

Tasia A. Jones

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tasiaajones.com

Personal Statement

I am a director, performer, facilitator, and educator specializing in social justice theater and civic practice. My freelance work focuses on creating artistic spaces that promote under-heard narratives and engages communities around topics of social justice and equity. As an educator, I use theater and performance practice as a means to encourage the mental and emotional growth of youth and young adults, and to give them a space to investigate and understand the issues that affect their communities.

Professional Skills

Directing | Performing | Playwriting | Dramaturgy | Community Engagement |
Youth Development and Advocacy | Curriculum Development | Project Development and Management | Facilitation |
Artistic Collaboration

Education

Northwestern University, MFA Directing

Thesis: *Black Femme Fearless: Tools to Ethically Represent Black Femme Bodies and Stories on Stage in Majority White Spaces*, Thesis Advisors: Jessica Thebus and Dr. Cristal Chanelle Truscott

Boston University, BFA Theatre Arts (Acting, Directing)

Workshops, Residencies and Additional Training

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| 2019 | Center for Performance and Civic Practice Summer Institute | Chicago, IL |
| 2015 | Sojourn Theatre Summer Institute | Chicago, IL |
| 2014 | Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab | New York, NY |
| 2006 | Lessons of the Trade w/ Olympia Dukakis | Boston, MA |

Teaching Experience

2023- Present Boston University Boston, MA

Co-Chair of Performance

- Oversee agenda for performance faculty meetings
- Liaison between performance students and performance faculty

Assistant Professor- MFA Directing, BFA Acting and Directing, School of Theatre

- Instruct graduate courses in directing
- Instruct undergrad courses in acting and directing
- Create and implement curriculum
- Mentor MFA directing candidates
- Participate on faculty committees

2020-2023 Northwestern University Evanston, IL

Assistant Professor of Instruction- Acting and Directing, Department of Theatre

- Instruct undergrad and grad level courses in acting, directing, and special topics

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|------------|--|--------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and implement curriculum • Mentor students • Participate on faculty committees | |
| 2020 | <p>Boston University <i>Guest Artist Mentor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentored design students in collaborative process and creation | Boston, MA |
| 2020 | <p>Purdue University <i>Director/ Instructor- Acting for the Digital Stage</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructed course on work of Suzan-Lori Parks • Directed virtual engagement of <i>In the Blood</i> | West Lafayette, IN |
| 2020 | <p>University of Illinois at Chicago <i>Adjunct Lecturer- Acting Fundamentals for Non-majors</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructed undergrad course for School of Theatre and Music • Create and implement syllabus | Chicago, IL |
| 2019 | <p>University of Illinois at Chicago <i>Adjunct Lecturer- Script Analysis for Theatrical Production</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructed undergrad course for School of Theatre and Music • Create and implement syllabus | Chicago, IL |
| 2019 | <p>Northwestern University <i>Instructor- Fundamentals of Stage Directing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructed Fundamentals of Stage Directing course to undergraduates • Created and implemented syllabus | Evanston, IL |
| 2018-2019 | <p>Mudlark Theater Company <i>Lead Teaching Artist</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught civil rights and activism residency for 4th graders • Created curriculum and lesson plans | Evanston, IL |
| 2018, 2019 | <p>National High School Institute <i>Faculty</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-taught new play class for high school playwrights and actors | Evanston, IL |
| 2014 | <p>Central Square Theatre Summer Stage <i>Instructor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed participants ages 7-13 in production of <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> • Lead participants through improv workshop | Cambridge, MA |
| 2012 | <p>Stoneham Young Company Summer Program <i>Instructor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught Commedia dell'Arte workshops to students grades 4-8 • Created lesson plan and led students in final presentation | Stoneham, MA |
| 2009-2010 | <p>Shakesperience Productions, Inc. <i>Resident Artist</i></p> | Waterbury, CT |

- Performed in touring productions of Rapunzel and Julius Caesar.
- Created and edited curriculums for workshops and classes for grade K-12.
- Taught theatre classes to children ages 7-13 and directed students in a performance at the end of the course.
- Assisted in a residency program for “at-risk” teens.

Artistic Leadership

- 2019-2020 **Artistic Fellow**, *Northlight Theatre*, Skokie, IL
- Assist artistic team with season planning and audience engagement
 - Member of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee
- 2018-Present **Literary Committee Member**, *Rivendell Theatre*, Chicago, IL
- Read and review plays for programming consideration
- 2017- Present **Artistic Associate**, *Black Lives Black Words International Project*
- Carry out mission of BLBW and advise on projects as needed
- 2007-Present **Freelance Director**, *Various*
- Direct productions, readings, and workshops for various companies
- 2014- Present **Adjunct Ensemble Member**, *Fort Point Theatre Channel*, Boston, MA
- Provide assistance to the company as needed when available
- 2013-2014 **Co-Artistic Director**, *Fort Point Theatre Channel*, Boston, MA
- Collaborate with directors and company members to select scripts and produce plays
- 2013-Present **Artistic Consultant**, *On With Living and Learning*, Boston, MA
- Provide consultation and assistance in program and script development
- 2015-2017 **Co-Curator and Director**, *Boston Beyond Today*, Boston Metro Area
- Collaborate with other curators to produce and direct several events highlighting racial injustice and police overuse of force

Grants and Awards

- 2022 **Lloyd Richards Best Director of a Play Award**
 Black Theater Alliance/ Ira Aldridge Awards
 Received for production of *Intimate Apparel* at Northlight Theatre
- 2020 **Year of Chicago Theater Cultural Asset Mapping Grant**
 Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, League of Chicago Theaters
 Chicago, Illinois
 Awarded \$50,000
 January – December 2020
 Chicago Public Schools Team Member

Directing (*denotes world premiere)

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| 2024 | <i>Stokely: The Unfinished Revolution*</i> | Director | Court Theatre |
| 2024 | <i>Where We Stand</i> (postponed) | Director | Greater Boston Stage Company |
| 2022 | <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> | Director | American Players Theatre |
| 2022 | <i>1919*</i> | Director | Steppenwolf Theatre Company |
| 2022 | <i>1919</i> (digital recording) | Director | Steppenwolf Theatre Company |
| 2022 | <i>Intimate Apparel</i> (remount) | Director | Northlight Theatre |
| 2021 | <i>The Crucible</i> (theatrical film) | Director | University of Illinois at Chicago |
| 2021 | <i>Intimate Apparel</i> | Director | Utah Shakespeare Festival |
| 2020 | <i>Somewhere</i> (digital) | Director | Milwaukee Repertory Theater |
| 2020 | <i>In the Blood</i> (virtual workshop) | Director | Purdue University |
| 2019 | <i>Intimate Apparel</i> | Director | Northlight Theatre |
| 2019 | <i>Small Mouth Sounds</i> | Director | UCCS Theatreworks |
| 2019 | <i>The MLK Project</i> | Director | Writers Theatre |
| 2019 | <i>Voyeurs de Venus</i> | Director | Northwestern University |
| 2018 | <i>The Inside</i> | Director | Northwestern University |
| 2018 | <i>Seussical the Musical</i> | Director | Jean's Playhouse |
| 2018 | <i>White</i> | Director | Northwestern University |
| 2017 | <i>No Child</i> | Director | Northwestern University |
| 2016 | <i>Nighthawks</i> | Director | Monro Saturday Night Performance Series |
| 2015 | <i>Hidden Faces of Courage</i> | Director | On With Living and Learning (OWLL) |
| 2014 | <i>The Archives*</i> | Director | Fort Point Theatre Channel |
| 2013 | <i>For Colored Girls</i> | Director | Boston University |
| 2013 | <i>Hidden Faces of Courage</i> | Director | On With Living and Learning (OWLL) |
| 2013 | <i>Harbor Lights*</i> | Director | Fort Point Theatre/ Boston Theatre Marathon |
| 2012 | <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> | Director | Central Square Theatre: Summer Stage |
| 2011 | <i>Oleanna</i> | Director | Can't Wait Productions |
| 2010 | <i>Margaret in Search of Herself*</i> | Director | New African Co/ ARRT |
| 2008 | <i>Fair Game</i> | Director | New Urban Theatre Lab |
| | <i>Jess & DJ: A Baby Mama Dramey*</i> | Director | Bostonia Bohemia/ Interim Writers |
| 2006 | <i>Autobahn</i> | Director | Boston University School of Theatre |
| 2005 | <i>Railing it Uptown</i> | Director | Boston University School of Theatre |

Assistant and Associate Directing

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|------|--|--------------------|---|
| 2021 | <i>Fannie</i> <i>(The Music and Life of Fannie Lou Hamer)</i> | Associate Director | Goodman Theatre Dir. Henry Godinez |
| 2018 | <i>The Steadfast Tin Soldier</i> | Assistant Director | Lookingglass Theatre Company Dir. Mary Zimmerman |
| 2018 | <i>The Roommate</i> | Assistant Director | Steppenwolf Theatre Company Dir. Phylicia Rashad |
| 2018 | <i>Smart People</i> | Assistant Director | Writers Theatre Dir. Hallie Gordon |
| 2017 | <i>Marie Christine</i> | Assistant Director | BoHo Theatre Dir. Lili-Anne Brown |
| 2017 | <i>Pass Over</i> | Assistant Director | Steppenwolf Theatre Company Dir. Danya Taymor |
| 2015 | <i>Quixote in Kabul</i> | Assistant Director | Boston University/ Voces Hispanas |

Performance (Partial List)

Theater

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| <i>The Inside</i> | Emma | Pegasus Theatre Muse Festival Dir. Gabrielle Randle-Bent |
| <i>Saturday Night/Sunday Morning</i> | Gladys | The Lyric Stage Company Dir. Dawn M. Simmons |
| <i>Our Town</i> | Woman in the Balcony | Long Wharf Theatre Dir. Gordon Edelstein |
| <i>Good Television</i> | Tara | Zeitgeist Stage Company Dir. David Miller |
| <i>Good Person of Setzuan</i> | Mrs. Shin | Fort Point Theatre Channel Dir. Marc S. Miller |
| <i>The Embryos</i> | Condoleeza/Dr. Kaganda | Fresh Ink Dir. Dawn Simmons |
| <i>Grimm</i> | Futura/ Black Girl | Company One Dir. Summer Williams |
| <i>The Inside</i> | Emma | Can't Wait Productions Dir. Corianna Moffat |
| <i>Julius Caesar</i> | Portia/ Calpurnia/ Messala | Shakesperience Productions, Inc. Dir. Emily Mattina |
| <i>Rapunzel</i> | Rapunzel | Shakesperience Productions, Inc. Dir. Emily Mattina |
| <i>Stuff Happens</i> | Condoleezza Rice | Boston University (Professional) Dir. Jim Petosa |
| <i>The Bluest Eye</i> | Claudia | Company One Dir. Summer Williams |

Film

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|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Awakenings: Marlo</i> | Marlo (lead) | Foley Ellis Ibidapo/ Marisa Prince |
| <i>Dark Haul</i> | Redhead (supporting) | Colin Theys |
| <i>Alien Opponent</i> | Lux (supporting) | Colin Theys |

Commercial

National Grid, Dunkin Donuts, Tervis, Liberty Mutual, Eastern Bank, Connecticut State Lottery, CVS, BJ's

Industrial

TJX, CVS, Drinkstory.com, Wolters Kluwer, NKP Media