

MARIJA PLAVSIC

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As an art educator, I am deeply passionate about inspiring children to explore the vast depths of their imagination. I encourage them to engage with a wide range of visual mediums and age-appropriate tools, fostering creativity beyond rigid "rules." My philosophy emphasizes versatility—any tool can be used in countless ways without preconceived boundaries.

My primary goal is to nurture children's observation and imagination by guiding them through hands-on experimentation with materials and objects, demonstrating how they can transform into various shapes and ideas. I firmly believe that artistic engagement not only enhances creativity but also strengthens essential life skills such as communication, interpersonal relationships, and self-confidence.

EDUCATION

2011 - MFA in Stage Design, Dramatic Arts Department, School of Fine Arts, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA (Scholarship recipient)

2007 - BA in Scenography, University of Applied Arts, Belgrade, Serbia (Scholarship recipient)

2000 - Diploma as Art Technician in Packaging Design, High School of Design, Belgrade, Serbia

SKILLS

Hand Art: woodwork, carpentry, practical effects, prop making, puppet building, welding, sewing, rendering, scale model building, graphic, hand drafting, scenic painting (layout, drops, Faux Finishes, Trompe-l'oeil),

Computer: MS Office Suite (Word, Excel), Photoshop, In Design, Illustrator, Auto CAD, After Effect, Procreate, Sketch Book Designer PRO, FileMaker Pro, 3D Matterport

LANGUAGE

English in full professional proficiency, Serbian in native proficiency.

TEACHING

fall 2019 - Drama teacher, The Chapin School, New York City - Instructed a class of 16 eighth-grade students in the principles of theatrical set and costume design, delivering structured lectures on relevant theories, principles, and industry practices. Guided students through a hands-on design project, fostering critical thinking and creativity. Encouraged dynamic class discussions through interactive assignments, research-based exploration, and in-class presentations, culminating in an open critique to enhance analytical and evaluative skills.

2011/2014 – Art Instructor – for 3 to 10-year-old, One-on-one and group art classes in New York City. Facilitating individual and group art classes by helping young children explore a wide range of visual mediums and tools, emphasizing that any tool can be used in a versatile way without preconceived boundaries. My main objective was to encourage children’s imagination by experimenting with materials and objects, showing how they can morph into various shapes.

2007/2009 – Graduate assistant, for the undergraduate theatre program at Northwestern University, Chicago, IL - Educating and supervising undergraduate students in a set, prop, and lighting workshop devoted to the process of making sets, props, and scenic painting applied in school theatre productions. Teaching students the practical skills of building planning, carpentry, welding, broad use and safety of building tools, as well as various painting techniques, especially how to alter existing sets and props, as well as light rigging and focusing.

2006/2007 - Art School Teacher, Primary and High School Students, 9-16-year-old in Belgrade, Serbia. Teaching a class of 30 students twice a week the fundamentals of creating a theatre play as a part of the pedagogy course requirement at the University of Applied Arts.

2005/2006 – Art School Teacher, Primary and High School Students, 9-16-year-old in Belgrade, Serbia. Teaching a class of 30 students once a week the principles of optical illusion as a part of the pedagogy course requirement at the University of Applied Arts.

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE ---

2011/Current – Kostic Films, LLC, NYC - Designed and built sets, props, and costumes for commercial and film productions, ranging from conceptual look books to full-scale constructions on sound stages. Created practical effects and oversaw both on-location and studio shoots, while managing project workflows, timelines, and ensuring top-tier quality control. Led teams in executing complex visual presentations and effect-driven productions, from high-end projects to independent productions. Clients: MTV, CBS, MoMA, Barnes and Noble, YouTube, Zillow, Scholastic, VH1, Brooklyn Navy Yard, FIOS

2010/2012 - Virtual Museum of Historical Costume, creating over 5000 multi-resolution images using tiling technique to develop 360° animated high-quality detail virtual images of historical garments. Organizing, proofreading, and maintaining the accuracy of data, metadata, tags, and historical and garment description information, in the electronic workflow system - FileMaker Pro 12 database. Curated by internationally acclaimed Obie and Drama Desk award-winning costume designer Laura Crow.

SET DESIGN FOR FILM, TV and COMMERCIAL ---

2024 – *Capio*, a feature film by Aleksandar Kostic, New York City

2021 – *Artsanity*, a short film by Aleksandar Kostic

2018 – *Tight Spot*, a short film by Kevin Haefelin, Winner of 18 awards including Ivy Film Festival and NYC Downtown Film Festival

2015 – *Parallel Dreams*, a short film by Aleksandar Kostic. The best experimental film by BaNeFF, Stockholm, Sweden 2016; Chandler International Film Festival, Arizona 2016

2014 – *Allure*, a feature film by Vlada Nikolic, New York City. World premiere at PÖFF | Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2014

2013 *Greentube*, a gametwist commercial for Novomatic in Vienna, Austria. Directed by Kristian Fraga, produced by Sirk Production in New York City

2013 - **Manhattan Institute**, TV commercial featured at VH1, MTV, CBS, FIOS, NY1, PIX11.
Produced by Kostic Films, llc in New York City
2013 - **Love Hunters**, a feature film by Nemanja Bala in New York City. Winner as the Best
documentary-fiction feature film - Fipresci, Serbia Award 2015
2007 - **Big Brother**, a reality competition TV show, assisting designer Zeljko Antovic, TV B92
Production, Belgrade, Serbia

STAGE DESIGN FOR THEATRE ---

2024 - **The Addams Family**, Dir. Elizabeth Daniels, Albert Magnus HS, Bardonia, NY
2019 - **Failure: A Love Story**, Dir. Sarah Bellantoni, Chapin School, New York City
2019 - **Hoodie**, Dir. Lindsay Quinn, Chapin School, New York City
2014 - **Parallel Dreams**, Dir. Aleksandar Kostic, Figment Festival at Governors Island, New York
2013 - **Touch**, Dir. Deborah Byers, Hudson Guild Theatre, New York City
2013 - **Storefront Diva: A Dreamscape**, Dir. Joan La Barbara, The Flea, New York City
2013 - **Icarus: A New Play**, Dir. Stefano Brancato, a showcase, The Jim Hensen Carriage House
2012 - **The King and I**, Dir. Alan Muraoka, Harbor Lights Theatre Company, New York City
2012 - **Lombardi**, Dir. Bob Sorenson, Harbor Lights Theatre Company, New York City
2011 - **Storefront Diva: Phase 1**, Dir. Joan La Barbara, Pop-Up store at Bleecker St, New York
2011 - **Urinetown, The Musical**, Dir. Paul Mullins, CRT Jorgensen Theatre, Storrs, CT
2009 - **Angels in America**, Dir. Geoff Button, Wallis Theatre, Northwestern, Evanston, IL
2009 - **Sins of Sor Juana**, Dir. Henry Godinez, Lous Theatre, Northwestern, Evanston, IL

COSTUME DESIGN FOR FILM AND COMMERCIAL ---

2025 - **Capio**, a feature film by Aleksandar Kostic, New York City
2020 - **Peloton**, assisting stylist Amit Gajwani, produced by Green Point Pictures, New York City
2020 - **The Last Thing Mary Saw**, set costumer, designer Sofija Mesicek, Dir. Edoardo Vitaletti,
2018 - **Tight Spot**, a short film by Kevin Haefelin, New York City
2015 - **Parallel Dreams**, a short film by Aleksandar Kostic. The best experimental film by
BaNeFF, Stockholm, Sweden 2016; Chandler International Film Festival, Arizona 2016

COSTUME DESIGN FOR THEATRE ---

2019 - **Seussical Jr.** - Dir. Lindsay Quinn, a cast of 53 students, Chapin School, New York City
2019 - **Failure: A Love Story**, Dir. Sarah Bellantoni, Chapin School, New York City
2019 - **Hoodie**, Dir. Lindsay Quinn, Chapin School, New York City
2014 - **Parallel Dreams**, Dir. Aleksandar Kostic, Figment Festival at Governors Island, New York
2013 - **Realist**, Dir. Ian Morgan, HERE Arts Center, New York City
2013 - **Storefront Diva: A Dreamscape**, Dir. Joan La Barbara, The Flea, New York City
2011 - **Storefront Diva: Phase 1**, Dir. Joan La Barbara, Pop-Up store at Bleecker St, New York

OTHER

2010 - Puppet Builder for *Hy-Brazal*, a short movie by Fergus J Walsh, Storrs, CT 2010

2009/2011 - Scenic Artist for Connecticut Repertory Theatre, Storrs, CT. Productions:

Urinetown, A Dream Play, Pride and Prejudice, A Flea in Her Ear,

Othello, ...Judas Iscariot, Tommy, Comedy of Errors, Too Much

EXHIBITIONS

2007 - Beokon SF Festival, Dom Omladine, Belgrade, Serbia

2006 - Stage, O3on Gallery, Belgrade Serbia

2006 - Diploma 06, Super Space, Belgrade, Serbia

2004 - Applied Art Expo, University of the Applied Arts Gallery, Belgrade, Serbia