

Eli Coats

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

OWNER/PRINCIPAL

Sep 2004 – Jul 2007

StageCoach Theatre Arts, Upper East Side, New York, NY

- Established part-time performing arts school for children ages 4-16
- Oversaw and maintained daily business operations, to include managing four instructors in the disciplines of acting, voice and dance
- Structured curriculum for each 10-12 week term with a focus on technical training, confidence-building, and fun
- Acted as producer and artistic director for shows presented to parents
- Adapted Aeschylus' Oresteia into a musical comedy for students to workshop and perform
- Tripled student enrollment from 17 to 55 students over 7 terms through strategic advertising and strong word-of-mouth referrals
- Sold in 2007 to move to Minneapolis, and successfully ran until 2017.

TEACHER/PLAYWRIGHT/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Jan 2009 – July 2017

StageCoach Theatre Arts/MPAA, St. Louis Park, MN/Hopkins, MN

- Resident acting/directing instructor
 - Taught acting to kids ages 6-16 two terms (28 weeks) each year
 - Blocked, coached and otherwise prepared students for the end-of-term presentations
 - Taught beginning directing class to students ages 12-16.
- Playwright
 - Wrote the complete book for original shows or added original scenes to existing pieces
- Technical Director
 - Built all sets, designed/focused all lighting, engineered and set up all sound

AUDITION COACH

Jun 1988 - Present

Private instruction, New York, NY & Minneapolis, MN

- Privately work with actors as acting coach/director to help them explore and make new discoveries within their pieces, and to shape their monologues into tight, engaging performances that showcase the actors' strengths

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Aug 2016 – Jan 2017

Theatre Unbound, Minneapolis, MN

- Sought out and enlisted volunteer playwrights, directors and actors for Theatre Unbound's annual, fundraiser/24 hour play festival: "24:00:00 Xtreme Theatre Smackdown."
- Managed project schedules effectively, ensuring smooth execution for all production aspects (incl. being the primary contact person for the venue, Steppingstone Theatre)

CO-FOUNDER/PRODUCTION MANAGER/EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

Nov 1998 – Nov 2003

Walk The Plank Productions, New York, NY

- Taught acting and directing and produced end-of-term showcases for students
- Coordinated the integration of all creative and technical elements – to include lighting, sound, sets, properties and costumes – as company Production Manager for all mainstage WTP shows
- Co-produced seven plays including comedies, dramas, and new works with an audience base of 1,200 people in the 1999-2000 season

ACTING INSTRUCTOR/MONOLOGUE COACH

Jun 1997 - Aug 2009

Beginnings Workshop, Ossining, NY

- Taught 1-2 times a year in 8-10 day summer acting workshops for young actors ages 6 to 25
- Taught basics of contemporary, Stanislavski-based acting and character-development
- Coached >300 young actors on monologues I wrote for their NYC showcase performances

LECTURER

Aug 1991 – May 1992

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

- Responsible for planning lessons and teaching classes for DRAM 141-01 Intro to Acting and DRAM 142-01 Intro to Comedy

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Masters of Fine Arts – Dramatic Arts, Acting, May 1992

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Bachelor of Arts –Theatre and Communications, May 1988

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

INTERESTS

Family camping, cycling, alpine skiing, volunteer work (incl. **Board member – Candid Theater Co.**)