



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

New Jersey 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 onsite 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
- Create and lead the summer Broadway Intensive: pre-professional training consisting of a week of master classes and workshops from Broadway vets and working professionals followed by a three-week production process culminating in a large scale musical produced in Straz Center's Ferguson Hall
- Restructure and oversee Cognia accredited Junior and Senior Theater Certification Programs
- 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 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.
- Choreographer for Fall Dance Concert

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 & 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

Theatre Tampa Bay Award Winner: Best Choreography; Nominations: Best Director, Best Production
(*Bridges of Madison County*, TampaRep)

Kravis Center's Dream Award for Best Musical, *Pippin* (Director/Choreographer)

DSOA Theatre students competed at the *Jimmy Awards* in NY in 2018, 2022

IRNE Award nomination (Boston) Best Choreography (*Pal Joey*, Greater Boston Stage Company)

Memberships

Actors' Equity Association

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



Michelle Petrucci

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>	Greater Boston Stage Company
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

Theatre Tampa Bay Award Winner: Best Choreography; Nominations: Best Direction, Best Production

IRNE Award (Boston) Nomination: Best Choreography

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 (YAGP), Charla Genn, Kyra Nichols, Rose Yamout. *Jazz/MT*: Danny Herman, Angelo Fraboni, Michelle Chassé. *Tap*: Ray Hesselink, Josh Hilberman (The Hooper's Tap Ensemble, The Boston Conservatory)

Professional Direction/Choreography

BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY*	<i>Director/Choreographer</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>	Greater Boston Stage Company
STRAIGHT WHITE MEN	<i>Choreographer</i>	Tampa Repertory Theatre
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	<i>Creator/Director</i>	DSOA Theatre
TRIBUTE TO 9/11		
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/Greater Boston Stage Company

****IRNE Award Nomination/Theatre Tampa Bay Award Nominations********Reset Original Jerome Robbins Choreography******Media and video links available at michellepetrucchi.com***