

# Jessica Claire

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## LINKS

- [www.Jessicazyoung.com](http://www.Jessicazyoung.com)

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Veteran theatre arts teacher who has successfully built a nationally recognized inclusive performing arts program through bringing learning from the classroom onto the stage while empowering groups of students, who would usually never cross paths with each other, to come together to produce full-scale professional level main-stage productions. Accomplished in establishing a student culture which embraces risk through building support networks among peers, parents, and the community at large.

## EDUCATION

### Master of Arts | Theatre Directing

Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL

4.0 GPA

12/2007

### Bachelor of Science | Secondary Education - English

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Slippery Rock, PA

Summa Cum Laude Graduate

05/1997

## CERTIFICATIONS

English 6-12

Drama 6-12

## AFFILIATIONS

- Educational Theatre Association
- Florida Association for Theatre Educators

## SKILLS

- Competent skills in fundraising, publicity and marketing, costume design and basic sewing, props design and construction, lighting and sound design, use of both digital and analog lighting fixtures and equipment, and use of wireless microphone systems and equipment.
- Extensive knowledge of the principles of set design, including basic hand-drafting and construction, including proper use of commonly used power and pneumatic tools
- Basic American Sign Language
- Intermediate experience in course design and teacher use of the Canvas LMS platform
- Competent in use of Adobe Photoshop and InDesign
- Intermediate experience in using Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Forms, and Teams
- Proficient in project management and technical direction

## INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

### THEATRE ARTS TEACHER

08/2005 to CURRENT

South Plantation High School | City, STATE

- Design and implement curriculum and lessons in alignment with Florida State Standards for the following classes: AICE Drama (100 % Pass Rate), Acting 1-4, Theatre Improvisation, and Technical Theatre 1-4
- Serve as Drama Club Sponsor for all International Thespian Society functions including District Individual Event Competitions, District One Act Competitions, and Florida State Thespian Conferences
- Produce, direct, and technically direct full length main-stage plays and musicals annually. After school schedule consists of 7-9 weeks of performance rehearsals from 3pm-6pm followed by concurrent technical work for 4-6 weeks from 6pm -10pm throughout the week and from 8am-6pm on weekends.
- Responsible for independently raising and managing funds required for main-stage productions as well as for all additional Thespian related activities. Expenses typically exceed \$90,000.00 annually and have never ended in the red or been the subject of audit exceptions.
- Provide opportunities for inclusivity in Arts Education through embracing the diverse backgrounds of all students regardless of disability, race, gender, sexual orientation, identity, or native language.
- Specialize in Theatre for The Deaf

• Facilitated the establishment of the SPHS Friends of The Theatre, an independent incorporated parent booster organization, which annually awards senior scholarships, successfully secures community grant funding for the school and the program, and works closely with school and district personnel representing the needs of the theatre students and community at SPHS

• Regularly promote the image of the theatre program and the school by hosting district personnel and notable community leaders including the superintendent of schools, local school board members, and community leaders at major theatrical productions.

• Promote student retention and enrollment through networking with local feeder elementary and middle school students by incorporating them into productions and hosting their annual functions such as chorus concerts, band concerts, drama productions, etc.

• Mentor for South Florida CAPPIES (a high school theatre writing and awards program).

• Served as the lead grant writer: XQ Institute - South Plantation High School Pathways of Learning. Advanced to the semi-finals and awarded district funding.

• Schedule and manage all school, district, and community events which take place in the theater.

• Maintain all technical equipment including sound equipment, lighting equipment, etc. housed in the theater.

• Assist with additional class coverage when necessary, holding classes in the auditorium with an average of 100 – 150 additional students

### ENGLISH AND THEATRE ARTS TEACHER

08/1999 to 06/2005

Stranahan High School | City, STATE

- Designed and implemented curriculum and lessons in alignment with Florida State Standards for the following classes: Drama 1-4, Technical Theatre 1-4, English 9, 10, and 11
- Served as Drama Club Sponsor for all International Thespian Society functions including annual District Individual Event Competitions, District One Act Competitions, and Florida State Thespian Conferences as well as mentored for South Florida CAPPIES

• Produced, directed, and technically directed 10 main-stage plays and musicals after school without a school budget raising all funds necessary without ever ending in the red or with an audit exception.

### ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER

08/1997 to 06/1999

Lauderhill Middle School | City, STATE

- Designed and implemented curriculum and lessons in alignment with Florida State Standards for the following classes: Drama, 8th Grade Language Arts, Television Production, Creative Writing

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

- 7 South Florida CAPPIE Wins for Best Play or Musical
- 3 Florida State Thespian Conference Selected Mainstage Productions
- 2022 Norwegian Giving Joy Winner (Top 100)
- 2022 and 2019 Tony Award for Excellence in Theatre Education Award: Honorable Mention
- 2020 National Winner: Barnes & Noble's My Favorite Teacher
- 2019 Featured on NBC6 Educators Making A Difference
- 2019 BurgerFi's Star Teacher
- 2013 Broward County Arts Teacher of The Year
- 2010 and 2008 South Plantation High School Teacher of The Year

## National and Local Media Recognition

### TELEVISION

- 2019 "Jessica Claire" NBC 6 Making A Difference
- 2008 "The Spirit of America" ABC World News Tonight

### PRINT

- May 2017 "Students Feed Our Appetite for Drama - Broward Celebrities also Make Appearance" Sun Sentinel
- November 2016 "Student play combines drama with sign language" Sun Sentinel: The Forum
- July 2014 "South Plantation High School Theatre Students Raise More Than \$4,000 For 2-Year-Old With Cancer" Our City Plantation
- November 2008 "Silently Singing - It Takes Singing and Signing to Tell The Story of Love and Prejudice at South Plantation High School" The Miami Herald
- November 2007 "Rising Curtains - Falling Funds" The Miami Herald Broward Edition
- March 2007 "Languages of Neverland" The Sun Sentinel