

# Tatiana Godfrey

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## Teaching Philosophy

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Give students practical tools that are rooted in well-researched theater and anti-racist theory.

## Experience

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2013-

Self Employed

### Independent Teaching Artist

- Created and taught workshops and classes centered around improvisational comedy:

**Black Aesthetic** (Improv Theatre, Los Angeles) Suzan-Lori Parks famously asked “What is a Black play?” This class attempts to answer this question by surveying plays by Black playwrights, asking critical questions of them, and using our in-class analyses to build possible new structures for improvisational scene work. This class also provides historical context for understanding the content of the play and the time in which it was written. The playwrights and the texts that we engage will serve as artistic commentary regarding images/stereotypes, approaches to recurring themes within the community, and the necessity for different models of aesthetics in representation.

**Tactical Acting** (Improv Theatre, Los Angeles) Tactical Acting is born out of a brand of script analysis popularized by David Mamet. This begins with the assumption that if a character is on stage, they have a purpose and want something from the other characters. This understanding can facilitate making active choices on stage that are grounded in given circumstances.

This class simplifies Practical Aesthetics, Mamet’s analytical technique, by focusing on choosing a goal or objective for your character. Once a goal or objective is chosen, actors employ a variety ofactable tactics (or verbs) to achieve this goal. By employing these tactics (or verbs), actors will practice both impulse commitment and moment to moment work within scenes. Finally, students apply the understanding of objective and the use of tactics to an overall Aristotelian plot structure, and explore purposefully working within and outside of this traditional structure.

**Power Improv** (Improv Cincinnati, Cincinnati) The Viewpoints were first posited in the world of dance by Mary Overlie. Overlie had six Viewpoints. Soon thereafter it was picked up (I’ve heard some argue “stolen”), adapted, practiced, and perpetuated by Anne Bogart, who applied the concepts to theater. The Viewpoints are literally that, different points of view of the elements that make up a performance. All of the Viewpoints are present all of the time, everywhere, and as artists, Bogart posits, we have the agency to purposefully highlight these elements to tell a story. Students learn and explore the Viewpoints as a structural form for improvisational scenes.

2018-2021

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, Massachusetts

### Instructor and Teacher’s Assistant

- Instructing undergraduate students within a given curriculum in Script Analysis, Theater and Performance, and Contemporary Playwrights of Color.
- Curriculum development.
- Assisting teachers with curriculum implementation and grading.
- Maintenance of online grading systems, Blackboard, Moodle, and GoogleEd.

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2013-2018

Cincinnati Public Schools

Cincinnati, Ohio

**Elementary Drama Teacher**

- Valid Ohio Career Technical Teaching License in Performing Arts, grades 4-12.
- 5 years working at the Cincinnati School for Creative & Performing Arts.
- Duties included the creation and implementation of the curricula for the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students within the school's drama department based on Ohio's career technical standards for Arts and Communication.
- Worked with academic teachers to support student growth and learning within the Common Core.
- Intimate knowledge of the creation of IEPs and 504s.
- Contributed to the state course creation within the Arts and Communications Pathway in the Performing Arts field.
- Wrote and directed theater experiences for elementary students to see and perform.

2010-2012

Fabrefaction Theatre Company

Atlanta, Georgia

**Education Coordinator**

- Designing and teaching classes for the company based on the Georgia state theatre curriculum.
- Finding and hiring qualified teachers.
- Incorporation of theatre studies into the rehearsal process.

2005-2007

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park

Cincinnati, Ohio

**Camp Assistant**

- Responsible for child supervision and safety.
- Assisted the teacher with the curriculum.
- Basic office responsibilities.

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**Education**

2018-2021

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, Massachusetts

**MFA in Dramaturgy**

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2006-2010

New York University

New York, New York

**BFA in Theatre, Minor in History**

- Graduated with honors.

**References**

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Specialist  
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