetings in an effort to voice grievances regarding race in the Theatre for Young Audiences field and imagine possibilities for the future improvement of the field.

Fine Arts Diversity Committee
Present

The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Serves on the Fine Arts Diversity Committee at the University of Texas at Austin as the graduate student member of the committee to provide student voice and presence in the space. Serves on sub-committees such as student recruitment as needed.

Anti-Racist/Anti-Ableist Committee
Present

Pink Umbrella Theater Company
Milwaukee, WI

Serves on the Pink Umbrella Theater Company Anti-Racist/Anti-Ableist committee created in response to the social justice demands from the We See You White American Theater document. Assists and collaborates in offering a critical eye to ensure all programmatic decisions are considering the claims made in the outward facing anti-racism and anti-ableism statements.

Cohen New Works Festival Dramaturgy Committee
Present

The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Serves on the 2020-2021 Cohen New Works Festival Dramaturgy committee. The Dramaturgy Committee facilitates resource and knowledge sharing to enliven new works beyond the virtual stage.

Cohen New Works Festival Selection Committee
Fall 2020

The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Served on the selection committee for the 2021 Cohen New Works virtual Festival. Reviewed 60+ applications and pitch videos tracking project content, project lead identity, and project length in an effort to create as diverse a festival as possible.

Professional Learning

Leaders of Color Institute - Mentee
November 2020

American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE)

Alliance Theatre Educator Conference
June 2020

TYA/USA Virtual Festival and Conference
May 2020

Statera National Conference
October 2018

Professional Affiliations

Theatre for Young Audiences/USA/ASSITEJ (TYA/USA/ASSITEJ)
American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE)

References

Katie Cummings

Executive Director/Founder
Pink Umbrella Theater Company
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Megan Alrutz

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Katie Dawson

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