

Vanessa Becker Weig is Co-Founder and Executive Artistic Director of Voices Amplified (formerly known as The Girl Project) and is on the Part-Time Music and Theatre Faculty at Eastern Kentucky University. She trained at the professional actor B.F.A. training program at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio and most recently trained with Anne Bogart and the SIT Company at their summer institute through Skidmore College. She has over 100 directing, choreography, and performance credits. Since moving to Lexington 16 years ago, she has directed or choreographed numerous productions for Voices Amplified, Woodford Theatre, Leeds Center for the Arts, the School for the Creative and Performing Arts, and many more including several award-winning productions for the Ittheatrics Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta. She was the Education Director for Woodford Theatre from 2015-2019 founding the Woodford Theatre Young Artist Program, and served as Artistic Director for the theatre in 2019 and 2020. Prior to moving to Lexington, Vanessa served for ten years as the Education Director and Resident Director/Actor for the Phoenix Theatre (now The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio). At the Phoenix, she directed, choreographed, and appeared in more than fifty productions and designed and implemented classes, camps, workshops, and in-school residencies. Vanessa specializes in movement theatre and theatre styles such as Kabuki, Commedia Del 'Arte, Laban, Puppets and Masks, and Musical Theatre. She was in the regional tour of the musical *The Secret Garden*, which incorporated both deaf and hearing actors and won several Central Ohio artistic excellence awards. Vanessa is a proud recipient of a Bluegrass Alliance for Women Impact Award and the prestigious Freddie G Fellowship from Music Theatre International. When she has a spare moment, Mrs. Weig appears on stage. Some of her favorite local roles include Heaidi, in *What The Constitution Means To Me*, Gynecia in *Head Over Heels* with Voices Amplified, Morticia in *The Addams Family* with Leeds Theatre, Paulette in *Legally Blonde* with KCT Summerfest, Madame De La Grande Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast* and The Warden in *Holes* with Lexington Children's Theatre.

Edie Moon (Generations Director)

Edie Moon is an IB Certified educator, director, and workshop instructor. She has lived most of her life overseas teaching and directing in an American international school in Seoul, Korea-Seoul Foreign School. There, she developed a schoolwide theatre program (K-12) which provided large scale performances, theatre training, an annual Actor in Residence program, and Theatre Festivals for schools throughout Asia. Over the past 17 years, she taught the two year IB Theatre course. She also directed 80 shows which included musical theatre, comedy, drama, devised performances, Shakespeare, physical theatre, immersive theatre, theatre of the Oppressed, and Asian Theatre. Her study of theatre has taken her to NYC, London, Bali, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Vietnam and of course, South Korea.

One claim to fame is that during Covid when all activities in the school were shut down, she found creative ways for students to KEEP performing! Ask her about that!!! Care for her aging parents brought her back to the US 3 years ago and she has now settled in the Lexington, Kentucky area. Her focus presently is providing Theatre workshops in the US and abroad as well as finding opportunities to direct in found spaces and beyond while always encouraging activism through art. edimoon.my.canva.site

Taca Hollis (Generations Guest Artist)

Taca Born in Elizabethtown, KY began writing poetry at the age of 14. Taca's poetry was a way of escape from pain due to trauma. Her alchemical approach and transparency is an invitation to join her on a journey toward wholeness in Mind, and Spirit. She is heavily influenced by the wordsmiths Maya Angelou, Mos Def, Saul Williams, Jasmine Mans, and Divine Carama. Going to her very first open mic in 2011, Divine Carama encouraged her to use the voice that had been silenced for most of her life.

Lora Wilson (Generations Guest Artist)

Lora Wilson, MA, BC-DMT, is a board-certified dance/movement therapist, educator, performer, writer, and speaker. She has worked at the intersection of mental health, higher education, and the arts for over 25 years, creating spaces where movement, storytelling, and embodied relationship help people make meaning of their lived experience and deepen their connection to themselves and one another.

Lora is on faculty at California State University, Long Beach and has taught courses in the Dance, Educational Psychology and University Honors departments for nearly two decades. Lora has maintained a clinical practice in parallel. As a clinician, Lora has worked with adolescents, adults, and older adults in a wide range of treatment settings, including psychiatric hospitals, outpatient mental health programs, skilled nursing facilities, and assisted living communities. Her work has included supporting adolescents struggling with body image and eating disorders; adults living with severe and persistent mental illness; older adults experiencing dementia and Alzheimer's disease; and humans seeking deeper self-understanding and wellness.

Lora's scholarship and public speaking bridge dance, psychology, and neuroscience. She presents nationally and internationally on the following topics through a dance/movement therapy lens: neuroplasticity, embodied

cognition, loneliness and social connection, and the relationship between movement, memory, and identity. She is passionate about translating research into experiences that people can immediately understand on an embodied level and then apply in their own lives.

Originally trained as an actor, Lora's creative practice has long centered on collaborative, community-based performance. She has served as a guest artist, choreographer, performer, and workshop facilitator with Kentucky's *Voices HEaRd* and *The Girl Project*, creating movement-based performances and workshops that invite people of all ages to share their stories through the expressive arts. She is currently completing her memoir, *somewhere, some place*, which explores adoption, maternal love, identity, and belonging through her experience as both an adoptee and a birth mother.

.Patricia Mullins (Generations Guest Artist) Patricia Mullins is the Artistic Director of Lex Comedy. She wrote and starred in *The AMAZING Amazing Race* at the 2025 Cincinnati Fringe Festival and has directed dozens of sketch shows for Alphas Comedy. She's a graduate of the competitive Second City Chicago sketch and improv conservatory program.

Jaila Yeast (Music and Memory) Jaila is so excited to be joining Activate staff for their upcoming season! She has seen and experienced the magic that happens within Voices Amplified / ACTivate and couldn't be more thrilled about forwarding that mission! Currently, Jaila is senior music education major at the University of Kentucky who also performs locally, most recently in *Make Them Hear You* with Voices Amplified. She is extremely passionate about providing quality musical education, hoping to create an environment where students feel empowered in their abilities and personhood once they step into something new.

Mary Catherine Beath (Music and Memory) Mary Catherine Beath is an award-winning vocalist, performer, and educator who has performed professionally at venues such as Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center, as well as internationally in Italy, Ireland, and Prague. With a background in both classical voice and musical theatre, she is passionate about helping young performers build confident, healthy, and expressive voices. Mrs. Beath holds a Master of Music degree in Voice and Vocology training from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, along with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and a Musical Theatre Certificate from the University of Kentucky. She has over 10 years of experience teaching and mentoring singers of all ages. To learn more, visit www.mcwbsoprano.com.

