

ELLEN ELISABETH BROWN

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Passionate and versatile theatre educator and director with a strong commitment to student-centered learning that fosters critical thinking, personal growth, collaboration, and theatre-based skills. Brings extensive experience directing full-scale theatrical and musical productions, showcasing high standards of student achievement and artistic excellence. Recognized for an unwavering dedication to student success, growth, and overall well-being.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

City University of New York: School of Professional Studies New York, NY
Master of Arts in Applied Theatre

RELAY Graduate School of Education New York, NY
Master of Arts in Teaching (Dean's List)

New York University: Tisch School of the Arts New York, NY
Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors in Theatre

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Highlights)

Durham Academy

Theatre Director, 8th Grade Advisor, 8th Grade Team Leader

August 2016-Present

Durham, NC

Middle school theatre teacher and director dedicated to empowering students to explore all facets of playmaking—from devising and acting to producing fully student-led productions. Founded and directs a thriving musical theatre program, offering students the opportunity to showcase their talents across five annual productions that celebrate each student's unique abilities. Created a popular after-school enrichment program that fuels student enthusiasm and participation in theatre and musical theatre. Teaches five theatre and musical theatre courses, facilitating original work inspired by students' interests and curiosity. Served as the 8th Grade Team Leader, designing the advisory curriculum, managing the team's calendar, organizing grade-level events, and ensuring clear communication with parents. Additionally, advises eighth-grade students, advocating for their needs and providing essential emotional and academic support to ensure their well-being and success.

Democracy Prep Public Schools: Harlem Prep Academy

Theatre Director and Performing Arts Teacher

August 2014- July 2016

East Harlem, NY

Provided comprehensive performing arts instruction to the entire school, culminating in fourteen original musicals devised by students to explore meaningful social issues. Consistently advanced student skill development in theatre, music, and dance, with an average growth of 1.5 years per student. Delivered professional development on arts integration for classroom teachers, enhancing instructional methods school-wide. Fostered a positive school culture by designing and co-leading weekly assemblies for students and families, as well as leading team-building activities for staff during weekly professional development sessions.

Uncommon Schools: North Star Academy

July 2011-June 2013

Performing Arts Teacher

Newark, NJ

Delivered data-driven instruction in communication skills through musical theatre to 400 elementary students, directing six full-scale musicals and over two dozen musical showcases. Classroom instruction served as a model for effective classroom management and arts-based instruction, observed by over 200 educators nationwide for professional development.

Harlem Children's Zone: TRUCE Media

August 2013-August 2014

Lead High School Theatre Director

East Harlem, NY

Guided a diverse group of high school students in creating an original, socially conscious theatre piece titled *The Better Earth*. Fostered a structured, positive, and inclusive environment that valued student ideas and input at every stage of development. Integrated curriculum to reinforce literacy skills and support participants' academic success. Supervised two assistant directors and maintained open, consistent communication with families throughout the project.

Wingspan Arts

July 2013-August 2014

Education Program Director and Teaching Artist

New York, NY

Designed and led a professional development series for over 150 NYC Teaching Artists, focused on classroom management, cross-curricular arts integration, and multidisciplinary arts instruction. Initiated and oversaw a new observation and feedback program for Teaching Artists, significantly enhancing the organization's educational programming quality. Managed staffing across thirteen afterschool sites throughout New York City and directed all aspects of in-school residency development and implementation.

Musical Director and Teaching Artist

March 2008-August 2014

Served as Musical Director for Wingspan's Summer Conservatory's middle school show, "Shrek, the Musical." Provided comprehensive instruction for afterschool programs in playbuilding, musical theatre technique, songwriting, and piano for six years. Developed and fostered positive relationships with students. Dignified as a leading teaching artist within this acclaimed arts organization.

Girl's for Gender Equity

September 2013-August 2014

Theatre Teacher and Facilitator

Brooklyn, NY

Engaged middle school students in the process of creating original Theatre of the Oppressed forum theatre exploring oppressive social issues based on the interest and social concerns of the participants. Managed the support of two full-time teachers who assisted each session. Facilitated sharing of final theatrical pieces, which involved the active participation of the audience and entire afterschool community.

New York City Children's Theatre

August 2013-August 2014

Lead Teaching Artist and Actor-Facilitator

New York, NY

Served as the Literature at Play Teaching Artist at PS 102Q for a 10-week residency where four 1st grade classrooms adapted their classroom texts into an original musical based solely on the contributions and ideas of the students. Additionally served as an Actor-Facilitator in "Fair and Square," a Social Emotional Learning piece performed for elementary students throughout NYC.

AWARDS AND ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Democracy Prep Public School's Sky High Award (2015), Dean's List: RELAY GSE (2013) Distinguished Presenter at American Alliance for Theatre Education Conference (2013), Founders Day Award: New York University (2008), International Baccalaureate Diploma (2005), Meredith Tuttle Vocal Performance Award (2005), AP Scholar and Diploma (2005), Girl Scout Gold Award (2004)