

Lizzy May

Chicago, IL

lizzymaygordon@gmail.com

773.860.0748

EDUCATION & TRAINING

2013-2015	Masters of Arts in Teaching: Special Education, National Louis University	Chicago, IL
2009-2013	Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Minor in Theater, Wheaton College	Wheaton, IL
2012-2013	Acting Program, Gaiety School of Acting	Dublin, Ireland
2017	Playwrighting Class with Bryan Delaney	Online
2016	Michael Rohd Sojourn Institute for Civic Practice	Chicago, IL
2016-17	Classroom as Community: Theater of the Oppressed Training at the Goodman Theatre	Chicago, IL

COLLABORATIVE & COMMUNITY WORK EXPERIENCE

Residency Coordinator & Director- *Chicago Children's Theatre*- Chicago 2019- Present

- Hired following seasonal apprenticeship to direct original theater pieces with groups of youth from across the city
- Piloted and devised zoom-based Spring Break camp for youth nationally to create an original play in a week of online devising sessions
- Collaborated with stakeholders in local schools to create and implement devising based theatre education in during and after school sessions of varying lengths
- Trained and hired teaching artists working professionally in clown, improvisation, dance, circus, and acting to lead school-specific programming

Director- *Ghostlight Theatre Ensemble Nightlight Youth Theatre Festival*- Chicago Feb 2020

- Directed, designed and cast a youth theatre piece "Becky, no Rebecca and the Frog Prince" with an inter-generational cast as a selected part of Nightlight festival

Executive Director- *Backyard Chicago Ensemble*- Chicago 2016-2019

- Founded a theater company based on inter-generational, inter-racial theater making
- Worked closely with youth council to develop organization mission and strategic priorities
- Led devising and production of original works of theater in various Chicago neighborhoods
- Created and implemented common-core aligned, Illinois Theater Standards aligned curriculum for trauma-responsive after school theater education grades 4-8

Director- *La Cuenta de Puentes y Valles*- Los Angeles 2019

- Collaborated with Ecuadorian musician Gabriel Ponton to stage progressive performance pieces alongside his album release portraying the narrative of generations of immigrants and their journey into urban American culture

Performing Arts Program Founder & Theater Teacher- Chicago 2013- 2019

CICS Washington Park, LEARN 8, Piccolo School of Excellence

- Produced over 15 original student pieces, written, acted, directed and designed by middle school students for up to 100 staff, parents and community members
- Supervised guest classroom visits, workshops, and mentorships to forge partnerships between students and professional actors, poets and designers from Chicago
- Connected students with opportunities outside of the classroom through field trips to the Chicago Children's Theatre, Steppenwolf, Lookingglass, the Goodman, Teatro Vista, Young Chicago Authors, Chicago Shakespeare and Second City
- Presented at CPS Arts and Ingenuity's Arts Education Conference on "Devising in the Middle School Classroom"

Playwright, Director & Producer- *An Evening with Mary: Guided Artistic Meditation*- Chicago 2016

- Invited 12 female artists to reflect artistically on Mary, the mother of Jesus during Advent season
- Contributed an original piece paralleling the experience of Eve and Mary as pillars of Biblical female experience
- Partnered with Agave studios to produce an evening of work for 50 participants, with a female pastor leading the audience through a meditative series between each piece

Director- *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl- Chicago 2015

- Directed an ensemble of students and professional actors in a site-specific staging of *Eurydice* in a Lakeview alley
- Raised \$6,000 to produce the piece for over 150 Chicagoans
- Integrated original music from Chicago artists Ben Kinsinger and Jake Gordon

Assistant Director- Much Ado About Nothing- Chicago

2013

Worked with cast of 16 actors as a part of *Inglennok Theatre Company* to stage *Much Ado* in Theatre Y's Logan Square attic space for audiences of 120

PERSONAL ARTISTIC PROJECTS

wait//weight- Chicago

March 2020- Present

- Wrote and published a zine of original poetry and collage "wait//weight" investigating queerness, pleasure, and the female gaze through my lived experience

Healing Movement- New Orleans & Chicago

March 2020- Present

- Created a series of short dance films in New Orleans
- Hosting weekly "digital discos"- open invitation online dance spaces with NYC based dancer/choreographer Keli Gunn, creating spaces for potential healing through shared witnessing of bodies in motion

The Between- Brooklyn & Chicago

January 2019- Present

- Led five Chicago actors and musician/percussionist Alex Santilli in movement, improvisation and story-sharing workshops to devise original script about grief, rhythm and the percussive nature of memory in the "between" spaces of relationships and our own psyches
- Script was selected as one of six out of 200 submissions for staged reading as part of NYC-based Woolgatherer's Writing for Rights series

Honey Child- Chicago

June 2017- Present

- Wrote original script "Honey Child" about the birth of humanity's queen bee, an investigation of the divine feminine in the endangered hive
- Revised script through communal table readings, talkbacks and workshops hosted in my home and schools
- Collaborated with team of artists across the U.S. to conceptualize and design the piece
- Partnered with Palestinian artist Jerome Hicks to direct *Honey Child* in August of 2020 (projected date) in a city park

Next Stop - Brooklyn & Chicago

June 2019- Feb 2020

- Wrote and directed a dance film on the CTA bus about queer love and missed connections that was selected for NYC dance film festival *Jump/Cut* and screened in February 2020
- Collaborated with NYC based choreographer Keli Gunn to storyboard, cast, rehearse, and film and New Orleans based songwriter Kris Hansen to create original music

The Angels Will Let You Fall- Manhattan & Chicago

January- July 2016

- Directed an ensemble of students and adult professionals in the production of my original piece, *The Angels Will Let You Fall*, performed for over 200 Chicagoans in three neighborhoods and performed by invitation at the Midtown International Theater Festival in New York City
- Raised over \$20,000 through crowd-raising, email campaigns, and ticket sales for production of devised work and implementation of trauma-informed after school programming based on the script