

ESTELLE BAJOU

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EDUCATION

Silberman School of Social Work at CUNY Hunter College — New York, NY

MSW with Honors. Licensed LMSW in NY State.

School of Drama at The New School — New York, NY

MFA in Acting

Bard College at Simon's Rock — Gt. Barrington, MA

BA magna cum laude in Theater and Creative Writing (Graduated at age 19.)

LANGUAGES

- English, French: native speaker. Spanish: conversational (Spanish course planned in early 2024).
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SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

The Violence Intervention Program / The Queens Museum — New York, NY

Clinical Social Work Intern (Fall, 2022 - Summer, 2023)

- Designed and wrote the curriculum for a series of arts-based, trauma- and culturally-informed group therapy “workshops,” including a white paper on researched benefits, and facilitator scripts for each of the 8 sessions in both English and Spanish.
- Co-facilitated 3 rounds of the 8 group therapy workshops with Latinx survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens.
- Initiated a partnership with The Queens Museum for Queens workshops and final showcase event.
- Helped organize the showcase, featuring artwork and digital stories (which I edited) by workshop participants, an interactive installation about DV, and speeches, as a chance for the public to hear directly from survivors, raising awareness and dismantling stereotypes.
- Initiated, designed, and created a mental health referral resource list, and proposed a design for a more comprehensive list of resources, both on Salesforce software, to centralize resource access across VIP.

Explorations High School — Bronx, NY

Clinical Social Work Intern (Spring - Summer, 2022)

- Provided one-on-one and group mental health counseling, and arts-based therapeutic and social-emotional learning experiences to high school students, bolstering their mental health and academic lives, and connecting them with resources and services for additional support (e.g. food, health, mental health, tutoring, extra-curricular, college readiness, employment, et al).

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development / Green Economy Coalition — International

Member: Global Research and Action Network for a New Ecosocial Contract (Spring, 2023 - Present)

- Collaborate with interdisciplinary working groups, co-facilitated by UNRISD and GEC, to write policy briefs and build public momentum to advance ecosocial justice, a progressive fiscal contract, and the rights of nature internationally and locally.

Selected LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE

HDFC Co-op Board of Directors — New York, NY

Board President (Spring, 2022 - Present); Board Secretary (Spring, 2020 - Spring, 2022)

- Propose and oversee policies and decisions in the best interests of the affordable housing cooperative;

oversee management of building operations and finances; report to membership on opportunities and policies. Recent initiatives include spearheading a multi-year clean energy transition (electrifying HVAC, community solar, composting, etc.).

Sierra Club's NYS Beyond Coal Campaign — New York, NY

Volunteer Media Team Member (Summer, 2023 - Present)

- Collaborate with journalists and advocates to generate media advancing clean energy in New York State.

ELDERCARE EXPERIENCE

Duet Care — New York, NY

Eldercare Worker (Summer, 2021 - Spring, 2023)

- Provided in-home support for elderly individuals experiencing cognitive changes, creating a safe, validating, caring environment, enabling them to feel and function best and to continue living independently.

Selected TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Leadership Program — New York, NY

Teaching Artist (Fall, 2018 - Spring, 2020)

- Created and taught the curricula for courses in Film, Theater, Visual/Media Arts, Music, French Immersion, and Creative Writing in public elementary, middle, and high schools.

Brooklyn College Community Partnership — New York, NY

Lead Teaching Artist (Fall, 2019)

- Created and taught the curriculum for a comprehensive Arts course covering many art practices, including Theater, Creative Writing, Visual Art, and Podcasting, and facilitated an academic support/college access curriculum in a public high school, in partnership with Brooklyn College.

Long Island University / UJA-Federation of New York / The Witness Project — Greenvale, NY

Co-Writer/Director, Teaching Artist (Fall, 2018 - Spring, 2019)

- Created, co-wrote, and directed a devised Documentary Theater piece based on the testimonies of 11 Holocaust survivors, performed by high school students; documented survivor interviews, hired/managed designers, collaborated with staff/crew at the 2,000-seat Tilles Center Theater for performance.

One Year Lease Theater Company — New York, NY / Papingo, Greece / Cambridge, MA

Teaching Artist (2012-2016)

- Helped run month-long apprenticeships for young adults, teaching Acting, Movement, and Devised Music as a Member Actor and Resident Composer with OYL in Greece, New York City, and at Harvard University. Students from CalArts, Columbia, Harvard, Northwestern, NYU, Princeton, USC, Vassar, et al.

Selected WRITING

I Never Learned to Pray, Poetry Book

Writer

2022. Longlisted: C&R Press Poetry Award

Poetry, Full-Length Play

Writer

Finalist: ScreenCraft Stage Play Competition

Poetry, Feature Screenplay

Writer

Honorable Mention: Big Apple Film Fest
Quarterfinalist: WeScreenplay Feature Competition;
ScreenCraft Film Fund

Person Woman Man Camera TV, Feature Film

Co-Writer

2022 Premiere: Cinequest; Won: Best Prod. Harlem Int'l

Selected WRITING PRAISE

- “Estelle’s play, [*Poetry*], really took me over, especially for its authenticity. Both the structuring of the drama and the stream of the dialogue show a brave author who is not scared of formal innovation or the portrayal of subconscious processes. I rather admired the humor of the piece and the presentation of human relationships in a postmodern world.” —Kata Wéber, Writer: *Pieces of a Woman* (Oscar-nominee)

- “So much of Estelle Bajou's *I Never Learned to Pray* sounds like prayer... “What I Hear, I Hear” ends with “my mouth/Forms a dilatory/O,” the reader's exclamation after many of these sad and sharp poems.”
—Terese Svoboda, Guggenheim Fellow, Author of *Laughing Africa*
- “In these poems by Estelle Bajou there is an incisiveness and a distinct poetic voice that often rises to a kind of lamentation. Whether she surveys the conflicted state of man, or of nature, or reflects on the posited hopes or failings of the most intimate of relationships, she never averts her gaze. Her lines are carefully chiseled and seem effortless and reflect the hard-earned craft of a mature poet.”
—Gabor Barabas, Author of *Russian Chronicles* and “The Spider,” a poem animated by Juan Delcan

Selected ACTING

<i>Once</i> , Broadway	U/s Supporting	Dir. John Tiffany	Broadway, 1st Nat'l Tour
<i>The Post</i> , Feature	Small Supporting	Dir. Steven Spielberg	20th Century Fox
<i>Person Woman Man Camera TV</i> , Feature	Lead	Dir. Niav Conty	Broken Yolk Prod.
<i>Charming the Hearts of Men</i> , Feature	Supporting	Dir. Susan DeRose	High Hopes Prod.
“Boardwalk Empire”, TV	Co-Star	Dir. Jeremy Podeswa	HBO
<i>Chaplin of the Mountains</i> , Feature	Lead (filmed in Iraq)	Dir. Jano Rosebani	Evini Films
<i>Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally</i> , Theater	Supporting	Dir. Ianthe Demos	59E59, Edinburgh Fringe
<i>pool (no water)</i> , Theater	Lead	Dir. Ianthe Demos	PS122, A.R.T. (Boston)

- Won: *The Stage's* Award for Best Acting, Edinburgh Fringe
- Won: NY Innovative Theater Award, Best Performance Art Production

Selected ACTING PRESS

- "First-rate young actor." Charles Isherwood, *The New York Times*
- "Estelle Bajou is giving a simply astonishing performance." Neil Genzlinger of *The New York Times*
- "Stunning, original. Bajou is outstanding." Marina Kennedy, *Broadway World*
- "Excellent at bringing a humanity and honesty to complex characters." Bess Rowan, *The Huffington Post*

Selected COMPOSING

<i>The 1619 Project</i> , Doc TV	Hulu	Composer: Additional Music
<i>Roll Bus Roll (a Jeffrey Lewis Doc)</i> , Doc Feature Film	A Popenko Film	Composer
<i>7th Secret</i> , Feature Film	Philly Born Prod.	Composer
<i>Prohibition</i> Dir. Ken Burns, Doc TV	PBS	Violinist
<i>Fireworkers</i> , Feature Film	Neboya Collective	Composer
<i>Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally</i> , Theater	59E59, Edinburgh Fringe	Composer/Live Musician
<i>Beneath Disheveled Stars</i> , Feature Film	Mangu Productions	Composer

- Nominated: Drama Desk Award - Outstanding Music in a Play (Winner: Philip Glass). Won: Best Americana Score - 2021 Garden State Film Fest. Recipient: Puffin Foundation Grant.

Selected COMPOSING PRESS

- “Sensational composition...an incisive score from Estelle Bajou.” *Rough Cut Cinema*
- “Elegantly constructed...keeps any electronic coldness at bay.” Laura Collins-Hughes, *The New York Times*

PROFESSIONAL UNIONS / MEMBERSHIPS

- National Association of Social Workers; SAG-AFTRA; Actors Equity Association; The Dramatists Guild; American Federation of Musicians.

OTHER PURSUITS: Activism, Visual Art, Movement/Dance, Carpentry, et al.