

Morgan McKenzie Kauffman

PERFORMING ARTIST &
MOVEMENT TEACHER

CONTACT DETAILS

morganmckenzie.mail@gmail.com
www.morganmkauffman.com

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance
Honors in Dance and Somatics

The Pennsylvania State University, 2017
Schreyer Honors Scholar

Physical Theatre studies with
Bill Irwin, Mick Barnfather, Sandy Carol

The Feldenkrais Institute of New York City
Awareness Through Movement Teacher

Frantic Assembly International Theatre School
Summer 2022

REFERENCES

Elizabeth Dowd
Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble Member
contact details available upon request

David Zemach-Bersin
Education Director at
The Feldenkrais Institute of New York
contact details available upon request

Elisha Halpin
Former Head of Dance at Penn State University
contact details available upon request

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT WORKSHOPS

Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble | Bloomsburg, PA

- Instructed lessons with innovative, sophisticated movement sequences to move students away from habit and limitation towards awareness and possibility

PHYSICAL CHARACTER BUILDING

Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble | Bloomsburg, PA

- Encouraged students to use body tension/relaxation as a quick way into building characters without scripts

DEvised THEATRE TECHNIQUES

The Pennsylvania State University | State College, PA

- Facilitated a faster-than-you-can-think workshop based on Lecoq, Discipline of Play and devised theatre techniques to teach how games can unlock creativity and push boundaries

ACTING FOR DANCERS

Horizons Dance Conservatory | Leesport, PA

- Connected Laban movement techniques with Essential Actions to encourage more dynamic dance performances for ensemble competition teams

PRIVATE YOGA PRACTICE FOUNDER AND TEACHER

Sol Sensible Yoga | Reading, PA

- Created and taught unique yoga sequences to meet the needs of individual clients
- Worked closely with athletic coaches and dance teachers to devise and teach yoga sequences to increase flexibility and mobility of players and dancers

ALLIATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Awareness Through Movement Teacher

The Feldenkrais Guild of North America • 2019 - Present

RYT 200 Certified Yoga Teacher

The Yoga Alliance • 2017 - Present

Affiliated Artist

The Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble • 2019 - Present

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January 31, 2023

Dear Daniel Ciba and Quintessence Theatre Group,

I am happy to be writing to you in regards to your call for teaching artists. As a performer fascinated by movement, I am always learning and therefore deeply excited by opportunities to share my own practices with others.

I have experience teaching many levels, with a majority of my experiences teaching middle school ages to adults. While a student at Penn State University, I was offered the opportunity to lead a week-long intensive on clowning and physical theatre techniques for the BFA Musical Theatre students. That experience taught me how to create lesson plans which continue to build upon one another and keep students engaged in learning for many hours at a time. I love working with performers, teaching acting skills to dancers, physical character building to high school theatre groups, and teaching/facilitating devising to my fellow theatre professionals. This summer, I had the good fortune to continue my own learning in devising theatre with Frantic Assembly Theatre Company, and am already in the works planning a devising course for teens with The Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble.

I also have a passion for teaching and moving with non-performers. When I was 15, I sustained a serious head and neck injury, which interrupted my young dance pursuits and taught me at a young age the link between joyful movement and a joyful life. Therefore, I have sought out somatic modalities that address the physical body from a physiological perspective. I have taught many hours of movement classes for people who don't consider themselves movers, feel stuck in their body in some way, but have a desire to move with pleasure. My understanding of the body as both emotional and physically "motional" gives me many different viewpoints to choose from to best serve the students in front of me. Seeing students move with even slight degrees of more freedom and less inhibition is what my work is all about.

I hope between my teaching background and interests and Quintessences's goal to serve many populations across ages and abilities, we may collaborate in this coming season.

Thank you for your time and consideration and all the best wishes with your current season,

Morgan McKenzie Kauffman