

# ARIEL SEIDMAN-WRIGHT

ARTIST & EDUCATOR



📞 917 216 0124

✉️ aseidman-wright@amda.edu

📍 New York, NY

🌐 www.arielsw.com

## SKILLS

- Excellent Communicator
- Versatile: trained in many styles & art forms
- Superb Organizational skills
- Strong leadership capabilities
- Adept at teaching a wide range of abilities
- Visual Design & Photography
- Robust Computer Literacy
- Well traveled & comfortable navigating cross-cultural experiences
- Dual Citizen (US & Canada)

## EDUCATION

### AMDA, NEW YORK

Certificate, Integrated Program

2008-2009

### THE NEW SCHOOL UNIVERSITY

BFA Musical Theatre, honors

2012-2014

## PROFILE

Exceptional Artist and Educator trained in a wide range of Dance, Music, and Theatre genres. Articulate, meticulous and confident in leading with empathy. Committed to lifelong activism, amplifying marginalized voices, and providing historical context for her expertise. Consistently aims to provide relevant, equitable education for her students and support them in reaching their full potential.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### DANCE FACULTY

American Musical and Dramatic Academy, New York, NY

2015 - Present

- Teach all levels in the Integrated, Dance Major, and Studio Programs
- Teach & Choreograph Tap, Theatre Dance, Classic Jazz, Commercial Jazz, Contemporary Jazz, Hip Hop, Heels, & Ballet
- Co-Direct Dance Major Student Choreography Workshop
- Choreograph Tap for the Dance Workshop Performance Elective
- Entrusted with teaching and creating choreography for Dance Placements
- Adjudicate midterms and final demos in every program & style
- Involved in the development of current and evolving curriculum
- Teach Jazz, Tap & Hip Hop for the High School Summer Program
- Served on Curriculum Review Committee for Summer 2020
- Consistently receives excellent student feedback from course surveys

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FACULTY

American Musical and Dramatic Academy, New York, NY

2018 - Present

- Teach Professional Development for the Integrated, Dance, Studio & On-Camera programs, which includes resume building, web design, social media, financial literacy, audition skills, professional communication, and navigating moral dilemmas in professional spheres
- Core Collaborator in revising and creating curriculum for Practicum, which evolved into the Professional Development Program
- Moderate Panels w. Guest Speakers from the industry
- Consistently receives excellent student feedback from course surveys

## **DANCE FACULTY**

Downtown Dance Factory, New York, NY  
2010 - 2021

- Taught Tap, Jazz, Ballet & Theatre Dance to children ages 3-18
- Choreographed Tap pieces for competition that garnered numerous awards
- Led a team to run more than 50 recitals with 1000+ students
- Private Coaching for Beginner Adults & Partnered Dance for Weddings
- Assisted Artistic Director in many capacities

## **TEACHING ARTIST**

Heartwood Theatre/Lincoln Academy, Damariscotta, ME  
2017-18

- Taught Theatre Dance & Movement to children ages 10-16

## **TEACHING ARTIST**

Camp Broadway, New York, NY  
2014

- Taught Dance & Musical Theatre to children ages 6-12
- Performed with the kids in Seussical the Musical
- Performed at the Barclays Center as pre-show for the Brooklyn Nets
- Assisted in the creation of costumes & props

## **DANCE FACULTY**

Broadway Dance Arts, Newburgh, NY  
2009-2011

- Taught Jazz, Tap & Hip Hop to children ages 8-12
- Assisted in running recitals

## **DANCE FACULTY**

Victoria Dance Connection, Victoria B.C. Canada  
2004-2007

- Taught Tap & Hip Hop to children ages 5-12

## **DANCE TEACHER**

Public School District 61, Victoria, B.C. Canada  
2005-2007

- Taught Jazz, Hip Hop & Theatre Dance in Public Middle & High Schools (Reynolds Secondary, Lambrick Park, Cedar Hill)

# **DIRECTING EXPERIENCE**

## **CO-DIRECTOR**

American Musical and Dramatic Academy, New York, NY  
2019-Present

- Co-Director of the Dance Major Student Choreography Workshop
- Cast the show with consideration of student strengths & capabilities
- Mentor students in creation of their choreography & public speaking in relation to presenting their work
- Guide students through the rehearsal, tech, & performance stages of the process

## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Heartwood Theatre, Damariscotta, ME  
2018

- Created and set Choreography & Movement for *The Secret Garden*
- Set Blocking for scene work & ran rehearsals
- Cultural Competency Liason

# PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

## NEW YORK

### CORNER'S GROVE (REBECCA GIBBS)

The Paradise Factory, dir. Gemma Kaneko

- Played Rebecca Gibbs in a modern re-telling of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, written by Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin
- Nominated for Best Supporting Actress in the Planet Connections Theatre Awards

### A TRAIN (LYRIA)

HERE Arts Center, dir. Reg. E. Gaines

- Originated the role of Lyria in this new musical

### CÉCILE (CÉCILE)

Gene Frankel Theater, dir. Victoria Crutchfield

- Played the title role in the world premiere of the first English translation of Jean Anouilh's French play

### DER KAISER VON ATLANTIS (DEATH DANCER)

Opera Moderne, dir. Markus Kupferblum, chor. Vicki Reynolds

- Featured Dancer in Viktor Ullman's Opera, written while interned in the Theresienstadt concentration camp in 1943

### BROADWAY ON BROADWAY (DANCER)

Broadway Cares, Equity Fights Aids, dir. Michael Lee Scott chor. Tammy Colucci

- Hired two years in a row to perform in the opening number for the BCEFA B'way on B'way concert in Times Square

### NORTHANGER ABBEY (ELEANOR TILNEY)

Treehouse Theater, dir. Emily Delbridge

- Played the role of Eleanor Tilney in a reading of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*

### HOT BOX GIRLS (SOLOIST & LEAD DANCER)

The Triad Theatre & other NYC venues, dir. Rebecca Greenstein

- Performed solo vocals, dance and comedy as part of a vaudevillian style revue show

### ANYTHING GOES: RE-ENVISIONING GENDER & GESTURE (PERFORMER/DANCE CAPTAIN)

MFA Thesis Presentation, dir./chor. Laurena Barros

- Assisted Laurena Barros in the creation of her MFA Thesis Project and performed in the presentation

### DEATH IN THE AFTERNOON (SOLO IMPROV TAP)

Ward 8 events, prod. Fay Leshner

- Performed solo Improv Tap alongside a live Jazz band

### NOMI NETWORK GALA (BOLLYWOOD DANCER)

chor. Monica Kapoor

- Performed Bollywood Dance to benefit the Nomi Network, whose work empowers women and girls to break cycles of exploitation in their families and communities and bring an end to human trafficking.

### STRENGTH (DANCER)

The Wild Project, chor. Julie Rubin

- Performed with the Ya'el Tap Company, featuring work inspired by Hebrew music & testimonials of Holocaust survivors

### TRIBUTE TO HARRY WOOLEVER (DANCER)

American Musical and Dramatic Academy, chor. Harry Woolever, staging: Ramon Galindo

- Selected to perform in an ensemble piece in memoriam to honor Harry Woolever, Head of the AMDA Dance Department for over 50 years. Worked directly under Harry for years and continue to teach the curriculum and training priorities he implemented.

## **REGIONAL**

### **INTO THE WOODS (FLORINDA/GRANNY, VIOLIN, DANCE CAPTAIN)**

Heartwood Theatre, Damariscotta, ME, dir. Griff Braley chor. Michelle Bruckner

- Played the roles of Florinda & Granny
- When offstage, played Violin accompaniment based on orchestral arrangements I created from Sondheim's score
- Served as Dance Captain to run additional rehearsals and clean choreography

### **TIME STEP (FEATURED DANCER & FIDDLE)**

Broward Stage Door Theater, Coral Springs, FL, dir. Kevin Black chor. Ashley Bachner, Sebastian Goldberg & more

- Performed a broad range of Tap and adjacent styles including Swing, Flamenco & more
- Played solo fiddle for Irish and American Bluegrass numbers

### **CRAZY FOR YOU (PATSY, U/S POLLY)**

Gateway Theatre, Vancouver BC, dir. Barbara Tomasic chor. Julie Tomaino

- Played the role of Patsy in the hit Gershwin musical & performed Julie Tomaino's award-winning choreography
- Understudied the lead role of Polly and filled in during some rehearsals

### **THE SECRET GARDEN (ALICE/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)**

Heartwood Theatre, Damariscotta, ME, dir. Griff Braley chor. Michelle Bruckner

- Played the role of Alice
- Assistant Directed the production with specific focus on movement, blocking, and culturally specific issues

### **SHE LOVES ME (FEATURED ENSEMBLE)**

The Heights Players, Brooklyn, NY, dir. Steve Velardi chor. Kristen Keim

- Featured Ensemble and Dance Soloist

### **ONE WORLD (BOLLYWOOD DANCER)**

Vanguard Industrial, Malvern, PA, dir. Terry Berliner chor. Monica Kapoor

- Performed Bollywood Dance in multiple shows created for Vanguard that highlighted global celebrations.

### **DIRECT FROM SWEDEN: THE MUSIC OF ABBA (BACKUP SINGER)**

Northeast Tour, prod. Peter Borjesson

- Performed shows in NY, NH & MA singing backup with Direct From Sweden: The Music of ABBA

### **THE SHIM SHAM SLAM**

Jersey City, NJ, Art House Productions, written and performed by Ariel Seidman-Wright

- Wrote & performed solo piece featuring Rhythm Tap & Slam Poetry as part of the So Low Theatre Festival

## **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

### **THE AMERICAN MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC ACADEMY, NEW YORK**

Certificate, Integrated Program

2008-2009

- Received a talent based scholarship to study in the Musical Theatre program
- Maintained a 3.90 GPA
- Performed in multiple Dance Workshops for Tap & Jazz (selected by audition)
- Selected for Acting Final Demos
- Selected for Voice & Speech Tour
- Worked as a Manager of the AMDA Library

## **THE NEW SCHOOL UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

BFA Musical Theatre, honors

2012-2014

- Maintained a 3.97 GPA
- Recognized for Outstanding Academic Achievement & included on the Dean's list every semester
- Studied a wide range of Literature, History, and Psychology, with particular focus on Narratives of Black Women, cultures of migrant populations in New York City, and philosophies of Education
- Presented a paper on Madame C.J. Walker and recognized with honors at the University of Delaware's 2013 Regional Undergraduate Student Research Conference, highlighting research on the people of the African Diaspora.
- Featured in The New School Brochure and Website as an exemplary Continuing Education student

## **WILLIAM ESPER STUDIO, NEW YORK**

Summer Intensive

2016

- Studied Meisner Acting Technique with Barbara Marchant through a 6 week Intensive course

## **THE PEARL THEATRE CONSERVATORY, NEW YORK**

Advanced Scene Study

2012

- Trained In Advanced Scene Study with Dan Daily with a focus on Contemporary American Realism

## **ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION, NEW YORK**

Acting, Voice, Dance, Education, Social Movements

2009-Present

- Voice Lessons with Holli Leggett, Emily Firth, and Christopher Stephens
- Monologue coaching with Dan Daily, spanning Contemporary and Classical works
- Dance Classes, Workshops and Masterclasses at Broadway Dance Center, Steps, Ailey Extension, and more
- Musical Theatre Core Program with Actor Therapy (Lindsay Mendez, Ryan Scott Oliver, Stephen Sposito & more)
- Dialect Coaching with Joe Goscinski at Stella Adler
- Intro to Screen Acting with Sean Dougherty
- Industry workshops with Casting Directors through Actor's Connection and The Growing Studio
- Active participant In AMDA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training Workshops
- Frequently attends cultural event to stay connected to the current Arts scene and bring the most relevant insights into the classroom, particularly in relation to styles that originate from the Black and Latinx Diasporas
- Invests significant time researching and reading literature of social justice movements surrounding the intersections of gender, race, class

## **BUREAU OF PROPRIETARY SCHOOL SUPERVISION (BPSS), NEW YORK**

Course 1: Basic Teaching Methods

2018

- Completed 30 hours of training which focused on a foundation of theory and practice in vocational education, specifically for the adult learner. Main topics included student-centered teaching, planning for success, using learning objectives, setting the best educational environment and more

## **ADDITIONAL WORK**

### **WYSKA: WOMEN YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT**

Educational Website & Instagram Account: <https://www.arielsw.com/wyska> & @wyska\_  
2020-Present

- Blog and Instagram account dedicated to Women You Should Know About: those who persisted through the still prevalent oppressions of gender, race, and class to re-define limitations and change the world. Focuses on the grit and ingenuity of women who are often excluded from general school curriculum, since history has typically been presented through a patriarchal, colonial, white supremacist lens
- So far, have written profiles based on extensive research for Madame C.J. Walker, Patsy Mink, and Margaret Bourke-White

## **PRE-PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & EXPERIENCE**

### **VICTORIA, B.C.**

#### **KIDCO & VICTORIA DANCE CONNECTION**

1994-2007

- Studied Jazz, Tap, Ballet & Hip Hop with a broad range of Faculty beginning at age 4
- Selected by audition for the performance company, solo & small group work beginning at age 10
- Performed in 100+ recitals, shows, and community events

#### **GREATER VICTORIA PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL**

2000-2007

- Competed in 100+ Dance festivals In Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop & Musical Theatre
- Trained in masterclasses and workshops with Guest Adjudicators (master teachers from across North America)
- Received numerous awards and distinctions including Best Jazz Group, Best Hip Hop Trio, and more

#### **PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS**

1994-2008

- Studied Classical Violin privately for 10 years, primarily through the Suzuki method
- Completed Royal Conservatory Classical Music Exams In both Violin & Voice
- Studied Classical Voice & Piano for 2 years

#### **VICTORIA CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC**

1998-2004

- Played first chair violin in the Victoria Youth Orchestra
- Attended Orchestra camp for 2 summers (by audition)
- Played first chair violin in School District 61 public school orchestra

#### **BHARATANATYAM & INDIAN FOLK STYLES**

1996-1999

- Studied in both private and group lessons in Bharatanatyam and Rajasthani Folk Dances with a range of teachers including Rajmani, Mrinalini Greedhary & Sydney Sparling
- Performed at numerous cultural events and celebrations, including the biggest Hindu Temple in Vancouver, BC

#### **REYNOLDS SECONDARY**

2002-2007

- Cast in a lead role for each Musical Theatre mainstage production all five years (by audition)
- Choreographed numerous pieces for both the Dance and Musical Theatre Programs
- Wrote, Performed and Directed original works as part of the Career Prep Drama Program
- Trained in technical elements including scenic design, lighting design, video editing and more.