

# Karen Alvarado

## TEACHING ARTIST Curriculum Vitae

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### EDUCATION

Rutgers University	M.F.A. in Acting	Jan 2018
Texas A&M University C.C.	B.A. in Theatre	May 2007

#### Rutgers University: MFA in Acting, Mason Gross School of the Arts

Chair: David Esbjornson  
Head of Acting: Barbara Marchant  
Acting: Barbara Marchant, Kevin Kittle, William Carden  
Williamson Movement & Suzuki: Danielle Liccardo  
Voice and Speech: Heather Rasche, Julie Foh  
Avant-Garde/Puppetry: Eileen Blumenthal  
Mask: Kathleen McNenny  
On Camera: Pat McCorkle  
Video Auditioning/Voice Over: Billy Serow  
Auditioning: Deb Jackel

#### Shakespeare's Globe: Mason Gross School of the Arts Study Abroad Program

Acting: Simon Dormandy  
Voice and Dialect: Lucinda Worlock, Mary Howland  
Movement: Anna Healey  
Feldenkrais: Richard Cave  
Historical Dance: Huw Prall  
Stage Combat: Jonathan Waller  
Singing: Joe Atkins  
Text: Farah Karim-Cooper, Philip Bird, Patrick Spottiswoode  
Globe Acting Workshop: Mark Rylance

### TEACHING ARTISTRY

Secret Histories Documentary Theatre 2019

Thanks to Ping Chong & Co. and New Jersey Performing Arts Center I have been trained in creating documentary style plays for young and adult participants. My current residency is through NJPAC and it allows me to work with two sets of sixth grade classes in New Jersey to extract material to create a play based on identity, belonging and community while teaching the students elements of theatre and creative writing.

Speech for Actors 2016-2018

*Facilitator.* Using the Knight-Thompson method of Speech and the International Phonetic Alphabet, I teach 14-17 year old actors how to use formal and informal speech techniques in monologues and scene work to help deepen motivations and heighten the level of communication. For Rutgers Summer Acting

Conservatory, I teach 30-40 teenagers this method three times a week during the month long intensive.

New Play Development/Devised Play Workshops 2015-2019  
*Facilitator.* Using a combination of technology, writing prompts, and instructor led movement exercises I help ensembles develop material for new plays as well as artistically enhance or restructure existing material in these devised works.

Shakespeare Workshops 2017-2019  
*Facilitator.* Using a combination of training I personally received and the teaching artist workshops I audited for seven months at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, I teach six different workshops that help new and experienced artist access and activate Shakespeare's classical text and story-telling methods.

Meisner Based Acting Workshops 2017-2019  
*Facilitator.* Using modified Meisner-based acting techniques, I help BA theatre students and high school theatre students develop and perform in-class scenes, monologues and public performances.

Military Veteran Writing and Acting Workshops 2015-2019  
*Co-Facilitator.* As the wife of a veteran, I have been invited into Veteran arts groups such as BEDLAM Outreach and Aquila Theatre to co-facilitate acting warm-ups that include voice, speech and Lecoq exercises. I have helped veterans develop original scripts that reflect how their experiences as soldiers relate to classical plays by Shakespeare, Aristophanes, Sophocles, Aeschylus and Euripides.

## **THEATRE PRODUCER**

Thinkery & Verse *Co-Artistic Director* Apr 2017-2019  
Along with Co-Artistic Director and Playwright John Meyer, I seek to perform and produce classically inspired, politically aware plays that challenge us to be empowered, globally-oriented citizens with a keen awareness of the high stakes of modern life. While our primary mission is to create new plays, one of our key creative methods is to perform our plays in repertory with classic works, thereby challenging our writers and actors to achieve new heights of creativity and aesthetics.

Last Act Theatre Company *Artistic Director* Jun 2011- Mar 2016  
Lead producer on 13 full-length plays.  
Promoted pathos-driven plays by local and independent artists.  
Embraced unconventional venues.  
Facilitated production meetings.  
Delegated and oversaw marketing, finance and design duties.  
Determined company's season of shows.  
Lead liaison between company members and media contacts.

## ACTING

Actor Resume available upon request or by going to [www.karenalvarado.com](http://www.karenalvarado.com)

## DIRECTING

<i>Dionysus in America</i>	Co-Director	AVAFest/The Vortex	Nov-19
<i>Devil in New Brunswick</i>	Director	Thinkery& Verse	Sep-19
<i>Citizen Soldier Suppliants</i>	Director	Aquila Theatre/A.R.T.	Apr-19
<i>Secret Histories</i>	Director	Ping Chong & Co./Brookdale Elem.	Apr-19
<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Co-Director	High Tech High School	Apr-19
<i>Rita, The Cleaning Lady</i>	Co-Director	Thinkery & Verse	Mar-19
<i>Storytellers Series</i>	Director	Thinkery & Verse	Fall -18
<i>Bride of the Gulf</i>	Director	Thinkery & Verse (Edinburgh Fringe)	Aug-18
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Assoc. Director	Thinkery & Verse	Jul-18
<i>Performance Ensemble</i>	Asst. Director	High Tech High School	May-18
<i>Autumn Ever After</i>	Director	Aquila Theatre/A.R.T.	Mar-18
<i>Happy Couple</i>	Director	Last Act Theatre Company	May-13
<i>The Last Kiss</i>	Director	Last Act Theatre Company	Oct-11
<i>Prison of Pain</i>	Director	Harbor Playhouse	Jul-07
<i>Vagina Monologues</i>	Director	Women's Center, Texas A&M Univ.	May-06
<i>LaughCo. Comedy</i>	Director	Last Act Theatre Company	May-05

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

First English Child Development Center *Teacher's Assistant* Apr 2014-Dec 2015  
Supervised children 2-6 years old in art projects, playground and music lessons.  
Assisted Lead Teacher in daily lesson plans.  
Attended bimonthly early childhood development workshops.  
Updated parents on children's behavior and learning development.

R. L. Frazer & Associates *Administrative Coordinator* Sep 2013-Aug 2014  
Receptionist to office manager & CEO.  
Assisted office manager in coordinating special events.  
Maintained company social media i.e. Company url, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.  
Drafted legal documents and contracts for CEO.  
Collaborated to create new marketing packets, i.e. Pamphlets, banners, etc.

American Cancer Society *Team Supervisor* Oct 2011-Sep 2013  
Monitored to ensure accurate, complete and relevant information to constituents.  
Coached Cancer Information Specialist to improve performance metrics.  
Aided specialists assisting callers in crises including suicide, abuse, and neglect.  
Facilitated monthly team building meetings.  
Facilitated bimonthly conference calls to enhance division partnerships.

Supported and coached team members suffering compassion fatigue.  
Led quarterly "Managing Challenging Calls" training module for new specialists.

American Cancer Society    *Cancer Info Specialist/Peer Coach*    Feb 2008-Oct 2011  
Assisted patients/families/public who call the National Cancer Information Center.  
Resolved inquiries via online databases and referencing oncology nurses.  
Emergency support line to help other specialists resolve constituent inquiries.  
Quality monitored multiple calls every monthly.  
Peer support and guidance, in person and online.  
Developed and facilitated mandatory and voluntary trainings for front line staff.  
Trained new employees to become Cancer Information Specialists.

Texas State Aquarium    *Public Programs Presenter*    May 2007-Dec 2007  
Performed educational wildlife shows 10-12 times a day.  
Emphasized wildlife conservation objectives.  
Engaged guests through interactive learning experiences.  
Handled live animals during shows.  
Fielded guest questions.  
Researched, wrote and revised scripts for wildlife shows.

The Women's Center    *Events Coordinator/ Director*    Nov 2005-Mar 2006  
Organized, promoted, and directed open casting call.  
Served as artistic director for play *Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler.  
Scheduled and supervised rehearsals and work calls.  
Assigned and oversaw technical positions.  
Media liaison for press coverage.

Sam Houston Elementary    *Instructional Assistant*    Aug 2001-May 2002  
Aided special needs children, one on one, to complete assignments.  
Engaged learning by performing readers-theatre and coordinating talent shows.  
Assisted teacher in preparing and administering lesson plans.