

# STEPHANIE LA VARDERA

Actor/Teaching Artist

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## EDUCATION/ TRAINING

<b>MFA in Classical Acting</b>	The Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SAFD certified in several stage combat weapons, IPA proficient</li></ul>
<b>BFA in Drama, with honors</b>	New York University, Tisch School of the Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Course work in educational theatre, drama therapy and developmental psychology</li></ul>
<b>Linklater Voice Technique</b>	Kristin Linklater, The Linklater Voice Centre (Orkney, Scotland)

## EXPERIENCE

July 2024- Present	<b>Teaching Artist, The Playgroup Theatre, White Plains, NY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teaching artist for various programs, including on-camera classes, Shakespeare classes, improv classes, and general theatre/acting classes.</li><li>• Teaching classes for students of all ages, from 5 through 18.</li><li>• Have directed various student projects, including short films and showcases of scenes, improv, and musical numbers.</li><li>• Private coaching in scene and monologue work for teenage students preparing for college and professional auditions.</li></ul>
January 2022- June 2024	<b>Voice and Speech Faculty, The Waterwell Drama Program at the Professional Performing Arts School, NY, NY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Voice and Speech teacher for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes.</li><li>• Collaborated with Voice and Speech department team to develop updated, anti-racist curriculum focusing on heightened language work, and the development of breath support, resonance, clarity and articulation.</li><li>• Guided students through the development of their vocal warm up, as well as units in poetry of cultural resonance, sonnets, and voiceover work.</li><li>• Also served as a long term substitute for middle and high school acting classes.</li></ul>
Aug. '24-Present	<b>Playreading Series Curator, The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, NY, NY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Curate and manage weekly playreading series for the LSTFI Instagram account.</li><li>• Read at minimum four new plays a month, and write report on each, including playwright and production history, synopsis, a notable quote, essential themes and questions, and helpful notes for the actor.</li><li>• Log each play in Strasberg Institute database, organize data in play database.</li><li>• Create themes for each month, including playwrights from specific backgrounds, LSTFI alums, a featured playwright, etc.</li><li>• Select plays with regards to giving representation to under-represented voices, including BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ playwrights.</li></ul>
June 2018- Present	<b>Customer Success Manager/Storytelling Coach, Revision Learning (formerly Story2), NY, NY/Virtual</b>

- Manage all client partnerships, including onboarding meetings, point person for all client needs/questions, creation of end-of-year success reports, etc.
- Clients include the KIPP organization (largest national network of charter schools), DC Public Schools, and many NYC public and charter schools.
- Storytelling coach and instructor, helping people advocate for themselves in high-stakes situations through storytelling.
- Teach workshops for high school students on essay writing for college admissions, both in person and virtually.
- Lead professional development workshops for educators and other professionals on using storytelling in their careers and personal lives.

January 2018-  
Present

**Resident Company Member/Teaching Artist, Hamlet Isn't Dead, NY, NY**

- A resident company member and teaching artist for Hamlet Isn't Dead, NYC- based Shakespeare company.
- Meet monthly as a company to hone artistic practices and participate in company development- grant writing, fundraising, marketing, educational program development and management.
- Teach "Shakes Pre-K" program, a Shakespeare program designed for preschoolers, at schools including The Goddard School and Trinity Preschool.
- Lead and manage classes of 10-20 3-5 year olds, introducing basic acting concepts, and performing 15 minute puppet versions of stories.

July 2021

**Teaching Artist, The Winnepesaukee Playhouse, Meredith, NH**

- Taught the Upper Camp program for the Winnepesaukee Playhouse, for 10 students age 11-14.
- Developed entire curriculum for month long camp.
- Led them in 6 hours of camp time per day, supporting them in creating their own original, devised one act play.
- Introduced Shakespeare stories as source material, led improv and devising exercises, taught playwriting concepts, and directed final project.

May-June 2021

**Teaching Artist, Northern Stage Co. White River Junction, VT/Virtual**

- Served as a teaching artist for Northern Stage Company's BridgeUp program, introducing Shakespeare into 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms throughout Vermont and New Hampshire.
- Virtually taught five classrooms of 12-21 students over Zoom, introducing and exploring *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- Created and directed a final video project for each classroom of students-a performance of a monologue from the play.

Summer 2013-  
Summer 2015

**Teaching Artist, Everyman Theatre, Baltimore, MD**

- Resident teaching artist, teaching voice and text work for high school students in the summer intensive program.
- Introduced basic vocal technique for the actor, helping them to understand how their voices work, the steps of vocal production, and how they can use vocal choices to create a character.
- Taught Shakespeare classes for high school students in scene study and text work.