

LAURA BERNAS

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New Orleans, LA

THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

Company Member (Creator/Performer AND Artistic/Executive Management)

2019-2022

Building Company Theater, Syracuse, NY

- Directed Building Company Theater's first online production *Re: Constructing America*
- Create and perform in original theatrical works based on physical, improv, & theater of the oppressed theatrical techniques
- Attribute expertise in systems analysis, artistic creation, organizational management, and community engagement
- Investigate artistic and business practices for alignment to mission, core values, and future visioning
- Address gaps in structures of company functioning
- Research opportunities for artistic and business development
- Identify areas for growth in audience engagement and connect us with potential producing partners
- Streamline online storage systems and communications
- Recommend changes to digital marketing strategies
- Lead online devising and rehearsing
- Offer welcoming and inclusive spaces for theatrical engagement on diverse and controversial topics
- Create an atmosphere open to questioning, interrogation, joyous expression, and consistent communication
- Support colleagues' artistic and managerial growth by enacting empathic and service-oriented leadership styles

Assistant Director

2016

The Anthropologists' *No Man's Land* (Workshop), New York, NY

- Charted rehearsal progress and key directorial notes while supporting stage management
- Supported director in clarifying vision for performance
- Submitted detailed notes on rehearsals and artistic meetings
- Assisted artistic and technical staff to systemize workflow for productive rehearsals

Assistant Stage Manager

2016

David Lang's *The Public Domain*, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, New York, NY

- Assured communication between ASMs and SMs regarding performer inquiries and concerns
- Connected performers with appropriate cues facilitating smooth performance
- Tended to the needs of 500+ performers in large-scale rehearsal rooms

Casting Assistant

2015

Miranda Theatre Company's *Snow Orchid*, Cherry Lane Theatre, New York, NY

- Connected performers auditioning to director and producer ensuring collaborative and welcoming environment
- Contributed to discussions of acting technique, ensemble creation, and aesthetic vision
- Tailored communication style to needs of executive team

Artistic Intern

2012

New York Neo-Futurists, New York, NY

- Wrote digital communications and maintained company record keeping
- Contributed creatively to rehearsal processes and communicated company vision in the digital space
- Learned budgetary, development, and small-ensemble management practices

FILM PRODUCTION

- Art Department Buyer, *The Binge*** 2019
American High Productions, Syracuse, NY
- Props & Set Dec In-House Organizer** 2019
American High Productions, Syracuse, NY
- Art Department Buyer, *The Night House*** 2019
Anton & Phantom Four Films, Syracuse, NY
- Casting Director, *Borderline*** 2015
NYFA, New York, NY
- Script Supervisor, *The Last 15 Minutes*** 2015
American High Productions, Syracuse, NY

TEACHING ARTIST

- Teaching Artist** 2021-Present
Young Audiences Louisiana, New Orleans, LA
- Private coach middle and high school students in text, movement, and voice work for the actor
 - Guide students in the creation of original dramatic text
 - Prepare students for professional rehearsal and performance settings
 - Expand knowledge of theatrical and performance canon
- Teaching Artist** 2018
John Robert Powers, Syracuse, NY
- Dispensed knowledge on acting, movement, and voice techniques to children ages 5-18
 - Provided safe space to work on monologues, songs, and improv sketches
 - Ensured the teaching of foundational acting techniques through improvisational group games, individual artistic explorations, and partner improvisation
 - Advised students on creating practical steps towards education and career goals
 - Encouraged freedom of expression and creative risk-taking
- Teaching Artist** 2016
Dramatic Adventure Theatre, Mloka, Tanzania
- Coached elementary and middle school children in the development of basic playwrighting skills
 - Educated groups of 10-12 children in the methods and forms of western improv traditions as they relate to East African communication styles
 - Prepared students to be in front of an audience for the first time and present original theatrical material
 - Communicated fundamentals of theater writing teaching to primarily non-English speaking students

NON-PROFIT

- Organizational & QI Strategist | Research & Development Manager | Head Writer** 2017-2018
Himalayan Institute Humanitarian Project, Honesdale, PA and Kumbo, Cameroon
- Initially hired as *Fundraising Assistant*, transitioned to organization-wide responsibilities within months of hiring
 - Analyzed organizational workflow, development sources, and communications strategies
 - Assessed the ability to produce short, medium, and long-term goals against current organizational practices
 - Created new company goals alongside managing director in alignment with new visioning
 - Researched new donors, liaised with fundraising partners, and wrote multi-sized grant applications
 - Designed, instructed, and implemented a large-scale, quality improvement project for public health division in Kumbo, Cameroon serving a region of 320,000 people tracking public health data
 - Authored annual reports, marketing brochures, blog posts, social media, and online communications concerning company business and Cameroonian/African women's health and business, economics, literacy and education, and public policy
 - Executed and collaborated in team building seminars and company management/culture workshops

ACTING

Professional Actor

2013-Present

Theater and Film, International

**See Attached Acting Resume*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Festival Participant, Syracuse Inaugural Dance Festival, Syracuse, NY 2019
- Member, The Downtown Writer's Center, Syracuse, NY 2018-2021
- Festival Participant, Zanzibar International Arts & Film Festival, Zanzibar, Tanzania 2016
- Festival Participant, Capital Fringe Festival, Washington D.C. 2014
- Member, Sarah Lawrence College Theater Outreach Program, Bronxville, NY 2012

EDUCATION

MFA in Professional Acting, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Bristol, England

Certificate in Acting, Moscow Art Theater School/Eugene O'Neill National Theatre Institute, Moscow, Russia

Bachelor of Liberal Arts, Performing Arts Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY