



# DONOVAN LOCKETT

ACTOR-WRITER-EDUCATOR

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

An arts-based educator with extensive experience teaching K-12 and in higher education, I have served incredibly diverse communities of students all over the country, from preschool students to seasoned medical professionals. Some of my teaching specialties include theatre, creative writing, and DEI-related topics, from one-on-one instruction to upwards of 100 students. Whether teaching solo or as part of a team, I prioritize being in close communication with those in my students' various support networks, be it classroom teachers, parents, or counselors. I am well-versed in the technology of education, both in-person and virtually. My pedagogy focuses on trauma-informed practice, student accommodations, and social-emotional learning. Through arts education, I seek to empower my students with invaluable life skills so they may grow in the areas of empathy, confidence, collaboration, and identity development.



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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

February 2021 – May 2022

Guest Lecturer and DEI Consultant • **Ithaca College** • *Virtual*

- Co-lead presentations for various college departments on the intersection of artistry and social responsibility, as part of ongoing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) consulting for the college

September 2021 – September 2021

Guest Lecturer • **Arizona State University** • *Virtual*

- Taught a series of Intro to Acting classes for undergraduate theatre majors

April 2021 – May 2021

Guest Lecturer • **Eastern University** • *Virtual*

- Led DEI workshop for undergraduates on activism and value-setting for early career artists

September 2020 – September 2020

Guest Lecturer • **Ohio State University** • *Virtual*

- Taught acting workshop for undergraduate *Craft of Acting* students and gave feedback on prepared monologues

May 2016– Present

Teaching Artist and Director • **Philadelphia Young Playwrights** • *Philadelphia, PA*

- Teach long- and short-term playwriting and devised theatre residencies for students in grades 3-12, both in-person and remotely
- Teach high school Autism Support (AS) playwriting class
- Directed, conceptualized, and designed performance of student monologues
- Devised and taught an arts-based residency called “Black Girl Magic” for middle school students to focus on gender and racial identity development
- Read hundreds of online submissions for annual playwriting festival, constructing individual feedback responses for each

January 2019 – Present

Teaching Artist • **Wilma Theater** • *Philadelphia, PA*

- Teach theatre-making and devising for high school students at, culminating in an invited final sharing on the Wilma stage
- Edited thirty students' short films using Adobe Premiere Pro



- Taught high school students virtually at Camp Wilma, focusing on devised theatre-making and playwriting skills, culminating in final sharing of original scene work

October 2018 – Present

Teaching Artist • **Walnut Street Theatre** • *Philadelphia, PA*

- Teach Beginning Teen Acting, Advanced Teen Acting, and Acting for the Camera, focusing on vocal and physical training, theatre games, improvisation, monologue work, and scene study to enhance student's theatrical and cinematic skills and culminating in a final showcase
- Music direct and stage manage sixty students in grades 3-5 as part of the *Disney Musicals in Schools* program, while coaching school teams on how to fully stage, rehearse, design, and market a Disney Kids production
- Directed, production designed, and stage managed an original musical devised by students aged 12-15, presented on the mainstage before a public audience
- Assistant directed a high school production of *Our Town*
- Taught *Business of Theatre 101*, *Playwriting*, *Audition Techniques*, and *Improv* to students at Camp Walnut

June 2018 – present

Teaching Artist • **Arden Theatre** • *Philadelphia, PA*

- Teach Musical Theatre for Grades 6-8
- Teach in-school theatre education program to students grades 3-5, in conjunction with the theatre's current TYA show, while targeting student populations who have little to no arts education and otherwise would not be able to attend a live performance
- Taught students how to employ key acting techniques while working on both classical and contemporary scripts, coached students on character creation, created Dialect/Accent masterclasses, planned and organized student showcase

April 2019 – Present

Teaching Artist • **Theatre Horizon** • *Norristown, PA*

- Teach week-long acting, devising, and playwriting summer camps to students in grades 1-4, culminating in a final performance of an original play
- Created long- and short-term improvisation and character creation classes for students in grades 3-6, culminating in final demonstration of theatre skills learned

April 2018 – Present

Teaching Artist • **Lantern Theater** • *Philadelphia, PA*

- Teach Shakespeare and contemporary playwriting units to high school students, culminating in a final sharing of students' original devised pieces

October 2018 – Present

Teaching Artist • **1812 Productions** • *Philadelphia, PA*

- Teach a long-term comedy-based theatre class to students with multiple disabilities at Widener Elementary, ages 7-20
- Created lesson plans for ESL students that gave students an understanding of a broad range of theatre techniques, as well as the chance to apply and practice their English-speaking skills



February 2021 – Present

Teaching Artist • **Music Theatre Philly** • *Philadelphia, PA*

- Teach musical theatre performance to students in grades 1-3, utilizing music and text from canon as well as original creation of scene work, culminating in a final showcase
- Teach week-long musical theatre summer camps to students in grades 1-4

February 2020 – present

Simulated Patient • **VitalTalk at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia** • *Philadelphia, PA*

- Perform as a simulated patient while teaching communication and interpersonal skills to medical professionals who work with patients facing serious illness

August 2017 – Present

Standardized Patient • **Penn Medicine, Jefferson University, Drexel University** • *Philadelphia, PA*

- Memorize various medical cases to assess medical students' clinical skills, train to maintain consistent, realistic portrayals of various medical patients, and prepare extensively to give feedback to trainees on communication and interpersonal skills

September 2021 – May 2023

Teaching Artist and DEI Consultant • **Stuttering Association for the Young** • *Virtual*

- Taught the Confident Voices program, an arts-based residency that empowers young people who stutter, ages 8-18, while also learning how best to work with and advocate for the stuttering community
- Lead DEI workshops to empower teaching artists to work towards creating anti-racist and intentionally inclusive spaces with participants

January 2023 – May 2023

Standardized Actor • **Dfusion** • *Virtual*

- Portrayed student in sex education class with the purposes of developing effective teaching skills to high school sex educators

December 2021 – May 2022

Teaching Artist • **Kimmel Center** • *Philadelphia, PA*

- Taught musical theatre residencies to grade 5, culminating in final performance of *Lion King Jr.*

March 2020 – September 2021

Coach • **Scattered Solutions** • *Virtual*

- Taught a variety of long- and short-term original classes (including Playwriting, Improv, and Scene-work) in a virtual format to students in grades Pre K-6, with class sizes ranging from individual instruction to upwards of fifty students

June 2020 – June 2021

Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair • **Jen Waldman Studio** • *Virtual*

- Shared information about sponsorship with interested artists in need of financial assistance, allocate funds, select recipients, head correspondence with studio team about ways to build sustainable



practices to ensure studio is inclusive and supportive of BIPOC, LGBTQ, and differently-abled students

- Co-facilitated reading series of plays within the theatre canon, culminating in discussion of plays' themes and their impact on a modern, inclusive audience

September 2015 – May 2016

Acting Apprentice • **Walnut Street Theatre** • *Philadelphia, PA*

- Assistant taught *Introduction to Youth Acting* and *Introduction to Teen Acting*, taught diversity workshops to high school students, performed four children's shows in rep to schools in PA, DE, and NJ

November 2012 – May 2015

Operations Manager • **Ithaca College** • *Ithaca, NY*

- Managed 40+ student employees, oversaw the building's daily operations, supervised event set-ups, lead the interview process, trained new staff, specialized in crisis prevention

June 2012 – August 2012

Teaching Artist • **Anthony Bean Community Theater & Acting School** • *New Orleans, LA*

- Worked as lead teaching artist for elementary students, organized the summer musical, worked box office

June 2011 – July 2011

Counselor • **Jimmy Club Day Camp** • *St. Rose, LA*

- Worked as lead counselor for elementary students, while teaching arts and crafts to entire camp population

June 2010 – August 2010

Counselor-in-Training • **Camp Merri-Mac** • *Black Mountain, NC*

- Taught drama and music to youngest campers

## EDUCATION

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Ithaca College • *Ithaca, NY*

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting • Minor in Writing

*Graduated Magna Cum Laude*

## CERTIFICATIONS

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- 20-hour Trauma-informed Practice for Teaching Artists training • Bartol Foundation • *January 2021*
- First Aid • CPR • AED • *June 2023*
- Anti-Racist Theatre workshop with Nicole Brewer • *April 2021*
- Pennsylvania teaching clearances (incl. Mandated Reporter)

## SELECTED ACTIVITIES

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- Volunteer developing programming and IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility) protocol for SPACE (Stuttering, People, Arts, Community, Education) • a non-profit that creates a more accessible and inclusive world for people who



stutter through arts, education, and advocacy

- Co-host of podcast Black Light the Spotlight • which educates listeners on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the arts
- Co-Founder and Communications Director of ICTA BIPOC • an alumni activist collective
- Member of National Guild for Community Arts Education
- Volunteer and foster with Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society

## REFERENCES

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Available upon request.