

# Giana Blazquez Bultman

Director • Choreographer • Teaching Artist • Administrator

gianablazquez.com  
gblazbultman@gmail.com  
407-797-1606

## Education

---

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

The University of Texas at Austin

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

2019-2022

**Don and Elizabeth Doyle Fellowship Nominee**

The University of Texas at Austin

January 2021

**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

<b>Centennial Award</b> Rollins College	2013 – 2016
<b>President’s List</b> Rollins College	2013 – 2016
<b>Dean’s Scholarship</b> 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 and upcoming 1 Book, 1 BiH partnership in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**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 (50 participants) 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. Graded students appropriately based on rubric and assignment requirements.

**Cohen New Works Festival Executive Dramaturgy Committee** Fall 2020-Spring 2021  
The University of Texas at Austin

Served on a Dramaturgy committee of three to support the production of the 2021 virtual Cohen New Works Festival. The Cohen New Works Festival is a “biennial, week-long showcase of new work created by students at The University of Texas at Austin held in various locations in and around UT campus. It is not just an event, but a celebration of a continuously ongoing process—the creation of new work.” Helped to guide Executive Committee

decisions by maintaining an awareness of anti-racist, anti-ableist, and intentional pedagogies and practices. Supported all production Dramaturgs with project assignments, lobby displays, pre and post show talkbacks, and research resources. Scheduled, coordinated, and facilitated panels with guest artists from the field.

**Research Assistant – Texas Performing Arts**  
The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2020

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**  
The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2020

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**  
The University of Texas at Austin

June 2020

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**  
The University of Texas at Austin

Spring 2020

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**  
The University of Texas at Austin

Spring 2020

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**  
The University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2019

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)**

---

*Young Playwrights Festival*  
*Something Rotten*

Director  
Director

Children’s Theater of Madison  
Children’s Theater of Madison

<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>Spells of the Sea</i>	Co-Choreographer	The University of Central Florida
<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
<i>Lovabye Dragon</i>	Choreographer	First Stage Children’s Theater
<i>Peter Pan Jr.</i>	Choreographer	Maple Dale School
<i>Welcome to Bronzeville</i>	Choreographer	First Stage Children’s Theater

### Teaching Artistry

---

**Children’s Theater of Madison** August 2022-Present  
Madison, WI

Creates and implements curriculum in a variety of classes designed to foster an understanding of the concept of theater as storytelling, nurture a brave space as an ensemble, and celebrate the process of building and sharing stories. Classes include *Musical Theater: Modern Musicals* and *Musical Theater: Sing It Like It Was*.

**Pink Umbrella Theater Company** March 2020 – Present  
Milwaukee, WI

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** May 2019 – June 2021  
Austin, TX

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

---

**Associate Director of Education**  
August 2022-Present

Children's Theater of Madison  
Madison, WI

Hires, contracts, trains, manages, and supports Teaching Artists and Education Interns. Submits & tracks payroll for all limited term Education Department employees. Creates front facing curriculum for schoolteachers, reviews Teaching Artist staff curriculum & supplies feedback and additional planning resources as needed. Drafts & sends e-mail correspondence with stakeholders such as parents, community partners, higher-level leadership, Teaching Artist staff, and Interns. Provides on-site support for all classes and interfaces with parents, students, and community members involved in education programs. Communicates with parents of neurodivergent and disabled youth to create & identify classroom accommodations as needed. Tracks and coordinates the purchase of supplies needed for programming. Creates curriculum for and hosts professional learning sessions with Teaching Assistant Interns.

**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. Supported Teaching Artist staff & families during programming in moments of crisis or additional need.

Organized and facilitated all Sensory Friendly rehearsals and shows. Created social stories and other necessary accommodations as needed. Oversaw county funding and claims submittal. 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 1<sup>st</sup> annual Milwaukee Public Schools All City Arts Festival – a festival designed for students in K4-12<sup>th</sup> 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

#### **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

**TYA/USA National Festival and Conference - “Children’s Theater of Madison’s Anti-Racist Teaching Artist Collective: Lessons Learned in 3 Years of Community Practice”**  
Phoenix, AZ

May 2023

Session Description: This session will be a guided discussion on creating a teaching artist community of practice that centers intersectional anti-racist pedagogy, based on the work done by the Anti-Racist Teaching Artist (ART) Collective at Children’s Theatre of Madison. Participants will be introduced to the ART’s model for pedagogical discussions, share how their community’s equity, diversity, inclusion, and access (EDIA) practices show up in educational programming, and create a vision for including teaching artists in an organizational EDIA commitments.

**University Interscholastic League Student Activity Conference**  
Austin, TX

October 2019

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

## Research

**Creating Meaningful and Relevant Theatre for Teens:  
The Relationship Between Teen Engagement and Theatre for the Very Young**  
Spring 2022

The University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TX

Culminating thesis document for M.F.A. graduation. Condensed abstract: As a highly policed population, theatre for teens is severely lacking in authentic representation and relevant topics. More often than not, productions meant for teen audiences in the Theatre for Young Audiences field either fall into a "family" category under shows marketed as appropriate for the entire family or fall flat in their unrealistic representation of teen life created in an effort for theatres to "play it safe" so they can maintain relationships with other adult stakeholders. Meanwhile, the Theatre for Young Audiences field has recently seen a surge in productions created for the very youngest of their constituents - young people ages 0-5. These productions fall under a subset of Theatre for Young Audiences called Theatre for the Very Young, and they feature sensory immersive environments, interactivity, and positioning young people as artists. Although Theatre for the Very Young has continued to create excitement and possibility within the Theatre for Young Audiences field, it means that teens continue to be left out of the Theatre for Young Audiences conversation. As a Theatre for Young Audiences practitioner who simultaneously recognized the excitement building around Theatre for the Very Young and the frustration coming from the teens I worked with, I asked myself the question, What can the field of Theatre for Young Audiences borrow and apply from Theatre for the Very Young to create more meaningful, relevant, and engaging theatre experiences for teens?

**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.

**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.

**Fine Arts Diversity Committee**  
Fall 2021-Spring 2022

The University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TX

Served 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. Served on sub-committees such as student recruitment as needed.

**Cohen New Works Festival Dramaturgy Committee**  
Fall 2020-Spring 2021

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

---

#### **TYA/USA National Festival and Conference**

May 2023

#### **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

---

#### **Megan Alrutz**

Department Chair, Theatre and Dance

Professor, Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities



The University of Texas at Austin  
malruz@austin.utexas.edu  
(512) 232-6383

**Katie Dawson**

Co-head and Associate Professor of Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities / UTeach Theatre  
The University of Texas at Austin  
kathryndawson@mail.utexas.edu  
(512) 232-5314

**Katie Cummings**

Executive Director/Founder  
Pink Umbrella Theater Company  
catherine.cummings@att.net  
(414) 507-3511