

EDUCATION

Emerson College- Boston, MA
M.A. Theatre Education

August 2009

Western Connecticut State University- Danbury, CT
B.A. Music, Classical Voice and B.A. Theatre Arts and Communications

May 2007

Professional Training

Certificate - Leading for Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Ed, University of Michigan, (2021)

Diversity in Arts Leadership, Americans for the Arts, New York, NY (2018)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion with Race Forward, New York, NY (2018)

Teaching Artist Leadership Development Lab at Lincoln Center, New York, NY (2018)

Catapult Puppet Theater Artist Training at Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival
with Manual Cinema and Blair Thomas, Chicago, IL (2017)

Leadership Forum, Power and Privilege Women of Color in the Arts, New York, NY (2017)

Mapping E.S.S.A. Standards for Arts Education, Arts Education Partnership, Washington
D.C., (2017)

Music! Words! Opera! Classroom educator training at Boston Lyric Opera (2016)

EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE

Arts Engagement Consultant

2019 to present

- **Families Creating Together**, Boston, MA – Resident teaching artist, curriculum development, staff training, and grant writing for multi-generational and multi-lingual performing arts programming in the Roxbury community.
- **Guerilla Opera**, Boston, MA – Facilitated the development of new opera works, community poetry writing programs, artist development programs, program evaluation, audience engagement, and collaborative grant writing and budgeting.
- **Vocal Village, Inc.**, Brooklyn, NY – Curriculum development and program evaluation. Produced a panel discussion on racial equity in opera. Program budgeting and grant writing.

Urban College of Boston, Boston, MA

2020, 2016-2017

Adjunct Faculty

ART 203: Artist Infused ECE Activities (Spring, 2020)

ART 222: Puppetry and Playmaking in the Early Childhood Classroom (Spring & Fall, 2016, Spring 2017)

- Teach a diverse community of ELL students voice technique, ensemble building, playmaking, hands-on puppet making and multi-disciplinary arts and literacy integrated early childhood curriculum development within Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Frameworks.

OPERA America, New York, NY

2017 to 2019

Learning and Leadership Manager

- Designed professional development opportunities for performing arts industry professionals across the U.S. and Canada in the areas of administrative leadership, teaching artist practice, arts integration, national curriculum frameworks, assessment and evaluation strategies, community engagement, creative youth development, arts education, education policy and advocacy, equity and diversity training and other contemporary theories of teaching and learning.

- Established the first North American Opera Teaching Artist Network Leadership Committee and Teaching Artist Training Task Force to unify and advance the practice in the field.
- Created and managed the first national mentorship program of the Women’s Opera Network.
- Managed a national opera-based teen creative youth development program, “Opera Teens” serving high school students from diverse economic, racial, ethnic, and geographic communities in regional councils and mentor a national advisory committee.
- Executed annual benchmarking survey research and report of opera education and engagement activities by North American professional opera companies.

CREATIVE ARTS, Reading, MA

2016 to 2017

Education & Outreach Director/ Teaching Artist

- Created music, theatre, and visual art programming including classes, workshops, and private lessons for youth and adults in an economically diverse suburban community.
- Supervised faculty and developed multi-disciplinary arts curriculum.
- Managed a youth musical theatre program, selected productions, recruited faculty, and designed interdepartmental collaborations.
- Managed a scholarship program for low-income families.
- Created arts education programs and planned student and faculty performances with community partners including the Stoneham Boys & Girls Club, Reading Public Schools, Town of Reading, Town of Wilmington, and local businesses.
- Taught a range of arts classes and private lessons including imagination, acting, and intro to theater for ages 4 to 6, a visual art drawing, painting, and sculpture vacation week enrichment program for ages 7-15, and coaching for actors and public speaking, incorporating Linklater and Alexander Techniques.

PUPPET SHOWPLACE THEATER, Brookline, MA

2010 to 2016

Communications Director/ Community Engagement/ Teaching Artist/ Performer

- Increased portfolio to 100+ community partners including schools, libraries, and cultural partners.
- Designed communication for increasing field trip bookings, developed relationships with public school classroom teachers at the Brookline Public Schools, Boston Public Schools, Cambridge Public Schools and afterschool programs.
- Developed and managed the theater’s internship program serving high school students, undergraduates, graduate students, and post-graduates.
- **Commissioned** to create and perform a series of interactive puppetry and music performances for preschoolers and toddlers, “Puppet Playtime” performed in residency from 2013-2016
- **Artist Residencies** in Shadow Theater and playmaking at the Lesley Ellis Elementary School in Arlington, MA and with the Boston China Town Neighborhood Center/Josiah Quincy School, serving the Boston Chinese-American community students grades K-6.
- **Teacher Training** - Taught Early Childhood Educators activities and philosophies for incorporating drama and puppetry arts into their classrooms and playmaking curriculum for grades pre-k to 5 to schoolteachers and teaching artists.
- **Artist Training** - Taught character voice performance and acting technique for puppeteers including physical theatre methods, Laban and Action Theatre, Linklater exercises and Bel Canto.
- **Youth and Family Programs** - Taught puppetry and playmaking summer camps and enrichment programs for ages 4-6 and 7-12 through partnerships with the Brookline Music School and Brookline Recreation Department, family workshops in toy theatre, shadow theater, and building puppets from recycled materials.

- Developed community outreach initiative “Puppet Invasion” to promote the theater’s brand and develop new audiences through engagement events and workshops.

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) Shakespeare Ensemble**, Cambridge, MA *Fall 2010*
Teaching Artist- Voice and Acting for Shakespeare Workshop. Taught Linklater for Shakespeare, unpacking heightened text, and physical acting techniques, Action Theatre and Laban methods.
- Emerson College**, Boston, MA *2007-2008*
Performing Arts Student/Faculty Liaison- Mentored undergraduates in developing a playmaking curriculum with a local homeschool community. Facilitated communication with faculty, and staff.
- Western Connecticut Sate University**, Danbury, CT *2006-2007*
Academic Resource Mentor- Advised undergraduates and managed tutoring program.
- Private Voice Teacher**, Danbury, CT *2003-2007*
 Taught basic voice techniques for singing in classical and musical theater styles for undergraduate students in the Western Connecticut State University theater program.

INDEPENDENT TEACHING ARTIST

- Families Creating Together**, Boston, MA *2013-2014*
Puppetry Arts Instructor- Led a diverse community of English and Spanish language speakers and deaf learners in puppetry building and performance curriculum. Trained supporting staff.
- Wheelock Family Theatre**, Boston, MA *2012-2013*
Puppet Arts Instructor- Taught Intro to puppetry performance for students ages 9-11 including shadow puppetry, Bunraku-Style, object theatre, and playwriting.
- For Kids Only Afterschool**, Everett, MA *Summer 2010*
Arts Specialist- Taught improv/acting courses and observational drawing classes for grades K-6.
- Beyond the Fourth Wall**, Cambridge, MA *Winter 2008 & 2010*
Costume Shop Supervisor- Led a team of parent volunteers for costume builds and wardrobe crew in an elementary school musical theatre program.
- Art-Science Prize**, Boston, MA *2009-2010*
Music and Theater Curriculum Developer- Developed and co-taught music and theatre curriculum for an arts and science integrated afterschool program for racially and economically diverse Boston high school students.
- Champions Afterschool, Roxbury Prep Charter Middle School**, Roxbury, MA *2008-2009*
- **Teaching Artist (Music)-** Taught music theory and aural skills, music appreciation, with emphasis on singing techniques and vocal classical music.
 - **Teaching Artist (Theater)-** Taught playwriting, and directed original script created by students from African American and Latinx communities.
- Arlington Center For the Arts**, Arlington, MA *Fall 2008*
Drama Teacher- Taught acting and imagination skills for students grades K-2, focusing on storytelling and character development.
- Fourth Presbyterian Church**, South Boston, MA *2007-2009*
- **Music and Theater Teaching Artist-** Lead teacher for a very diverse middle school-aged population including low-income African Americans, Dominican, Haitian, Chinese, and Indian communities in South Boston. Taught improv, puppetry, playmaking, speech and debate, advanced visual art classes, a cappella choir, and private voice and piano lessons.
 - **Camp Director-** Managed a six-week summer day camp, ages 9-13 and a one-week day camp, created a curriculum rotation of arts and enrichment classes for ages 4-13. Engaged ethnically diverse parents and families with great cultural sensitivity.

ARTISTIC PRACTICE

www.brendalynnhuggins.com

* World Premiere, + In Development, ^ Devised Work

DIRECTING: OPERA, THEATER & PUPPETRY

<i>Emergence Composer Fellowship*</i>	Stage Director	Guerilla Opera- Boston, MA	2020
<i>Zoompresario Fortunato*</i>	Video Director/ Producer	Opera del West-Natick, MA	2020
<i>Teseo</i>	Assistant Director	Fresh Squeezed Opera- New York, NY	2019
<i>The Clever Artifice of Harriet and Margaret</i>	Stage Director	CantantiProject, Abrons Arts Center - NYC	2019
<i>Le Portrait de Manon</i>	Stage Director	Opera del West- Natick, MA	2017
<i>Signor Deluso</i>	Stage Director	Opera del West- Natick, MA	2017
<i>Don Pasquale</i>	Stage Director	Opera del West- Framingham, MA	2016
<i>Best of Opera del West</i>	Stage Director	Opera del West- Natick, MA	2016
<i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>	Stage Director	Opera del West- Natick, MA	2015
<i>Nasenflügeltanz^</i>	Director and Puppetry	Juventas Ensemble- Cambridge, MA	2015
<i>The Seagull</i>	Stage Director	Opera del West- Natick, MA	2014
<i>Comedy on Tap- Puppets in Love*</i>	Producer/ Director/ Puppeteer	Bad Habit Productions- Boston, MA	2014
<i>334 Bunnies*</i>	Stage Director	Mocking Bird Trio- Boston, MA	2013
<i>Beautiful Nightmare^</i>	Director, Puppet Design	Fringe Festival - Swarthmore, PA	2013
<i>Cunning Little Vixen</i>	Assistant Director	Boston Opera Collaborative- Boston, MA	2013
<i>Candide</i>	Assistant Director	Lowell House Opera- Cambridge, MA	2013
<i>The Rough Faced Girl</i>	Stage Director	Touring Children's Opera- Malden, MA	2012
<i>The Misery Play*</i>	Producer and Director	This & That Theatre Group- Brookline, MA	2011
<i>Xerxes</i>	Assistant Director	CT. Early Music Festival- New London, CT	2011
<i>Three Women and a Bear*</i>	Director	Boston Playwright's Theatre- Boston, MA	2010
<i>Cupid and Psyche*</i>	Producer and Director	Emerson College- Boston, MA	2009
<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Assistant Director	Commonwealth Opera- Northampton MA	2009
<i>The Folk Tale of Aladdin^</i>	Director	Roxbury Prep Middle School- Boston, MA	2008
<i>Fall of the House of Usher^</i>	Director	Maze Makers Middle School- Boston, MA	2008
<i>Initiation^</i>	Director	Maze Makers Middle School- Boston, MA	2008

DRAMATURGY

<i>Emergence Composition Fellowship+</i>	Resident Dramaturg	Guerilla Opera- Boston, MA	2019/20
<i>Unwrapping Fortune+</i>	Dramaturg	Composer's Collective- New York, NY	<i>in devo.</i>
<i>The Unicorn, Gorgon and the Manticore</i>	Dramaturg	Callithumpian Ensemble/ Puppet Showplace Theater- Boston MA	2019
<i>Ghost Variations*</i>	Dramaturg	OperaRox Productions- New York, NY	2018
<i>NE Russian Theater Festival</i>	Dramaturg	Boston Playwright's Theatre	2010
<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>	Dramaturg	Commonwealth Opera- Northampton	2009
<i>Serse</i>	Dramaturg	Boston Conservatory	2008

PERFORMING

<i>The Bella Show</i> [^]	Puppeteer/Soprano	Touring Show- NYC and Boston	2017-20
<i>Puppet Playtime</i> [^]	Puppeteer/Soprano	Puppet Showplace- Brookline, MA	2013-17
Victorian Caroler	Soprano	Big Smile Productions- Western MA	2008-16
<i>I Dream in Colors</i> [*]	Puppeteer/Soprano	Puppet Showplace- Brookline, MA	2016
<i>Egyptian Oracle</i>	Artemeius	Public V.R.- Boston, MA	2011-13
<i>The Golden Stoa</i> [*]	Narrator, Puppeteer	Puppet Showplace- Brookline, MA	2012
<i>A Voice in the Dark</i> [^]	Puppeteer	Puppet Showplace- Brookline, MA	2011

COSTUMING

<i>Rapture, Blister, Burn</i>	Dresser, Wardrobe	Huntington Theatre Company- Boston	2013
Commercial/ Video App	Stylist and Wardrobe	New York Life Investments- Boston, MA	2012
<i>Paul Bunyan the Opera</i>	Dresser, Wardrobe	New England Conservatory- Boston, MA	2012
<i>Road to Mecca</i>	Wardrobe Supervisor	Boston University	2011
<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Costume Designer	Opera Del West- Natick, MA	2010
<i>Rusalka</i>	Costume Designer	Diva Day Foundation- Boston MA	2010
<i>Little Red Riding Hood</i>	Costume Designer	Opera Boston	2010
<i>Bohemian Faces</i>	Costume Designer	Opera Boston	2010
<i>Fidelio</i>	Dresser, Wardrobe	Opera Boston	2010
<i>Into the Woods</i>	Costume Designer	Beyond the Fourth Wall- Cambridge, MA	2008

NATIONAL CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & GRANT AWARDS

SPEAKER AND WORKSHOP LEADER

"Digital Marketing During the Pandemic," National Puppetry Festival, Online, 2021

"Fundamentals of Teaching Artist Practice," Community Engagement Forum, Minnesota Opera, 2018

"Creating Self-Directed Learning Environments," NYC Arts Education Roundtable, New York, NY, 2018

"Fundamentals of Silly Voices", National Puppetry Festival, Swarthmore, PA, 2013

Panel Participant - Beijing Opera, Association of Asian Performance, New York City, NY, 2009

GRANT AWARDS

- **Opportunity Grant for Artists**, City of Boston, 2021: "Poetry Alive!" community arts project in partnership with Families Creating Together and the Tree of Life coalition.
- **Opportunity Grant for Artists**, City of Boston, 2020: "Shadow Theatre Around the World" community arts project in partnership with Families Creating Together.
- **Cultural Council Grant**, Reading Cultural Council, 2017: "Puppet Playtime," a series of interactive music and puppetry performances for families with young children in partnership with the Creative Arts School.
- **Student/Faculty Collaborative Grant**, Western Connecticut State University, 2002: Touring opera production of Mozart's "Impresario" and outreach to Danbury, CT High school communities.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Software: Microsoft Office Suite, FileMaker Pro, basic InDesign, Photoshop, iMovie, and basic HTML.

Marketing Tools: Constant Contact, Hootsuite, Blogger, Social Media, Squarespace, and video production.