

ABBY PAJAKOWSKI

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EDUCATION

- 2018 **M.A. in Applied Theatre & Drama in the Criminal Justice System**
Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
Thesis Title: “Considering Play in Prison: the resistant and ethical potential of play-centric applied theatre practice when working with incarcerated adults”
Achievements: High Distinction Overall; High Distinction on Thesis
- 2010 **B.A. in Theatre, Certificate in Adaptation and Devising**
Northwestern University
Achievements: *Summa Cum Laude*, Dean’s List 2010-2014; Century Scholar

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2021-present **North Park University**
Adjunct Professor, School of Communication
- 2023-2024 **North Central University**
Director, *30 Original Plays in 60 Minutes*
- 2018-present **Instructor - Still Point Theatre**
MCC Federal Prison – Created the curriculum for and led a weekly Theatre and Devising ensemble of women in MCC, focusing on play and collaboration
- 2016-2020 **Teacher/Director/Writer – Actors Gymnasium**
Taught devised theater-making to young circus artists (ages 12-18) and wrote & directed four original plays for those students to perform.
- 2019 **Drama Director – Actors Gymnasium**
Headed the drama department of the Youth Circus Camp, creating the drama curriculum for the summer and creating two new plays for the campers (ages 8-15)
- 2019 **Instructor - Shakespeare Behind Bars**
Created and taught clown workshop for imprisoned youth (ages 15-19) in Illinois Youth Center
- 2017-2018 **Instructor and Director - Unlock Drama**
Collaboratively wrote a YA theatre piece with a group of imprisoned fathers, performing the interactive show for their children, families, and prison staff
- 2017-2018 **Teaching Assistant - Access All Areas & Central School of Speech & Drama**
“Live Art & Solo Performance,” for university class for adults with developmental differences, assisting professors and working with students one-on-one

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 **Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP) - University of Michigan, Michigan**
Spearheaded the creation and implication of a new one-day curriculum for incarcerated adults in isolated areas of Michigan through PCAP
- 2018 **Youth Arts Alliance – Monroe Youth Center, Michigan**
Created and taught a new, four-week Theatre and Play course for young people (ages 12-15)
- 2017-2018 **PSYCHEdelight**
Assisted and facilitated theatre workshops with refugee artists (ages 17-30)