



# Michelle Petrucci

**ARTS LEADER, DIRECTOR, CHOREOGRAPHER, TEACHING ARTIST**

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***A dynamic teaching artist, mentor, and visionary leader in theatre and dance education, I value process over product, see potential first, and inspire the next generation to use their unique artistic voices to affect change in our industry.***

## **Education**

**Master of Arts: Arts Management and Executive Leadership**, Rider University

**Bachelor of Fine Arts: Musical Theatre**, dance minor (Cum Laude), The Boston Conservatory

NJ Governor's School of the Arts Theatre Scholar

## **Administrative Appointments**

***Theater Department Chair,***

***Patel Conservatory at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts***

*Tampa, FL. June 2023 - Present*

- Manage, recruit, mentor, and supervise staff of eight direct reports and additional consultants in a fast-paced, rapidly-growing theater program at the 4th largest performing arts organization in the country
- Provide visionary leadership to create and develop programming and revitalize curriculum design
- Partner with executive leadership on strategic planning to set the direction for the theater department
- Oversee faculty development and departmental accreditation
- Develop partnerships within the community serving as guest artist in local arts programs and magnet schools
- Create and track operational and production budgets for the theater department
- Align pricing scale with market research, adjust and restructure scholarship award process
- Design Patel Conservatory Theater production season and assemble professional creative teams across multiple venues on campus utilizing both union and nonunion production staff
- Create and manage PCT College Audition Prep and Broadway touring artist masterclasses
- Create and lead the PCT Ensemble, an audition-based representative performance group
- Restructure and oversee Junior and Senior Theater Certification Programs with accreditation through Cognia
- Gather and prepare marketing material and scheduled media content
- Align departmental communications with students and families and across organizational departments

***Dean of Theatre,***

***Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts***

*West Palm Beach, FL. August 2013 - June 2023, appointed Dean fall of 2016*

- Manage staff of five full-time and three part-time theatre faculty at the magnet arts high school in the School District of Palm Beach County
- Collaborate with acting, musical theatre, and technical theatre faculty to build a comprehensive theatre curriculum
- Produce and market a full season of plays, musicals, showcases, and readings
- Fundraise and oversee production and departmental budgets
- Sponsor International Thespian Society competitions and Chicago Unified Audition field trips
- Manage both mainstage and black box performance spaces (maintenance, school-wide calendar, interdepartmental use both during school and extra-curricular events)

- Recruit and hire guest artists to satisfy specific grants
- Coordinate incoming student auditions

*New initiatives created as Dean of DSOA Theatre:*

- Started the first college faculty master class series free of charge at a public school with faculty from the top theatre BFA programs which greatly impacted student placement
- Initiated DSOA Theatre's commitment to diversity and inclusion by broadening the previous theatre curriculum and hiring a core faculty that fostered global artistic perspectives with our students
- Implemented a Season Selection Committee of representative students to assist in season planning and enhance ownership and agency of the shows DSOA Theatre produces
- Developed an audition prep series with Broadway guest artists
- Created new musical theatre collaborations with in-demand composers
- Began a stage management program that grew from being extra-curricular to adding full-year classes with the hire of a new faculty member

***Director of Education,  
Area Stage Company***

*Miami, FL. June 2011 - March 2012*

- Created a new education department in a conservatory-style setting at a regional theatre
- Developed curriculum and operating schedule for various levels of dance, musical theatre, and acting classes as well as private lessons for teens on a pre-professional track
- Oversaw faculty and guest artist recruitment and onboarding
- Promoted, marketed, and grew the department into a busy studio full of promising young artists
- Collaborated to develop a challenging season of musicals to serve our company of students

## **Teaching & Masterclasses**

***Patel Conservatory at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts***

Courses taught: Musical Theater Dance, Tap, PCT Ensemble, College Audition Prep

*Tampa, FL. June 2023 - present*

- Lead instructor of PCT Ensemble, providing pre-professional musical theatre and dance instruction to a representative group of young artists focused on continuing their training
- Lead instructor of the PCT College Audition Prep series of content-specific workshops: acting the song, musical theatre repertoire development, musical theatre dance styles throughout time periods
- Musical theater dance and tap classes and workshops focused on dance technique and storytelling
- Direct and Choreograph select Patel Conservatory Theater productions

***Florida Southern College, Department of Theatre and Dance***

Courses taught: DAN 2623 JAZZ I

*Lakeland, FL. August 2025 - present*

- Instructor of intermediate college-level jazz dance course for dance majors and minors that offers an immersive investigation into the history, technique, and cultural legacy of jazz dance from its African origins to its theatrical codification by 1950 through embodied practice, lecture, video analysis, and critical discussion.

**Alexander.W.Dreyfoos School of the Arts**

Courses taught: Musical Theatre I, Dance Technique I & II, Junior Dance Choreography, Senior Dance Career Prep, Directing, Arts Administration

*West Palm Beach, FL. August 2013 - June 2023*

- *Musical Theatre Dance Curriculum:* Sophomore to Senior levels of ballet, jazz, musical theatre styles, tap; original choreography from the musical theatre cannon highlighting notable choreographers, choreography creation, storytelling through dance. Texts: Tharp's *The Creative Habit*; Brown's *Daring Greatly*, Cramer's *Creating Musical Theatre*
- *Directing Curriculum:* Senior-level with a focus on musical theatre, design concepts, interpreting metaphor, the use of the ensemble, flow/movement in blocking, collaboration, communication. Texts: Deer's *Directing in Musical Theatre*, Tannahill's *Theatre for the Unimpressed*
- *Arts Administration Curriculum:* deconstruction of the nonprofit model and organizational structure, mission/vision/values development, fundraising and revenue management, arts-specific marketing and PR. Texts: Byrnes' *Management and the Arts*, Rhine's *Theatre Management*
- College audition preparation: prescreen filming, material selection, headshot/resume sessions, guidance and support for students and families throughout the complicated process, organize and chaperone Chicago Unified Audition trip
- Director and Choreographer of award-winning mainstage and black box productions, and annual sold out senior showcases

**University School at Nova Southeastern University**

Courses taught: Dance, Acting, Choreography

*Fort Lauderdale, FL. March 2012 - July 2013*

- Instruction of teen level ballet, jazz, tap, and musical theatre dance styles
- Instruction in acting the song, musical theatre repertoire; private vocal technique lessons
- Choreographer of all mainstage musicals

**Area Stage Company**

Courses taught: Dance, Acting, Choreography

*Miami, FL. June 2011 - March 2012*

- Instruction of pre-professional ballet, jazz, tap, and musical theatre dance styles
- Private lessons in audition preparation and vocal technique
- Resident Choreographer of all professional and conservatory productions

**French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts**

Courses taught: Musical Theatre Dance, Tap, Choreography

*Hancock, NY. July and August 2014*

- Instruction of intermediate and advanced levels of musical theatre dance styles and tap
- Choreographed mainstage musicals, reset original Jerome Robbins choreography of *West Side Story*

**Summer at Cornish College of the Arts**

*Seattle, WA. July 2015*

- Instruction of advanced musical theatre dance styles and scene study

**Summer Theatre Academy at University of Miami**

*Miami, FL. July 2011*

- Instruction of musical theatre dance styles; choreographer

***Master Classes and Workshops****2005 - Present*

- Pre-professional and adult musical theatre dance styles, tap, college audition prep.

Florida State Thespian Festival

John Engeman Theatre

Florida School for Dance Education

Stoneham Theatre

Performing Arts Academy of Jupiter

Dallas Ballet Center

Taylor Made Dance &amp; Theatre

Greasepaint Youtheatre

Pinellas County Center for the Arts

Several cities while on tour through Broadway Across America

MUSE Center for the Arts

**Awards***Career Transition for Dancers* Grant Award Winner

First recipient of The Kravis Center's Dream Award for Most Inspiring Theatre Educator

Kravis Center's Dream Award for Best Musical, *Pippin* (Director/Choreographer)DSOA Theatre students competed at the *Jimmy Awards* in NY in 2018, 2022IRNE Award nomination (Boston) Best Choreography for *Pal Joey* at the Stoneham Theatre**Memberships**

Actors' Equity Association

Associate Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

Musical Theatre Educators Alliance

**Service**

Human Rights Campaign, South Florida Chapter: member since 2016

IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access) Arts Education Committee, Straz Center for the Performing Arts

***Media and video links available at michellepetrucci.com******References available upon request***



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**AEA, SDC**

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## **Broadway National Tours**

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG	<i>Ensemble</i>	Big League Productions (dir. Ray Roderick/choreo. JoAnn Hunter)
CAMELOT	<i>Dance Captain</i>	Candlewood International

## **Cruise Line**

PGT ENTERTAINMENT	<i>Lead Singer/Dancer</i>	Princess Cruise Lines
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## **Regional**

A CHORUS LINE	<i>Bebe</i>	Maltz Jupiter Theatre (dir/choreo Josh Walden)
HELLO DOLLY	<i>Ensemble</i>	Maltz Jupiter Theatre (dir/choreo Marcia Milgrom Dodge)
A FUNNY THING...FORUM	<i>Vibrata</i>	Theatre by the Sea
CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG	<i>Dance Captain</i>	Alhambra Theatre and Dining (choreo James Kinney)
PAL JOEY	<i>Featured Dancer</i>	Stoneham Theatre
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF	<i>Dance Captain</i>	Lincoln Amphitheatre
BOUND FOR BROADWAY	<i>Featured Dancer</i>	Theatre Arts Center
WEST SIDE STORY	<i>Dance Captain</i>	Onstage, Inc.

## **Related Experience**

Career Transition for Dancers Grant Award Winner  
IRNE Award nominated choreographer (Boston), *Pal Joey*  
*BC/EFA Cabaret Fundraiser*, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas

## **Training**

**MA Arts Management & Executive Leadership - Rider University**

**BFA Musical Theatre (Cum Laude), emphasis in Dance - The Boston Conservatory**

NJ Governors School of the Arts Theatre Scholar

Acting/Coaching: Gary John La Rosa, Steve McConnell, Fran Charnas, Spiro Veludos, Ben Evett.

Voice: Bill Cotten, Maureen Brennan, Marilyn Milliken.

Dance: *Ballet*: Royal Academy of Dancing Distinction Honor for six years, Larisa Saveliev, Charla Genn, Kyra Nichols, Rose Yamout. *Jazz/MT*: Danny Herman, Angelo Fraboni, James Kinney, Michelle Chassé. *Tap*: Ray Hesselink, Josh Hilberman (The Hooper's Tap Ensemble, The Boston Conservatory)

***Professional Direction/Choreography***

BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY	<i>Director</i>	Tampa Repertory Theatre
1776	<i>Asst. Director/Choreographer</i>	Palm Beach Dramaworks
CAMELOT (National Tour)	<i>Associate Choreographer/DC</i>	Candlewood International
SNOOPY: THE MUSICAL	<i>Choreographer</i>	Area Stage Company
110 IN THE SHADE	<i>Choreographer</i>	Palm Beach Dramaworks
BILLY & ME (World Premiere)	<i>Choreographer</i>	Palm Beach Dramaworks
PICNIC	<i>Choreographer</i>	Palm Beach Dramaworks
PAL JOEY*	<i>Choreographer</i>	Stoneham Theatre
STRAIGHT WHITE MEN	<i>Choreographer</i>	Tampa Rep
SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER	<i>Director</i>	Lake Worth Playhouse
BOCA BOUND	<i>Choreographer</i>	The Wick Theatre
THE WILD PARTY	<i>Choreographer</i>	Outré Theatre Company
URINETOWN	<i>Choreographer</i>	Area Stage Company
BAT BOY: THE MUSICAL	<i>Choreographer</i>	Area Stage Company
CHICAGO	<i>Choreographer</i>	Apex Theatre Studio

***Pre-Professional Direction/Choreography***

SOMETHING ROTTEN	<i>Director/Choreographer</i>	Straz Center for the Performing Arts
THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL	<i>Director/Choreographer</i>	Straz Center for the Performing Arts
BROADWAY STAR OF THE FUTURE SHOWCASE	<i>Choreographer 2024, 2025</i>	Straz Center for the Performing Arts
PIPPIN	<i>Director/Choreographer</i>	Dreyfoos School of the Arts Theatre
THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND	<i>Director</i>	DSOA Theatre
CRAZY FOR YOU	<i>Director/Choreographer</i>	DSOA Theatre
CRY-BABY	<i>Director/Choreographer</i>	DSOA Theatre
KISS ME, KATE	<i>Director/Choreographer</i>	DSOA Theatre
SHREK: THE MUSICAL	<i>Director/Choreographer</i>	DSOA Theatre
LEGALLY BLONDE	<i>Director/Choreographer</i>	DSOA Theatre
SONG CYCLE BY JONATHAN REID GEALT	<i>Director</i>	DSOA Theatre

***Pre-Professional Direction/Choreography (continued)***

DREYFOOS REMEMBERS: A TRIBUTE TO 9/11	<i>Creator/Director</i>	DSOA Theatre
WEST SIDE STORY**	<i>Choreographer</i>	French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts
THE ADDAMS FAMILY	<i>Choreographer</i>	DSOA Theatre
THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE	<i>Choreographer</i>	DSOA Theatre
JOSEPH...DREAMCOAT	<i>Choreographer</i>	Belen Jesuit Preparatory
THE SOUND OF MUSIC	<i>Choreographer</i>	Belen Jesuit Preparatory
DAMN YANKEES	<i>Choreographer</i>	The Young Company at Stoneham

***\*IRNE Award Nomination******\*\*Reset Original Jerome Robbins Choreography******Media and video links available at michellepetrucchi.com***