Matthew Turkle | Theatre Educator

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Teaching Philosophy

Theatre has the power to bring students to life. At its core, it allows us to create and explore entire worlds outside of our own. In an educational setting, theatre and the arts teach collaboration, communication, confidence, problem solving, and a host of other skills that are fundamental for life. My policy is to "maximize strengths and minimize weaknesses." Through theatre, I can connect with my students and bring out their best selves. By connecting to the arts, students have the opportunity to learn through diverse methods and grow as individuals.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

City College of New York | M.S. Ed. in Educational Theatre *(Summa Cum Laude)* 2017–2019

SUNY New Paltz | B.A. in Theatre Arts; Minor in English *(Cum Laude)* 2008–2012

NYS Initial Certification | Theatre (K–12) 2020 -

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Kokua Education New York, NY | 2024-2026

- Freelance substitute teacher serving charter schools in Manhattan, Bronx, and Brooklyn.
- Covering all grades/subjects.

I.S. 61 Leonardo Da Vinci | Theatre Teacher Queens, NY | 2023–2024

- Designed and facilitated standards-based theatre curriculum for middle school students
- Year 2 Arthur Miller Foundation Fellow
- Production managed school-wide arts concerts and performances
- Directed and supervised extracurricular Drama Club. Directed *Employees Must Wash Hands Before Murder*

Van Siclen Community Middle School | Theatre Arts Teacher Brooklyn, NY | 2022–2023

- Taught theatre arts curriculum to middle school students
- Selected as Year 1 Arthur Miller Foundation Fellow
- Facilitated residency partnership with New Victory Theater

Summit Academy Charter School | Performing Arts & Media Teacher Brooklyn, NY | 2021–2022

- Taught Introduction to Theatre, Advanced Acting, Middle School Theatre and Film Studies courses
- Guided students through script analysis, performance technique, and media projects

New Rochelle High School (PAVE Program) | Theatre Teacher New Rochelle, NY | 2020–2021

- Level 3 Sequence of audition-based acting class
- Adapted theatre instruction and rehearsal processes for remote learning environments
- Directed the virtual production *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms*
- Co-faciliated screen acting project with 9th Grade class

Gramercy Arts High School | Theatre Teacher (Leave Replacement) New York, NY | 2018

- Taught courses in Acting I, Theatre History, and Directing
- Co-faciliated residency with Manhattan Theatre Club

School Professionals | Substitute Teacher New York, NY | 2017-2020

- Freelance substitute teacher serving charter and independent schools in Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens. All grades/subjects.

TEACHING ARTIST EXPERIENCE

Camp Twelve Trails / Mainstages | Drama Specialist 2025

- Led daily theatre games, acting exercises, and ensemble activities for campers ages 5–16
- Developed age-appropriate arts programming focused on creativity and confidence

Envision Theater | Teaching Artist 2025

- Facilitated Shakespeare workshop series focused on *The Tempest* for high school students
- Adjudicated student acting competitions and provided performance feedback

Treehouse Shakers/Branching OUT | Teaching Artist 2025

- Facilitated theatre-based LGBTQIA+ educational residency for middle school students
- Used theatre, art, and storytelling to support empathy and identity exploration

Sunrise Day Camp | Drama Specialist 2018–2021

- Developed inclusive theatre programming for children with cancer and their siblings
- Adapted curriculum and activities for a wide range of ages and abilities

Wingspan Arts | Teaching Artist 2016–2020

- Taught semester-long acting and musical theatre classes for grades K–3
- Directed and staged culminating student showcases

Park Avenue Synagogue | Program Leader/Substitute Teacher 2016–2017

- Co-led annual High Holiday programming for grades 2–4
- Served as substitute teacher for weekly Hebrew School programming

Temple Israel of New Rochelle | Elective Teacher 2015–2016

- Taught and directed semester-long high school electives in Improvisation and Scene Study

Manhattan Youth | Elective Teacher / Production Designer 2015

- Taught set design elective at public Manhattan middle school
- Served as scenic and costume designer, stage manager, and student mentor for extracurricular production of *Little Shop of Horrors*

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

The ArtFarm | Administration Director 2026

- Responsibilities included: camper enrollment, day-to-day logistics, family communication, attendance tracking.

The Branco Group/Best Apartments | Real Estate Agent 2014-2017

- Licensed Rental Agent in small Manhattan-based firm

Macy's Herald Square | Santaland Elf 2012

- Seasonal Elf in Macy's Santaland attraction
- Duties included: guest relations, facilitating photo sessions, crowd control, customer support

TADA! Youth Theater | Summer Education Intern 2011

- Assisted in musical theatre camps and enrichment programming for students in grades K–5

Chicago City Limits | Summer Intern 2010

- Supported educational and marketing initiatives for NYC-based improv company

NY Artists Unlimited | Summer Intern 2009

- Assisted with festival logistics, marketing, and directing support for theatre productions

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Arthur Miller Foundation Teaching Fellow 2022–2024
- Roundabout Theatre Company Teacher Training Intensive 2024
- K–8 Co-Chair, American Alliance for Theatre & Education 2023-
- Training in Acting & Directing through The Barrow Group 2012-13, 2024
- Intimacy Direction Certification (Level I & II) 2023-2024
- Private Voice Training 15+ Years

DIRECTING & PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

DIRECTING (Select)*

- *Help Me Out John* | The Heights Players: Director's Workshop 2026
- *The Pillowman* | The Heights Players (Assistant Director) 2025
- *The Stinky Cheese Man* | The Heights Players: Theatre for Children 2025
- *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* | New Rochelle HS PAVE III 2021
- *Rent* | Northside Charter High School (Asst. Director/Choreographer) 2019

ACTING (Select)*

- *Merrily We Roll Along* 2026
- *The Full Monty* (BroadwayWorld Award Nominee) 2024
- *Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* 2024
- *Assassins* 2023
- *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* 2022