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# JACOB PRESSON

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[jacobmpresson@gmail.com](mailto:jacobmpresson@gmail.com) ♦ [www.jacobpresson.com](http://www.jacobpresson.com)

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## SUMMARY

Dynamic and dedicated arts educator with over 10 years of experience in theater performance and teaching. Proven ability to engage students through innovative teaching methods and interactive workshops. Skilled in public speaking, coaching, and fostering creativity in diverse educational settings. Committed to inspiring the next generation of artists and confident communicators.

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## EDUCATION

*The New School, School of Drama, Class of 2022 – Master of Fine Arts, Acting*

*Marymount Manhattan College, Class of 2016 – Bachelor of Arts, Theatre Performance*

- *Acting Scholarship Recipient*
- *Dean's List*

*National Alliance of Acting Teachers – Teacher Development Program*

*Lincoln Center Activate: Concentration on Arts, Inquiry, and Civic Imagination*

*B.A.D.A—British American Drama Academy: Midsummer in Oxford, UK – Certificate in Acting*

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Student Presenter & Tutor**, 09/2025 – Current

**Elevate Education**, New York, NY

- Lead interactive workshops and seminars on building a foundation for study skills and life skills to students (grades 5-12), parents, and teachers throughout the NYC and NJ school system
- **Supervisor:** Chloe Ballesteros, Manager of Programming

**Teaching Artist**, 09/25 – Current

**New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)** – Newark, NJ

- Teach workshops, residencies, and summer classes at schools, on-site programs, and community settings across New Jersey
- **Supervisor:** Demetria Heart, Coordinator of Arts Education

**Monologue & Audition Coach**, 06/2020 – Current

**Freelance** – New York, NY

- Private Coaching Sessions for beginning and established actors in film, television, and theater
- Undergraduate/Graduate School Audition Preparation and Coaching
- Public Speaking Preparation and Coaching

**Teaching Artist, 11/2023 – Current**

**Hudson Valley Shakespeare (HVS) – Garrison, NY**

- Co-teach residencies ranging from one to five weeks in New York public & private schools, as well as annual workshops with first-year Cadets at the United States Military Academy at West Point
- Engage ELA classroom students with Shakespeare's text from the actor's perspective
- **Supervisor:** Sean McNall, Director of Education

**Volunteer – Stage Combat, 02/2025 – Current**

**52<sup>nd</sup> Street Project – New York, NY**

- Support middle school-aged Project Members as their partner in Stage Combat class
- Perform alongside Project Members in Stage Combat final showcase for a live audience
- **Supervisor:** Garret Kim, Program Manager

**Teaching Artist & Kid Expert, 08/2022 – Current**

**Curated Care – New York, NY**

- Develop and deliver engaging performing arts and STEMS classes for kids ages 4 through 10, enhancing their creativity and critical thinking skills
- Provide engaging and creatively focused childcare for families on an as needed basis
- **Supervisor:** Sarah Coote, Director of Programming

**Theater Teacher, 09/2022 – 06/2023**

**Growing Up Green Charter School II – Jamaica, NY**

- Taught units in Public Speaking, Playwriting, and Improv to students grades 6-8
- Implemented effective classroom management routines to provide a safe learning environment
- Conducted outreach to families to identify ways to address social, emotional, and behavioral needs
- **Supervisor:** Leticha Fraser, Assistant School Leader

**Drama Teacher & Counselor, 06/2021 – 08/2021**

**Stagedoor Manor Performing Arts Training Center – Loch Sheldrake, NY**

- Taught Shakespeare, Viewpoints, Playwriting and Cold Reading for campers ages 10 through 19
- Dorm co-supervisor of campers ages 10-19
- Exposed students to diverse content to build a broader perspective in drama pedagogy
- **Supervisor:** Rob Scharlow, Director of Education Programming

**Professional Actor, 11/2022 – Current**

**Actors Equity Association – New York, NY**

- 10 years of experience performing in various genres of theatre both regionally, and in NYC
- Experience understudying and replacing original actors with a quick turnaround time
- Originated roles in the workshop and development process

**Theater Activity Specialist, 03/2022 – 08/2022**

**Kids Creative – New York, NY**

- Taught various styles of theatre to students Kindergarten through 5th grade in an after-school setting
- Worked with Group Leaders to promote children's social-emotional growth through the arts
- Led students through the “Create-A-Play program,” where students built a play to perform for friends and family solely based on devising original stories
- **Supervisor:** Brianna Marquez, Site Director

**Counselor, Instructor, 06/2018 – 08/2019**

**Maine Teen Camp – Porter, ME**

- Cabin co-supervisor of 16 campers 13-17
- Taught Improv, Shakespeare, Storytelling & Creative Writing during daytime activities
- Assistant Directed four theatrical performances streamlining technical and musical elements
- Collaborated with other camp counselors to design fun and enriching activities for campers
- **Supervisors:** Monique Pines & Matt Pines, Camp Directors

**Coach, 08/2017 – 06/2019**

**NY Kids Club – New York, NY**

- Substitute taught and assisted daytime classes and after school club for pre-k students
- Special Events Team Member for Birthday Parties, Holiday Parties, and PJ Parties
- Maintained well-controlled classrooms by clearly outlining standards and reinforcing positive behaviors
- **Supervisor:** Lindsey Whorton, Education Director

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**SKILLS**

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| • Leading Group Activities                  | • Creative Writing  |
| • Curriculum Development for Arts Education | • Facilitating  |
| • Great with Kids                           | • Acting for stage and screen   |
| • Extensive NYC Theatrical knowledge        | • Experience with Microsoft Office, iMovie, Google Drive, Google Classroom, |

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**AFFILIATIONS**

- National Alliance of Acting Teachers, Member
- Less Than Rent Theatre: Associate Artist

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**REFERENCES**

*Available upon request*