

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## **Ariyan Johnson**

Committed to Inspiring communities through artistic expressions

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### SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Accomplished professional actress and dancer with experience teaching various populations in an array of disciplines. Extensive training as an Arts Educator and Teaching Artist capable of designing curricula focusing on Acting, Directing, Scene Study, Movement/Dance/Voice for Actors, Play-Building / Devising, Theater-In-Education, History of Theater/Cinema, Theater of the Oppressed, The Business of the Audition and Evolutions of the Entertainment Business. Able to accommodate multiple intelligences as well as deaf, hard of hearing, special needs and English as Second language students. Computer literate. Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

- Accomplished career as a professional actress and dancer, including performances in theater, television, commercials, and films
- Experience in related fields including costume design, make-up, casting, and producing
- Developed curriculum, workshops, and productions as well as collaborated with other Teachers, Artists, and Designers
- Clinical and practical expertise in Voice, Speech, and Articulation
- Concentrated on developing communication between participants through movement, devising, and concept building
- Prepared participants for performances with the ability to work under budget parameters and deadlines
- Skilled in Directing, Script Writing, and Community Engagement
- Choreographed and staged fight scenes and martial arts combat sequences for productions

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### I. EDUCATION/TRAINING/LICENSES

Teaching Artists Intensive, The Actors Fund, Los Angeles	2016
City University of New York School of Professional Studies, <b>M.A.in Applied Theater</b>	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One of the first programs in the U.S. focusing on the use of theater to address an array of social and educational concerns primarily done in unconventional settings; linked to the professional applied theater work of the renowned Creative Arts Team in New York City</li></ul>	
Creative Arts Team, Interactive Storytelling, Professional Development	2013
STARRS Training, ACTORS FUND WORK Program, New York	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Six week training for teaching artist for inner city youth with emphasis on classroom management and drama techniques</li></ul>	
N.Y.C. Public School Substitute Teacher Certificate, OPD License	2011
Lehman College, <b>B.A. in Speech Pathology and Audiology</b>	
La Guardia High School of the Performing and Musical Arts, Dance Diploma	

### II. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **ACTING FOR THE CAMERA I INSTRUCTOR**

UCLA EXTENSION, WESTWOOD, CA

**PRESENT- 2015**

- This three hour class is designed to broaden participants' understanding of the technical and emotional adjustments required for acting in front of the camera
- Participants are challenged through a creative process that covers many different genres in both film and television

## **ADJUNCT FACULTY/COMMERCIAL DANCE**

RELATIVITY EDUCATION, LOS ANGELES, CA

**PRESENT-2015**

- This one and a half hour class is designed to provide participants' with the basic steps and technique for different genres of dance throughout the world.
- Participants learn West African Dance and the ability to apply these elements to their wider understanding of dance and dance origins.

## **MOVEMENT INSTRUCTOR**

A NOISE WITHIN, PASADENA, CA

**2015**

- Created a comprehensive one-hour five week curriculum experience on Elizabethan Dance for Actors to incorporate, stage, and perform in full length productions of Shakespearean plays
- The class is designed to prepare and broaden participants' knowledge of movement, characterization, and rhythm, utilizing Anne Bogart and Liz Lerman's approach to the group artistic process
- Movement work includes a variety of ballet warm-ups, fun body awareness activities/stretches, dance, and theatrical partner/ensemble work

## **APPLIED THEATER FACILITATOR**

GOWANUS HOUSES COMMUNITY/ SENIOR CENTER BROOKLYN, NY

**2014-2013**

- Extensively researched population, evaluated project outcomes, and presented findings
- Created Applied Theater interactive workshops for individuals ranging in age from 50 years old to 95
- Co-Facilitated workshops that strengthened the seniors' interpersonal relationships with each other through storytelling
- Reminiscence Theater, scene devising, dance, music, theatre games, and conventions were used to bridge understandings of the cultural differences among the seniors
- Co-Facilitated community performance by participants that encouraged cultural pride, interdependence, and improved relationships among the participants

## **HIP-HOP EDUCATOR**

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJ PAC), NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

**2014- 2011**

- Created a comprehensive theatrical Hip-Hop dance experience incorporating Break Dance, Old School Hip-Hop, Contemporary Hip-Hop, Acting for Movement, and the foundations of Hip-Hop origins.
- Worked with various students ranging from Elementary to High School / Freshman College age
- Students participated in an interactive Hip-Hop learning experience with class experiments, research Hip-Hop influences, and field discoveries of the effect of Hip-Hop dance on Pop Culture

## **TEACHING ARTIST**

P.S. 48, District 8, Bronx, New York Board of Education

**2014-2011**

- Substitute Teacher for Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grades taught Theatre Conventions incorporating various Language Arts (ELA), Science and Math classes that included Special Needs and English as Second Language students

## **APPLIED THEATER FACILITATOR**

SERVICES AND ADVOCAY FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BI-SEXUAL, TRANSGENDER ELDERS (SAGE)

NEW YORK

**2013**

- Facilitated reminiscence theater workshop for LGBTQ seniors
- Devised scenes with colleagues from seniors' life experiences towards self and community
- Performed original devised work for senior participants that encouraged cultural pride

## **APPLIED THEATER FACILITATOR**

PENN SOUTH PROGRAM FOR SENIORS NEW YORK, NY

**2013**

- Facilitated reminiscence theater workshop for seniors
- Devised scenes with colleagues from seniors' life memories
- Performed original devised work for senior participants that celebrated their heritage

**APPLIED THEATER FACILITATOR**

YOUNG ISRAEL QUEENS, NY

2013

- Facilitated reminiscence theater workshop for seniors
- Devised scenes with colleagues from seniors' life memories
- Created performance for senior participants that celebrated their heritage

**GUEST LECTURER**

PROJECT RWANDA: DRAMA AND THEATER EDUCATION FOR RECONCILIATION AND DEVELOPMENT RWANDA, AFRICA

2013

- Two week residencies at the Kigali Institute of Education (University of Rwanda)
- Trained over 60 college students to become drama educators
- Devised original play with student population

**GUEST LECTURER**

JOHN JAY CRIMINAL COLLEGE, NEW YORK, NY

2013

- Co-Developed a two-week curriculum on Gender Equality for Freshman and Sophomore college students
- Created a Theater-in-Education Process Drama for the *Gender thru Theater and Law* class with colleagues

**DANCE INSTRUCTOR**

BROOKLYN INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, District 13, New York Board of Education

2012

- Communicated with Refugee, Non-Native English Speaking, and Foreign Language Students between 13 to 20 years of age who have been in the United States less than four years through the Art of Dance and American Sign Language (ASL)
- Taught Basic Anatomy and various techniques of Dance: Modern, Ballroom, Hip-Hop
- Graded students on efficiency
- Incorporated Dance and ASL as a means to express oneself and learn Social, Cultural, and Language basis
- Instituted and choreographed culminating class performances for student body and staff
- In-house substitute staff: covered various academic classes

**GUEST LECTURER**

UNIVERSITY of KANSAS, LAWRENCE, KANSAS

2010

- Facilitated a one-hour lecture on *Creative Talent Negotiation* for the *Independent Film Finance: The Art of the Deal* class with various level Film and Media Studies Majors
- Focused on the techniques of Innovative Negotiations, Alternative Methods of Finance, Script Collaborations, and Back-end Finance

**GUEST LECTURER**

WYANDOTTE HIGH SCHOOL, WYANDOTTE, KANSAS

2010

- Created workshop for high school students in scene study, natural movement, and audition skills
- Taught basic dance/ movement skills for actors
- Taught basic scene study techniques for cues on natural movement for mock auditions
- Focused on the motivation for scene, blocking, and movement characteristics

**GUEST LECTURER**

UNIVERSITY of KANSAS, LAWRENCE, KANSAS

2010

- Created a one-hour lecture on the *Business of Auditioning* for the *Arts Administration* class with various level Collegiate Dance Majors
- Focused on the techniques of Artist Branding, Dance Marketing, and expanding the dancers' Artistic Base
- Explored union affiliation advantages and disadvantages, acquiring agent representation, online and social media resources, diverse employment opportunities, and regional industry employment

## **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

FAITHFUL DANCE COMPANY, INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

1999-2009

As Artistic Director of a Theatrical Dance Company at a non-profit organization for ten years, I had:

- Overseen operations for the Dance Company, with five employees, ten volunteer staff, six sub-companies, and more than sixty participants ranging from five to sixty-five years of age
- Acquired funding sources to build Dance Company's first home studio, office, and wardrobe room
- Managed budgets for Dance Company and solicited corporate sponsorships for wardrobe
- Cultivated new funding for scholarship opportunities for participants
- Resident Choreographer and Head Costume Designer
- Created new programs for guest artists, participant performance funding, participant recruitment, and retention as well as alumni relations
- Motivated and advocated for staff as they strived for excellence in research, teaching, service, and salary
- Partnered with other organizations across the field of entertainment that strengthened the Company
- Facilitated marketing research, public relations, and marketed services to the community
- Implemented new policies, rehearsals, and schedules while increasing performance engagements and revenue
- Created liaisons from my professional artistic relationships for workshops geared for youth/young adults
- Hired, supervised, and managed support and artistic staff
- Established community enriching outreach projects; i.e. Free Community Saturday Dance Classes
- Solicited sponsorships for youth educational trips and staff development
- Created a series of workshops for participants that taught drama and improvisational skills
- Taught Acting, Ballet, African, Hip-Hop, Praise/ Liturgical Dance, Jazz, Pilates and Modern techniques
- Choreographed and staged fight scenes for productions
- Mentored participants for professional work and leadership roles
- Created, directed, and produced plays participants performed with special professional guest artists

### **QUOTES FROM STUDENTS:**

The following are quotes gathered from students.

- "I thank you [Ariyan] for being one of the most important people in my life and career..."
- "Ariyan I appreciate the passion you bring to the classroom."
- "I thank you [Ariyan] for showing me that with all struggles I endure anything is possible."
- "Thanks to you [Ariyan] I have seen the potential I have and hope I can learn more from you on how to release it...with my new found confidence."

### **III. PROFESSIONAL UNRELATED EXPERIENCE**

MANUEL SPEECH PATHOLOGY SERVICES INC., CARSON, CALIFORNIA

2001-2005

- Worked as a Speech Pathology Assistant with early childhood aged Speech Delayed, English as Second Language, and Autistic children in at home, school, and office settings
- Worked with students one on one in hour based sessions and full day school rotations
- Incorporated movement for aids in therapy
- Used American Sign Language (ASL) to help language acquisition

**IV. PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE (ABRIDGED) EXPERIENCE**

**ACTING:**

FILM:

FUN WITH DICK AND JANE	Sony	Dir. Barry Sonnenfeld
THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER	Paramount	Dir. Simon West
BULWORTH	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Fox	Dir. Warren Beatty
KISS OF DEATH	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Fox	Dir. Barbet Schroeder
DANGEROUS MINDS	Disney	Dir. John. N. Smith
CHANGIN CHANNELS	-short film	
JUST ANOTHER GIRL ON THE I.R.T.*	Miramax	Dir. Leslie Harris

\*Nominated for Best Actress from Independent SPIRIT Awards

TELEVISION:

JAG	CBS
STRONG MEDICINE	Lifetime
FOR THE PEOPLE	Lifetime
L.A. DOCTORS	CBS
THE STEVE HARVEY SHOW	Series Regular-WB
ONE LIFE TO LIVE	ABC
LAW & ORDER	NBC
YOU WROTE IT, YOU WATCH IT	Series Regular-MTV Pilot

THEATRE:

PURE GOLD (Writer/Director)	Nate Holden/Japan America Theaters
THE PIANO LESSON	John Anson Ford Theater/ Inside the Ford
FLYIN' WEST	Pasadena Playhouse

COMMERCIAL:

P.S.A. MCGRUFF - Take A Bite out of Crime	"Clouds"
JC PENNY	"Shopping Sisters"
BET SAFE SEX	"Keep It Tight"
BET SAFE SEX	"Once upon A Time"

VOICE OVER:

N.Y.C. Access and Functional Needs Training Video	Various Female Characters
Coastal Storm Plan Animated Training Videos	Various Female Characters
MCDONALD'S	"IOU/\$1 Menu" Legal
MCDONALD'S	"Keisha" Keisha
HONDA CIVIC "How Ya Living Soap" -3 Spots	Prettiest Girl on Campus/Monique Dubois
VIRGIN MOBILE	Prompt/Wake-Up Call Voice
P.S. A.	"U.S. Army" Teen girl
LEVIS	"Changing Room"
STAND CAMPAIGN/Youth Anti-Smoking	"Comic Books"
BET	"Freedom"
NIKE	"Dream"
HEINEKEN	"No one over 25 Admitted"
NYNEX	"More Last Words"

ANIMATION/VIDEO GAMES/ ADR:

WB- STATIC SHOCK	"The Usual Suspect" / Tamara Lawrence
SUPERMAN	Various Characters
BIKER BOYS	

**DANCE**

**HIP-HOP BACK-UP DANCING:**

Mary J Blige  
Prince Markie Dee & The Soul Convention  
Urban Soul  
SWV  
Lisa Lisa & The Cult Jam  
2 in a Room  
Keith Sweat  
Crystal Waters

**\*CHOREOGRAPHY:**

\*Honorable Mention for Choreography from the National Endowment for the Arts

Sunday Best	B.E.T. Show Season 5 Opening
A Time To Laugh	B.E.T. Show Dance Segments
Chaka Khan	Show tunes (Burgundy Records)
New Year's Eve Show	Praise Party at the Forum 2004-2008
Kurt Carr	Live Show Taping (Gospo Centric)
Hill Harper	VH1 Pilot Dance Sequence/Dance Coach
Shakin'	NAACP Nominated Play
College Bound	Awards Dinner Banquet 2002-2004
Steve Harvey Show	Esp. 209- "I'm not a Chauvinist Piggy"
KRS One	"Yeah We in There" Video (JIVE)
YA Kid K/Technotronics	Show tunes/"That Man" Video (EMI)
Jackie McGhee	Show tunes (MCA)
Ms. Melody	Show tunes (JIVE)
Tony Moran	Show tunes (MCA)
Wanda Ramos	Show tunes (Quest)
Just Another Girl on the I.R.T.	Party Scene

**TOURS:**

SWV	Coca Cola Superfest U.S.A./Canada
2 in a Room	Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Jamaica
Forces of Nature	Mexico
Women in Rap	California

**TELEVISION/VIDEO/FILM:**

Salt & Peppa	"Start Me Up"
Technotronics	"Let This House Beat Drop"
Mariah Carey	"Emotion"
Mass Order	"Lift Every Voice"
Kwame	"Nasty"
Adore	"Let it All Hang Out"
USA Dream Team	Keith Sweat
Grammy Awards	LL Cool J
Essence Awards	Otis Sallid
Queen Latifah	"Dance for Me"
Something To Sing About	Praise Dancer/Church Scene

**PRODUCTION:**

UNTITLED TV SHOW	Created, Directed, Shot, and Produced Show	Network Deal in Process
PURE GOLD	Produced, Choreographed, and Edited	Archival Video
FAITHFUL DANCE COMPANY	Created Camera Shot Lists for live dance shows	Video Sales
D.I.M.A.B.A.	Artistic Director of Theatrical Company for hire	Various Productions

**CASTING:**

B.E.T. Gospel Awards	Kirk Franklin
Sunday Best / B.E.T. Show	Kirk Franklin

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

- SAG – Screen Actors Guild
- AFTRA – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
- AEA – Actors Equity Association

**V. SCHOLARLY PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE**

- “The Story Legacy Workshop: An Applied Theater Experience for Elders” a theatrical presentation at the City University of New York School of Professional Studies, New York, NY, May 21, 2014.
- “Mr. Big” Forum Theater performance presentation at the Master of Arts in Applied Theater Introductory Workshop on Augusto Boal’s work in Forum Theater, City University of New York School of Professional Studies, New York, NY, November 16, 2013.
- “Exploration of Applied Theater” panel discussion at the Master of Arts in Applied Theater Introductory Workshop, City University of New York School of Professional Studies, New York, NY, November 16, 2013.
- “The Great Sleep” devised play performance presentation at the Kigali Institute of Education, Rwanda, Africa, July 19, 2013.
- “Genderopolis” lecture-demonstration, Theater-In-Education Festival, at City University of New York School of Professional Studies, New York, NY, May 18, 2013.
- “Independent Film Anniversary of *Just Another Girl on the I.R.T.*: Black Women Filmmakers in Cinema Retrospective and Future” panel discussion at 92<sup>nd</sup> St. Y TRIBECA, New York, NY, January 8, 2013.

**VI. AWARDS**

- 2015-2016 Artists-In-Residence Grant Recipient from the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs