

# LAURA BERNAS

www.laurabernas.com

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New Orleans, LA & Syracuse, NY

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Company Member (Creator & Performer/Artistic & Executive Business Management)** 2019-Present

Building Company Theater, Syracuse, NY

- Currently directing Building Company Theater's first online production Re: Constructing America
- Create and perform in original theatrical works based on physical, improv, & theater of the oppressed theatrical techniques
- Attribute expertise in systems analysis, artistic creation, organizational management, and community engagement
- Investigate artistic and business practices for alignment to mission, core values, and future visioning
- Address gaps in structures of company functioning
- Research opportunities for artistic and business development
- Identify areas for growth in audience engagement and connect us with potential producing partners
- Streamline online storage systems and communications
- Recommend changes to digital marketing strategies
- Lead online devising and rehearsing
- Offer welcoming and inclusive spaces for theatrical engagement on diverse and controversial topics
- Create an atmosphere open to questioning, interrogation, joyous expression, and consistent communication
- Support colleagues' artistic and managerial growth by enacting empathic and service-oriented leadership styles

### **Teaching Artist** 2018

John Robert Powers, Syracuse, NY

- Dispensed knowledge on acting, movement, and voice techniques to children ages 5-18
- Provided safe space to work on monologues, songs, and improv sketches
- Ensured the teaching of foundational acting techniques through improvisational group games, individual artistic explorations, and partner improvisation
- Advised students on creating practical steps towards education and career goals
- Encouraged freedom of expression and creative risk-taking

### **Organizational & QI Strategist | Research & Development Manager | Head Writer** 2017-2018

Himalayan Institute Humanitarian Project, Honesdale, PA and Kumbo, Cameroon

- Initially hired as *Fundraising Assistant*, transitioned to organization-wide responsibilities within months of hiring
- Analyzed organizational workflow, development sources, and communications strategies
- Assessed the ability to produce short, medium, and long-term goals against current organizational practices
- Created new company goals alongside managing director in alignment with new visioning
- Researched new donors, liaised with fundraising partners, and wrote multi-sized grant applications
- Designed, instructed, and implemented a large-scale, quality improvement project for public health division in Kumbo, Cameroon serving a region of 320,000 people
- Authored annual reports, marketing brochures, blog posts, social media, and online communications concerning company business and Cameroonian/African women's health and business, economics, literacy and education, and public policy
- Executed and collaborated in team building seminars and company management/culture workshops

## Teaching Artist

2016

Dramatic Adventure Theatre, Mloka, Tanzania

- Coached elementary and middle school children in the development of basic playwrighting skills
- Educated groups of 10-12 children in the methods and forms of western improv traditions as they relate to East African communication styles
- Prepared students to be in front of an audience for the first time and present original theatrical material
- Communicated fundamentals of theater writing teaching to primarily non-English speaking students

## Assistant Director

2016

The Anthropologists' *No Man's Land* (Workshop), New York, NY

- Charted rehearsal progress and key directorial notes while supporting stage management
- Supported director in clarifying vision for performance
- Submitted detailed notes on rehearsals and artistic meetings
- Assisted artistic and technical staff to systemize workflow for productive rehearsals

## Assistant Stage Manager

2016

David Lang's *The Public Domain*, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, New York, NY

- Assured communication between ASMs and SMs regarding performer inquiries and concerns
- Connected performers with appropriate cues facilitating smooth performance
- Tended to the needs of 500+ performers in large-scale rehearsal rooms

## Casting Assistant

2015

Miranda Theatre Company's *Snow Orchid*, Cherry Lane Theatre, New York, NY

- Connected performers auditioning to director and producer ensuring collaborative and welcoming environment
- Contributed to discussions of acting technique, ensemble creation, and aesthetic vision
- Tailored communication style to needs of executive team

## Artistic Intern

2012

New York Neo-Futurists, New York, NY

- Wrote digital communications and maintained company record keeping
- Contributed creatively to rehearsal processes and communicated company vision in the digital space
- Learned budgetary, development, and small-ensemble management practices

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Professional Actor

2013-Present

Theater and Film, International

*\*See Attached Acting Resume*

### Technical Production (Sound Design/Scenic Construction/Props Artisan/Art Dept Buyer)

2010-Present

Theater and Film, USA

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Member, The Downtown Writer's Center, Syracuse, NY 2018-2021
- Festival Participant, Zanzibar International Arts & Film Festival, Zanzibar, Tanzania 2016
- Festival Participant, Capital Fringe Festival, Washington D.C. 2014
- Member, Sarah Lawrence College Theatre Outreach Program, Bronxville, NY 2012

## EDUCATION

**MFA in Professional Acting**, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Bristol, England

**Certificate in Acting**, Moscow Art Theater School/Eugene O'Neill National Theatre Institute, Moscow, Russia

**Bachelor of Liberal Arts, Performing Arts** Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY

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## NEW YORK THEATER

<i>Behold: A New Musical</i>	Mrs. Gunn	CFA Columbia/Dir. Emily Sullivan
<i>The Favor</i>	Lauren	Brooklyn 10-Min Plays/Dir. Sarah Stevens

## REGIONAL THEATER

<i>Surface Tension (SR)</i>	Mother Earth	Building Company Theater/Dir. Stephen Cross
<i>Pericles</i>	Calliope	Redgrave Theatre (UK)/Dir. Aaron Parsons
<i>Chicken Soup with Barley</i>	Sarah/Dave	BOVTS Studio (UK)/Dir. Joshua Parr
<i>The Cherry Orchard</i>	Varya	BOVTS Studio (UK)/Dir. Mabel Aitken
<i>Macbeth</i>	Lady Macbeth	BOVTS Studio (UK)/Dir. Paul Chesterton
<i>Agamemnon: A New Adaptation</i>	Clytemnestra	BOVTS Studio (UK)/Dir. Jacquie Crago
<i>The Seagull</i>	Nina	Moscow Art Theater Studio/Dir. Sergei Zemstov
<i>Dead City</i>	Beatrice/Nora	Frances Ann Cannon Theatre/Dir. Kat Kmn
<i>Animals Out of Paper</i>	Ilana Andrews	Downstage Theatre/Dir. Amelia Parenteau
<i>Pippin</i>	Lead Swing	Downstage Theatre/Dir. Caitie Cunningham

## DEvised THEATER

<i>Re: Constructing America</i>	Co-Devisor	Building Company Theater/Dir. Laura Bernas
<i>Apprentice: White House</i>	Co-Devisor	Building Company Theater/Dir. Stephen Cross
<i>Natural Order (SR)</i>	Co-Devisor	Breadcrumbs Productions/Dir. Brad Beckman
<i>Immigration Dialogue</i>	Co-Devisor	Building Company Theater/Dir. Stephen Cross
<i>Unearthing Mary Bixby</i>	Co-Devisor	Breadcrumbs Productions/Dir. Tanner Efinger
<i>TEMBO!</i>	Co-Devisor	DAT/Zanzibar Intl. Arts Festival/Dir. Candis Jones
<i>Wistaria</i>	Co-Devisor	DC Capital Fringe Festival/Dir. Jeremy Goren

## FILM

<i>Roadside Assistance (Short)</i>	Lead	MCY Productions/Dir. Michelle C. Yu
<i>Alarm (Short)</i>	Lead	VPA Syracuse/Dir. Matthew Arkema
<i>Gaining and Losing (Short)</i>	Lead	Nada Stjepanovic Prod./Dir. Nada Stjepanovic

## EDUCATION/TRAINING

**Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (UK):** MFA in Professional Acting

**Moscow Art Theater School:** Certificate in Acting

**Sarah Lawrence College:** Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts

## SKILLS

**Dialects:** RP, Cockney, Russian, Irish, General American, Southern American, Rhode Island, Midwestern

**Improv:** Clown/Stand-Up/Short & Long-Form Harold-Christine Farrell, Commedia Del Arte-Geoff Sobelle

**Singing:** Classically Trained Soprano w/ Legit, Belt, Pop (F3 to C6)-Lisa Howard, Pamela Rudge

**Dance:** Contact Improv (Adv), Period Dance (Adv), Hip Hop (Int), Modern (Int), Tap/Ballet/Jazz (AdvBeg), Salsa (Beg)

**Instruments:** Guitar (Basic), Piano (Basic), Snare Drum (Basic)

**Stage Combat:** BADC Certified Advanced: Rapier & Dagger/Quarterstaff/Knife/Unarmed/Broadsword/Kali Sticks

**Sports:** Marathon Running, Rugby, Horseback Riding (Walk/Trot), Yoga (Hatha/Iyengar), Skiing (Downhill/XC)

**Languages:** French (Basic), Russian (Basic)

**Other fun facts about me:** Choreographer, Poet, Sound Designer, Photographer, Props Artisan, Carpentry/Welding (Basic), Dolphin Impression, Valid US Passport