

ARETTA BAUMGARTNER

ARTS EDUCATOR, ARTS ADMINISTRATOR, THEATREMAKER

- aretta.baumgartner@gmail.com
- 513-470-2690
- <https://aretta.baumgartner.com>
- Atlanta, GA (open to in-person, remote or hybrid positions)

SUMMARY

Passionate and motivated arts administrator and arts educator dedicated to leading teams and students to success by listening, learning, connecting and inspiring. Specific interest in theatre, educational organizations and non-profits. Twenty-five years of proven success in creating high-quality, engaging programs and the systems that support them. Broad background in community outreach, staff management and training, organizational operations, strategic thinking and Board engagement. Recognized for optimism, collaboration, innovative ideas, maximizing resources, connecting stakeholders, empowering and mentoring staff and positive and inclusive culture creation.

2024- present	TEACHING ARTIST / EDUCATOR / ARTS ADMINISTRATOR / PERFORMER (freelance) Alliance Theatre, ART Station, Center for Puppetry Arts, Piccadilly Puppets, Puppet Guy Productions, Synchronicity Theatre, Zoo Atlanta
2011 – 2024	EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY DIRECTOR Center for Puppetry Arts, Atlanta, GA Programming, staffing, budgeting, advocacy and all related operational support for the Education Department at the nation's largest puppetry arts non-profit organization.
2016 – 2022	BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Vice President 2018-2019, President 2019-2022) Puppeteers of America Organizational operations, advocacy and leadership of the Board of Directors and staff of Puppeteers of America, a national non-profit organization founded in 1937 to provide information, encourage performances, and build a community of people who celebrate puppet theatre.
2000 – 2011	ARTISTIC & MANAGING DIRECTOR / TOURING PERFORMER ImagineNation Creating, booking and implementing puppet, movement, drama and mask programs (residencies, workshops, performances—emphasis on youth arts and arts integration) for schools, libraries, camps, festivals and museums for an independently-owned and self-run arts regional arts company.
2007 – 2011	PROGRAM COORDINATOR/FOUNDER Let It Shine, After-School Performing Arts Program Co-creating and leading a state-funded, grant-based arts-infused 21st Century Community Learning Center embedded in a public elementary school system in Northern Kentucky.
2001 – 2011	EDUCATION/OUTREACH MANAGER Performance Gallery Coordinating and implementing educational theatre programming, including the "Books In Action" initiative in collaboration with Cincinnati Public Schools (monthly drama and literacy programming in 32 Head Start preschool classrooms) and the PG (Professional Growth) Series of Artist-led and Artist-inspired professional development workshops for a Cincinnati-based theatre company.
2006 – 2007	VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR Imago for the Earth Coordinating restructure, retention and recruitment efforts for the volunteer program for an urban environmental education center. <i>A one-year grant-funded position.</i>
2004 – 2006	OUTREACH COORDINATOR & PRESENTER Cincinnati Museum Center Scheduling, creating and performing school programs across the Midwest for a multi-museum National Historical Landmark and presenting floor programs for the Cincinnati Children's Museum.

ARETTA BAUMGARTNER

2000 – 2023

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY (“NKU”)

- **Theatre Manager 2000 – 2004**

Coordinating publicity (posters, programs, brochures), public relations (marketing, press communications), front-of-house operations (box office, house management), departmental budget, management/supervision of Theatre Manager & Box office staffs, internal communications (school performances, archives, facilities scheduling, communications with university community), special events, volunteer staffing, guest artists for the theatre department (BA/BFA) of a large state university in northern Kentucky.

- **Teaching Faculty 2001 – 2006 and Guest Artist 2006 – 2023**

Creating and teaching courses in puppetry, mask and movement for the actor. Teaching courses in Creative Expression (acting for non-majors). Guest artist work in movement, mask and puppetry.

1992 – 2022

MADCAP PRODUCTIONS PUPPET THEATRE

- **Touring and Special Events Puppeteer, 1992 – 2022 (Tour Manager 1995 - 1998)**
- **Communications Coordinator 1998 – 2000**

Management of publicity, public relations, special events, membership program, volunteers, residencies and in-house school programming for the largest touring youth puppet theatre in the Midwest.

1991 – 1992

BOX OFFICE MANAGER AND GROUP SALES COORDINATOR

Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati

Managing Box Office/Group Sales and supervising House Staff at an award-winning regional theater.

Bachelor of Arts

Theatre Arts

summa cum laude

Ashland University

(Ashland, OH)

May 1991

Master of Arts

Communication Arts

summa cum laude

University of Cincinnati
(Cincinnati, OH)

December 1993

Arts Integration Boot Camp
(Institute for Arts Integration and
STEAM) February 2021

Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta
February 2012

GA Art Education Assn Museum
Educator of the Year 2023

Conversation Spanish skills

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Alpha Psi Omega (Zeta Mu / Ohio Zeta)
- ART Station (Board of Trustees)
- Atlanta Cultural Educators (Leadership Committee)
- Atlanta Puppetry Guild (Scholarship Chair)
- Educational Theatre Association (Teaching/Guest Artist, member)
- Georgians for the Arts
- Phi Mu Fraternity (Delta Phi)
- Piccadilly Puppets (Board of Directors)
- Puppeteers of America (New Works Fund Chair, Puppetry in Education & Therapy Committee)
- Teaching Artist Alliance (Executive Committee)
- Theatre for Young Audiences USA
- Union Internationale de la Marionnette USA

*Performance résumé (puppetry and theatre), professional presentations list
and references available upon request.*

ARETTA BAUMGARTNER

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www.arettabaumgartner.com

Hair: red/magenta **Eyes:** brown **Ht:** 5' 6" **Wt:** 125 **Ph:** 513-470-2690



Theatre / Musical Theatre /Puppetry Performance

The Birthday of the World	puppeteer/actor	ALLIANCE THEATRE
The Stinky Cheese Man	puppeteer: *Jack, *Snippums	CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS (<i>understudy—called in*</i>)
learning to fly	puppeteer	PUPPETS IN THE HOUSE FESTIVAL
Knickers!	Terri	ART STATION THEATRE
Doctor De Soto	puppeteer/actor	ALLIANCE THEATRE
TaDAda!	creator/performer	ASHEVILLE, BORDERLIGHT, TUCSON, ATLANTA FRINGES
The Paisley Sisters' Christmas Special	Lonnie	ART STATION THEATRE
Shadow Realm: Down the Rabbit Hole	Alice/puppeteer	ATLANTA, BORDERLIGHT FRINGES; GP PUPPET FEST
Cinnamon GRITS	Virginia	ART STATION THEATRE
Continuum: Shadow Paradox	puppeteer/actor	CINCINNATI FRINGE FEST
The Twelve Dates of Christmas	(solo play)	ART STATION THEATRE
Out of the Box	puppeteer	OBJECT MOVEMENT FESTIVAL
Dreamland: Shadow Realm	Alice / puppeteer	CREATIVE CITY IMMERSE ORLANDO
learning to fly	Trisha (actor/puppeteer)	ORLANDO FRINGE FEST
The Bikinis	Annie	ART STATION THEATRE
The Woman in Black	puppeteer	GRASSROOTS THEATRE COLLECTIVE
Me & Jezebel	Liz Fuller	ART STATION THEATRE
Two Rooms	Ellen van Oss	OUT OF BOX THEATRE
In a Forest, Dark and Deep	Betty	OUT OF BOX THEATRE
The Dixie Swim Club	Vernadette Simms	ART STATION THEATRE
WANTED: Freedom, Dead or Alive	co-creator/performer	SELF-PRODUCED W/ DR. DARYL HARRIS
Christmas Survival Guide	Vocalist/Woman 1	ART STATION THEATRE
Heart Throbs II: Pole Boy	LuDell	FLYING CAT PRODUCTIONS
Tapas: Birds of a Feather	Greta	ACADEMY THEATRE
The Rocky Horror Puppet Show	Magenta / puppeteer	THE BASEMENT THEATRE
The Man Who Came to Dinner	Mrs. McCutcheon	GEORGIA ENSEMBLE THEATRE
Opal Opus	Joline	TANGLED LEAVES THEATRE COLLECTIVE
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Titania/Helena	CARNEGIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS (KY)
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels	Muriel Eubanks	LA COMEDIA THEATRE (OH) & CARNEGIE CTR
Cotton Patch Gospel	Mary/Ensemble	SHOWBOAT MAJESTIC (OH)
Sophie's Dream	Laurel	TANGLED LEAVES THEATRE COLLECTIVE
Add1ng Mach1ne: A Mus1cal	Mrs. Zero	KNOW THEATRE OF CINCINNATI
Equus	Hesther Salomon	NEW EDGECLIFF THEATRE (OH)
The Price	Esther Franz	BLUE CHIP PLAYERS (OH)
Fiction	Linda Waterman	THE DRAMA WORKSHOP (OH)
Caroline, or Change	Rose Stopnick-Gellman	NEW STAGE COLLECTIVE
Power Failure	Lead Female	NEW EDGECLIFF THEATRE
Lord of the Rings Trilogy	Gollum/ Sméagol	CLEAR STAGE/OVATION THEATRES (OH)
Schoolhouse Rock Live!	Lead Vocalist/Ensemble	COVEDALE CTR FOR PERF ARTS (OH)
Little Shop of Horrors	Audrey II (Puppeteer)	RISING PHOENIX THEATRE (OH)

A Grand Night for Singing	Lead Vocalist/Ensemble	NKU SUMMER DINNER THEATRE (KY)
Once on This Island	Mama Euralie	FALCON THEATRE
Same Time, Next Year	Doris	NKU SUMMER DINNER THEATRE (KY)
The Fantasticks	The Mute	SUNSET PLAYERS

PERFORMANCE GALLERY (Cincinnati, OH): original theatre pieces including TaDAda!, A Migration of Crones, Word of Mouth, The Body Speaks, Continuum (Cincinnati Fringe June 2021 – Producer’s Pick and Young-Howze Theatre Journal Long-Form Zoom Play of the Year 2021), the council, Deadlines, fricative, Gilgamesh In Uruk: G.I. in Iraq, girlfight, godsplay:, Halcyon Days, Nuclear Winter Circus, kaz/m, The Killer Whispers & Prays, Woyzek (2000 – present)

ONE DOUBLE-O FOUR EIGHT (Atlanta, GA): original puppet theatre pieces inc. Shadow Realm: Down the Rabbit Hole, Out of the Box, learning to fly, Deus Ex machina, Torn, On Tiptoe, Little Tommy, Continuum: Shadow Paradox – *large-scale shadow/silhouette, overhead and press screen shadow, lambe lambe, tabletop, rod, object* (2014-present)

EXPERIMENTAL PUPPETRY THEATRE (Center for Puppetry Arts, Atlanta, GA): original puppet theatre pieces inc. Deus Ex Machina, Forgotten Love, In Stall, learning to fly, leukos, Little Buddy, Mean Spirited, On Tiptoe, Transmission Project – *rod, finger, press screen and overhead shadow, tabletop, object, ensemble* (2012 - 2022, 2026)

MADCAP PUPPETS (Cincinnati, OH): touring puppet theatre inc. Magical Traveling Storyman, Grandma’s House, Renaissance Rumpelstiltskin, Two Crumbly Kids, Fantastic Fairy Tales, The Firebird, Down from the Mountain, Winter Wonderland. Large-scale symphony pieces with Atlanta Symphony, Cincinnati Pops, Dayton Philharmonic, DuPage Symphony, Lima Symphony, Lincoln Symphony, Winnipeg Symphony inc. Carnival of the Animals, Master Peter’s Puppet Show, Peter & the Wolf, Phantom of the Music Hall – *hand-in-mouth/rod, backpack/parade, shadow* (1992 - 2020)

Education / Training and Master Class Experiences

- B.A. Theatre Arts , Ashland University (OH) 1991
- M.A., Communication Arts , University of Cincinnati 1993
- Master Classes/Training: Chekhov Technique, Dell’Arte , Delsarte, Fitzmaurice Voice/Movement, Lecoq, Margolis Method, Mask, Puppetry, Rasaboxes, Simple Clown, Viewpoints

Special Skills / Interests / Residencies / Recognition

- Puppeteer: Alliance Theatre, Center for Puppetry Arts (& Center for Puppetry Arts XPT), Dragon Con, Grassroots Theatre, Henson Company, Madcap Puppets, Ninja Puppet Productions, Puppet People, The Object Group, Voyageur Puppets, ONE DOUBLE-O FOUR EIGHT– *and dozens of other freelance/independent projects*
- Backing vocalist: Aja, A1A , Songs in the Key of Stevie, Yacht Rock Schooner
- Teaching artist/arts educator: workshop presenter, keynote presenter, consultant, coach and director in drama, ensemble creation and ensemble movement, improvisation, mask, movement for actors, musical theatre and puppetry– *20+ years of experience for hundreds of clients/organizations (all age levels, interests and abilities!)*
- Adjudicator: Educational Theatre Association and Georgia High School Musical Theatre Awards
- Non-profit board member: ART Station (2021-2026), Educational Theatre Foundation (advisory council 2020-2023), Piccadilly Puppets (2025-present), Puppeteers of America (2016-2022, President 2019-2022)
- Residencies (solo)/recognition: Soaring Gardens (Summer 2026), Open AIR (Spring 2027), Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences (2023); Georgia Art Education Association Museum Educator of the Year 2023
- Arts administrator: includes Center for Puppetry Arts, Teaching Artist Alliance, Piccadilly Puppets, Performance Gallery and 20+ years to support independent artist work
- Conversational Spanish
- Member: Atlanta Puppetry Guild, Educational Theatre Association, Puppeteers of America, Theatre for Young Audiences/USA, Union de la Marionette USA

ARETTA BAUMGARTNER:

TEACHING ARTIST EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

representative list 2025-2026

Teaching Artist Experience (puppetry, acting, improvisation, musical theatre, creative dramatics, drama literacy, environmental and science education)

- Alliance Theatre (2024-present): lead teaching artist for drama camps and classes (pre-K through high school)
- ArtsBridge Foundation / Georgia High School Musical Theatre Awards (2013-2018, 2022-2023): adjudicator
- Center for Puppetry Arts (2011-2024): teaching/residency artist for puppet camps and for workshops, master classes, residencies throughout the USA and in Bahrain, Canada, Honduras (pre-K through adult)
- Cincinnati Museum Center (2004-2006): outreach presenter (pre-K through high school)
- ImagineNation (2000-2011): teaching/residency artist for workshops, master classes, residencies throughout the midwest (pre-K through adult)
- Imago for the Earth (2005-2009): environmental educator (pre-K through middle school)
- International Thespian Society (c/o Educational Theatre Association): teaching/guest artist workshops, PDIs, adjudications and keynotes (in-person and/or virtual) for state festivals and conferences in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi (Mississippi Theatre Association), Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington; International Thespian Festival guest artist and adjudicator 2009-2026 (middle school, high school, teachers)
- Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre (1992-2022): workshop and residency artist, camp counselor (pre-K through middle school)
- Northern Kentucky University: adjunct faculty (2001-2006), guest artist (2006-2023)
- Performance Gallery (2001-2011): teaching artist for pre-school drama literacy program "Books in Action," Cincinnati Public Schools
- Puppeteers of America (1997-present): workshop presenter for/at 11 national festivals and 6 regional festivals (high school through adult)
- Synchronicity Theatre (2025-present): teaching artist
- Teaching Artist Alliance (2019-present): teaching/guest artist, residency artist, puppetry specialist (middle school, high school, university, teachers)
- Zoo Atlanta (2025-present): educator for camps, field trips, Zoo Mobile programs

Professional Presentations

- Appalachian State University Teachers' Intensive 2017 (workshop leader, 2-day intensive): The Power of Puppetry
- Ashland University Department of Theatre Inaugural Theatre Gala 2010: Keynote Presentation: "Work in Progress"
- Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development National Conference 2005: Bring Literature to Life & Empower Passion in Preschools (Books in Action drama literacy program, Cincinnati Public Schools)
- Association of Theatre in Higher Education/Association of Theatre Movement Educators National Conference 2016: "Who's Animating Whom? The Transformative Power of Puppets in Production" (with Lewis Magruder, Associate Professor of Theater, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio)

- Borderlands Conference (National Underground Railroad Freedom Center) 2006: Theatre as Education/Community Building for Underground Railroad: “WANTED: Freedom, Dead or Alive” (with Dr. Daryl Harris)
- Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta: Trainer in puppetry and object empathy for chaplains, nurses, residents/fellows (2012-2023)
- Cincinnati Public Schools Early Childhood Education In-Service 2004: Incorporating Drama into the Preschool Curriculum
- Council of Media Organizations Georgia State Conference 2013: Puppetry as Storytelling
- Creative Mornings Atlanta 2014: Childhood: Puppetry and the Creative Power of Play
- Creative Problem-Solving Institute 2012: Exploring the Creative Power of Puppetry
- Dragon Con Puppetry Track 2014-2025 (Attending Professional/Guest Artist for the nation’s largest multi-genre pop culture convention)
- Educational Theatre Association International Thespian Festivals 2009, 2010, 2012-2025: adjudicator and guest artist
- Educational Theatre Association National Conferences: The Power of Puppet Play; 2018: Puppetry Playshop for Teachers & Directors and Learn & Create Lab: Collaborative Puppetry, 2016
- Educational Theatre Association state conference/festival keynote presentations: Nevada, New Jersey, Virginia and Washington
- Georgia Theatre Educators Conference 2019: Presenter Puppetry 101 and Building Puppets/Building Ensemble
- Greater Cincinnati Alliance for Arts Education (co-sponsor, Fine Arts Fund) 2010: Arts Integration Specialist, theatre arts
- Horizon Theatre (Atlanta): Master Class presenter, puppetry
- International Puppet Fringe Festival 2021: Puppetry 101
- International Thespian Society (c/o Educational Theatre Association): workshops, PDIs, adjudication (in-person and/or virtual) for state festivals and conferences in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington
 - International Thespian Festival guest artist and adjudicator 2009-2026 (puppetry, creative dramatics)
- Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region V (KCACTF) 2017: workshop presenter (Puppetry 101), panelist (Women in Design, Tech & Management), expo responder (Allied Arts/Poster & Publicity), Irene Ryan Finals adjudicator
- Lincoln’s Era: The Role of Religion in the Underground Railroad (National Underground Railroad Freedom Ctr) 2008: “WANTED: Freedom, Dead or Alive” (with Dr. Daryl Harris)
- Mississippi Theatre Association Teacher’s Workshop 2019: Puppetry Master Class presenter
- Mississippi Whole Schools Summer Institute 2024: national guest artist, track presenter, keynote address
- National Capital Puppetry Guild Virtual Festival 2020 & 2021: Puppetry 101, Warm-ups & Theatre Games for Puppeteers
- Passions: Promises and Perils (Graduate Dept. of Communication, U. of Massachusetts Amherst) 2009: “WANTED: Freedom, Dead or Alive” (with Dr. Daryl Harris)
- Puppet Power 2020: presenter, Creating Art with Challenging Themes and Puppet POW! For Puppet Power
- Puppeteers of American Regional and National Conferences 1997 - present: dozens of presentations on various puppetry topics (complete list available upon request—invited presenter at over 30 events)

- Puppetry in Education and Therapy Professional Days for Teaching Artists and Puppeteers (Puppeteers of America) 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019
- Southeastern Theatre Conference National Conference (“SETC”) 2016: Teachers Institute leader, workshop presenter
- SOS Art 2010: WANTED: Freedom, Dead or Alive (with Dr. Daryl Harris)
- Texas Theatre Educators’ Conference 2020 (Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2020): Building puppets / Building Ensemble, Do the “Q”! (a puppetry workshop), Playing Games: Creative Dramatics, Puppetry Playshop for Teachers & Directors
- Theatre for Young Audiences National Festival & Conference: Breakout Session Presenter 2019 and 2024, Puppetry Playshop; 2026 (with Johanna Smith) Puppetry as a Foundational Practice in TVY and performer (The Birthday of the World, Alliance Theatre)
- University master classes, lectures, and/or residencies: includes Agnes Scott College (GA), Appalachian State Univ (NC), Carthage College (WI), Clayton State Univ (GA), Denison Univ (OH), Fresno State Univ (CA), Idaho State Univ (ID), Miami Univ (OH), Northeast State Community College (TN), Northern Kentucky Univ (KY), Samford Univ (AL), Southwestern Oklahoma State Univ (OK), Univ of Victoria (B.C.), Western Kentucky Univ (KY)
- United States Institute of Theatre Technology (“USITT”) National Conference 2016: presenter, Becoming the Puppetmaster: Unexpected Journeys to Puppetland
- Woodruff Arts Center Educator Conference/Convening: presenter of puppetry, musical stories through shadow puppetry, arts integration through puppetry– 2016, 2019, 2022, 2023

NOTE: many hundreds of programs (including workshops, residencies, keynotes, performances, master classes, PDIs, trainings, etc.) presented at schools, libraries, community centers, festivals, conferences, events, etc.. – testimonials and/or client list examples available upon request



A BIT ABOUT ARETTA:

Aretta Baumgartner (Teaching Artist Alliance, www.arettabaumgartner.com) specializes in puppetry, mask and movement. She's been a professional puppeteer since 1992, and has presented many hundreds of workshops, master classes and keynotes at arts/arts education events all over the country. Aretta served multiple terms as President of the Board of Directors for the Puppeteers of America and as long-time Education and Advocacy Director at Atlanta's Center for Puppetry Arts. She performs regularly as a puppeteer, actor and backing vocalist. Aretta is dedicated to using puppetry and theatre as tools to unlock potential, passion and story in every human she meets.



Teacher and student feedback:

- "Many of my students participated in Aretta Baumgartner's Puppetry 101 workshop this past weekend at THESCON... They loved it! This is not the first time our students chose her workshop at this event... every time it has impacted them in such a positive way. I just wanted to thank her for being such a bright light for my students."
- "Thank you so much for being able to share your time and shiny brilliance... It was a great shot in the arm to receive such an affirming and empowering injection of theatre joy and magic. You go!"
- "She was really inspirational. I left with self-confidence, body acceptance, and self-love-- plus puppet skills!"
- "You are an exciting and talented maestro of the art of puppetry, storytelling, authentic engagement and being completely present in the moment. I was mesmerized. You...brought each and every one into a world of imagination and I believe left everyone touched."
- "You are a legend among the AppCo. We've had a lot of workshops, but you are far and away the favorite. They talk about it all the time."
- "10 out of 10: This workshop was the best workshop at Conference! Immediate information and exercises to share with the class—modeled a way of teaching."
- "I cannot tell you the impact you personally and professionally made. I have implemented puppetry into all of my classes. Your impact changed my life! You helped inspire us to continue learning and inspiring young minds about puppets."
- "What a fun workshop! I learned a lot about myself, my abilities, trust, and life! The teacher was such a nice lady and knew how to make us feel positive about ourselves! Fun games too!"
- "You are such an inspiring and energetic presenter. You shared so much rich and wonderful material with our group and also took the time to create a warm feeling of community. I am full of excitement, ideas and thoughts of how to share this with my students. Thanks for an excellent presentation. I am so grateful to have been a part of your work."
- "Puppetry 101 was hands-down the best workshop I ever participated in at Thes Con. The lessons extended outside the realm of puppets into my own life."
- "Even the actors who weren't directly using the puppets still had the opportunity to learn from the workshops she held. She is the liveliest, most energetic and most wonderful person I have ever met... getting to work with a professional like her was a great growing experience for me."
- "Thank you... for that invigorating workshop. Your authenticity and enthusiasm are an inspiration. I really look forward to incorporating some of what we discussed into upcoming units with my students."
- "THIS. TALK!!!! I'm ready to abandon every other project in my life and become a puppeteer. Joyous, celebratory of a wide range of cultures, immersive, and laugh out loud funny. @ArettaB is glorious!"
- "There are no words to explain how much we appreciate you as an artist, mentor, and human! We love your work and passion for life... The work you do is LIFE-CHANGING. We thank you so much for that."
- "She is magic... the finest puppetry educator we have in North America. PURE MAGIC."
- "ARETTA!! YOU ARE A WONDER OF THE WORLD!!!"
- "What stood out to me most was how deeply empathy is embedded in everything you do. It felt present in every part of the work, and it reinforced for me what a theatre class truly should be."

REPRESENTATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN PUPPETRY: Aretta Baumgartner

www.arettabaumgartner.com

Administrative Experience in Puppetry

Center for Puppetry Arts: Education and Advocacy Director

ImagineNation: Managing Director/Producing Artistic Director

Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre: Communications Coordinator

Piccadilly Puppets: Operations Support/Administrator, Board of Directors

That Puppet Palooza: Performance Coordinator

Association of Theatre Movement Educators

Puppetry Arts Organizational Representative

Atlanta Puppetry Guild

Center for Puppetry Arts Liaison

Scholarship Committee Chair

Chicagoland Puppetry Guild

Great Lakes Regional Festival Planning Committee: Communications Coordinator

Cincinnati Area Puppetry Guild

National Day of Puppetry Coordinator

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Dragon Con

Attending Professional, Puppetry Track

Parade performer: Mystery Science Theatre 3000 (Crow T. Robot/Tom Servo)

Puppet Slam performer

Puppet Slam staff/crew

Puppetry Track staff (teaching artist, moderator)

Puppetry Track volunteer

Shadow Cabaret performer: Westward Bound 2016

Great Lakes Region of the Puppeteers of America

Great Lakes Regional Director

Great Lakes Regional Festival Co-Coordinator

Potlatch Festival Director

Honors and Awards in Mask/Movement/Puppetry

Association of Community Theaters Cincinnati: Excellence in Acting, The Mute, *Fantasticks*

Association of Community Theaters Cincinnati: Excellence in Décor (special award for Puppetry Creation, Direction and Vision), *Children of Eden*

Cincinnati Enquirer: "Local Notable" award

Cincinnati Entertainment Award: Best Supporting Actress, Gollum/Sméagol, *LOTR The Two Towers*

Critics and Awards Program ("CAPpies") Cincinnati: Excellence in Creativity Nomination, Movement

Artists/Puppeteers for Mercy High School's *Peter Pan*

Puppeteers of America "Applause Applause" Award (Great Lakes Region)

Performance Experience in Mask/Movement/Puppetry (highlights)

Alliance Theatre: Doctor De Soto--puppet performer/actor (shadow puppetry, black light puppetry)

Atlanta Fringe Festival: *Shadow Realm: Down the Rabbit Hole* (co-creator/performer)

Basement Theatre: *Rocky Horror Puppet Show*

BorderLight Festival: *Shadow Realm: Down the Rabbit Hole* (co-creator/performer)

Center for Puppetry Arts' XPT (Xperimental Puppetry Theater): *Leukos, The Transmission Project, Learning To Fly, Forgotten Love, Deus Ex Machina, Mean Spirited* – puppeteer/collaborator; *On Tiptoe: An Exploration of "Acrobats" by Israel Horovitz* – Project Director

Center for Puppetry Arts: *From Shadow to Light: A Cinderella Story*

Cincinnati Fringe Festival: Puppet Slam performer, *Continuum* (Performance Gallery, Producer's Pick)

Clear Stage Cincinnati and Ovation Theatre: *The Lord of the Rings* stage trilogy

Dragon Con Parade: puppeteer, Mystery Science Theatre 3000 (Tom Servo)

Falcon Theatre: *Little Shop of Horrors*

Great Plains Puppet Train Regional Festival 2022 (West Liberty, IA): performer, workshop presenter

ImagineNation: touring puppeteer

Into the Wilderness: puppeteer (New Film Group)

learning to fly: XPT, Les Sages Fous Microfestival of Unfinished Puppetry, Celebration Barn Theatre Incubation Residency, Orlando Fringe Festival

Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre: touring puppeteer, residency artist, special projects puppeteer

New Edgecliff Theatre: *Three Times the Tale*

Ninja Puppet Productions: Scoutmob Halloween Speakerbot, Firebird Morning

Performance Gallery: *DeadLines, Gilgamesh in Uruk/G.I. in Iraq, The Body Speaks, The Killer Whispers & Prays* (*Continuum* –noted above for Cincinnati Fringe Festival)

Puckin' Puppet Show (Atlanta Puppet Slam): performer

The Hambidge Center: Creative Residency

The Object Group: Silhouette Bomb Squad

Object Movement Theatre Digital Puppetry Festival: *Out of the Box*

ONE DOUBLE –O FOUR EIGHT: co-founder, producing puppeteer

The Puppet People: special event puppeteer

Rising Phoenix Theatre: *Little Shop of Horrors*

Shadow Cabaret, Dragon Con: puppeteer, Westward Bound

Voyageur Puppets: touring puppeteer

WANTED! Freedom: Dead or Alive: mask/movement/shadow/spoken word collaboration with Dr. Daryl Harris

Puppeteers of America, Inc.

Board of Directors: President

Board of Directors: Vice President

Board of Directors: Member at Large

Guild Handbook Committee

Guild Survey and Recognition Committee

New Works Fund (formerly Endowment Committee: member and Chair (current Chair – effective March 2023)

Nominations Committee

Puppetry in Education and Therapy Committee

Scholarship Committee: Chair and Member

Youth Services Committee: Chair and Member

Puppeteers of America, Inc. Festivals -- Chronological History

Great Lakes Regional Festival 1996 (Columbus):

-performer: "The Firebird" (with Madcap Puppets)

National Festival 1997 (Toledo):

-workshop co-presenter: Think Big (with Madcap Puppets/Jerry Handorf)

Great Lakes Regional Festival 1998 (Chicago):

-Communications Coordinator

-workshop presenter: Puppetry 101

National Festival 1997 (Seattle):

-Cincinnati Area Puppetry Guild President (representative for reactivation of guild)

Great Lakes Regional Festival 2000 (Madison):

-Cincinnati Area Puppetry Guild President

-Potpourri Coordinator/Host

National Festival 2001 (Tampa):

- Cincinnati Area Puppetry Guild President
- workshop presenter: Theatre Games for Puppetry

Great Lakes Regional Festival 2002 (Detroit):

- Cincinnati Area Puppetry Guild President

National Festival 2003 (Tahlequah):

- Festival Emcee
- Scholarship Chair
- Cincinnati Area Puppetry Guild President
- workshop presenter: Mask & Movement for the Puppet Artist, Theatre Games for Puppetry

Southeast Regional Festival 2004 (Asheville):

- Festival Friends Coordinator
- Cincinnati Area Puppetry Guild President
- Great Lakes Regional Director
- workshop presenter: Mask & Movement for the Puppet Artist

National Festival 2005 (St. Paul):

- Festival Friends Coordinator
- Scholarship Chair
- Cincinnati Area Puppetry Guild President
- Great Lakes Regional Director
- workshop presenter: Improve Your Improv, Theatre Games for Puppetry

Great Lakes Regional Festival 2006 (London, ONT Canada):

- Great Lakes Regional Director
- Festival Co-Coordinator
- Cincinnati Area Puppetry Guild President
- workshop presenter: Improve Your Improv, Movement Playshop, Theatre Games for Puppetry

National Festival 2007 (St. Paul):

- Volunteer Coordinator
- workshop presenter: Puppetry 101, Mask Playshop
- Cincinnati Area Puppetry Guild President

National Festival 2011 (Atlanta):

- First-Timers Coordinator
- workshop presenter: Mask Playshop, Movement Playshop, Theatre Games for Puppetry

National Festival 2013 (Swarthmore):

- Social Event Coordinator/Social Chair
- presenter, Professional Day for Teaching Artists & Therapists: "The Power of Play" (with Michael Vetere)
- Festival Awards Judges Panel

Southeast Regional Festival 2014 (Helen, GA)

- workshop presenter: Puppetry 101

National Festival 2015 (Storrs, CT)

- workshop presenter, Theater Games for Puppetry, Puppetry 101
- presenter, Professional Day for Teaching Artists & Therapists: "Puppets Through the Ages"
- guest/artist, Meet the Artist

Great Regional Puppet Festival 2016 (St. Louis, MO)

- PofA Board of Directors (annual meetings)

National Festival 2017 (St. Paul, MN)

- PofA Board of Directors (annual meetings, festival announcements)
- Professional Day for Teaching Artists and Therapists

National Festival 2019 (St. Paul, MN)

- PofA Board of Directors, President (annual meetings, festival announcements)
- workshop presenter, Theater Games for Puppeteers
- presenter, Professional Day for Teaching Artists & Therapists: "Puppets Through the Ages"

In-person PofA festivals paused for COVID 2020 and 2021; presented at numerous other festivals including:

- Puppet Power 2020 (Puppet POW! for Puppet Power workshop and Presenting Art with Challenging Themes performance workshop and panel – virtual)
- National Capital Puppetry Guild 2020 (Puppetry 101 -- virtual)
- Virtual Puppet Con 2020 (puppetry leadership panel: US and Canadian Puppetry Organizations)
- International Puppet Fringe Festival 2021 (Puppetry 101 – virtual)
- National Capital Puppetry Guild 2021 (Theatre Games for Puppeteers -- virtual)

Great Plains Puppet Train Regional Festival 2022 (West Liberty, IA): performer, workshop presenter, Choices for Voices

National Festival 2023 (Hyattsville, MD)

- workshop presenter: Puppetry 101, Manipulate Me: Ensemble Puppetry, Choices for Voices
- panelist: Puppets & Autism
- Endowment Fund Chair
- volunteer staff

Puppet Paradise Southeast Regional Puppetry Festival 2024 (Asheville, NC)

workshop presenter, Puppetry 101, Manipulate Me: Ensemble Puppetry

Puppets in the House Festival 2025 (Verona, WI)

workshop presenter (Manipulate Me: Ensemble Puppetry), performer (*learning to fly*)

Puppet Palooza

Teaching Experience in Mask/Movement/Puppetry

hundreds of workshops and master classes taught as free-lance artist and/or for sponsoring organizations

Alliance Theatre: Alliance Theatre Institute Teaching Artist and Drama Camp instructor (puppetry specialist)

Center for Puppetry Arts: Education & Advocacy Director, Master Class Instructor, Residency Artist, Teaching Artist

Cincinnati Arts Association: Teaching Artist in puppetry, mask and movement

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park: Teaching Artist in puppetry, mask and movement

Educational Theatre Association (Thespian Conference, Festivals and Troupes): instructor in puppetry, mask and movement (International Thespian Festival 2012-2025, numerous teacher conferences, 15 state conferences/festivals)

Northern Kentucky University: adjunct instructor in puppetry, mask and movement; puppetry advisor and director (*The African Company Presents: Richard III, Once on this Island, Our Country's Good, Seussical*)

School for the Creative and Performing Arts, Cincinnati: adjunct instructor in puppetry, mask and movement

Teaching Artist Alliance: Puppetry Specialist

University of Cincinnati CCM Prep: Teaching Artist in puppetry, mask and movement

Master Class, Training Workshop Experience in Mask/Movement/Puppetry

dozens of workshops and master classes taken at conferences and festivals

Kevin Clash, The Jim Henson Company (puppetry)

Robert Faust (mask)

Jon Ferguson (simple clown/physical theatre)

Jerry Handorf (puppetry)

Larry Hunt (mask)

Tom Lee (puppetry)

M.O.V.E. Theatre Intensive (LeCoq Clown w/ David Gaines, Margolis Method w/ Kym Longhi), Rasaboxes w/ Rachel Bowditch, Fitzmaurice Voice/Movement Integration w/ Micha Espinosa

Jo McLaughlin (puppetry)

Irina Niculescu (puppetry)

Joan Shirle (dell arte)

Matt Slaybaugh (Viewpoints)

Jo Tomalin (mask/movement for actors)

Joe Williams (delsarte)

Union Internationale de la Marionnette USA (UNIMA-USA)

Member

Nancy Staub Publications Award Review Committee