

Rachel O'Shaughnessy
she/her • teacher • actor • playwright

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University—B.A./Theatre, May 2023

Creative Writing minor and Theatre for Young Audiences and Playwriting Modules

Relevant Courses:

Theatre for the Very Young Seminar—Ellie Levine, Winter 2020
Developmental Psychology—Susan Hespos, Spring 2020
Theatre for Young Audiences—Rives Collins, Fall 2020
Storytelling—Rives Collins, Winter 2021
Creative Drama—Betsy Quinn, Winter 2021
Playwriting for Young Audiences—Laura Schellhardt, Winter 2022
Advanced Creative Drama—Betsy Quinn, Spring 2022
Sensory Theatre (Special Topics in TYA)—Jonathan Chapman, Fall 2022
Design of Learning Environments—Erin O'Rourke, Winter 2023
Advanced Creative Drama Peer Mentor—Betsy Quinn, Spring 2023
Playwriting Sequence—Laura Schellhardt, Full Year 2022-2023

Relevant Co-curriculars:

2019-23 Seesaw Theatre—A student theatre group that produces original, multi-sensory theatre for autistic and otherwise disabled young audiences
Positions: Artistic Director, Spring Show Director, Winter Producer, Workshop Teaching Artist, Music Composer

2019-23 Purple Crayon Players—A student theatre board producing plays for young audiences, weekly Storytime for 2-4-year-olds & classroom workshops
Positions: Education Director, Workshop writer, Storytime leader

2021 British American Drama Academy—London Theatre Program

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023-24 Lake Forest Country Day School—
Positions: Long-term Substitute Drama Teacher 4th-8th Grade (Nov. 2023—Feb. 2024); current Substitute Teacher for all grades

2022-23 District 65 Saturday Drama Enrichment—
Positions: 6th Grade Student Teacher, 5th Grade Student Teacher, Peer Mentor

2022-24 *Ark Adventures*—the K'Ilu Company's bi-monthly sensory Shabbat experiences for 0-4-year-olds at Beth Shalom in Northbrook
Positions: Adventure Guide, Devisor

- 2022-23 Music Institute of Chicago “Broadway Beginners”—5-7-year-olds “write your own musical” class
Position: Teacher
- 2022 National High School Institute (NHSI) Theatre Arts Division,
Northwestern University
Position: Faculty Associate (Asst Teacher, Asst Director, RA, staff)
- 2018-21 Kent Denver Summer Camp
Position: Summer Theatre Intern (Asst teacher/AD and camp coordinator)

ACTING

- 2024 *Parrots Can't Talk Back* by Kara Kowalski (Lena/Anne Bonny)
Staged Reading, dir. Kara Kowalski, Piven Theatre Workshop
- 2024 *Flatland* by Syd Luse (Hex)
TYA Tour, dir. Sunnie Eraso, Improv Playhouse
- 2023 *Bloody Mary Teaches Sex Ed* by Kara Kowalski (Dad)
Staged Reading, dir. Nini Bagundo, Piven Theatre Workshop
- 2023 *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Aster)
Dir. Lila Marooney, Northwestern University
- 2022 “The Chef’s Monologue” Episode 1 (Peppercorn)
Podcast, Phil Kenner & Michael Frazel, monologue by Sarah Grace Goldman
- 2022 *Twelfth Night* (Maria)
Dir. Ilana Abusch, Northwestern University
- 2022 *Nein Friends* (Clarice)
Student Short Film, written and dir. Lily Kaplan
- 2022 *Cowgirl* (Jess)
Dir. Julie Monteleone, Northwestern University
- 2021 “Dear Alice” (Trudie Eccleston)
Podcast, created by Pamela Bannos
- 2021 *Hippolytus* (Hippolytus)
Dir. Mojisola Elufowoju, British American Drama Academy
- 2020 *The Magic Schoolbus Breaks the Internet* (Phoebe)
Zoom play, dir. Daira Rodriguez, Northwestern University
- 2020 *Scaredy Kat Presents* (Nadia)
Staged Reading, dir. Melissa Lewyn, Playground Festival of Fresh Work
- 2020 *Floss* (Beans)
Dir. Sunnie Eraso, Northwestern University

DIRECTING, COMPOSING, MUSIC DIRECTION

- 2024 *Twelfth Night*
Director/Teacher, Lake Forest Country Day School
- 2023 *Blast Off!*
Composer, Seesaw Theatre, Northwestern University
- 2023 *Road Trip!*
Composer, Seesaw Theatre, Northwestern University
- 2022 *Where Words Once Were*
Assistant Director (AD), dir. Julianne Lang, NHSI Cherubs
- 2022 *Dino-mite Dig!*
Director/Writer/Composer, Seesaw Theatre, Northwestern University
- 2022 *The Baltimore Waltz*
AD/Choreographer, dir. Nena Martins, Northwestern University
- 2022 *peerless*
AD, dir. Ji Won Jeon, Wirtz Center MFA Collaboration Series
- 2022 *What's the Buzz?*
Composer, Seesaw Theatre, Northwestern University
- 2021 *Hippolytus*
AD/Composer, dir. Mojisola Elufowoju, British American Drama Academy
- 2021 *The Lion King*
Co-Director with Lee Lee Newcomb, Kent Denver Summer Theatre
- 2021 *Beauty and the Beast*
AD/Choreographer, dir. Neila Getz, Kent Denver Summer Theatre
- 2021 *The Asian American Road Trip Survival Kit*
AD/Video Editor, dir. Kristen Waagner, Northwestern University
- 2021 *Watercolors*
Music Director, dir. Madeline Oberle, Playground Festival of Fresh Work
- 2019 *The Visit*
AD, dir. Annabel Heacock, Northwestern University
- 2019 *Eurydice*
Director, Regis Jesuit High School

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2019-23 Northwestern School of Communications Dean's List quarterly
- 2023 ImagineU and Purple Crayon Players Playground student playwright selection

PLAYWRITING

Completed Works:

- 2023 *The Price of the Planets*
A play for young audiences, approx. run time 1 hr.
- 2022 *What Stays the Same*
A twisted fairytale fable, approx. run time: 10 min.
- 2022 *Science Fair*
A play for young audiences, approx. run time: 45 min.
- 2023 *Dance Lessons*
A play for young audiences, approx. run time: 1 hr.

Productions:

- 2023 *The Price of the Planets*, Staged Reading directed by Allie Woodson
Developed for ImagineU and Purple Crayon Players' Playground Festival

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 Session Chair “Multi-sensory Devising for Autistic and Otherwise Disabled Young Audiences,” Seesaw Theatre Workshop at the American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE) 2023 National Conference in Seattle

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE)
TYA/USA

REFERENCES

Steve Robnick, steve.robnick@lfcds.org, 312-485-9876
Head of Upper School, LFCDS

Rives Collins, r-collins@northwestern.edu, 847-507-0133
Theatre Professor Northwestern

Lynn Kelso, lynn@northwestern.edu
Theatre Professor Northwestern

Jonathan Shmidt Chapman, jonathan.shmidt@gmail.com, 516-859-0241
Adjunct Professor Northwestern, Founder of the K’Ilu Company and Trusty Sidekick

Laura Schellhardt, lochness99@gmail.com, 401-952-9339
Undergraduate Playwriting Department Chair

Betsy Quinn, quinnb@district65.net, 847-987-6773
D65 Drama Teacher, Adjunct Professor Northwestern

Lee Lee Newcomb, lnewcomb@kentdenver.org, 303-908-9775
Kent Denver Summer Director