

# JEN JAYNES

JenLynnJaynes@gmail.com



## EDUCATION

Villanova University, Villanova, PA

### **M.A. Theatre**

*Acting Scholar*

Honors: *magna cum laude*

Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA

### **B.A. Music Performance**

Areas of Concentration: Vocal Music Performance | Chemistry | Musical Theatre

Honors: *summa cum laude* | Dean's List

Touchstone Theatre, Bethlehem, PA

### **Acting/Education Apprenticeship**

Areas of Concentration: Original Ensemble Works

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Sally Curley Service Award, *Villanova University*

IntegraONE Scholarship for Academic Success, *Kutztown University*

Wertime Music Scholarship for Musical Aptitude, *Kutztown University*

Governor's School Scholarship for the Performing Arts, *Richmond University*

Governor's School Scholarship for Math & Science, *Lynchburg College*

**2013**

**2005 – 2007**

**2005 – 2007**

**Summer 2002**

**Summer 2001**

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE/RESIDENCIES

The Philadelphia School *Philadelphia, PA*

### **Teaching Artist: Improv Comedy**

Developed and executed lesson plans for middle school aged students, exploring the world of improv comedy.

**2016 Fall**

McCall Elementary *Philadelphia, PA*

### **Teaching Arts: Musical Theatre Workshops**

Provided physical exercises and character explorations to prepare students for their seasonal musical.

**2016 & 2015 Fall**

MacGuffin Theatre and Film Company *Philadelphia, PA*

### **Teaching Artist/Director: Musical Theatre, English Dialect. Sketch & Improv Comedy 2011 - Present**

Developed and executed lesson plans for various acting classes ranging from elementary to high school levels. Coach the high school improv troupe, *This Side Up*.

West Chester Studio For The Performing Arts

### **Instructor: Theatre & Music (Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)**

Developed and executed lesson plans for various acting classes ranging from elementary to high school levels.

**2013 - Present**

Theatre Arts Center *Doylestown, PA*

### **Teaching Artist: Comedy and Clowning**

Led a class of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students through the wonderful world of comedy, clowning, and physical theatre! The ten week course culminated in a devised clown piece created by the students with my guidance and direction.

**Winter 2014**

Montgomery Theatre Souderton, PA

**Teaching Artist: Comedy and Clowning**

Winter 2014

Led a class of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students through the wonderful world of comedy, clowning, and physical theatre! The ten week course culminated in a devised clown piece created by the students with my guidance and direction.

Whitehall Elementary School East Norriton, PA

**Instructor: "Fun"amentals of Acting (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades)**

Fall 2013 - Present

Provide afterschool instruction for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade levels using masks, fundamentals of stage directions, emotion recognition, and storytelling skills.

**Instructor: Storytelling through Movement (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades)**

Summer 2013

Devised a 12-day curriculum for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to discover storytelling through movement. Led students through exercises in mask work as well as Rudolf Laban's Eight Basic Efforts!

Devon Theatre Mayfair, PA

**Workshop Leader: Improv(e) Your Life!**

Fall 2009

Three hour workshop leading children ranging from elementary to middle school levels through improvisational games to unlock the fear of making choices.

Liberty High School Bethlehem, PA

**Teaching Assistant: Six Week Residency with Touchstone Theatre**

Spring 2008

Helped create and prepare physical theatre lesson plans for English-learning students. Utilized mask work to help students acclimate to an English-speaking environment. Found new ways to communicate with students who spoke Spanish, Punjabi, Thai, and Swahili. Ensured that each lesson met the requirements set by the school. Provided a welcoming and motivating environment in which the students could learn and grow through theatre exercises.

Ashburn Children's Center Ashburn, VA

**Assistant Kindergarten Teacher / Drama Camp Director**

Summer 2005

Assisted teacher with daily math, writing, science, and art lessons. Implemented weekly music lessons into the curriculum that had not existed prior to my arrival. Created special lesson plan for drama camp focusing on the process of developing the production: *The Little Red Hen*. Attended weekly child psychology workshops to better understand early childhood development. Provided a watchful eye over all students on field trips and in the classroom to maintain safety measures.

Follow Spot Performing Arts Camp Fairfax, VA

**Music Teacher**

Summer 2004

Planned daily music lessons. Used physical theatre knowledge to connect music theory mentally. Updated parents of students' progress and accomplishments. Created a special camp session about vocal health. Wrote/designed culminating production emphasizing students' strengths and interests. Two age levels: elementary-middle school and high school.

## DIRECTING / DRAMATURGY / DESIGN / CHOREOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Lion King Jr., Mulan Jr., Willy Wonka Jr.

**Sandy Run Middle School**

Director | Designer

Winter 2015 - Present

*Peter Pan (Musical)*

**Temple Sinai Players**

Director

Winter 2014

*Drood (The Mystery of Edwin Drood the Musical)*

**The Masque of La Salle University**

Director | Choreographer

Fall 2013

*The Imaginary Invalid*

**Parkland Area School District (director: Mark Stutz)**

Dramaturg & Visiting Dramaturgy Instructor for High School Drama Classes

Fall 2013

*The Fake Magician – A commedia dell'arte inspired production*

**Villanova University | Final 15-Minute Styles Directing Project**

Director | Set Designer & Builder | Costume Designer | Prop Designer | Sound Designer

Spring 2013

*The Magnanimous Cuckold* by Fernand Crommelynck

**Villanova University | 5-Minute Directing Style Project**

**Biomechanics/Meyerhold Technique**

Director | Set Designer | Costume Designer

Spring 2013

*Beyond Therapy* by Christopher Durang

**Villanova University | Final 15-Minute Realism Directing Project** Villanova, PA

Set Design | Costume Design | Prop Design | Sound Design

Fall 2012

*Legally Blonde the Musical*

**MacGuffin Theatre and Film Company\* Philadelphia, PA**

Assistant Director | Acting Coach

\*Venue: Delaware County Community College Black Box Theatre

Summer 2012

*Beauty and the Beast Jr.*

**Welsh Valley Middle School** Narberth, PA

Choreographer

Spring 2012

*Crash Course in Comedy Summer Camp Performance*

**MacGuffin Theatre and Film Company** Philadelphia, PA

Director | Sound Designer | Course Instructor

Summer 2011 - Present

*Seussical the Musical Jr.*

**Welsh Valley Middle School** Narberth, PA

Choreographer

Spring 2011

*The Pan Show*

**Touchstone Theatre** Bethlehem, PA

Choreographer | Vocal Director

Spring 2010

## RELATED EXPERIENCE

Family Stages Orelana, PA

### **Touring Children's Theatre Performer**

**2010 - Present**

Tour various children's theatre productions to libraries, schools, community centers, and churches throughout the tri-state area. Productions include: *Peter Pan*, *The Legend of Finn McCool*, *Strega Nona and the Magic Pasta Pot*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Finding King Tut*.

Herff-Jones Photography Bensalem, PA

### **School Portrait Photographer**

**2009 – 2012**

Traveled to elementary schools middle schools, high schools, and universities throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, New York and New Hampshire to provide photography services for yearbook portraits, prom portraits, and senior portraits. Set up photography equipment (lights, camera, background, computer) daily and ensured a clean and organized workspace.

Elizabethtown College Elizabethtown, PA

### **Conference Presenter**

**April 2013**

Movement in Stillness: Dipping a Western Toe into the Eastern Sea of Japanese Noh Theatre

## **Villanova University Theatre Department:** **Masters Courses Completed Relating to Theatre Education**

**Directing** Realism | Heightened Realism | Styles (Epic, Biomechanics, Absurd, Expressionism, Symbolism) Prof. Harriet Power

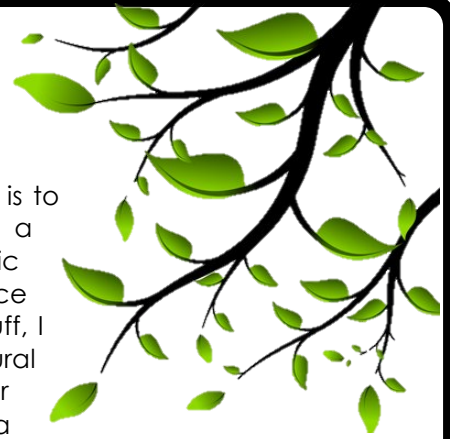
**The Teaching of Theatre** Teaching Portfolio Development | Lesson Plans | Class Exercises Dr. Valerie Joyce

**Scenography** Costume Design | Lighting Design | Set Design Janus Stefanowicz / Jerry Forsyth / Dirk Durrossette

**Dramaturgy** (Dramaturgical file completed for *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* by Molière) Dr. Shawn Kairschner

References and Pennsylvania Clearances Available Upon Request

## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY *Jen Jaynes*



**The stage is not for everyone, but theatre is.** My goal as a theatre teacher is to create connections between students and theatre in practical ways. If a student has stage fright and is an amazing artist, I will introduce them to scenic design. If a student has stage fright and is extremely organized, I will introduce them to stage management. If a student has stage fright and is a history buff, I will introduce them to dramaturgy. If a student has stage fright but is a structural engineer, I will introduce them to technical theatre. There is a place for everyone in theatre. For those who wish to tell a story and grab the focus of a crowd, the stage is for them. For others, there are unlimited options!

**Every moment is an opportunity to learn.** Ever since I was a child, my father was able to seamlessly integrate a lesson into everyday life. Once, when something fell off the counter in the kitchen, he asked me the question: If a man drops a bullet off the edge of a cliff and fires a gun at the exact same time, which bullet will hit the ground first? This moment was completed with a diagram on a whiteboard on the fridge along with the answer: They hit the ground at the same time. Why was I so intrigued in this moment? How was my father able to capture my attention? Why do I still remember that moment, twenty-five years later? I remember this moment because my father never missed an opportunity to teach. Like my father, I hope to seize any educational opportunities that arise, whether those moments take place in the classroom or in the rehearsal hall.

**I fully endorse the butterfly effect.** Every action, word, and choice I make as a teacher (and a human being) has an effect. This effect may be huge (a student changes his entire trajectory as a theatre artist because of a physical theatre discussion we have) or small (a student tries out a new active verb). When teaching for a private kindergarten center in Ashburn, Virginia, I suggested adding music into their curriculum. Little did I know, this one "butterfly wing-flap" would incredibly affect one of my students: Malcolm. I was *amazed* when Malcolm, a boy who was always very quiet and rarely became enthused about any subject but recess, perked up, and sat on his heels (despite my instruction to "criss-cross applesauce"). He could not contain his enthusiasm! From that moment on, every morning he asked, "Is today a music day?" I, too, had such an experience similar to Malcolm's while at Kutztown University: I found out about *commedia dell'arte* and physical theatre. I couldn't believe an entire genre of theatre existed that fit my interests so perfectly! How could I have been so unaware for so long?!

*The choice of one man to lead a "movement for the actor" course at Kutztown University was the initial "butterfly wing-flap" that caused the tsunami of my theatre career.*

Just as my voice and movement professor opened up a whole new world for me, my goal as a theatre artist and teacher is to seize any "butterfly wing-flap" opportunities that come my way. I want others to realize the field of theatre is one with infinite possibilities. Performing on stage is only one part of the many challenging facets of theatre.

**I want to break down walls.** As a theatre teacher, I strive to bring together the "theatre kids," the "jocks," the debate team, the A/V club, the cheerleaders, and every other group in a school setting. There is a place in theatre for athletes. Have you ever flown in a set piece from the wings? Or "west-coasted" a 500 pound soft good? You need to be strong. There is a place in theatre for the chess team. Have you ever tried to create a schedule that works for 50 different people with all of their different conflicts? You need to strategize. I believe that I can find a place in the production process for everyone. Why would I spend my time figuring out a way to involve a chess team member into a theatre production? **The butterfly effect.** By introducing one person to the world of theatre and seizing that learning opportunity, I will have potentially changed not only their life, but the lives of their family and friends as well.

**Seize every opportunity!**