

Tori (Victoria) Gitten

she/her/hers

Teaching artist

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 torigitten.com

Objective

Creative, passionate teaching artist accomplished in designing and implementing diverse theatre lessons for K - 12 students. Committed to creating motivational and collaborative learning environments that encourage students to critically engage in theatre to foster a better understanding of themselves, their peers, and their community.

Skills

- Drama/Theatre.
- Training in Drama-Based Pedagogy, ages K-12.
- Curriculum Design, Instruction, & Assessment.
- Knowledge of the Massachusetts Arts Frameworks.
- Paraprofessional to Neurodiverse Students.
- Educational & Community Engagement.
- Arts Integration.
- Playmaking and Devising.
- Audition Coaching.
- Dance Instructor and Choreographer.
- Director and Assistant Director Experience.
- Experienced Voice Teacher.
- Training in Acting, Voice, and Dance.
- Four Years of Administration Experience (Office Coordinator/Manager, Receptionist, Administrative Assistant, Contracts Coordinator, Assistant Project Manager, Arts Administration, Social Media/PR).

Corporate resume available upon request.

Education

Emerson College, Boston, MA

Master of Fine Arts, Theatre Education & Applied Theatre

2021 - 2024

4.0 GPA

Wagner College, Staten Island, NY

Bachelor of Arts, Theatre Performance

2015 - 2019

Graduated Cum Laude with Academic Honors in theatre.

Certification

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

License #8006735

License in Theater Education (K-12); *Initial*

Research Interests

CITI Certified

- Theatre as a tool for exploring social media and female adolescent development.
- Playmaking/devising theatre with youth.
- Differentiated instruction for English language learners.
- Arts Integration.

"Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society.

Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it." ~ Augusto Boal

Performance Highlights

- Michelle, "T: An MTBA Musical!," Rockwell Theatre, (dr. Mike Manship)
- **Extra-Lawyer**, "Defending Jacob," Paramount Television (dir. Morten Tyldum)
- **Daughter**, "Pirates of Penzance," Wagner College (dir. Rusty Curcio)
- **Guido's Mother**, "Nine," Wagner College (dir. Gregg Wiggins)
- **Featured Ensemble**, "Anything Goes," Wagner College (dir. Michele Pawk)
- **Soprano Soloist**, "Rock-n-Roll Into Motown," Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids: Motown Classics
- **Soprano Soloist**, DeCordova Museum Benefit Concert

Additional Professional Theatre Training

Acting: Michele Pawk, Amy Williams, Theresa McCarthy, Richard Weingartner

Voice: Stephanie Wood, Wendy Bobbitt Cavett, Lauri Young, Anthony Turner, Elizabeth Johnson

Dance:

- Musical Theatre Styles: Ashley DeLane Burger, John Scacchetti
- Ballet: Ashley DeLane Burger, Carissa Bellando
- Partnering: Rusty Curcio
- Jazz: Patrick Heffernan, Michael Blackmon-Ham, Ashley DeLane Burger
- Modern: Annabella Lenzu
- Tap: Pamela Powers, Mary Six Rupert

Education Programs: Concord Conservatory of Music, Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Ithaca College Summer Music Academy Vocal Institute

Experience

Dr. William W. Henderson K-12 Inclusion School, Dorchester, MA

Theater Teacher (Grades 2-6)

Joseph Cahill

September 2024 - Present

- Design and implement engaging, standards-aligned theatre lessons that foster creativity and academic excellence in inclusion-based classrooms.
- Instruct students on the fundamentals of theatre techniques, including improvisation, movement, voice projection, character development, and stage presence.
- Differentiate instruction to meet the diverse needs of students, ensuring equitable access to challenging and meaningful learning experiences.
- Develop a respectful and inclusive classroom environment that celebrates students' unique backgrounds, identities, and strengths.
- Collaborate with colleagues, families, and community partners to enhance student success and build strong, supportive relationships within the school community.
- Consistently reflect on teaching practices, integrating feedback to enhance instructional effectiveness and student outcomes.
- Organize, direct, and contribute to class and school performances, fostering a sense of community, collaboration, and pride among students, staff, and families.

Kennedy Middle School, Natick, MA

Paraprofessional Educator/Special Education (ACCESS Program)

Jennifer Braman-Parikh

January 2024 - June 2024

- Maximize student learning through individual/small group instruction based on teacher-prepared material.
- Carry out teacher-planned learning exercises, including instruction of core curriculum, academic support, and support of related therapies, including speech and language activities, occupational and physical therapy activities, and mobility training activities.
- Assist in inclusion-based classes (Art, Theatre, Library, PE, IT).
- Administer alternative testing.
- Actively contribute to Special Needs/Supportive Services Teams.
- Support students in transfer/mobilization activities and non-medical hygiene.
- Establish an effective work relationship with classroom teachers, specialists, and administration.
- Ensure effective communication and collaboration with students, parents, and staff in various formats.
- Maintain the same high level of ethical behavior and confidentiality of information about students as is expected of fully certified teachers.

Kennedy Middle School, Natick, MA

Facilitator; "#i-am" project

Kennedy Partner: J. Casey Lane; Emerson College Advisor: Dr. Dana Edell

January 2024 - March 2024

- Created, facilitated, and led a series of afterschool theatre-based workshops with middle school girls to explore the intersection of social media and identity.
- Led theatre strategies and a devising theatre creation process (creative writing, story sharing, improvisation, poetry, movement, games, and community building).
- Collaborated with Kennedy Middle School drama teacher J. Casey Lane.

Kennedy Middle School, Natick, MA

Choreographer; "Wonderland: Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure"

Director, J. Casey Lane

January 2024 - March 2024

- Choreograph Kennedy Middle School's Spring musical production.
- Teach choreography and basic dance technique to students.

Awards/Honors

- Classical Singer Vocal
Competition: Second
Round in Musical Theatre
(2014 and 2018)
- Peter Elvins Vocal
Competition: Vocal
Finalist
- Tri-M Music Honor
Society: Lifetime
Member

Experience Cont.

Newton Music Academy, Newton, MA

Voice Instructor and Coach

Director, Svetlana Ostrovskaya

August 2021 - December 2023

- Teach private voice/singing lessons for children and adults of all ages and levels.
- Work with each student to explore the music and musical styles they enjoy.
- Coach students to their strengths to successfully audition for opportunities.

Natick High School, Natick, MA

Substitute Teacher (9th - 12th Grade)

Supervisor, John DeChristoforo

February 2023 - June 2023

- Take attendance and document daily notes.
- Manage the classroom effectively to encourage student participation, minimize distractions, and maintain a positive learning environment.
- Oversee the normal classroom rhythms and activities.

Kennedy Middle School, Natick, MA

Student Teacher (Theatre, 5th - 8th Grade)

Cooperating Teacher, J. Casey Lane

January 2023 - May 2023

- Collaborate with Cooperating Teacher to develop engaging lesson plans based on Massachusetts Education Standards.
- Foster a positive classroom environment encouraging learning and promoting student growth.
- Use positive behavior management strategies for classroom management.

Kennedy Middle School, Natick, MA

Choreographer; "Spongebob Musical: Youth Edition"

Director, J. Casey Lane

January 2023 - March 2023

- Choreograph Kennedy Middle School's Spring musical production.
- Teach choreography and basic dance technique to students.

Fessenden Summer Day Camp, Newton, MA

Performance/Dance Specialist

Supervisor, Rusty Paine

Summer 2019

- Formulate, plan, and lead age-appropriate, safe, and enriching activities in dance and performance.
- Meet/communicate regularly with direct supervisor regarding concerns, updates, challenges, and successes.
- Communicate with parents and guardians about their child when necessary and appropriate.

Maestro Musicians Academy, Lexington, MA

Voice Instructor and Coach

Artistic Director, Daniel Broniatowski

July 2019 - September 2021

- Teach private voice lessons to all ages in person and via Zoom.

References available upon request.