

JOANNA EDIE

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THEATER INSTRUCTION & ENGAGEMENT EXPERT

FUTURE-FOCUSED EDUCATOR | PROLIFIC BRIDGE-BUILDER | RELATIONSHIP-DRIVEN LEADER

— Helping the next generation of audience members access the joy of theater —

Goal-oriented advocate for equitable theater education. Creates exciting learning opportunities that are both daring and deliverable. Inspires passionate and reluctant theatergoers alike, so that they become lifelong theater patrons.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Program Architect:** expanded new theater programs through periods of critical growth
- **Expert Teacher:** engaged hundreds of theater students through joyful, performance-based lessons
- **Problem-Solver:** steered artistic and administrative teams through hybrid learning and other high-stakes challenges
- **Bridge-Builder:** forged 15+ mutually beneficial partnerships between schools and community organizations
- **Public Speaker:** 25+ high-profile events that inspired donors, strengthened school's reputation, increased enrollment

SIGNATURE STRENGTHS

Curriculum Design
Educational Technology
Educational Equity
Conversational Spanish

Audience Development
Community Outreach
Written/Oral Communication
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging

Team Leadership
Strategic Planning
Budget Management
Public Speaking

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DRAMA TEACHER | The Langley School – McLean, VA

August 2012 - June 2025

Independent day school serving preschool through eighth grades.

Built middle school drama program from bare bones to thriving and sustainable. Cultivated an inclusive and accessible learning environment that inspired hundreds of students to participate in plays and continue to pursue theater after graduation. Included perspectives from a wide range of stakeholders to steer the program through growing pains to high-achieving outcomes.

- **Designed and taught inquiry-based curriculum** aligned with the school's mission, and continued to assess, adapt and improve it as needed
- **Sustained a 13-year, 100% retention rate from an artistic team** of five collaborators who committed to working 100-200 extra hours for the annual play and musical. Created a team culture of high expectations, support, and joy. Advocated for and secured fair stipends for everyone on the team
- **Crafted unique, extracurricular learning experiences for hundreds of students** with: Folger Shakespeare Library, Shakespeare Theatre, Traveling Players Ensemble, Step Afrika, Syntetic Theater, and The Mad Ones
- **Eighth-Grade Team Lead (2019-2021):** Led decision-making that balanced the needs of eighth-grade students, families, faculty, and administration during the unexpected COVID-19 transition to virtual and hybrid learning

THEATER TEACHER | The School for Classics – Brooklyn, NY

August 2010 - July 2012

New York City public high school specializing in theatre arts.

Developed a new, Shakespeare-focused theater program for a high-need school (99% free and reduced-price meals). Guided curriculum and after-school program through its second and third year of existence and a 40% growth in school population.

- **Leveraged theater engagement** to increase attendance, improve graduation rates and ensure student success
- **Shaped and advanced school's strategic goals** in collaboration with theater teachers, administration, and New Perspectives Theater Company
- **Co-taught lessons integrating hip hop music and sonnets** with teaching artist Devon Glover, "The Sonnet Man"
- **Forged partnership with The Moth** to implement year-long storytelling and public speaking curriculum
- **Led Broadway field trips**, with pre- and post-show workshops to deepen meaningful understanding

TEACHING ARTIST | Imagination Stage – Bethesda, MD

July - August 2013

Theater arts organization serving children and youth, with an emphasis on inclusion, equity and social justice.

- **Directed *Les Miserables* Boot Camp**, a musical theater summer intensive for high school students
- **Taught improvisation and music-based storytelling** to students at Argyle Middle School
- **Differentiated acting, singing, and choreography lessons** for a variety of learning profiles, including performers with Down Syndrome

ESL TEACHER AND ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

Kaplan Aspect English Programs – Washington, D.C. and New York, NY

September 2006 - June 2010

English language school for adolescent and adult international students.

- **Hired and managed** teaching staff of 5-7 part-time employees
- **Implemented a recruiting system** that reduced last-minute staffing shortages
- **Launched academic and administrative strategies** as part of a nationwide curricular transition
- **Illuminated English as an accessible language** through purposeful lessons with real-world application

ESL TEACHER | Instituto Chileno Norteamericano – Valparaíso, Chile

January - June 2006

English language school for native Spanish speakers of all ages.

- **Taught joyful English classes** to Chilean students in group, private, and semi-private settings
- **Customized lessons** based on student needs and interests

EDUCATION & LICENSURE

M.A., Educational Theater | New York University | 2010

B.A., Sociology (Theater Minor) | Pomona College | 2003

Postgraduate Professional License, Theatre Arts PreK-12 | Virginia Board of Education

Teacher of English as a Foreign Language | International Teacher Training Organization | Guadalajara, Mexico

HIGHLIGHTED CONFERENCE & ASSORTED PRESENTATIONS

The Langley School, Spring Gala, Keynote Speaker, "Investing in Teachers Means Investing in Every Student's Potential," April 2019

The Langley School, Fifth-Grade Parent Night, "Why the Performing Arts Matter, Even for Non-Artsy Kids," January 2019

Virginia Association of Independent Schools, Student Festival of the Arts, "Storytelling Through Music and Movement," November 2018

Virginia Association of Independent Schools, Leading Learning Conference, "The Untold Story Unit: Sparking Inquiry and Promoting Collaboration," November 2017

Royal Shakespeare Company, "The Classroom as a Rehearsal Room," July 2011

New York City Department of Education, "Engaging with Disengaged Students," Theater Teacher Symposium, June 2011