

Giovanni Ortega

Artistic Director/ Educator

Passionate Artistic Director and Educator with proven expertise and demonstrated skills in the performing arts and an emphasis on developing narratives for marginalized communities as well as fostering an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion approach to theory and praxis. Talented at creating and curating productions and leading artistic teams through myriad phases of projects into fruition. Directed and presented in renowned theatre companies nationally and internationally. In addition, well versed in facilitating mentorship programs, creative, communications and organizational skills with a community based and educational background leading to empowering results.



Work History

2021-06 -
Current

Artistic Director

FilAm Arts Teatro, Los Angeles, CA

- Worked closely with Executive Director for programming presentations and becoming Artistic Director of FilAm Arts Teatro, theatre component of organization.
- Curated and Produced events including film, theatre, music and dance that enhance and amplify Filipinx visibility that focus on queer identity and female driven works.
- Wrote and acquired grants to support cultural events including Department of Cultural Affairs and Office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
- Worked with 2220 Arts + Archives as Technical Support for various in-house presentations.
- Collaborated with other community based arts organizations (IAMA theatre, Playwrights Arena) for civic and theatrical engagement.
- Facilitated dialogue with Filipinx artists and community to discuss developing narratives for brown voices.

2013-10 -
2022-06

Assistant Professor

Pomona College, Claremont, CA

- Directed and Produced 8 Mainstage productions with student performers and professional design team
- Mentored & Advised Queer, QTPOC and POC students in work study opportunities, LA theatre practice and international community based projects.
- Curated community engagement activities within Claremont consortium (Queer Resource Center, Asian American Resource Center, Chicano Latino Student Affairs and Asian American Studies, Sontag Center for Collaborative Creativity) and with Los Angeles Theatre Companies (East West Players, Playwrights, Center Theatre Group, Pasadena Playhouse, Latino Theatre Co.)
- Introduced new and revised educational courses as well as Independent Study that amplify theatrical and



Contact

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Skills

Art program coordination
Cultural Organizing
Department development
Videography
Commission requests
Canvas
Proficient in Adobe Acrobat
Client Relationships
Complex problem solver

cultural practice: Musical Theatre, Directing, Theatre and American Society, Queer Identity in Africa.

- Organized Artist Conversations and workshops with Dante Alencastre, Luis Alfaro, Caridad Svich, Tim Dang, Jon Rivera, Madhuri Shekar alongside Broadway performers, Choreographers & Musical Directors.
- In charge of hiring diverse group of designers and creative team (costume, sound, lighting, scenic, musical director, choreographer)
- Worked alongside Production Manager regarding budgets and production cost.
- Assisted with Communications Office in promotion including social media for theatrical productions and special events.
- Worked alongside colleagues in various committees:
- Solicited funding opportunities for creative and cultural projects through grants within College and Consortium.
- Community Speaker for Public events and facilitated workshops for Queer Resource Center, First Generation/ Low Income student, Asian American Resource Center, Chicano Latino Student Affairs and Office of Student Leadership.
- Created, and implemented courses for Draper Center of Community Partnerships' summer program that amplify Queer and POC experience.

2005-02 -
2021-08

Multi-Disciplinary Artist

East West Players Theatre Company, City of Los Angeles, CA

- Established and maintained productive, professional working relationships to promote theatre to amplify Asian American Voices
- Directed various productions including Theatre for Youth, Mama Bares concert and 7 staged readings.
- Commissioned playwright for productions Criers for Hire and Allos, The Story of Carlos Bulosan (Theatre For Youth).
- Created and taught various writing and performative courses: Craft the 2nd Draft and The Body Series.
- Choreographer for Tea, With Music by Velina Hasu Houston and directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera.
- Performer in various presentations including Imelda, The Musical.

2008-01 -
2014-06

Faculty Member

AMDA College And Conservatory Of The Performing Arts, Los Angeles, CA

- Voice/Speech Instructor and Dialect Coach for actors in theatre.
- Evaluated and revised over 20 courses to achieve performative centered learning.
- Used learning assessments to regularly monitor student understanding of class concepts and materials.
- Applied various teaching theories including Turner,

Linklater and Skinner to minimize learning gaps and instruct and motivate students.

- Monitored student progress through voice/speech practice and adapted learning plans to optimize progress.
- Faculty advisor for various student driven solo performances.

2004-08 -
2006-06

Teaching Artist

P.S. Arts, Los Angeles, CA

- Taught theatre curriculum for elementary school students from K-5.
- Developed lesson plans surrounding various types of theatrical and cultural narratives for marginalized communities in the Hawthorne, Lawndale district.
- Facilitated group sessions and provided one-on-one support with teacher.
- Planned and executed theatre and movement activities to promote skill and talent development.
- Assisted students in coming up with and executing detailed final projects for exhibition.
- Prepared and gathered materials for detailed lesson plans that utilize world culture and practices.
- Fostered student curiosity and interest through creative performative activities.

1999-08 -
2000-06

Service Learning Program Director

AmeriCorps VISTA, Milwaukee, WI

- Developed Service Learning program at South Division High School, laying out framework and defining roles for students, teachers and community affiliations.
- Implemented various cultural activities throughout the school year which incorporated Latinx, African American and Asian communities on and off campus.
- Orchestrated smooth and efficient program development by collaborating cross-functionally across departments and community partnerships.
- Pitched and built new programming strategies and one-off feature shows to boost audience interests and diversify offerings within underrepresented groups including Hmong and Afro-Latinx population.
- Provided ongoing mentorship and direction for student leaders facilitating program activities and presentations.



Education

2001-09 -
2024-06

Master of Fine Arts: Theatre Arts

University of Los Angeles, CA - Los Angeles

2001-01 -
2021-07

Conservatory : Vocal Performance

Milwaukee Conservatory of Music - Milwaukee

1996-09 -
1999-06

Bachelor of Arts: English

University of Illinois At Chicago - Chicago, IL



Professional Union Affiliations

Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, SDC
Actor's Equity Associations, AEA
Screen Actor's Guild | American Federation of Television
and Radio Artists, SAG-AFTRA
Voice and Speech Trainers Association, VASTA



Languages

English, Filipino & Spanish



Accomplishments

Stasis (Film), Executive Producer
Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival Bronze Remi
Award
Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, LAAPFF
Philly Asian Pacific Film Festival

Certificate of Recognition, Claremont Colleges
Queer Resource Center

Certificate of Congratulations, Mitch O'Farrell
Los Angeles Councilmember, 13th District

Award of Appreciation, 8 Secrets to Success
Fi-Am Chamber of Commerce of Orange County

Certificate of Appreciation, Jackie Goldberg
Los Angeles Councilmember, 45th District

Certificate of Appreciation, James Hahn
Los Angeles Mayor