



Juneau Arts and Humanities Council – Juneau School District  
**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**

## 2012-13 TEACHING ARTIST PROFILE and APPLICATION

Name **Shona Strauser**  
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Juneau, AK 99801  
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Email Address: shona@perseverancetheatre.org

**Preferred Method for contact:** email

### I am available to work/teach

in 1 - 2 week residency period only       I am flexible, could work different times  
 can work 1 day/week for a month or more       could work part days, different times

### 1. Arts Education and/or arts background

I have worked as a professional theatre teaching artist for 14 years in various states in the U.S. I've worked for theatre organizations, and I have also been hired directly by schools. Most of my work has been done in Seattle at Seattle Repertory Theatre and Seattle Children's Theatre. I am currently the Director of Education at Perseverance Theatre. My main objective is to promote arts in learning as well as develop young artists and future art patrons.

I have a BFA in acting/directing and have made my career as an actor/director.

### 2. ART FORM(s) and AGE OF STUDENTS you are interested in working with.

My **theatre** focus includes voice, improvisation and play direction. I also have a special interest in Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed. The Boal approach focuses on people who might feel their voices are marginalized and/or not heard at all. I feel comfortable integrating theatre into most subjects and understand the needs to meet current state content standards. My strengths in integration are in reading, history and science.

On the other hand, I would also welcome opportunities that focus solely on creating a piece of theatre for performance.

I have worked as a teaching artist with students ages 5 to 18.

### 3. What themes, concepts, experiences do you want to share with students?

Apart from learning about theatre and how to use voice and body for creative expression, I like for students to:

- Speak loudly, confidently and clearly while reading and speaking.
- Learn how to make positive choices through modeling in theatre exercises.
- Understand that theatre can be a tool to help them learn in other areas.
- Have a fun and safe environment to explore at school.

### 4. Prior Teaching Experiences (apart from residencies)

I have been teaching theatre to young people in various forms for 14 years. Please see my resume for a more detailed response. I have also taught teachers how to integrate theatre into their curriculum. Apart from theatre, I have taught basketball and soccer to young people.



**5. Why do you want to teach the arts in Juneau schools?**

The more time I spend in the classroom working with young people, the better the chance that arts education awareness increases. The need for arts in schools has always been so hard to prove to funders who need quantitative research. Every time I work in a classroom, I wish a funder was a fly on the wall to actually see the learning that happens through drama.

Besides the advocate part, young people are fun and always ready to explore the possibilities that exist with theatre.

**6. Past Experience with Artist in the Schools residencies:**

Date	School/ Grades	School Location	Length of Residency	Art Form(s)
<u>In Alaska</u>				
2012	Mendenhall River Elementary School		3 weeks	Drama and science
2011	Floyd Dryden Middle School		1 week	Drama and science
01/09-05/09	Glacier Valley Elementary School, K-3		3 weeks	Drama to aid in reading
2007	Glacier Valley Elementary School, 3-5		semester-long	Acting skills
2006	Juneau Charter School, all grades		semester-long	Acting skills
Various shorter residencies at Harborview, Auke Bay and Riverbend schools				

**7. Have you been part of the Juneau Teaching Artist workshop series?**

Yes, whole series     Yes, some of the workshops (1)     No, not yet

**8. 3 REFERENCES**

Scott Koh, Seattle Repertory Theatre, 206-443-2210, [scottk@seattlerep.org](mailto:scottk@seattlerep.org)  
 Lorrie Heagy, Glacier Valley Elementary School, 907-780-1400, [heagyl@jsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:heagyl@jsd.k12.ak.us)  
 Merry Ellefson, Perseverance Theatre, 907-364-2421, [merry@perseverancetheatre.org](mailto:merry@perseverancetheatre.org)

**9. Other Comments that help illuminate your work or life as an artist**

I work hard because I feel lucky to be able to do theatre as a career.

