

Josie K. Vano (they/she)

Theatre Artist & Educator, Expressive Arts Therapist-in-Training

josiekvano@gmail.com

440.251.6763

AWARDS

Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

Best Show of the Season (Director)	January 2026	<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>
Nominee, Best Technical Contribution	January 2025	<i>Annie: The Musical</i>
Nominee, Best Featured Actress in a Musical	January 2025	<i>A Year with Frog and Toad</i>
Best Lead Actress in a Play	January 2024	<i>Fight Nice</i>

Alpha Psi Omega - Kent State University

Best Production Stage Manager in a Black Box Show	May 2022	<i>Louder Than Words</i>
Best Black Box Production Overall	May 2022	<i>Louder Than Words</i>

TEACHING

Fairmount Center for the Arts

Adapted Theatre Program	2026	Theatre Instructor	Brittany Armstrong
Homeschool Multi-arts & STEAM Pgm.	2025 - 2026	Theatre Instructor	Sydney Kreuzmann
Multi-arts Summer Camps	2025 - 2026	Theatre & Dance Instructor	Darlene Kelbach, Sydney Kreuzmann

Beck Center for the Arts

Drama Social Groups	2025 - 2026	Facilitator	Tracy Ammon, Sarah Heffner
Early Childhood Theatre Workshops	2025 - 2026	Instructor	Sarah Clare

Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

Youth Summer Theatre Camp	2024 - 2025	Education Director	Sydne Nielsen
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DIRECTING AND DEVISING

Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

<i>Peter Pan</i> (Youth Camp Production)	2025	Education Director	Sydne Nielsen
<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	2025	Director	Eric Slayton
<i>Annie: The Musical</i>	2024	Asst. Director & Stage Manager	Austin Blair, Jason Walker
<i>Absolutely Aesop</i> (Youth Camp Production)	2024	Education Dir. & Access Coordinator	Sydne Nielsen, Austin Blair

Kent State University

<i>Animated Hands</i> (Children's Show Pilot)	2023	ASL Consultant	Ollie Staib, Andre Correa, Elsie Kibler
<i>Epitaph</i>	2022	Director	Courtney Brown
<i>Home of the Brave: 10 Days</i>	2021	Devised/Talkback Facilitator	Christian Andrews, Alicia Cleveland

Creative Kinections (NJ)

<i>Arriving</i>	2020	Devised/Director	Brooke Campbell, MA, RDT-BCT, LCAT
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Destination Imagination

Children's STEAM Challenge	2019	Assistant Director	Vivian McGarrity
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Newton Community Theatre (IA)

Children's Theatre Workshop	2007	Assistant Director	Melinda Worthington
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TECHNICAL

Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	2026	Production Stage Manager	Doug Anderson, Lori Barufa
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Starcatcher Theater

<i>Louder Than Words: A New Musical</i>	2026	Production Stage Manager	Christian Andrews, Ryan Leflar
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Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

<i>Peter Pan</i> (Youth Camp Production)	2025	Production Stage Manager	Sydne Nielsen
<i>Absolutely Aesop</i> (Youth Camp Production)	2024	Production Stage Manager	Sydne Nielsen, Austin Blair
<i>A Year with Frog and Toad</i>	2024	Stagehand	Melissa Nielsen, Doug Anderson

Kent State University

<i>Omega Fantasy</i> (Drag Competition)	2023	Sound Board Operator	Alexandra Baxter, Gabby Smith
<i>Tri Sigma Night Live</i> (Variety Show)	2022	Sound Board Operator	Berit Hazleton
<i>Louder Than Words: A New Musical</i>	2022	Production Stage Manager	Christian Andrews
<i>Battle for the Wagon Wheel</i> (Drag Show)	2022	Production Stage Manager	Graham Callahan
<i>KDE: No Permission Needed</i>	2022	Asst. Stage Manager, Deck Chief	Gregory King, Alexandra Baxter
<i>Dance '21: Love Stories</i>	2021	Asst. Stage Manager, Fly Operator	Jeffrey Rockland, Amanda Rearick
<i>Home of the Brave: 10 Days</i>	2021	Production Stage Manager	Christian Andrews, Alicia Cleveland

New York University

<i>Masters' Dance Concert</i>	2009	Light Board Operator	Deborah Damast
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PERFORMING

Great Lakes Medieval Faire

Lady Ophelia's Dance 2024 - 2025 Ensemble Dancer Jeanette Walmsley

Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

A Year with Frog and Toad 2024 Young Frog, Ensemble Doug Anderson, Melissa Nielsen

Boys in the Back Productions

My Friend Fuzzy Wuzzy (Short Film) 2024 Mom Jonathan Koritansky

Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo

Fight Nice 2023 Olivia Sydne Nielsen

Kent State University

Animated Hands (Children's Show Pilot) 2023 ASL Actor, Librarian Ollie Staib, Andre Correa, Elsie Kibler

Girlfight 2022 Alex Maia Bagusky

Sisters 2022 Rani Jacob Roney

Home of the Brave: 10 Days 2021 Mary Kile Christian Andrews, Alicia Cleveland

Creative Kinections (NJ)

Arriving 2020 Narrator Brooke Campbell, MA, RDT-BCT, LCAT

Spectacular Party Entertainment

Interactive Children's Entertainer 2016 - 2018 Anna, Tinkerbell, Alice Chelsea Podgorny, Brandon Schossler

Temenos Productions

Interactive Children's Entertainer 2012 - 2015 Anna, Snow White Chelsea Podgorny

Noble Art Entertainment

Interactive Entertainer, Various Shows 2007 - 2013 Various Brook Hall, Sarah Cantrell

Phoenix Players

Interactive Street Entertainer 2006 - 2016 Various Brook Hall, Sarah Cantrell, John Davis, Andrew Meade

Porchlight Theatre Company (NY)

Four Cups to Go 2009 Jen James Webb

TRAINING

Lesley University (MA) 2023 - 2027 Master of Expressive Arts Therapy

Fringe Benefits (CA) 2021-2025 Theatre for Social Justice Norma Bowles
Certificate: Devising Theatre for Social Justice CT4CT Master Class Series
Trauma-Informed Practice for TSJ Jennifer Larsh, REAT
Compassion without Rescuing Erica Curtis, LMFT, ATR-BC

Just Act Institute (PA) 2022 Theatre of the Oppressed: Forum Theatre Intensive Lisa Jo Epstein

Kent State University 2021 - 2023 Bachelor of Integrative Studies Theatre and Society Concentration
Directing Courtney Brown
Stage Management Tom Humes
Theatre for Social Justice Dr. Dan Nadon

Creative Kinections (NJ) 2020 Principles of Drama Therapy Brooke Campbell, MA, RDT-BCT, LCAT
Introduction to Psychodrama Barbara McKechnie, LPC, LCAT, RDT/BCT, TEP
Therapeutic Theatre Adam D-F. Stevens, MA, RDT

Phoenix Players 2006 - 2016 Interactive Theatre Brook Hall, Sarah Cantrell, John Davis, Andrew Meade
 Stage Combat Larry Rabin, Andrew Meade, Tim Podgorny

New York University 2008 - 2009 Educational Theatre Program
Stagecraft Daryl Embry
Acting James Webb
Educational Theatre Dr. Desi Cameron

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association for Theatre in Higher Education 2026 - present Independent Scholar/Artist

Educational Theatre Association 2025 - present Pre-Professional Member

International Expressive Arts Therapy Association 2023 - present Student Member