

M E L I S S A F I R L I T

Director, Educator & Producer

Associate Member SDC

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TEACHING ARTIST & DIRECTOR

<i>Legally Blonde Scenes & Songs</i>	Broadway Bootcamp, The College of St. Rose	July 2019
<i>Into the Woods Scenes & Songs</i>	Broadway Bootcamp, The College of St. Rose	July 2018
<i>Putnam County Spelling Bee Scenes & Songs</i>	Broadway Bootcamp, The College of St. Rose	July 2017
<i>Audition Technique</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	May 2017
<i>Into the Woods Scenes & Songs</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	July 2016
<i>Portal Pizzazz</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	July 2015
<i>Our America</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	June 2015
<i>Spring Musical Theater</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	May 2015
<i>Putnam County Spelling Bee Scenes & Songs</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	Dec 2014
<i>Creating a Character</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	July 2015
<i>The Women</i>	Stagedoor Manor	June 2014
<i>Bye Bye Birdie</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	May 2014
<i>Dreams</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	May 2014
<i>Musical Theater Cabaret</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	Dec 2014
<i>In the Mix</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	May 2013
<i>Metamorphoses</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	July 2013
<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>	McCarter Theatre Center Education	July 2012

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Program Director	The College of St. Rose Summer Youth Academy Albany, NY	2012-2019
Run a Broadway Bootcamp program.		
Re-focused the Mission statement over 8 years, shifting the program into a training intensive for youth ages 12-18.		
Training includes: dancing, singing, acting, playwriting, stage combat, scene study, improvisation, songwriting, audition technique, ensemble building and performance skills.		
Coordinate the calendar for the 3 week program.		
Locate and retain teaching artists that challenge and support the students and the mission of the program.		
Choreographer and Director for all performances.		
Master Teaching Artist	McCarter Theatre Center Princeton, NJ	2011-2018
Lead 2 to 12 week classes focused in Musical Theatre, Audition Technique, Acting Styles, Creating a Character, Cabaret, Playmakers.		
Every class culminated in a performance.		
Responsible for expanding the students' skill set and their understanding of the material being presented.		
Foster students' ownership of their work and themselves.		
Teaching Artist	Devising Workshop National Theater Institute, CT	2020
Guest Professor	Directing Workshop Montevallo, Birmingham, AL	2019, 2015
Guest Professor	Directing Workshop Bristol College, RI	2019
Teaching Artist	Directing Workshop National Theater Institute, CT	2019
Guest Professor	Directing Workshop Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO	2016, 2015
Teaching Artist	Theater Appreciation Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ	2012
Teaching Assistant	Intro to Theatre Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ	2011

OUTREACH

- Choreographer and Movement Director** Princeton Public Schools Princeton, NJ 2012-2016
Choreographed opening and closing numbers along with any movement needs for the 5th grade Shakespeare program.
Rotated among 3-5 different schools each semester, teaching 3-6 classes per day.
- Master Teaching Artist & Director** Dunn Middle School Trenton, NJ 2014
Led a semester long residency within the music class
Along with playwright Jacqueline Goldfinger, interviewed students to share with us stories on who they were, where they live and what they hope to be, which we developed into *Our America* and included text, song and dance.
Incorporated the school band and choir, involving over 120 students.
Served as director, teacher and choreographer.
Developed the semester curriculum.
- Master Teaching Artist** Dunn Middle School Trenton, NJ 2011-2013
Led an after school Drama program.
Taught various workshops in acting, singing, dancing, scene study, poetry, playwriting, improvisation.
Teaching focused on empowering and strengthening the students as artists and more importantly, as people.
- Master Classes** Pagosa Springs Center for Arts Pagosa Springs, Co 2014-Present
Conducted behind the scenes workshops with the theatre's patron organization "Friends of the Theatre"
Each workshop and style was based upon the show that was being presented. Ex. When we did Circle Mirror Transformation we did a workshop on all the theatre games that are played in the play.