

**Want to make your theater more accessible and inclusive?
Interested in a career in the performing arts as an
actor or stage crew but not sure where to start?**

Join us for our webinar series
**Expanding Opportunities in Theaters
and the Performing Arts**

These trainings are
appropriate for staff and volunteers
of theater organizations or performing arts centers,
actors, stage crew, and those interested in getting
involved in the theatrical arts as a future career.

All sessions are 4 to 5 pm eastern time.

Please see the next pages for more information and the presenter bios.

March 22nd - Access for All

This session will include basic
accessibility information for theaters
as well as front of house training.

March 25th - Tech Gurus

This session will be a panel discussion with
experts in stage management,
filming/photography, costume design,
and generally working back stage.

March 30th - A Star is Born (part 1)

This session will be a panel discussion
with currently working actors
with disabilities.

**April 6th - Writers, Directors,
Producers, Companies, and More!**

This session will be a panel discussion with a
variety of experts in the theatrical arts,
including writers, directors, producers, theatre
companies, performers, and more.

**April 13th - A Star is Born
(part 2)**

Like the session on March 30th,
this will be a panel discussion
with currently working actors
with disabilities.

These sessions are free and open to the public.

Registration required. Register at:

[https://survey.alchemer.com/
s3/6234889/2020-2021-Theater-Webinar-Registration](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6234889/2020-2021-Theater-Webinar-Registration)



March 22nd - Access for All

This session will include basic accessibility information for theaters as well as front of house training, and is aimed towards staff and volunteers of theater organizations or performing arts centers.

Presenters:

Jennifer Sabo is the Executive Director of Arts4All Florida and provides leadership and management to Arts4All Florida's statewide arts organization, supervising all functions related to administration, fundraising, and programming. Prior to arriving at Arts4All Florida, Ms. Sabo served as Executive Director at the Children's Museum of Alamance County, Director of Education at the Golisano Children's Museum of Naples, and Youth Programs Manager at the Ringling Museum of Art. Ms. Sabo serves as a member of the Parent Involvement and Engagement Strategic Planning Committee for the Florida Department of Education- Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services and as a panel reviewer for a variety of grants. Ms. Sabo has a Master of Arts in Museum Studies with a concentration in Education from the University of Florida and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Brianna Larson is a Tampa-based Actor, Director, Deviser, and Teaching Artist. Brianna graduated with a BFA in Theatre from the Tisch School for the Arts at New York University. She has performed and produced work in New York City; St. Louis, MO; Dublin, Ireland, and throughout the Tampa Bay area. Brianna was nominated for Theatre Tampa Bay's Outstanding Director Award for her production of "Falling" by Deana Jent at Powerstories Theatre and was named one of Creative Loafing Tampa's "25 under 25" in 2015. That same year, she founded *Theatre eXceptional* - a company dedicated to producing work for, about, and including artists with disabilities - and currently works full-time as the organizations Producing Artistic Director.

Theatre eXceptional, a Blue Butterfly Production, is a company dedicated to producing work for, about, and including artists with disabilities. *Theatre eXceptional* actively recruits artists with disabilities for its performing arts training programs, community productions, and professional productions in order to ensure that artists with disabilities are visible and represented in the theatre community as a whole.

March 25th - Tech Gurus

This session will be a panel discussion with experts in stage management, filming/photography, costume design, and generally working back stage.

Presenters:

Detour Company Theatre provides authentic theater experiences for adults with cognitive and physical disabilities. They are committed to sharing the joy of theater through programming that supports existing skills and facilitates the development of new ones. As a resource to the community, they welcome both those who want to work in the field of arts and disability, and those who are eager to celebrate the talent, creativity and artistic potential of all people.

Brent Johnson graduated from the Academy of Art: San Francisco in 2013 and received his Bachelor's of Science in Motion Pictures and Television with an emphasis in Classical Cinematography. He has lensed two feature films and numerous short films, "Jezebel" is an award-winning drama on Netflix, directed by Numa Perrier. Brent is a 3-time award-winning Airborne NASA cinematographer and Silver Medal of Achievement recipient for his efforts on collecting data on the Hayabusa 2 spacecraft re-entry, the SpaceX Dragon 2 In-Flight abort test, and for non-disclosed NASA operations.

Elizabeth Salisch is the AEA Production Stage Manager and Company Manager at the Greenbrier Valley Theatre in Lewisburg, WV. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a Theatre Arts degree, her past experiences include stage managing educational shows for the George Street Playhouse and Theatreworks USA in both schools and venues of varying sizes up and down the East Coast. She has also stage managed mainstage productions including the George Street Playhouse, Theatre By The Sea, TheatreZone, and various other regional theatres.

Whitney Mitchell is a costume designer from Dallas, Texas. In November 2010, when she was 18 years old and pursuing dancing and acting in college, she fell ill and developed flu-like symptoms that resulted in Sepsis (an infection of the blood). This severe illness damaged her arms and legs, resulting in having all four of her limbs amputated in order to save her life. Whitney had been interested in drawing and sewing since she was a teenager. When she began sewing and realized she was good at it, she knew this was something that she wanted to do for the rest of her life. Whitney said, "Finding clothing when you are disabled is quite annoying sometimes and I was thinking how there should be a market towards people like me or anyone who has a disability to be able to find clothes that are fashionable and easy to maneuver. Clothes that are customized to fit any person."

March 30th - A Star is Born (part 1)

This session will be a panel discussion with currently working actors with disabilities.

Presenters:

Vanessa Severo has studied at Missouri State University, as well as The American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco. She is the recipient of the TCG 11th Round of the Fox Foundation resident Actor Fellowships, 2017. She has performed for the past 12 seasons at The Kansas City Repertory Theatre, and is certified in Suzuki Method, and Viewpoints under the instruction of Ellen Lauren, SITI company. She is the playwright and actor of "Frida...A Self Portrait" (2020 Kilroys List), a one woman production about the tumultuous and brilliant life of Frida Kahlo. Vanessa is passionate about utilizing the element of Suzuki method in her work to challenge the boundaries of storytelling, and explore the depths of movement, composition, and the power of stillness.

Eileen Grubba, is an award-winning actress, lifetime member of The Actors Studio, member of the Television Academy, and Brand Ambassador for Global Disability Inclusion. Her TV appearances include "Watchmen", "SWAT", "Criminal Minds", "New Amsterdam", "The Politician", "Sons of Anarchy", "Bones", and many more. Eileen has won multiple Best Actress awards for Indie films. She was honored with the WeSpark Award at the Idyllwild Film Festival 2020 for social impact on the entertainment industry and won the Mary Austin Excellence in Screenwriting Awards in 2019 and 2020, as well as many awards for her disability-inclusive short films. She is an advocate for the hiring of performers with disabilities in film, television and advertising, serves on the SAG/AFTRA National PWD Committee, and was selected for the 2020 CBS Leadership Pipeline for directing. Eileen narrowly survived a viral attack on her spine caused by a vaccine that left her paralyzed. She spent years of her childhood in a wheelchair, and every year since trying to stay on her feet. She is also a cancer survivor.

Katie Calahan is a native Floridan actor who received her classical training and BFA in Theatre Studies from Boston University and also completed BU's "Los Angeles Certificate Program: Acting in Hollywood" program. She has acted in a wide variety of film, television, and theatre programs, including at the debut Tribeca Theater Festival as one of her favorite characters Cripplerella in "Cripplerella or the Cracked Glass Slipper". To see her latest work, stream episodes of "Cripplerella in Quarentine" at www.jobsitetheater.org.

Kiruna Stamell is an actress, producer, and disability rights advocate. She has worked professionally across Australia and Europe for over 20 years, with extensive experience in theatre, film and television. During the pandemic Kiruna has had to apply her ingenuity to creating connections with new audiences and so has developed an online children's theatre production with her husband and business partner "Pirate and Parrot" (www.youtube.com/c/PirateandParrotTV).

Zazel-Chavah O'Garra (she/her) is a brain tumor survivor, disability advocate, social worker, dancer, actress, model, and founder and artistic director of ZCO/DANCEPROJECT. Zazel holds a Master's degree in social work from Fordham University, and currently works with the Brain Injury Association of New York State and YAI/National Institute for people with disabilities. Zazel became a disabled artist 18 years ago. Having faith pushed her to "dance beyond a disability." She shares the resurrection as a disabled artist by creating customized movements for persons with mixed abilities; demonstrating directly that physical challenges need not limit a passion for living a fulfilling life. Before founding the ZCO/DANCEPROJECT, Zazel established a thriving career in the performing arts. Her body of work included performances on the concert stage, Broadway, Off-Broadway, European Tours, national commercials and magazine publications.

April 6th - Writers, Directors, Producers, Companies, and More!

This session will be a panel discussion with a variety of experts in the theatrical arts, including writer, directors, producers, theatre companies, and more.

Presenters:

Ophira Calof is a multi-award winning Disabled writer, performer, and producer based in Tkaronto (Toronto). Her work weaves together music, comedy, and storytelling, centering disability and chronic illness experience. She co-created the sketch comedy revue "Generally Hospital" (Canadian Comedy Award Nominee, Patron's Pick), and her solo show, "Literally Titanium", was developed through the Buddies in Bad Times Emerging Creator's Unit before premiering at the 2020 Next Stage Theatre Festival. Ophira also works as a curator, workshop facilitator, consultant, and keynote speaker with projects including COVID-19 through a Disability Lens: Storytelling and Filmmaking Project, Laugh With RAFF: A night of disability comedy, and Bad Dog Theatre's 5th annual Our Cities On Our Stages Diversity and Inclusion Symposium.

Detour Company Theatre provides authentic theater experiences for adults with cognitive and physical disabilities. They are committed to sharing the joy of theater through programming that supports existing skills and facilitates the development of new ones. As a resource to the community, they welcome both those who want to work in the field of arts and disability, and those who are eager to celebrate the talent, creativity and artistic potential of all people.

Dr. Donna R. Walton is the founder of the Divas With Disabilities Project, a non-profit organization with the mission to bring attention to the lack of representation of Black, and Brown women and girls with visible disabilities in the mass media industry. Dr. Walton has made an unprecedented impact in disability and women of color communities as a hub for thoughtful discussion on issues related to empowerment, accessibility, and authentic representation in all forms of media. She also is producing a film documentary "Divas with Disabilities" that explores the lived experiences of African America women who live with physical disability in the United States.

Christopher Smit (he/him), PhD (University of Iowa), and **Jill Vyn** (she/her), MSW (University of Michigan) co-founded DisArt in 2015, an organization committed to advancing a cultural understanding of disability. By taking disability out of the space of speculation, mystery, or fear, and placing it in an historical and aesthetic context, DisArt amplifies the voice, visibility, and value of the disability community. Through public speaking, publication, cutting-edge programming, and organizational consulting, Christopher and Jill have become respected voices throughout the world.

Terry Galloway is a deaf lesbian writer, performer, and director who writes, directs, and performs Her memoir "Mean Little deaf Queer", was a Lambda Award Finalist, and the winner of the Golden Crown Award for non-fiction. In Tallahassee, Terry co-founded and is the Artistic Director of "The Mickee Faust Club", a community theater for the weird, queer, and disability communities. Terry was a founding member of "Esther's Follies", the most popular cabaret in Austin, Texas; and the creator and co-founder of "Actual Lives Austin", a writing and performance workshop for adults with disabilities. In New York City, her solo performances were produced in venues ranging from the American Place Theater to W.O.W. Café and for several years she toured with the NY's famed P.S. 122 Field Trips. Deaf since the age of nine, Terry received cochlear implants and promptly wrote a musical, "The Ugly Girl", which toured the UK with an international cast of women with disabilities. Terry has received grants and awards in theater, literature, radio, and video from the NEA, the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, the Texas Institute of Letters, the Kennedy Center, and the Public Broadcasting Corporation.

April 13th - A Star is Born (part 2)

Like the session on March 30th, this will be a panel discussion with currently working actors with disabilities.

Presenters:

Anita Hollander, SAG-AFTRA National Chair of Performers with Disabilities, has written and performed work throughout Europe, Asia, Russia, and America, in film, TV, and live theatre. Her award-winning original solo musicals "Still Standing" and "Spectacular Falls" have played Off-Broadway, at the Kennedy Center, White House, nationally and internationally. Anita also works with Actors Equity, Broadway League, Dramatists Guild, ASCAP, WGA, CSA, PGA, AMPTP and ReelAbilities Film Festival promoting greater diversity in all media.

David Dauber loves acting and entertaining both in live theatre and film. Even though he was born with cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair in his daily life, that doesn't stop him from pursuing his dream of becoming an Oscar-winning performer. He has loved acting since performing high school and college theatre in the 1980s and 1990s. He is the co-host and co-producer of "The Gene and Dave Show" and can be seen on the Netflix original series, "Special". He has done extra work alongside Nicolas Cage, Al Pacino, and Holly Hunter. Connect with David on his website at www.daviddauber.com.

Diana Elizabeth Jordan is an actor, solo artist, theater and filmmaker, disability influencer, and artist educator. She has appeared in over 60 theater productions and worked in film and television. She also directs, is an artist educator, disability influencer, and is a member of SAG-AFTRA and Actors Equity Association.

Elbert Joseph, also known as EJ, is a Deaf actor who is fluent in both American Sign Language as well as spoken English. EJ started acting when he was thirteen and his passion turned into a career. He received professional theatrical training at the Boston Arts Academy and has worked with several award-winning theaters in the Boston area including American Repertory Theater, Huntington Theatre, and Wheelock Family Theatre. EJ is a professional actor who is funny, good-hearted, smart, and passionate. He dreams of transforming lives and inspiring the world through his craft. EJ believes success is found in collaboration, desire for personal growth, and the constant pursuit of new opportunities.

James Ian is an actor, singer, songwriter, speaker, and writer. A Maryland native, James now resides in Los Angeles where he continues to pursue his passion for art, all while advocating for authentic disability representation in the arts and entertainment industry. He loves discussing all things disability, and James himself has two disabilities (Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 3, which is a neuromuscular disorder, and Parsonage-Turner Syndrome, which is a neurological disorder). His pronouns are he/him/his.