



Vanessa Tolino  
**Theatre & Film Instructor**  
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## EDUCATION - DEGREES

### **Tulane University, New Orleans, LA**

Masters of Liberal Arts, Emphasis: History & Documentary Filmmaking

### **Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), Indiana, PA**

Bachelors of Fine Arts (B.F.A.), Theatre Arts Double Major: Directing & Acting

### **Moreland University, Teacher Certification Program, Washington D.C.**

Nine month intensive program focusing on teaching practices

## CERTIFICATIONS

**Teaching Certification:** K-12 Theatre Arts: Arizona (expected August 2024)

**IB DP Film** – Category 1 – Online, Lusaka, Zambia

**IB DP Film** – Category 2 – Online, Lusaka, Zambia

**IB DP Theatre** – Category 1 – Online, Quito, Ecuador

**IB DP Theatre** – Category 2 – Online, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

**IB DP Theatre** – Category 3 – Bangkok, Thailand

**Launching the MYP** – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Teaching MYP Theatre** – Category 3 (ISTA) – Brussels, Belgium

**IB MYP Design** - Category 1 – Shenzhen, China

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **IB DP Theatre Examiner – Research Presentation Assessment**

Completed training and assessment standardizations in spring 2024 /expected start spring 2025

### **Shekou International School, Shenzhen, China: IB DP Film, MYP Theatre – 2023 - Current**

- Instructor DP Film, MYP Drama & MYP Lang & Lit English
- Director of secondary play: *Liongirl* directing students in acting, choreography, technical aspects & animation creation; scheduling; overseeing costume, set and prop design & creation; purchasing performance rights, costumes, props & set needs; assisting with setting up new microphone system; supervising adult technical assistants; supervising PR aspects; assist with program & teeshirt creation; communication with SIS community; working closely with parent association
- Extended Essay (EE) advisor (topics: Film & Theatre)
- Oversee secondary theatre calendar scheduling
- Member of new staff onboarding committee
- Guided/assisted with MS MYP Drama curriculum creation with attention to vertical and horizontal alignment; organize secondary drama meetings; instruct MS teachers about MYP Drama curriculum content
- Supervisor of 11<sup>th</sup> grade CAS podcast project
- Collaboration with DP Chinese Lang & Lit: Leading a Workshop “Heroes in Disaster Films in China & America”
- Organizing cross curricular theatre performances (HS students performing for primary students)
- Supervise & Direct MS/HS Talent Show
- Senior mentor – supervise graduation rehearsals/supervise senior trip/school-wide “clap-out”
- Active with regional and international educational theatre associations; supervised regional trips

### **Seisen International School, Tokyo, Japan: IB MYP Theatre, MYP Lang & Lit English Teacher – 2022 – 2023**

- Instructor of MYP Theatre and MYP English Lang & Lit
- Director of secondary theatre production: *A Wrinkle in Time*
- DEIJ Female Empowerment Committee Member; organized International Women’s Day MS Film competition
- Supervised & organized secondary performances for kindergarten & primary students

### **American International School of Lusaka, Lusaka, Zambia**

### **Head of Creative Arts Department /IB DP Theatre, DP Film, MYP Theatre, MYP Design Teacher - 2018 – 2022**

- Instructor of DP Film, DP Theatre, MYP Theatre & MYP Design
- Head of Creative Arts Department (PYP, MYP & DP Art, Music & Theatre); budget oversight, school-wide arts calendar creation and maintenance, arts curriculum alignment & planning from K through 12
- Director of theatre productions: *Fame Jr.*, *Flash Gordon Redux: Lusaka 2019*, *Squirrel Girl Goes to College*
- Supervising director for student led productions: *M.A.D.*, *Nightmares! A Night of Comic Horror*
- Supervisor of community service theatre club with student leaders and actors performing at local primary schools
- Active with regional and international educational theatre associations; organized & supervised local and international trips (ISTA, ISSEA, ISAZ – Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, England, Belgium)
- Member of Merit Student Scholarship Committee; promotion and selection
- Organizer of workshops fostering intercultural collaborative work with local Zambian theatre artists
- Manager of busy theatre calendar and school-wide system for Covid classroom allocations
- WASC Focus Group: School Culture & Criteria
- Extended Essay (EE) and Personal Project (PP) Advisor

### **Mont'Kiara International School, KL, Malaysia: IB DP Theatre & MYP Theatre Teacher - 2016 – 2018**

- Instructor of DP Theatre & MYP Drama courses; taught, assessed and created vertical and horizontal IB curriculum for 6-12 grade
- Director of school productions of *Into the Woods*, *Don Quixote*, *Football Romeo*
- *International Thespian Society* – Troupe Director; created a service project for theatre students to teach English by collaboratively making theatre with students from local refugee center
- Active with regional and international educational theatre associations; organized & supervised local and international trips (ISTA, IASAS – local, Hong Kong & Cambodia)
- Theatre Curriculum Review Committee; analysed existing program and made suggestions for improvement
- WASC Focus Group: Resource Management & Development Committee
- CAS Advisor/Extended Essay (EE) Advisor
- Film Club – Supervisor of club that provided filmmaking workshops and screenings

### **Shanghai Community International School, Shanghai, China: MS Drama Teacher - 2012-2014**

- Using an independent learner focus the curriculum emphasized group work and original in-class creation and performance
- Cross-curriculum grading with the English department
- Directed, designed & produced upper school plays (each production involved over 100 students) for 1,000 seat theater: *The Boy from The Sky* (adaptation of *The Little Prince*) & *Zombie Love*

### **Academia Cotopaxi, Quito, Ecuador: IB DP Theatre & English Teacher - 2011-2012**

- English Language Arts (9th Grade) & DP Theatre teacher
- Directed, designed & produced annual upper school play: *I Only Have Fangs For You*

### **Chalmette High School, Chalmette, LA: HS & MS Literacy Teacher & Reading Interventionist – 2007–2011**

- **English Interventionist (10th Grade)** - Taught basic English comprehension to at-risk native English speakers; worked with students individually or in small groups
- **English Literacy Teacher (8th Grade)** - Taught reading comprehension and basic writing skills

### **Young Audiences, New Orleans, LA: Theater & Film Teacher - 2007- 2010**

- Taught K-8 in an after-school and summer program in the arts for at-risk youth

## **WORKSHOP PRESENTER**

### **Acamis Conference for Arts, Suzhou, China: Oops! Physical Comedy Creation – March 2024**

Presented a workshop for MYP/DP theater & dance teachers about a technique for teaching comedy in the classroom

### **Zambian Short Film Festival, Lusaka, Zambia: Film Directing Masterclass – May 2021**

Created and presented a film directing workshop for Zambian filmmakers

### **Documentary Advocacy Filmmaking Workshop, Chiang Mai, Thailand: Documentary Basics - Fall 2014**

Taught basic principals of advocacy documentary filmmaking with students from war-torn Northern Myanmar

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/COURSES**

Acamis Conference for Arts – Dance in Digital Age: Media Influence on Dance Education – Suzhou, China

ISTA MS Festival - Reflection Structures for MYP Theatre – Nanjing, China

Making Thinking Visible – Mark Church – Lusaka, Zambia

Gotham Writer's Workshop – Playwriting I – New York City/Online

TAPS – Theatre Teaching Workshop – London, England

Kathakali w/Fenella Kelly Workshop (ISTA) - Kerela, India

Connect Fest: "Power: Past & Present" – Verbatim Theatre Workshop (ISTA) – Phnom Penh, Cambodia

ISTA HS Theatre Festival – Teaching Brecht Techniques Workshop – Hong Kong, China

EARCOS Conference - Using Film to Elicit Response, Integrating Filmmaking into the Classroom - Shanghai, China

AASSA Conference - Third World Kids, From War to Katrina: Teaching Kids From Disaster Zones - Quito, Ecuador

Japanese Noh Theatre Summer Program @ Oxford University - Oxford, England

New Teacher Workshop Series - Secondary Teacher Training – Chalmette, LA

## **THEATER DIRECTING (Representative List)**

*Liongirl* – Shekou International School, Shenzhen, China

*A Wrinkle in Time* – Seisen International School, Tokyo, Japan

*Squirrel Girl Goes to College* – American International School of Lusaka, Lusaka, Zambia

*Nightmares! A Night of Comedic Horror* – (Director of student directors) - American International School of Lusaka, Lusaka, Zambia

*Flash Gordon Redux: Lusaka 2019* – American International School of Lusaka, Lusaka, Zambia

*The Fisherman & His Wife* – Various primary schools in Lusaka, American International School of Lusaka, Lusaka, Zambia

*Mutually Assured Destruction* (Director of student directors) – American International School of Lusaka, Lusaka, Zambia

*Fame Jr.* – American International School of Lusaka, Lusaka, Zambia

*In a Grove: 4 Japanese Ghost Stories* (Director of student directors) – Mont'Kiara International School, KL, Malaysia

*Don Quixote* - Mont'Kiara International School, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*Football Romeo* – Mont'Kiara International School, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*Flash Gordon 1936* - Mont'Kiara International School, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*Into the Woods* - Mont'Kiara International School, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*Boy From The Sky: Based on The Little Prince* – Shanghai Community International School, Shanghai, China

*Zombie Love* - Shanghai Community International School, Shanghai, China

*I Only Have Fangs for You* - Academia Cotopaxi, Quito, Ecuador

*Flash Gordon: Staged Radio Play* - Academia Cotopaxi, Quito, Ecuador

*The Cat and His Master* – Chata Ima Elementary, Lacombe, LA

*Where the Wild Things Are* – Drew Elementary, New Orleans, LA

*Wolves in the Walls* - Harriet Tubman Elementary, New Orleans, LA

**Wendi Goes to Heaven** – Staged Reading, Brooklyn, NY  
**The Angel Machine** – Turmoil Room, Pittsburgh, PA  
**Peg's Wooden Leg Funder** – Turmoil Room, Pittsburgh, PA  
**The Wind Up Doll** – Aha! Theater, Seattle, WA  
**Comedy of JasmineLace** – The Easy, Seattle, WA  
**No Exit** – Theater by the Grove, Indiana, PA  
**The Golden Fleece** – Theater by the Grove, Indiana, PA  
**Fool for Love** – Theater by the Grove, Indiana, PA

### PROFESSIONAL MEDIA EXPERIENCE (Representative List)

**Mpali (Season 2-4) – ACTOR (Lead) Nancy Nguzu – Cinemax/Zambezi Magic TV**

Television series produced from South Africa, shot in Lusaka, Zambia

**Undi – PRODUCER/CO-DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION DESIGNER – Dot the Cat Films**

11 minute fiction film, shot in Lusaka, Zambia - *Winner of Best Short Film: Halicarnassus Short Film Festival Entry in Zambia Short Film Festival, Dreamer's Short Film Festival, Fickin International Film Festival Kinshasa*

**Master Qin & His Puppets - DIRECTOR/PRODUCER – Lydia Leigh Media**

6 minute documentary, shot in Hubei Province, China

*Bucharest Short CineFest, Halicarnassus Short Film Festival, CultureCinema2021, Dreamer's Short Film Festival*

**Fla Flower: Laughing Yoga, Chiang Mai – DIRECTOR/PRODUCER – Lydia Leigh Media**

4 minute documentary, shot in Chiang Mai, Thailand

**10 Steps for Proposing Ideas: In Action - DIRECTOR - Lydia Leigh Media**

10 minute corporate instructional video, shot in Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Gladiator Challenge - DIRECTOR - Lydia Leigh Media**

5 part short web commercial series, shot in Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Shanghai Engagement - DIRECTOR/CO-WRITER - Lu the Cat Productions**

7 minute fiction film; entry in 48 Hr Film Festival – Shanghai, China/Winner of "Best Costume" Award

**Coming of the Oil - PRODUCER - ARTE France**

12 minute documentary about BP oil spill in Southern Louisiana; aired on ARTE France

**BP's New PR - PRODUCER - ARTE France**

Documentary-style news segment, shot in Gulf Coast, LA; aired on ARTE France

**Gulf Coast Oil Spill: Six Months - PRODUCER - ARTE France**

Documentary-style news segment, shot in Gulf Coast, LA; aired on French television

**Resurrection After Exoneration - DIRECTOR/PRODUCER - Pulitzer Center/Youtube News**

Short video journalism piece shot in New Orleans, LA, awarded Pulitzer Center Video Journalism Semi-Finalist and was given placement on Youtube's front-page and on the Pulitzer Center's website

**Mothers of Violence - DIRECTOR/PRODUCER - Pulitzer Center/Youtube News**

Video journalism piece shot in New Orleans, LA finalist entry in Pulitzer Center/Youtube "Project Report"

**Ninth Ward, New Orleans: Election Day - DIRECTOR/PRODUCER - PBS Website**

Video journalism piece shot in New Orleans, LA, premiered on PBS Election Day website as part of "Video Your Vote", named a "favorite" and placed on Youtube's front-page

**Magnolia Plantation: Reconstruction in Louisiana - PRODUCER - Down the Road Productions**

25 minute documentary, shot in Plaquemines Parish, LA; produced for graduate studies at Tulane University

**Tiger Pass: Lost Home - PRODUCER - Down the Road Productions**

16 minute documentary, shot in Venice, LA; produced for graduate studies at Tulane University

**Riverchat - PRODUCER/REPORTER - Channel 10 Plaquemines Parish Television**

Weekly magazine show on local television station in Southern Louisiana; produced weekly segment

### PUBLISHED WRITING

Vipkid Blog, "5 Ways to Slow Down in the Classroom (and in Life in General)" - 2016

Pyragraph, "Egads, Translators! Making a Film in China is Tricky" – 2015

Pyragraph, "Be a Digital Nomad: It's a Job, Too" - 2015

SINA English, "Miss China Universe in Sri Lanka" - 2014

KnowLa.com (online encyclopedia), "History of Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola" - 2012

The Brooklyn Rail, "Letter from the Gulf: View from Plaquemines Parish" - June 2010

The Plaquemines Gazette, "OSHA Questions Oil Spill Response Class Validity" - May 2010

The Plaquemines Gazette, "Local Boy Featured in Katrina Documentary" - June 2006

TheIT.com, Series of articles about theatrical performance in NYC – 2002

### AWARDS

**Undi** - Winner of Best Short Film: Halicarnassus Short Film Festival

**Master Qin & His Puppets** – Nominated for Best Short Documentary: Bucharest ShortCut CineFest

**Pulitzer Center Video-Journalism Competition/Youtube News** – National Finalist Award

**PBS – 2008 Presidential Election Day Website** – "Favorite Voting Video" Award