

# STEPHANIE LA VARDERA

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## OBJECTIVE

To impart a love of theatre and all creative arts to students, inspire them to express themselves and help them grow through creativity, and help them develop the skill sets needed to succeed.

## EXPERIENCE

- February 2016-  
Present
- Teaching Artist, Wingspan Arts, New York, NY**  
Resident teaching artist for Wingspan Arts, an arts organization offering after school and in-school residencies, as well as theatre classes and camps in all artistic disciplines. Classes taught include "Junior Shakespeare" and "Storybook Theatre" for grades K-3.
- Summer 2015
- Teaching Artist, Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD**  
Taught various one week summer classes for children ages 8-13. Classes included: "Shakespeare Page to Stage" - used games and exercises to introduce Shakespearean language, text analysis, scansion and rhetoric, culminated in scene study of scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. "Legends of the Greeks" - acting for students ages 8-10, using Greek mythology as a springboard for developing the actor's tools of body, voice, mind and imagination, creating characters, and learning basic text/story analysis. "Intro to Musical Theatre" - served as acting teacher for intro to musical theatre course, focusing on acting through song.
- March 2015-  
May 2015
- Actor/Teaching Artist, Maryland Shakespeare Company and Goucher College, Shakespeare Alive Tour, Towson, MD**  
Actor and teaching artist for the 2015 Shakespeare Alive tour. Performed and taught in middle and high schools throughout the Baltimore/DC region- Juliet and Benvolio in an abridged *Romeo and Juliet*, and various roles in "Shakespeare Alive," a compilation of various Shakespeare scenes and monologues. Also taught and co-taught multi-day residencies in classrooms on Shakespeare, including warm-ups, games and exercises, and Shakespearean scene study.
- Summer 2013-  
Present
- Teaching Artist, Everyman Theatre, Baltimore, MD**  
Resident teaching artist, teaching voice and text work for high school students in 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. Main goal for the class is to ensure they leave knowing what their body needs to be warmed up for performance, and to provide skills for a solid vocal warm-up. Also teach Shakespeare classes for high school students in scene study and text work.
- Winter 2014-  
Winter 2015
- Teaching Artist, Creative Kids, Washington, DC**  
Teaching artist for Creative Kids, a literature based drama program for elementary school students. Go into schools and lead hour-long classes of 9-15 students; teach students a story, introduce basic concepts of acting and theatre, and lead students in creating dramas based on stories.

- Winter 2013      **Teaching Assistant, Shakespeare Master Classes w/ Gary Logan, Washington, DC**  
 Assisted in teaching classes on Shakespearean text and performance for high school students participating in the English Speaking Union monologue competition. Observed master teacher Gary Logan, director of the Academy for Classical Acting and author of *The Eloquent Shakespeare*, and helped coach and offer feedback to students on scenes and monologues.
- Summer 2010      **Actor in Educational Touring Company, The Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, Madison, NJ**  
 Performed in two touring productions of *As You Like It* and *The Rover*; touring to camps, libraries, parks and other venues around New Jersey. Led workshops and talkback sessions for audiences after shows. Also responsible for maintenance of costumes.

EDUCATION/ TRAINING

- MFA in Classical Acting**      The Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University  
 -    SAFD certified in several stage combat weapons, IPA proficient
- BFA in Drama, with honors**      New York University, Tisch School of the Arts  
 -    Course work in educational theatre, drama therapy and developmental psychology
- Linklater Voice Technique Workshop**      Kristin Linklater, The Linklater Voice Centre (Orkney, Scotland)