

**BETH STAFFORD LAIRD**  
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EDUCATION

**Foundations in Vocal Pedagogy**

With Amanda Flynn (MM, CAS Vocal Pedagogy, NCVS Trained Vocologist)  
New York, NY / Online

April 2020

**Lincoln Center Teaching Artist Summer Forum**

New York, NY

July 2019

**BFA Musical Theatre. Emerson College**

Boston, MA

May 2011

VOICE TEACHING

**Vocal Coach**

**Bronx, NYC January - February 2023**

*Riverdale Country School*

- Taught weekly in-person lessons with two students cast as principal character's in the high school's production of *Urinetown The Musical*.
- Utilized technique in both physical and vocal warm-up exercises, with the aim of freeing up their personal sound in the healthiest way possible, and learning to access the full range and scope of their voices.
- Applied the techniques from warm-ups and exercises to the music from the show for their respective characters.
- Aimed for each student to feel confident, consistent, and healthy while incorporating the learned skills into their performances.
- Conducted a brief workshop with the entire cast regarding vocal health and self-care practices.

**Voice Teacher**

**New Canaan, CT March 2021 - Present**

*The Studio for Performing Arts*

- Lead weekly in-person lessons with students between ages 7-18 for 30 - 60 min.
- Utilized technique in both physical and vocal warm-up exercises, with the aim of freeing up their personal sound in the healthiest way possible, and learning to access the full range and scope of their voices.
- Chose and learned new repertoire from the musical theatre and pop/rock canons
- Prepared material for upcoming recitals, or other performances, by working on memorization, story-telling, character choices through physicality, and the logistic aspects of the performance.

**Substitute Voice Teacher**

**NYC (via Zoom) 2021 - Present**

*Sol Sharp Music School*

- Lead weekly lessons via Zoom with students between ages 6-11 for 60 mins.
- Followed the format and curriculum set by the lead teacher.
- Utilized both repeated and improvised warmups to activate a sense of play and engagement, while simultaneously accessing elements of range and technique.
- Worked through music theory workbook exercises and assignments.
- Taught and reviewed both new and continued work on material assigned by the lead teacher.
- Maintained weekly notes and communication on students' progress with the lead teacher.

TEACHING ARTIST / RESIDENCIES

**Lead Teacher - "Broadway Stars"**

**New Canaan, CT March - June 2021**

*The Studio for Performing Arts*

- Lead two weekly classes with students ages 4-6 and 6-9, focusing on Broadway-inspired songs and movement.
- Engaged the group with theatre games involving taking turns, group objectives, and embodying characteristics, emotions, or intentions.
- Utilized both repeated and improvised warmups to activate a sense of play and engagement, while simultaneously accessing elements of range and technique.
- Taught songs via ear-training, repetition, and accompanying movements to help activate their memories and associations with the lyrics.
- Devised a culminating performance of each song learned throughout the semester for an audience of family and friends.  
\*With the older students, an original storyline was devised from improv exercises and games to weave each song together into a linear narrative.

**Assistant Teacher****July - August 2010***Emerson Musical Theatre Pre-College Summer Program*

- Assisted in preparing, organizing, and teaching the designated curriculum for students aged 14-17 attending an intensive musical theatre performance program
- Assisted in assigning music, monologues, and scenes from musicals and plays for students, and coached them following the direction of the course teacher.
- Led thorough dance warmups for students each day
- Dictated show-specific choreography from archives, and taught said choreography to the class, consisting of varying levels of skill and experience. Created alternate options for students when needed.

**MASTERCLASSES**

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**Masterclass Teacher - *Anastasia*****September 2018 - September 2019***RCI Theatricals - Various cities along National Tour route*

- Created appropriate lesson plans according to group or class size, skill level, and area of artistic interest.
- Guided students through a structured group warmup.
- Guided students through a variety of curricula from Acting Exercises, Group Games, Audition Performance and Technique, Vocal Styles, Dance Repertoire.
- Implemented teaching of show-specific repertoire, and/or devised activities inspired by a particular theme or source material.

**Masterclass Teacher - Monologue Coaching****January 2018***Riverdale Country School*

- Observed high school students work on prepared monologues, and responded accordingly with coaching and feedback.
- Worked individually with each student, and focused on specifying the building blocks of a monologue (objective, obstacles, scene partners, given circumstances, etc), as part of the curriculum set by the classroom teacher.
- Responded to questions from students about working in the industry as a performer.

**Masterclass Teacher - *Newsies* and *Anastasia*****September 2016 & February 2019***Cedar Park Middle School*

- Responded to questions from students about audition techniques and practices, about working in the industry as a performer, and about the touring productions of *Newsies* and *Anastasia*, respectively.
- Presented a recorded example of a professional audition as a teaching tool, guided by the classroom teacher.
- Implemented teaching of show-specific repertoire, and/or choreography to the group.

**ARTISTIC / PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

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- Please see additional performance resume for more.