



KAELA O'CONNOR

Artistic Director | Choreographer | Teacher

+1 (973) 902-3178

kaelaoconnor@gmail.com

www.kaelaoconnor.com

Millburn, NJ

ABOUT ME

Dynamic Creative and Artistic Director with 10 years of experience in choreography, theatre arts education, and program management, excelling in production planning and team leadership. Proven success in developing pre-professional MT programming, executing high quality productions, and fostering artistic growth amongst both students and colleagues.

EDUCATION

BFA in Musical Theatre

University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM)
2011 - 2015

MFA in Musical Theatre

Guildford School of Acting (GSA UK)
2019 - 2021

SKILLS

Operations Management
Problem-Solving
Time Management
Works Quickly & Efficiently
Production Planning
Detail Oriented
Multi-tasking
Written & Interpersonal Communication
Works Well Independently & On A Team
Microsoft, G-Suite, and Canva
Works With Children ages 6-18

LANGUAGE

- English

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 - present **Studio Artistic Director & Musical Theatre Company Director**
Class Act Performing Arts Studio
- *All previous duties listed under Assoc. Dir, and the following:**
- Devise and coordinate our annual January Revue, one of our major productions consisting of over 70 children ages 8-18. I select all songs, edit the sheet music and recorded tracks, assign solo features, and disseminate info to my immediate team of 10 staff members, comprised of choreographers and musical directors. I am also responsible for creating weekly rehearsal schedules, all tech and performance schedules, show run orders, as well as regularly liaising with theaters, production staffs, students, and families.
 - Show planning and rehearsal scheduling of all major productions including a January Revue, two full scale May Musicals, and a June Showcase, that our entire student base of over 600 kids perform in, as well as our summer programming
 - Serves on the Executive Team as Vice President and Chair, regularly meeting with the Owners and the accountant to help create annual budget reports, assess annual P&L statements and balance sheets, and allocate resources appropriately.
 - Direct report to Exec. Director that liaises with and regularly disseminate information to all students, parents, and faculty. A client-facing role that demands strong communication skills, both written and interpersonal.
 - Aids in the creation of class programming, including curricula and syllabi, and helps guide a faculty and staff of over 25 people.

- 2015 - 2022 **Associate Director of Musical Theatre & Dance Companies**
Class Act Performing Arts Studio
- One of 3 Studio Directors to help immediately pivot the entire business model to an online platform during the Covid-19 pandemic, then to a hybrid format. This allowed us to stay open throughout the entire pandemic without sacrificing quality of training, the safety of our students and staff, and most importantly, helping our kids maintain a sense of normalcy in unprecedented times. I learned quickly to think outside the box on how to coordinate and execute major productions in new mediums, while still hitting all deadlines.
 - Teaches Tap, Musical Theatre dance styles, and Advanced Audition Techniques. Has also taught and subbed Hip hop, Ballet, Lyrical, Contemporary, Acting, Voice, Piano, and Jazz
 - Coaches students on summer program and BFA college auditions
 - Choreographs for the annual January Revue, dance competitions, May musicals, annual June showcase etc.
 - Coordinated 3 Faculty Cabarets, a cabaret-style performance accompanied by a tricky tray and silent auction to benefit our scholarship program.



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TRAINING

Dance & Acting Pedagogy

Tap

Jazz

Hip Hop / Street

Contemporary

Ballet

Musical Theatre (inc. Fosse)

Acting

Voice

LANGUAGE

- English

TEACHING & CHOREOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Styles & Classes Offered

Technique Classes

Tap, Jazz, Contemporary, Musical Theatre (inc. Fosse), Hip Hop, Street Jazz, Acting, Voice.
All ages and levels included.

Choreography for

Musicals, Special Events, Dance Competitions (solos, duets/trio, small groups, large group production), Zoom-based productions

Private Coaching for

MT and Acting repertoire selection, summer program auditions, BFA/MFA program auditions, college pre-screen filming sessions

Choreography Experience

2015 Senior Showcase – Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (CCM)

"Xanadu" – Class Act Performing Arts Studio

"Carrie, The Musical" – Class Act Performing Arts Studio

"Sweeney Todd" – Class Act Performing Arts Studio

"Spring Awakening" – Class Act Performing Arts Studio

"Rent" – Forbidden Theatre Company

"Head Over Heels" – Class Act Performing Arts Studio

"Pippin" – Class Act Performing Arts Studio

"Babe, the Sheep-Pig" – Guildford School of Acting

2021 BA Musical Theatre Showcase – Guildford School of Acting (Assoc. dir./choreo.)

"Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella" – Guildford School of Acting (Asst. dir./choreo.)

"Sweet Charity" – Class Act Performing Arts Studio

"Heathers" – Class Act Performing Arts Studio

"The Wedding Singer" – Class Act Performing Arts Studio (Upcoming 2025)

REFERENCES

Calen Kurka

Class Act PAS / Director

Phone: 917-862-5670

Email: calen@classactpas.com

Vince DeGeorge

CCM / Chair of MT Department

Phone: 646-342-7347

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Phyllida Crowley-Smith

GSA / Head of Dance

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