

Rachel Johns

www.racheljohns.com • racheljohns99@gmail.com

Education

New York University, Class of 2021

- Tisch School of the Arts, BFA Drama
- Minor in Child & Adolescent Mental Health Studies

Experience Working with Students

Teaching Artist / Summer Camp Assistant Director • Educational Theatre Company (Fall 2022 – Present)

- I plan and teach weekly drama lessons for third – fifth graders, which focus on topics like warming up, physical storytelling, parts of a story, improv games, character exercises, and incorporating activities based on the class's theme like *Greek Myths & Monsters*, or *Superheroes & Villains*.
- As a director on ETC's mainstage residency program, I co-lead second – fifth graders as they create and perform an original play that deals with a pre-determined topic given to us by the school that their students have been particularly struggling with that year. In 2023, our play incorporated SOLs about the science of light and sound, and in 2025 our play is focusing on communication skills.
- I also work with ETC's summer camp programming as an Assistant Director with third – ninth graders in both *Improv Comedy Camp*, and a two-week *Page-to-Stage Camp* where we help campers create and perform an original play.

Performer / Assistant Director / Script Developer • Smithsonian Associates: Discovery Theater (Intermittently from Spring 2023 - Present)

Working in educational Theatre for Young Audiences requires collaboration, creativity, specificity, and a willingness to play. I have worked with Discovery Theater on three different STEAM focused, interactive TYA productions designed for ages 5-10, as well as three interactive TVYA productions designed for ages 3-6. All six productions have had in house performances, and five of these productions have also toured at local schools and community spaces.

Teaching Artist • 1st Stage (Winter 2025 - Present)

With 1st Stage, I plan and teach hour-long drama lessons for ages 6-12 at a Montessori school, where we explore topics like physical storytelling, parts of a story, improv, and ensemble storytelling. I also read at their monthly *Storytime Brought to Life!* Program, which is a free, interactive storytelling and crafting event designed for ages 4-8.

Performer • InterAct Story Theatre (Spring/Summer 2024, Winter 2025)

The Monsters of Seahorse Island (written and directed by Ali Oliver-Krueger) is an interactive TYA play designed for ages 5-10, which includes themes of bias, prejudice, conflict resolution, and making friends with people who are different than us. I play three characters in this production (The King, Croton, and Gramps), and help facilitate the Town Hall style audience interactive discussion on how we can solve the problem in the play. The world premiere in 2024 toured elementary schools across Maryland, and the 2025 remount ran at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center.

Instructor • Smithsonian Associates: Summer Camp (Summer 2023; Summer 2024)

As an instructor for Smithsonian Associates' "Geology Geniuses" camp, I plan and teach a 5-day long geology camp with my co-instructor for a group of third and fourth graders. We visit at least one Smithsonian Museum every day, and do lots of fun experiments like growing crystals, learning about the rock cycle by melting starbursts, and examining illustrated pollen fossils to create pictures of what that landscape may have looked like millions of years ago.

Teaching Artist • Round House Theatre (Spring 2024)

Each week for Round House's afterschool *Stories Onstage* class for kindergarten - second grade I chose one picture book to plan and teach a lesson around. We warmed up our actor bodies, voices, minds and imaginations, read our story, and played games, made crafts, and acted out scenes all inspired by that week's book.

Teaching Artist • NextStop Theatre Company (Summer 2022)

Working with the *Footloose Jr* Student Crew as a teaching artist, I helped five middle schoolers create props and scenic elements, select costumes, design lighting, and ultimately run our hour-long production. My primary job was to find out what behind-the-scenes elements the students were interested in working on and finding ways to make that happen.

Teaching Artist • Enhance Arts Project (Summer 2022)

As a Teaching Artist with Enhance Arts Project, I provided drama enrichment programming to public elementary school students in Frederick, MD as a part of ELEVATE Academy (one of their summer school programs). I created my own lesson plans with a focus on exploring how theatre can be used to help our community.

Company Member • Stella Adler Studio of Acting Outreach Tour (Fall 2020)

As a student selected to join the annual fourth year student company, I was able to act in an hour-long production of *Love's Labour's Lost*, which we performed over Zoom for general audiences, and then recorded to send out to NYC community groups, prisons, and middle and high schools. We virtually met with these (primarily student) groups throughout the Fall 2020 semester to lead discussions on Shakespeare and our production.

Teaching Artist & Assistant Director • North Carolina Theatre Conservatory (Summer 2019)

I assistant directed and taught acting technique at NCTC's summer conservatory production of *Annie Jr* with elementary and middle school students. I created lesson plans and taught acting technique, lead character work exercises, warmups, and fun lunch time activities ranging from improv games to a talent show.

Special Skills & Interests

- I am an actor, director, producer, singer, and theatre maker
- Very basic beginner conversational Spanish
- I write children's books, which I hope to one day have published!