

IRIS SOWLAT

She/Her

IrisSowlat.com | iris.sowlat@gmail.com | 312.927.7949

EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts at Amherst | MFA Theater Directing
Illinois Wesleyan University | BA Theater Arts & English Literature

May 2024 (expected)
May 2015

DIRECTING

Full Productions

<i>Orlando</i>	Sarah Ruhl, from V. Woolf	University of Massachusetts - Amherst
<i>Late: A Cowboy Song</i>	Sarah Ruhl	University of Massachusetts - Amherst
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	William Shakespeare	Accidental Shakespeare Co. (film, virtual)
<i>The Anxiety Variety Show</i>	Caleb Walker	Clown House, at Prop Thtr's RhinoFest
<i>Underworld Anthem</i>	devised, Alexandra Ranieri	Self-produced, Prop Thtr's RhinoFest
<i>The Days Are Shorter</i>	Corinne Kawecki	Pride Films & Plays
<i>Joan of Arc</i>	Alexandra Ranieri	Self-produced, Prop Thtr's RhinoFest
<i>Narratives of Achromatopsia</i>	Iris Sowlat	Self-produced, Chicago Fringe Festival
<i>Turn That Thing Around</i>	Aaron Harris	Self-produced, Chicago Fringe Festival

Staged Readings & New Play Development (selected)

<i>Jane</i>	Paula Kamin	Violet Surprise Theatre
<i>The Icon Project</i>	Ensemble-devised	Violet Surprise Theatre (virtual)
<i>ABCD</i> (Lab Production)	Rukmini Girish	Piven Theatre

Short Plays (selected)

<i>The Bear</i>	Anton Chekhov	Accidental Shakespeare Co.
<i>Final Exam</i>	Rachel Bykowski	American Blues Theatre's <i>Ripped: Living Newspaper</i> Fest
<i>Virginia & Orlando & Vita</i>	Natalie Meisner	Pride Films & Plays' <i>History Lezons</i> Fest
<i>Barbarism</i>	Jason Grote	Collaboraction's Peacebook Festival

Assistant Directing (selected)

<i>Dance Nation</i>	Dir. Dawn Monique Williams	University of Massachusetts - Amherst
<i>Into the Breeches!</i>	Dir. Jessica Thebus	Northlight Theatre
<i>Trans Scripts</i> (reading)	Dir. Delia Kropp	About Face Theatre

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Th140: Fundamentals of Acting, University of Massachusetts at Amherst Fall 2021-Present

- Instructor for undergraduate course Th140: Fundamentals of Acting per semester as a Graduate Assistantship
- Teaching introductory acting course to sixteen undergraduate students of varying theater experience levels
- Develop and teach lesson plans based on Action/Objective acting methods, scene study, play analysis, improv games, and ensemble-building
- Facilitate Viola Spolin-style improv and ensemble-building games to introduce acting concepts and build students' collaboration skills, listening skills, and confidence

- Give feedback and coaching on scenes, graded papers, and evaluated overall student progress

Camp Director, Summer on Broadway Rising, Skokie Park District Summer 2022

- Camp Director and lead teaching artist for a summer musical theater camp for 5-7 year olds
- Created and implemented a curriculum of age-appropriate theater games, acting lessons, and camp activities
- Wrote, adapted, and curated script material for short showcases, and directed five showcases
- Supervised three staff members, including a music specialist, dance specialist, camp counselors
- Supervised campers and staff on weekly field trips
- Enforced best practices for safety and First Aid, documented First Aid incidents and behavior incidents, and communicated with parents regarding safety concerns when needed
- Provided any needed care or adaptations for campers who had physical or behavioral access needs

PRODUCING & CURATION (selected)

<i>The Star-Crossed Lovers' Fest</i>	Producer	Accidental Shakespeare Co. (virtual)
<i>Violet Surprise: Femme-Slash Parody Fest</i>	Co-Producer	Violet Surprise Theatre
<i>Climate Change Theater Action</i> (3 festivals, 2015-19)	Co-Producer	NoPassport Theatre Alliance

SELECTED ARTS MANAGEMENT

Interim Artistic Director, Accidental Shakespeare Co., *volunteer position* March 2020-Aug 2021

- Led all aspects of the production of a virtual full production of *Romeo and Juliet* and virtual festival *The Star-Crossed Lovers Fest* during the COVID-19 pandemic, upon the exit of the previous Artistic Director
- Facilitated company meetings, hired production staff, managed production budgets, and led marketing initiatives

Administrative Assistant, Forward Momentum Chicago Jan 2017-June 2019

- Assisted in directly planning all aspects of an annual fundraiser Gala for 125-150 guests at Joffrey Tower
- Generated all content and layout for quarterly newsletter and other mailings to constituents
- Coordinated all aspects of the annual Spring Showcase, bringing together over 400 student performers and 20 Teaching Artists from 12 Chicago Public Schools
- Coordinated all aspects of weekly field trips for Summer Dance Camp participants

Development Coordinator, Stage Left Theatre, *volunteer position* July 2015-May 2018

- Wrote grant narratives, collect all supplemental materials, sent completed proposals

Artistic & Development Special Events Apprentice, American Theater Company Feb-Sept 2016

- Coordinated multiple aspects of an annual Fundraiser Gala
- Created audience engagement lobby displays, maintained a database of grant research, coordinated additional donor cultivation events

Theater Management Intern, Steppenwolf Theater Company June-Aug 2015

- Processed accounts payable, business office revenues, and remote deposits
- Assisted in coordinating events for the annual First Look Series Professionals Weekend

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Directors' Lab Chicago | Participant August 2019

The Directors Flight | *Midsummer Flight Theatre's Shakespeare director training program* Dec. 2019 – Mar. 2020

HONORS

"30 Under 30" | Windy City Times | Honoring LGBT Chicagoans making a difference June 2018

Full CV with references and additional directing, producing, and arts management experience available upon request.