

Summer Dawn

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Summary

I am an arts educator and administrator specializing in theater, writing, directing and theatrical production.

I also have experience in communications, event coordination and hospitality management.

I am the Founder and Director of In Full Color, an award-winning arts organization.

Professional Profile

- Received two commendations from NJ State Assembly plus the inaugural Jersey City Arts Council Award in Performing Arts for work with In Full Color
- Also won Governor's Award in Arts Education and Permanent Career Award from Society of Arts & Letters-NJ
- Has acted or directed in multiple festivals including Downtown Urban Arts Festival and FringeNYC
- Served on National Endowment for the Arts theater grants panel, Performing Arts Committee for the Jersey City Arts Council, Access Committee for Art House Productions and NJ Young Playwrights Contest judges panel for Writers Theater of New Jersey
- 15 years of production experience in multiple areas including education, arts, theater and hospitality. Has planned as many as 135 events in one year. Sold up to ~\$200K in hospitality events
- Extensive background in communications. Was award-winning arts and culture journalist
- Bilingual in English and Spanish. Highly proficient with web design, social media, graphic design and technology in general. Certified and cleared to work with children in New Jersey and Pennsylvania

Experience

ARTS ADMINISTRATION AND PRODUCTION

In Full Color (Fiscally Sponsored Arts & Education Organization) Jersey City, N.J. December 2014 to present
Founder and Director

In Full Color empowers women of color and other BIPOC of marginalized genders through education and the arts across the U.S. We've served 250+ artists in 18 states and have performed for numerous universities, corporations, governmental institutions and other venues. Duties include all administration; business strategy; content development; sales; curation and artistic direction; finance management; fundraising; social media management; educational programming development; teaching; advocacy and community building; communications and marketing; merchandise development; graphic and web design – I'm a (mostly) one-woman show!

In 2021, we created \$17,000 in paid work for artists. We offer a range of opportunities from our annual mainstage theatrical show to smaller events including concerts, a comedy series, our Bloom Masterclass educational series, and more. I also develop all our merchandise and publications including our bestselling coloring book, "Girls Who Colored Outside the Lines," which shows kids of all genders and colors what amazing women of color can do!

We've received two commendations from the N.J. State Assembly, have been nominated for numerous BroadwayWorld Awards and won the inaugural Performing Arts Award from the Jersey City Arts Council in 2018.

EDUCATION

Young Audiences of New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania (Nonprofit) Jersey City, N.J. October 2019 to present
Teaching Artist and Antiracism Training Lead Artist

Young Audiences is an arts organization that brings arts workshops, residencies and other programming created in collaboration with teaching artists in various art forms to schools in diverse neighborhoods throughout N.J. and P.A.

I was selected as one of the lead artists for the organization's antiracist programming, having developed three programs – a Poetry as Activism workshop for Grades 5-12, an extracurricular family-focused antiracism arts workshop and antiracism training specifically designed for educators including school administration, faculty and staff. I am also leading

introductory courses at all schools exploring basic concepts of antiracism, anti-oppression and Black artistry, in coordination with a Black photography teaching artist.

As a theater teaching artist, I write and execute curricula for Pre-K through Grade 6 and have also created special curricula focused on social-emotional learning. I've also received professional development through Young Audiences on subjects such as culturally responsive education, the social model of disability, improving accessibility in education, supporting English Language Learners and more.

Storytelling Arts Inc.

Stockton, NJ November 2021 to present

Teaching Artist

Storytelling Arts is a nonprofit community of storytellers, story writers, and teaching artists who share the ancient art of storytelling with contemporary audiences. I created and executed curriculum for a teen writing residency at an Oasis after-school program in Paterson, helping youth write about their personal culture and experiences.

Art House Productions (Arts Nonprofit)

Jersey City, N.J. Various dates; 2007 to 2017

Director, Production Manager, Actor, Children's Drama Teacher

Art House Productions is one of North Jersey's largest arts nonprofits. I oversaw all production aspects of youth musicals (working with children ages 8 to 17) and traditional plays which meant facilitating crew communication; scheduling and running meetings; keeping team members on schedule and on budget; and overseeing interdepartmental communication. I also oversaw legal and safety code compliance and aided with conflict management, backstage coordination and day-of operations. I've also worked as a performer, director and youth drama teacher (ages 4 to 11) for this organization. I was also on its Access Committee, which focuses on ADA-compliance.

EVENTS PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

LITM (Restaurant, Bar & Art Gallery)

Jersey City, N.J. May 2015 to June 2019

Events Director, Manager, Bartender

LITM was a pioneer in the Jersey City restaurant scene, offering food, cocktails and an art space for local events. I oversaw all aspects of private and promotional event planning. Duties include event conceptualization; recruitment of liquor sponsors, clients, vendors, entertainment, promoters; project management; drafting contracts; managing events staff; managing catering orders; invoicing clients; graphic design; decoration and fabrication; cocktail creation; social media management and promotion; and more. Sold \$200K in event sales in 2018, accounting for one-third of all sales.

Saint Peter's University (Private University)

Jersey City, N.J.

Spring 2017 to Fall 2017

Argus Eyes Drama Society Production Manager

Argus Eyes is the student drama organization at Saint Peter's University, a private, coed Jesuit college serving 3,500 students. I served as production manager for *Cabaret* in Spring 2017 and *Antigone* in Fall 2017. Duties included managing communications between school officials and production staff, scheduling and running meetings, hiring personnel, overseeing contract execution, managing interdepartmental communication and budgeting.

TEDxJerseyCity (Nonprofit, local TED Talks franchise)

Jersey City, N.J.

2015, 2016 & 2018

Production Manager

TEDxJerseyCity is an annual conference highlighting innovators, including speakers with "ideas worth sharing" to performers and product developers. For this seasonal role, I ran all production aspects of major yearly conferences and general operations, which meant overseeing all administrative and crew management duties including keeping all departments on schedule and on budget. I also negotiated with our venue, drafted rental contracts, helped with conflict management and maintained our master event day schedule.

PERSONAL ARTISTRY

Actor and Director

Various

2010 to present

I am a non-union actor especially skilled in the art of monologue, comedic work and Shakespeare. My acting work has greatly informed my direction. I am also a mezzo-soprano singer and have worked in theater, film and TV. Highlights:

- Emotional, multilingual role in "Killing Myself," second-place overall at Apple Box Short Film Festival 2022

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- Luna Stage: "The 88" by Tony- and Grammy- nominated writer Reg E. Gaines
- Fringe NYC: "Little Stories" by Cornerstone Theatrical
- Greater Columbus Convention Center: United Methodist Women's 150th Assembly
- Completed two successful one-woman shows including Kookspeak, featured at So Low Theater Festival, STAGEfest at the Loew's, Digable Arts Festival, Land of the Free-form Festival, etc.
- Was highlighted performer for three TEDx conferences including TEDxJerseyCity

COMMUNICATIONS

Dixon Place (Arts Nonprofit)

New York, N.Y. October 2021 to March 2022

Marketing Associate

Dixon Place is a Bessie and Obie Award-winning institution presenting original works of theatre, dance, music, puppetry, circus art and literature. I maintained the company's website, social media accounts and weekly e-newsletters.

Rising Tide Capital (Nonprofit)

Jersey City, N.J. October 2019 to January 2020

Communications and Marketing Manager

Rising Tide Capital is a nonprofit organization devoted to transforming lives and communities through entrepreneurship. I managed all aspects of communications and marketing to support various programs including our Community Business Academy, graduate business coaching services and the organization overall in both English and Spanish. This included website maintenance, developing marketing strategies, promoting events, managing paid digital advertisements, event planning, creating marketing materials, developing content for web and social media platforms and more.

NJ Advance Media, *The Jersey Journal*

Secaucus, N.J. November 2010 to September 2015

Web and Arts Specialist

Formerly Freelance Arts Writer, Hoboken/Arts & Entertainment Reporter

The Jersey Journal is the primary news source for residents of Hudson County, N.J., and a major contributor to NJ.com, the state's top news website. Duties included managing the Journal's web presence; covering Hudson County arts; using SEO and SMO best practices to create posts that engaged readers and generated page views; writing headlines; promoting online stories; and writing morning news and weekend event columns. Accomplishments include a Special Issue award from the New Jersey Press Association.

Education

Rising Tide Capital, Community Business Academy, 2020

University of Phoenix, AA in Communications. GPA: 4.0

Harvard University, English. No degree. Completed online courses. GPA: 4.0

Professional Development

I am continuously growing, learning and expanding my skills. Here are some of the topics in which I have become well-versed:

- Intersectional Feminism and Activism
- Advocating for Underprivileged, POC and LGBTQ Communities
- Culturally Responsive Learning
- Using Arts to Engage English Language Learners
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), Tactical Empathy
- Accessibility and Inclusion for Disabled Communities
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and the Arts
- Trauma-Informed Care in Arts Education
- Communications Best Practices
- Marketing for Small Businesses
- Social Media and Marketing Trends
- Event Planning and Industry Trends
- Entrepreneurship