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CURRENTLY 2023-24

Associate Professor, Towson University, [Department of Theatre Arts](#) at the College of Fine Arts & Communications: Teaching (graduate & undergraduate), directing dept. productions, multi/interdisciplinary arts + international & community outreach.

Founder and Executive Director of [ArtUp](#) and the [Sites of Passage](#) projects

Founded in 2005, ArtUp is a non-profit organization that instigates insight by activating art. Through undertaking on the ground initiatives, the organization builds global interchanges for the migration of ideas across political and cultural boundaries.

Job Description: Direct, curate, program, fundraise, plus manage staff and volunteers

RECENTLY

2013-20, Artist-in-Residence: [CREATE Lab](#), Carnegie Mellon University, Robotics Institute, Pittsburgh, PA

Co-Director of the [MFA program](#): recruiting, admissions, marketing, teaching, running the experimental laboratory driven program, focused on new modes of performance.

Founding Director of [CoLab](#): programming interdisciplinary arts projects and guest artists into graduate and undergraduate studies throughout the college. Founded in 2016, the lab is designed to rotate leadership every three years, opening up creative opportunities for networking throughout the college, the university, and beyond.

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Research Interests: Arts as Social Practice, Border Crossing, Indigenous Rights & Knowledge, Site-Specific Performance, and Installation, Directing and Devising New Cross-Disciplinary Works, Autoethnography, Puppetry & Object Performance, Interdisciplinary Projects, Towson University's Fair Chance High Education Initiative (FCHE), & working with other Prison Exchange programs/ Returning Citizen Initiatives

PhD Dissertation: SITES OF PASSAGE, Art as Action in Egypt, and the U.S.—Creating an Auto-ethnography through Performance Writing, Revolution, and Social Practice, defended on January 19th, 2013, Antioch University, Seattle, WA.

Personal details: Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Grew up in New York City.

EDUCATION

Academic

Antioch University
Class of 2013

PhD in Leadership and Change
Through Culture and the Arts

University of Pittsburgh
Class of 2001

M.F.A. Performance-Pedagogy
*Awarded 3/4 Teaching Fellowship, a full remission of tuition and living stipend

Antioch College
Class of 1993

Study and Training

Inside Out Training

Inclusion Advocate Training

Dialogue @TU

The People's Institute for Survival
And Beyond

Bread and Puppet Theater and The
Lubberland National Dance Company

Guillermo Gomez-Pena

Richard Schechner Center for
Performance Studies

Dudley Cocke, Roadside Theater
Appalshop

Arts Integration and Curriculum
Development Workshop

University of Massachusetts

Amy Trompetter, Blackbird Theater

Actors Studio

William Hickey

B.A. Theater Arts, Yellow Springs, OH
Studied under Amy Trompetter of Bread
and Puppet Theatre, Denny Partridge and
Steve Friedman of The San Francisco Mime
Troupe

Inside-Out Prison Exchange Training
Institute, Temple University

Nominated by the dean & designed to
enhance equity, validity, diversity, and
representation in university faculty hiring.

A perspective and skills training in
navigating frank discussions about our
identities and social justice.

Dismantling Racism
The August Wilson Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Outdoor circus, pageant, and sideshows,
Glover, VT

CONVOCATORIA: La Pocha Nostra's
International Performance Intensive
Workshop at the Museum of Contemporary
Art, Tucson

Winter Institute: Performing Shanghai
Co-sponsored by Brown, NYU, Princeton &
Yale Universities

Pittsburgh Artist-In-Community Project

Karen L. Erickson, Executive Director
of Creative Directions

Summer Labor Relations Program, Political
Street Performance, Amherst

Arts at St. Ann's (St. Ann's Warehouse)
Brooklyn, NY

Acting for the Camera, New York, NY

HB Studios, New York, NY

Art Therapy Workshop	The Studio Workshop School, New York, NY
Janie Gizzer Puppetry Workshop	Arts at St. Ann's (St. Ann's Warehouse) Brooklyn, NY
Commedia Dell'Arte	Joan Schirle, Director of The Dell'Arte, Residency in Yellow Springs, OH

AWARDS/HONORS/FELLOWSHIPS

2024-25 COFAC Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Guest Artist/Activist, Analysis the Poet with Red Emma's, into the Fair Chance Higher Education class, *Performing Truth*

2023-24 COFAC Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Indigenous Wampanoag Guest Artist/Activist, Hartman Deetz

2022-23 Harold J. Kaplan Fund & COFAC Dean's Research Award, Indigenous Research

2021-22 National Endowment for the Arts, ArtUp & The Mattress Factory Museum, *Pop-Aganda: Revolution & Iconography*

2020-21 NASA STEM, Two-Eyed Seeing: NASA and Indigenous Astronomy for the Benefit of All with Native Skywatchers

2021 The Pittsburgh Foundation's AW Mellon Award, *Pop-Aganda: Revolution & Iconography* (\$18,000)

2020 Heinz Endowments, *Pop-Aganda: Revolution & Iconography* (\$13,000)

2019 The Opportunity Foundation, *Pop-Aganda: Revolution & Iconography* (\$5,000)

2019 Certificate of Merit for Excellence for Puppet and Mask Design by Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for ***ICARUS AT THE BORDER: a mediation on monstrous appetites***

2018 -21 The Baltimore Towson University Initiative, funding for *Community Outreach-Social Practice Project in Baltimore City Schools*

2017 The Opportunity Foundation, *Civil Rights & Civil Wrongs*

2017 Ruby Artist Award, *Ancient Instincts*

2017 #1 in the top 10 Gaming and Educations projects, Creative Industries Festival, *The Lemonade Project*

2015 Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh, *Civil Rights & Civil Wrongs*

2014 Flight School Fellow, a project of Creative Capital

2013-14 ***Having a Global Impact*** by The Women and Girls Foundation

Investing in Pittsburgh Region Artists Program (\$35,000)

Heinz Endowments Small Arts Award (10 times \$10-20,000)

The Heinz Endowments Creative Heights Award (\$45,000)

The Pittsburgh Foundation's A.W. Mellon Award (8 times, \$15,000)

Greater Pittsburgh Artist Opportunity Grant (3 times)

The Three Rivers Community Foundation

Multicultural Arts Initiative Award

The William and Clarissa Stainer Arts Award

The Sprout Fund Seed Award (2 times)

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Partner in the Arts Project Stream Award

The 2007 Artist Recognition Award (\$10,000 anonymous donor)

Nominated *Emerging Artist of the Year* by the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts 2007

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Board member of The Black Cherry Puppet Theater, Baltimore, MD
Board member of The Hiawatha Project, Pittsburgh, PA
Artist Advisory Committee member of the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council
ATHE, Women and Theatre Program
Theater and Communications Group
The Labor Party
Cultural Workers and Artists Caucus
SAG eligible

SCHOLARSHIP

Fellowship & Residencies:

Fall 2024, Hosting the residency, **On the Way to a New Future: Russian and US Artist Exchange**, supported by the US Embassy, Moscow

February 2024, Sowing Seeds, creating local community collaboration to create works related to environment and social development in the village Badanga, Udaipur, Rajasthan, INDIA

June 2022, La Wayaka Current, “A nomadic arts residency & research project curated in connection to remote natural environments & indigenous knowledge”, in Panama with the G/Kuna Yala people.

May 2019, CEC ArtsLink Curatorial Residency, St. Petersburg, Russia

2014-20, Artist-in-Residence: CREATE Lab, Carnegie Mellon University, Robotics Institute, Pittsburgh, PA

2010-14, The first Artist-in-Residence: Carnegie Mellon University’s the Center for Arts in Society, Pittsburgh PA

2014 Flight School Fellow, an intensive Creative Capital Professional Development Program

Summer 2010, ARE Residency, Giza, Egypt

Summer 2009, Bread and Puppet Theater, Glover VT, pilot project research

CONFERENCES: National and International Invitations to Present:

Sixteenth International Conference on the Inclusive Museum, 2023
UBC Robson Square,
Vancouver, Canada

Presenter, *Sites of Passage: Surfing the Paradigm Shifts*

Eighteenth International Conference on the Arts in Society, Jul 5, 2023 – Jul 7, 2023 at Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland

Presenter, *Sites of Passage: Surfing the Paradigm Shifts*

The University of Auckland,
Auckland, New Zealand
Twenty-third International Conference on
Knowledge, Culture, and Change in
Organizations, 2023

Presenter, *Sites of Passage: Surfing the
Paradigm Shifts*

The Hong Kong Academy
For Performing Arts:
Harnessing a 21st Century Approach
to Performing Arts, 2022

Presenter, *Sites of Passage: Surfing the
Paradigm Shifts*

HUIC Hawaii University
International Conferences
2021

Presenter: *Sites of Passage*- Global
Interchanges for the Migration of Ideas
Across Political/Cultural Borders

IFTE 2021
Galway, Ireland

(International Federation for Theatre
Research) Theatre Ecologies: Environments,
Sustainability, and Politics, National
University of Ireland, Galway,
Invited to Present: *Sites of Passage*

Arts in Society
Perth, Australia
2021

Invited to Present: *Artist as Oracle*
16th Arts in Society Conference hosted by
The University of Western Australia, School
of Design, Perth

Hemispheric Institute
Mexico City
2019
First Fulbright

The World Inside Out: Humor, Noise, and
Performance, El mundo al revés: Humor,
ruido y performance O mundo às avessas:
Humor, ruído e performance

Creative Industries Festival
Pittsburgh, PA

The Lemonade Project
#1 in the top 10 Gaming and Education

XIII International Theatre Festival
Tatar National Academic Theatre
Kazan, Russia, June 2017

Presenter, *Sites of Passage*
Border X-ing

Russian Golden Mask Festival
Russian Case 2016, Moscow

Guest Curator, *Sites of Passage*

TransCultural Exchange
Opportunities in the Arts:
Expanding Worlds
MIT, Boston University and Harvard

Sites of Passage: South Africa US
Civil Rights & Civil Wrongs

Context
Tech Fluency for Teaching & Learning

Carnegie Mellon University
The Lemonade Project

Global Images of Women
Crossing Borders

Slippery Rock University
Women's and Gender Studies Program

Student for Justice in Palestine
University of Pittsburgh

Installation and Talk

Difficult Work
Mattress Factory Museum
States

The challenges of making, supporting and
presenting art: Palestine Israel United

One Young World Summit
Pittsburgh, PA

Artists Respond to the World Around Them
Mattress Factory Museum

ATHE, Women and Theatre Program
Washington DC

Raising Our Voices: Women-Led
International Cross-Cultural
Performance Initiatives

Workshop Leader for Leadership Pittsburgh:
Art, Social Change and Civic Impact

Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. convenes senior
leaders to: engage them in examining our
critical community issues; enhance their
civic engagement; further develop their
executive level networks; and impact their
business and the regional agenda at the
leadership level.

41st annual World Affairs Institute
Group Leader

The Arab Awakening: A Call for Change in
the Middle East and Implications for U.S.
Foreign Policy. Pittsburgh PA

Creating Change Conference
Heinz History Center, Pgh PA

Presenting Arts for Social Change,
The Firefly Tunnel Project

ATHE, Women and Theatre Program
Chicago Dramatists

Art as Community Making: SITES OF
PASSAGE, creating a virtual community

Speaker for Interdisciplinary Roundtable
Discussion: *Gender and Religion on the
Page, Stage and Between Nations*

EGOS Colloquium in Barcelona:

FIREFLY INSIGHT: *Metaphorical and
aesthetic meaning and how they help us in
the evolution of communication*

Speaker for Interdisciplinary Roundtable
Discussion: *Gender and Religion on the
Page, Stage and Between Nations*

International Leadership

TRANSFORMING HISTORY: *Using street*

Association Annual Conference
Prague, Czech Republic

*performance and art as a pedagogy for
social and civil change*

LEADERSHIP THROUGH FIREFLY INSIGHT:
*Transformation via metaphorical and
aesthetic meaning and how they help us in
the evolution of communication*

Writing, Reviews and Catalogs:

Approached by Routledge and currently working on a book proposal which encompasses all the SITES OF PASSAGE projects: Egypt, Israel, Palestine, South Africa, Russia and forthcoming, the 5th project to open for the 250th anniversary of the US constitution, an exchange between Indigenous artists living inside the made-up perimeters of the United States.

Performing Ethos journal (2020): review of, Writing in Collaborative Theatre-Making by Sarah Sigal. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016

SITES OF PASSAGE, Art as Action in Egypt and the U.S.—Creating an Autoethnography through Performance Writing, Revolution, and Social Practice, 2013, Antioch University

Deliciously Disposable Earth, Catalog, Kreider Printing, 2009

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS & TOURING

SITES OF PASSAGE

MF Museum, Pgh, PA
Opens April 2022

Pop-Aganda: Revolution & Iconography

Current project between Russia and the U.S., Performance/Installation Art Exchange

SITES OF PASSAGE

MF Museum, Pgh, PA

CIVIL RIGHTS & CIVIL WRONGS

Project between South Africa and the U.S., Performance/Installation Art Exchange, 2018

SITES OF PASSAGE

MF Museum, Pgh, PA

BORDERS, WALLS & CITIZENSHIP

Project between Palestine, the US and Israel, Performance/Installation Art Exchange
2014

The Firefly Tunnel Project

SITES OF PASSAGE

Performance/Installation Art Exchange
Project between the U.S. and Egypt
2011

Interfaith Peace-Builders

Washington DC

Palestine and Israel delegation
research for next SITES OF PASSAGE
2007

Semester at Sea Summer

Mexico, Hawaii, Taiwan, Singapore,
Malaysia, Vietnam, Hong-Kong, China,
South Korea, Japan, 2004

IsraDrama

Invited by the Consulate General of Israel,
Philadelphia to represent the Pennsylvania region in the conference. This event focuses
on Socio-Political Drama for English-speaking theatre people from around the world.
Israel- Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Jerusalem, and Palestine

Beeswing Productions

Amsterdam, Rotterdam- Netherlands; Zug,
Zurich- Switzerland; Paris, France; London, England; Edinburgh, Scotland; Hamburg,
Hanover-Germany; Brussels, Belgium; Bucharest, Romania; Caracas, Venezuela; Osaka,
Tokyo- Japan

ArtUp & SOP

Russia, Estonia, Thailand, Italy, France,
Wales, Czech Republic, Canada, Barbados,
Bermuda, Mexico, Panama, Peru, South
Africa, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Egypt, and
Argentina

CONTRACTED AND CURATORIAL WORK

Director/Curator for the *Sites of Passage* projects, 2011-present

Founder/Director/Curator for the non-profit, **ArtUp, 2005-present**

Director/Curator for the new **CoLab at Towson University, 2018-2020**

Curator and Producer for **La Pocha Nostra, Pittsburgh: 2008-10 & Baltimore: 2016**
Performance included local artists workshop with final performances by Guillermo
Gomez-Pena and company

Producer of **Bread and Puppet Circus (2008-2012)-** Produced through ArtUp performed
at the University of Pittsburgh, U.E. International Conventions and the G20.

Curator for the Three Rivers Arts Festival 2007-09

The mission of the Three Rivers Arts Festival is to connect the community to the arts.
The Three Rivers Arts Festival brings nearly 600,000 visitors to the streets, plazas and
open spaces of downtown Pittsburgh to experience music, dance, theater, visual art,
crafts and family activities.

Curator for **First Night (New Year's Eve) 2008 and 2009, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust**

**First Night Puppet Pageant (New Year's Eve) 2002-2007, Puppet director, designer, and
builder for various themed performing floats.**

Founder and Director of **Beeswing Productions-** Beeswings Productions (1993-2003)
was a theatrical and visual art installation design company focusing on three-
dimensional interactive design and puppetry

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE TEACHING HISTORY

2015-present	Faculty member of the Department of Theatre Arts
2021	Tenured Associate Professor of Theatre, Towson University
2015-20	Assistant Professor of Theatre Co-Direct MFA program & founder/curator of CoLab Towson University's College of Fine Art & Communication
2014-20	Artist-in-Residence, CREATE Lab Carnegie Mellon University, Robotics Institute, Pittsburgh, PA
2014-15	Visiting Fellow of Multicultural Performance, De Paul University The Theatre School, Chicago, IL
Fall 2013	Assistant Professor and Director of Bruce Gallery, Edinboro University
Fall 2013	Visiting Professor of Design Point Park University, Pittsburgh
Fall 2010-14	First Artist-in-Residence at Carnegie Mellon University's Center for the Arts in Society
Spring 2007-10	Professor of Theatre, Acting and Directing, Chatham University
Fall 2006	Teaching Artists-in-Residence, University of Pittsburgh
Summer 2006	Professor of Theater, Semester at Sea- University of Virginia (Pacific Rim tour)
2005-2006	Visiting Professor of Theatre- Acting and Directing, Chatham University
2004-2005	Interim Director of Theater Arts, University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, PA
Fall 2004	Professor of Design, Point Park University

2003-2004	Professor of Theater and Design, one-year sabbatical replacement at Earlham College, Richmond, IN
Spring 2003	Artist-in-Residence at Colby College, ME
Fall 2002	Acting Professor at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Greensburg, PA
2000-2002	Taught Introduction to Performance and Puppet and Performance at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

COURSES DESIGNED-UNIVERSITY LEVEL (selected classes)

Prison Abolition: Performing Truth Part of a series of nine “coordinated courses” being offered by faculty representing diverse disciplines, including Anthropology, Communication Studies, Criminal Justice, Education, Political Science, Sociology, Theatre, and Women’s & Gender Studies. The course reflects on the current incarceration system in the United States. Reflections will be guided by the themes of ***Oppression/Repression*** and ***Reactions and Resistance***. Students will use these themes to develop their own language and work around Prison Abolition.

Ensemble An exploration of the ensemble process used to create original performance through the tools of small live stream webcams, outdoor social distanced human installation, and digital performance. Via multidisciplinary workshop exercises, performative elements will be made, critiqued, and exchanged under a chosen theme/topic of exploration.

Community Outreach An experimental study of the value of arts in local community. University students will develop skills needed to work in a Baltimore City school with 3rd grade students in a program that uses storytelling, performance, and other visual art activities to encourage and enhance the importance of reading and community, Arts as a Social Practice.

Theatre for Social Change Examination of the theory and practice of theatre and performance as a catalyst for social change through the lens of social media. Development of original works and ideas to address significant issues in the contemporary American experience.

Working with Design in Performance: Making Metaphors and Conjuring Spaces
Self-generative MFA program

Project in Process Summer of the second year MFA, students continue the exploration started during the previous year. Developing proposals by conducting necessary research and sharing feedback with their peers. Proposals are presented to the Program Director and the MFA committee members in September for review