

Tamara S. Drew

tamara@11thhourchicago.com

Managing Director. Program Manager. Creative Director. Production Manager. Teaching Artist.
Community Activist. Speech Coach.

Creative artist, production manager, and social activist with a proven ability to connect with adolescent youth to create personally and socially relevant theatre.

Managing Director with extensive experience in organizational management, including accounting (Quickbooks), website development & maintenance (WordPress, Wix, & Squarespace), communications & marketing (Constant Contact, Canva), scheduling, hiring/evaluating/firing staff, rental management, general office management, developing community relationships, and overall liaising on behalf of an organization.

Production Manager with extensive experience collaborating with directors, performers, designers, technical staff, theatre administration, carceral bureaucracies, and the community to accomplish production goals and present engaging, professional, meaningful theatrical experiences.

Community Activist with strength in public speaking, and motivating & organizing community groups around issues of race and equity, arts integration in education, and local politics.

Devised Playwright creating inquiries and reflections of the human condition through innovative storytelling and live theatrical performance.

Teaching Artist Mentor trained in trauma informed pedagogy who facilitates youth development of identity, relationships, personal choice, and confidence through theatre arts. Instructor of musical theatre performance skills: Acting, Vocal Performance, Dance (Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Musical Theatre Styles, general creative movement). Director, choreographer.

11th HOUR PRODUCTIONS L.L.C., Chicago, IL 2024-Present **Owner, Sole Proprietor**
www.11thhourchicago.com

REMEMBER OUR NAMES, Chicago, IL 2025-Present **Associate Director** - A IS FOR, New York, NY,
2024-Present **Judge, A is for Playwriting Contest 2024/2025**

TEDxYOUTH@RavenswoodES, 2023 **Production Team Coordinator, Speech Coach**

STORYCATCHERS THEATRE, Chicago, IL 2019-2022 **Artistic Manager, Interim Co-Artistic Director**

- **Artistic Manager & Program Manager, Firewriters Ensemble, Illinois Youth Center, Chicago:**
---Collaborate with Steppenwolf Theatre's education team (Step-Ed) to create writing prompts and curriculum to engage incarcerated males aged 9-21 that aligned with Steppenwolf's YA production. Facilitating trauma informed playwriting methodology to collaborate with incarcerated males aged 9-21 to write a scene and song that tells a vivid portion of their personal story. Developing a cohesive full-length musical that combines the stories, characters, dialogue, and music created by each individual ensemble member. Directing & choreographing productions. Leading rehearsal and performance process. Hiring, training, and evaluating artistic teams. Coordinating daily logistics with Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ). Giving daily, detailed reports of individual engagement to IDJJ.
- **Artistic Manager, Changing Voices Ensemble:** Coordinate curriculum for arts integration with job skills training, trauma informed art therapy, and individual & group case management. Teaching artist team management. Oversee/advise trauma informed playwriting process. Block/choreograph/direct new

works. Coordinate with outreach directors for theatre exposure experiences for justice involved youth. Facilitate talk back experiences & post-show surveys.

- **Program Manager, Chicago Police Department Racial Sensitivity Training:** Coordinate curriculum and training logistics with CPD Director of Restorative Justice Strategies. Training day coordination with head training officers. Rehearse cast of justice involved youth. Cast officers in training as suspect characters in trauma informed police stop sketch. Direct officers in training and justice involved youth through cold reading/walk through. Facilitate closing surveys to officers in training.
- **Co-Artistic Director:** Hiring. Training. Supervision/evaluation of Artistic & Program managers company-wide. Public facing representation of SCT. Artistic planning/implementation for fundraising & public events. Liaison between company artistic functions and non-profit Board of Directors.

SAINT SEBASTIAN PLAYERS THEATRE, Chicago, IL 2017-2018 **Choreographer** – The Mystery of Edwin Drod; **Movement Consultant** – Oliver!

STUDIO BE YOUTH REVOLUTION, Chicago, IL 2014-2018 **Founder, Executive Director, Choreographer** – Create and implement administrative and creative structures to support the development of artistic, social, and financial evolution.

- **Artistic Direction:** Identifying themes relevant to learners (performers) and audiences and engaging in innovative creative processes to bring these themes to light. Selecting and devising productions that facilitate an authentic portrayal of the human experience. Provide engaging, real, effective, and affective theatrical experiences for performers and audiences alike.
- **Program Development:** Creation of in-house training programs that support identity development while providing high quality technical training in play analysis, acting, vocal & choral performance, and multiple dance styles. Creation of after-school programs for learners in Chicago Public Schools through a partnership with Columbia College's Center for Community Arts Partnerships (CCAP).
- **Community Outreach:** Curating and managing partnerships with local schools. Connecting with local chambers of commerce. Curating ensemble volunteer opportunities for enrolled learners.
- **Staff Management:** Hiring. Training. Providing supplies and resources. Lesson plan development. In-class support. Payroll. Mentoring. Positive Discipline.
- **Administrative Management:** Accounting (QuickBooks). Venue management. Marketing. Website creation, development, and maintenance. Writing all copy for website and paper materials. Communications. Audience development.
- **Teaching:** Developing and implementing classroom structure. Cultivating the true spirit of ensemble within the cast and/or classroom. Developing and facilitating original, innovative performance training lesson plans for learners ages 5-70 in a myriad of performance disciplines including acting, vocal performance, puppetry, basic stage combat, improvisation, dance fitness, tap dance, ballet, modern dance, play writing and script development, and Shakespeare. Creating avenues and opportunities for learners and young performers to be validated and empowered. Aiding in identity development and actualization of adolescents and their individuality as valid and vital components of the evolution of society, collectively. Developing and exercising skills of self-presentation with all learners: posture & alignment, diction & projection, body language, gait, breathing. Student discipline and classroom management.

STUDIO BE, NFP, Chicago, IL 2009-2014 **Co-Founder, Artistic Director, Director of Education, Choreographer** – See 'Artistic Direction, Program Development, Community Outreach, Staff Management, and Teaching' above.

THE ENTERTAINMENT PROJECT, Chicago, IL 2007-2009 **Production Director, Site Director, Office Staff, Playwright** – Cast, conceptualize, adapt, design, and stage large scale musicals with large casts. Provide technique instruction through the vehicle of a musical. Parent communication, sales, writing copy for website & marketing pamphlets, registration data management. On-site supervisor, disciplinarian, and overseer of over 400 campers.

Original/Adapted Works

[You Can't Kill Our Song](#) – Storycatchers Theatre.

You Are Not My Homie – Storycatchers Theatre

Twisted Creation; Twisted Creation, Take 2 – Studio BE Youth Revolution

Ensemble-devised presentation of songs, monologues, and scenes from established theatrical works that were re-conceptualized and staged, choreographed, and energized to communicate a strong social message.

Stages: Puberty. Gender. Sex. Love. – Studio BE Youth Revolution

Ensemble driven devised play addressing the adolescent experience of puberty, gender, sex, and love. Original, raw, honest pieces written by students and instructors with the incorporation of recorded audio interviews and other tid-bits. Teaching vehicle to present accurate information in an engaging manner.

Midsummer Night's Dream in Bollywood – Studio BE Youth Revolution

Shakespeare's classic with musical numbers from Bombay Dreams and Indian instrumentals incorporated. Full ensemble vocal/dance numbers, solos, duets.

Oh! The Things You Can Think – Studio BE, NFP

Songs from *Seussical the Musical*, *School House Rock*, *Les Miserables*, and *Honk!* Learner devised scenes, and scenes and monologues from various authors performed by a conflation of three different elementary school performance groups.

The Nightmare Before Christmas – The Entertainment Project

Adapted film script, created additional characters & dialogue, added dialogue from Macbeth, added songs.

Education

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN THEATRE AND SOCIOLOGY May 2005 **Millikin University**,
Decatur, IL

Community Organization and Leadership

A is For, New York, New York

Board of Directors 2025-Present

Strawdog Theatre, Chicago, IL

Ravenswood Elementary School, Chicago, IL

Local School Council Parent Representative 2020-present (Chairperson 2022-2024)

Eye on Equity Founder/Facilitator 2018-present

Fine Arts Magnet Education Committee Chair 2017-present

Live Entertainment Production Creator, Manager, & Facilitator:

Annual Fundraising Benefit 2015-2019, 2022, 2025

47th Ward Aldermanic Forum Moderator, Chicago, IL 2019

Friends of Ravenswood School Board Member 2016-2018

Panels, Podcasts, & Interviews

Real Freedom Projects, Chicago Black Public Access. Snow Moon Stream. 2021

Steppenwolf Theatre Staff Black Identifying Affinity Group Discussion Moderator 2021

Loyola University Sociology Department. Panel on Anti-Racism. 2020

Steppenwolf Theatre's Half Hour Podcast. Season 1, Episode 5 "I got your back" 2020

Millikin University School of Theatre and Dance Entrepreneurship & Arts Admin Panelist

2016