

# MARIA ALADREN

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## EDUCATION

- 2000     **Master of Fine Arts**, University of Texas – Austin TX  
Stage Directing
- 1997     **Master of Arts**, Washington University in St. Louis - St. Louis MO  
Theatre
- 1988     **Bachelor of Arts**, Brigham Young University – Provo, UT  
Near Eastern Studies and Classical Linguistics – Honors  
Minor in Theatre, Dance, Creative Writing

## OTHER EDUCATION/SPECIAL COURSES

**Movement/Voice: Pantheatre Method** - LaMama, ETC (NYC), Enrique Pardo  
**Keith Johnson Method Improvisation** - The Hideout (Austin TX), Rich Ross, Dan O'Connor, Shawn Hill, Louis Wells  
**Clown and Mask Intensive**- Corazza Conservatory (Madrid, Spain), Gabriel Chame  
**Clown Workshops** - University of Texas (Austin, TX), Chris Bates  
**Unarmed and armed Fight Choreography** - University of Texas (Austin TX), J. Allen Suddeth  
**Comedy Workshop** - COCA St. Louis, Carrie Houk  
**Acting for the Camera** - COCA St. Louis, Sydney Grossberg  
**Actor Studio** – WUSTL, Arthur Storch, Gary Swanson

## CURRENT RESEARCH INTEREST

Developing cutting edge, project-based curricula to better the creativity and innovation of underserved populations. In pursuit of such interest I am currently experimenting with and researching the following:

- Using devised theatre and collaborative techniques as interdisciplinary tools in education. Currently developing an interdisciplinary production of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar as an immersive piece, using responsive technology.
- Developing a framework for STEAM Pedagogy that focuses on cross-pollinating arts and STEM to create more innovative thinkers in both areas. Currently working on book-length research, tentatively named *The Education Project*.
- Developing new technology in Live Performance. Currently working on an ongoing paper regarding Swarm Techniques in Creative Writing.
- Developing a whole-body approach to learning by using techniques drawn from Applied Improvisation, Viewpoints, Clown and Mask Techniques.

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**Adjunct**, Rutgers University—Newark, 2015, 2018

**Instructor of Record**, The New Jersey Institute of Technology, High School Articulation Program, 2011-Present

**Instructor of Record**, Middlesex County College, High School Articulation Program, 2006-Present

**Adjunct**, Mercer County College, 2002-2004

**Adjunct**, Brookdale Community College, 2003-2004

**Adjunct**, Kean University, 2002-2004

**Adjunct**, Ramapo College, 2002

**Graduate Instructor**, University of Texas – Austin, 1998-1999

**Adjunct**, Washington University in St. Louis, 1995

**Undergraduate Instructor**, Brigham Young University, 1986-1987

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2004-Present **Theatre Director**, MCVTS Theatre High School (East Brunswick Campus)

2003 - 2004 **Program Director**, Brookdale College Performing Arts Center.

2000-2002 **Database Consultant**, DPT, Austin TX

1998 – 2006 **Artistic Director**, Pegasus51/Performance Project, Austin TX

1997 – 2000 **Programming Assistant/Grant Writer**, UT Performing Arts Center, Austin TX

1995 – 1997 **Grant Writer/Production Manager**, The New Theatre, St. Louis MO

1990-1995 **Proposal and Writing Consultant**, AMDOCS Inc., St. Louis MO

1985-1988 **Technical Writing**, Reading, Writing and Logic Center,

## TEACHING ACTIVITIES – HIGHER ED

Spring '18	Rutgers - Newark	Performance III: Lysistrata
Spring '15	Rutgers	Performance III: Numbers
Spring 11-Present	NJIT/MCVTS	Movement for Actors Acting Fundamentals
Fall 11- Present	NJIT/MCVTS	Theatre History Page to Stage
2006-2011	Middlesex County College	Theatre Appreciation
Spring 2005	Mercer Community College	Theatre Appreciation (Core Writing Course)
Spring 2004	Brookdale Community College	Theatre Appreciation (Core Writing Course)
Fall 2003	Ramapo College	Theatre Appreciation (Core Writing Course)
Fall 2003	Kean University	Young Audiences Touring Company

Fall 2003	Mercer Community College	Acting I
Spring 2003	Kean University	Creative Drama
Fall 2002	Kean University	Acting I
Spring 1999	University of Texas - Austin	Fundamentals of Acting
Fall 1988	University of Texas - Austin	Languages of the Stage (Teaching and Curriculum Assistant)
Spring 1995	Washington University	Theatre History (Greek to Renaissance)
Fall 1994	Washington University	Introduction to Film (Teaching Asst. to Buzz Hirsch)
Fall 1987	Brigham Young University	Composition
Spring 1987	Brigham Young University	Acting I Technical Writing
Fall 1986	Brigham Young University	Spanish Conversation II

## TEACHING ACTIVITIES - CONSERVATORIES AND K-12

2004-Present	MCVTS Theatre	<p><b>Four-year class cycle:</b></p> <p>T101: Intro To Performing Arts  T121: First Year Practicum  T301: Introduction to Shakespeare  T221: Main Stage Practicum  H101: Theatre 1940 to Present  H102: Ethnic and Minority Theatre  H201: Greek to Medieval Theatre  H301: Renaissance to 1800  H401: 1800 to Present  PDC101: Intro to Dramatic Text  PDC111: Playwriting workshop  PDC 201: Intro to Dramatic Structure  PDC301: Developing characters  A101: Intro to Contemporary Text  A201: Acting Fundamentals  A211: Clown and Mask  A301: Acting Styles  A311: Movement for Actors  A411: Auditions  DP101: Basic Stagecraft  DP201: Technical Production  DP301: Design for the Theatre  DP411: Portfolio Workshop  DP401: Directing for the Theatre</p>
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2017, 2019	McCarter Theatre, New Jersey	Directing with Innovation (High School) Solo Performance (High School)
2002-2004	George Street Playhouse, New Jersey	Introduction to Acting (Adults)
2002-2004	Papermill Playhouse, New Jersey	Playwriting (High School) Auditions (Adults)
1996-1997	Rossman Middle School, St. Louis MO	Director, creator, and instructor of yearlong devised performance
1995-1997	Center for Contemporary, Arts, St. Louis MO	Acting Up (High School) Acting I (High School) Acting Conservatory for Teens (High School) Fundamentals of Acting (Adults) Movement (Adults) Voice Workshop (High School)
1995-1997	JCCA St. Louis	Acting (High School)
1995-1997	Arts-in-Motion	Auditions (Adults) Pre-Acting (Elementary School) Acting (Middle School) Advanced Acting (High School) Movement (High School) Voice Training (High School)

## CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

1. **Four-year Performing Arts Conservatory**, MCVTS Theatre.  
The curriculum included three majors (Performance; Playwriting, Dramaturgy and Criticism; and Design and Production). Curriculum approved every two years by the Board of Education and Professional Advisory Board. Full curriculum available upon request
2. **Languages of the Stage** (Assistant to Richard Isackes), University of Texas – Austin.  
Assisted in the development of an introductory course for theatre majors, focused on visual and audio languages of theatre.
3. **Center for Contemporary Arts**, St. Louis MO  
Created Teen Acting Conservatory to attract and train high school age students interested in a pre-professional approach to the stage.

## STUDENT AWARDS UNDER MY SUPERVISION

Lauren Cyrus	Silver Key, Honorable mention NJ Scholastic Writing Awards, 2018
Ashley Kiser	<i>Another Hashtag</i> , presented at Crossroads Theatre, NJ, 2017

Jessica Dell Beni	Governor's Award for writing, NJ, 2016 Play Visible, Winner of the 2016 New Jersey Young Playwrights Festival
Kimani Isaac	Costume Design Winner, <i>Fences</i> Project, McCarter Theatre, 2013 QuestBridge Scholarship Recipient, 2016 Cherubs (Northwestern University) scholarship recipient, 2016
Alexis Plaza	Best Supporting Actress Awards, Planet Connection Festival, NYC, 2015
Imani Redman	Play <i>#ifyougunmedown</i> , Gold Key National Winner, Dramatic Writing, 2015 Gold Key, Silver Key, five Honorable Mentions, Scholastic Writing Awards, Northeast Division, 2015
Brett Temple	Best Actor Award, Planet Connection Festival, NYC, 2015
Michael Villanueva	Governor's Award for writing, NJ, 2017 Play <i>Packing</i> , Winner of the 2017 NJ Young Playwrights contest Presented at Crossroads Theatre, Luna Stage in NJ, 2017
Alexis Wilner	Cherubs (Northwestern University) scholarship recipient, 2018

## LIST OF PLAYS DIRECTED (VISUAL PORTFOLIO: MALADREN.COM)

### 1. Professional Productions

- Clyman, Bob. *To She Who Waits*. (Premiere). American Renaissance Theatre Company. NYC, May 2019
- Rogers, Ashley. *Brocreation* (Premiere). Step1/Theatre, NYC. World Premiere. 2017
- Curtis, Mona. *The Postmodernist*. Premiere. Midtown International Theatre Festival, NYC, 2016
- Bader, Jenny Lynn. *None of the Above*. P51/Performance Project, 2013
- Bock, Adam. *Swimming In the Shallows*. Cake Productions NYC, 2010
- Garcia Lorca, Federico. *The Public*. P51/Performance Project. Austin, 2000
- Shakespeare, William. *Richard II*. St. Louis Shakespeare Co., 1999
- Dragun, Osvaldo. *Stories to be told*. P51/Performance Project. Austin, 1999
- Shakespeare, William. *All's Well That Ends Well*. P51/Performance Project. Austin, 1999
- Schnitzler, Arthur. *La Ronde* (adapted). Teatro Humanidad. Austin, 1999
- Gonzalez, C. Zack. *Prose* (premiere). P51/Performance Project. Austin, 1998
- Fornes, Maria Irene. *Mud*. P51/Performance Project. Austin, 1998
- Shakespeare, William. *Henry VIII*. St. Louis Shakespeare Co. 1998
- Norfolk, William. *Songs for Sinning Lovers* (US Premiere). City Players of St. Louis. 1993
- Casona, Alejandro. *Lady of the Dawn*. Edwardsville Players. Illinois, 1991

### 2. Professional Readings and Play Development

- Mac Anally, Raymond. *The Cruelty of Children*. Emerging Artists – New Work Series, NYC. October 2018
- Domenech, Blanca. *Silver Factory*. Madness NY, 2016
- Domenech, Blanca. *The Sickness of the Stone*. Outliers Theatre, NYC, 2016
- Kerr, Robert. *Ventilator Blues*. ID Players, NYC, 2014. Jersey City Theatre Center, 2015

### 3. Experimental Productions (projects I planned, developed and put in practice)

Shakespeare, William. *JC (Julius Caesar)*. MCVTS Theatre. Immersive/Interactive production, using a deconstructed text. The production also explored collaborative creation and devising on text in an educational setting. Paper in progress. 2019

*The Education Project*. Devised 2014 at MCVTS Theatre.

- Produced by P51/Performance Project at Planet Connectivity, NYC. Eight nominations, two awards
- Produced at Rutgers- New Brunswick.
- On tour in New Jersey and New York schools
- Extended production at MCVTS 2014, 2015, 2018

*The Steam Plays*. MCVTS Theatre, in collaboration with McCarter Theatre and NJIT. A devised production and new play collaboration, using STEAM and “swarming” writing techniques. Experimentation included use of robotics, actor interaction with Microsoft Kinect technology, live stream/live performance mixed treatment. Several presentations based on this project and paper in progress. 2016

*New Play Project*. In collaboration with Crystal Skillman and Cecilia Copeland. Professional/Educational collaboration between three professional writers and MCVTS Theatre program. The project culminated in a series of five plays (three student-written, two written by professionals). 2014

Alonzo, Chris. *In The Middle of the Ocean*. Developed as a mixed text/music concert at P51/Performance Project. Development process (2000-2001) Austin 2001 (Winner Best In Fest, Frontera). Invited to NY Fringe, 2001.

Wells, Louis, and Maria Aladren. *N>2*. Developed as an experimental piece on mathematics and performance. P51/Performance Project. Austin, 1998

*Zelda and Scott*. Devised collaboration for Shattermask Theatre. St. Louis, 1995

### 4. Educational Plays

Nguyen, Qui. *She Kills Monsters*. MCVTS Theatre. 2018

Shakespeare, William. *Twelfth Night*. MCVTS Theatre. 2017

Gomez Glez, Mar. *Numbers*. NJIT/Rutgers Theatre, 2015

Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*. MCVTS Theatre, 2013

Shakespeare, William. *Comedy of Errors*. MCVTS Theatre, 2011

Shakespeare, William. *Midsummer Night's Dream*. MCVTS Theatre, 2009

Jory, Jan. *Anton in Show Business*. MCVTS Theatre, 2008

Kushner, Tony. *A Bright Room Called Day*. MCVTS Theatre, 2006

Churchill, Caryl. *Top Girls*. MCVTS Theatre, 2005

Clarvoe, Anthony. *The Living*. MCVTS Theatre, 2004

Various. *Love's Fire*. Mercer County College, 2003  
*The Lorax: A Dance Theatre Adaption*. P51/Performance Project, Terra Firma Dance, Kean University, 2002  
 Dahl, Gavin. *Afraid of Americans*. Texas Young Playwrights (winner). Austin, 1998  
 Marivaux. *Triumph of Love*. UT-Austin Main Stage Series. Austin, 1998  
 Glowacki, Janus. *Cinders*. UT-Austin Lab Theatre. Austin, 1998  
 Stoppard, Tom. *The Real Inspector Hound*. Southern Illinois University, 1990

## STAGE EXPERIENCE

<i>Stories To Be Told</i>	Wife	Pegasus51/Theatre
<i>Tape</i>	Woman	University of Texas - Austin
<i>July 7, 1994</i>	Senora Soto	Orthwein Theatre Company
<i>Tough Choices for the New Century</i>	Helen Dooley	Orthwein Theatre Company
<i>Streetcar Named Desire</i>	Eunice	Missouri Summer Rep
<i>All In The Timing</i>	Sharon, Kafka	Missouri Summer Rep
<i>Blood Wedding</i>	Mother	Washington University (award-winning)
<i>The Endless Adventures of MC Kat</i>	Og	Washington University (award-winning)
<i>Tiny Alice</i>	Alice	City Players of St. Louis
<i>Red Devil Battery Sign</i>	Perla	City Players of St. Louis
<i>A Lie of The Mind</i>	Lorraine	Southern Illinois University
<i>La Detonacion</i>	Larra's Wife	Sundance Institute – Salt Lake City

## WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS

Co-presenter “Using Responsive Technology in the Humanities”, Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Washington DC – Open Workshop, 2019. Workshop Leader: Andrew Klobucar. Co-presenters: Louis Wells, Maria Lantin, Sharla Sava.  
 “Forum Theatre in Gender Dynamics” Workshop. Center for Women in Technology, NJIT, 2019  
 “Using AI to unlock creative writing in High School.” Workshop. Applied Improv Network, Paris 2018  
 “STEM to STEAM in Practice: Stem Presentations meet Dramatic Writing” Presentation. NJCEA, 2017  
 As Performer. Funkhouser, Chris. *ShyNag* – an electronic opera. ELOC, Bergen, Norway, 2016  
 “STEM to STEAM using Chaos” STEM+ Panel, NJIT, 2016  
 Moderator. Immigration Panel, Theatre Panel, NJIT/Rutgers, 2015  
 Workshop. “Improvisation Techniques” NJ Junior Thespians, 2016

## AWARDS/COMMENDATIONS

Two Tony Award Education nominations  
 Eight nominations, two awards for *The Education Project* at PCF  
 Evaluated as a Highly Effective Teacher for the past seven years

Scholarship Recipient University of Texas Louis Hexter Scholarship  
Scholarship Recipient Washington University Department Program  
Honorable Mention. *The Amazing Adventures of MC Kat*. Kennedy Center American College  
Theater Festival  
Best Actress, *Blood Wedding*– Washington University series  
Best Team Member Southwestern Bell Contract negotiations  
Recipient Brigham Young University International Student Dean List  
Winner – Essay Division Utah Young Writers  
Scholarship Recipient Brigham Young University Merit Program

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS**

Standard CEAS in Theatre, New Jersey License  
OSHA 10

## **MEMBERSHIPS/COMMUNITY WORK**

Member – Arts Commission, South Orange NJ  
Member – New Jersey College English Association  
Advisor – Gender and Sexual Minority and Allies, MCVTS  
Troupe Director - EDTA  
Member of the Newark Arts Education Roundtable (Professional Development committee, 2013-2014)  
Leadership Shore Member Monmouth Country Class of 2004  
Volunteer Theatre Editor Open Directory Project Cataloguing theatre on the web  
Ex-officio Board Member Terra Firma Dance Theatre (2003-2004)  
Member - Highland Park Arts Commission (2003-2004)  
Member – Americans for the Arts

## **RELEVANT SKILLS**

THEATRE: Stage directing, stage management, acting, movement for actors, acting for the camera, Meisner and all derivatives of Stanislavski techniques, Viewpoints, Boal techniques, Grotowski

DANCE: Ballet, Jazz, Ballroom, Modern

MUSIC: Opera training, Music Theory

WRITING: Dramaturgical techniques, Playwriting, Screenwriting

SOUND, LIGHT, PROJECTIONS



Sound and Projection Design primarily. On the production areas versed in Ableton Live, QLab 4, Projection Engineering, Digital soundboards (Midas Pro/ Yamaha), Ion 2000, ETC Express (several generations)

#### APPLICATIONS

Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, Final Cut Pro, Database Programming, Dreamworks

#### LANGUAGES

Native Spanish, Reading Italian, Classical Greek, Latin, Reading French, Reading Catalan, Classical Hebrew

### **REFERENCES (CONTACT INFORMATION UPON REQUEST)**

Michele Rittenhouse, Program Director, NJIT,

Dr. Gail Simmons, Provost, Hofstra University

Erica Nagel, Director of Education and Engagement, McCarter Theatre

Jeffrey Bicsko, Assistant Superintendent, Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools

Dr. Henry Schvey, Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

Bill Whitaker, Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

Marshall Jones, Head of BA Theatre, Rutgers

Cleo Mack, Dance Director, MCVTS School of the Arts

Lilly Junker, Curriculum and Instruction Manager, McCarter Theatre

Crystal Skillman, Playwright

Robert Clyman, Playwright

Jelena Stupljanin, Actor