

Introducing Our Instructors

Welcome to Centauri Arts!

We have been active in the Arts and Culture Sector, in education and in leadership, for more than 26 years. Now, we are proud to partner with School Boards across Ontario to offer SHSM certifications, Sector-Partnered Experiences and Reach Ahead programs - virtually and in-person - designed specifically for the Arts and Culture Sector.

Centauri Arts works with dozens of industry professionals: musicians, writers, actors, dancers, filmmakers, podcast creators, artists, designers and more. Most instructors have years of teaching experience with us – at our arts camps, in our Toronto studio and through our workshops in schools, colleges and universities.

Here is an introduction to just a few of the talented arts professionals who work with us in our schools' programs:

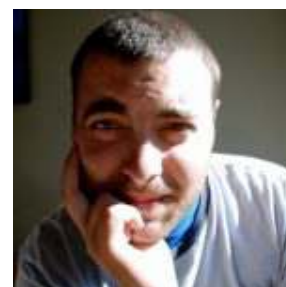
Julie Hartley – Director; SPE/Reach Ahead/SHSM Instructor

Julie has a B.A (Hons) in English & Theatre Studies, an M.A. in English Literature and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing. She has taught English & Drama in high schools in Canada and England, and Acting/Theatre at the University of Waterloo. Her poetry and short stories have appeared in literary magazines in Canada and internationally, and her plays have been staged by schools and youth theatres throughout Ontario. Julie was the owner/director of Centauri Summer Arts Camp for 25 years, training staff, directing productions and designing arts programs. Her first novel – The Finding Place – was published by Red Deer Press in September 2015, and her guide to teaching Shakespeare followed in 2018. Her latest published book is a poetry collection – Deboning a Dragon. Julie is the director of Centauri Arts, leading a team of 25 arts instructors.



Aaron Alviano – Art Instructor

Aaron has a B.A. Hons. in Studio Art from the University of Guelph and resides in Toronto, where for the past 15 years he has combined a career as an artist with his love of teaching. He continues his own studies through the Toronto School of Art and displays his work in galleries throughout Toronto and online. Aaron creates art for an independent video game company, works as a freelance graphic designer, and designs marketing material for Centauri Arts where he has taught digital art, fine art, design and photography for the past 20 years.



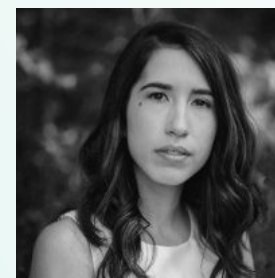
Zebulun Barnow – Music Teacher

Zebulun's instruments include guitar, bass, drums, percussion and voice. His career began in Chicago, where he played many legendary venues. This work culminated with a contract for Blue Man Group, Chicago, where for a decade he played Chapman Stick and electric zither in thousands of shows. He continued with other music projects at the same time, playing in a Tom Waits cover band and teaching at the School of Rock, where he became Assistant Music Director. Zebulun emigrated to Canada in 2015, and has been active in the Toronto music scene ever since.



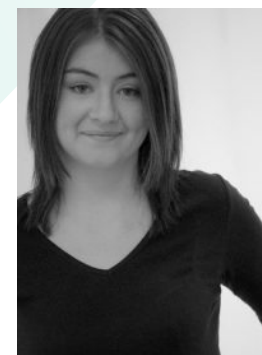
Miriam Brookman – Art Instructor

Miriam is a Toronto based fine artist, graphic designer, and arts educator. She graduated from Concordia University with a BFA in Studio Arts, and went on to receive a Post Graduate Diploma in Interdisciplinary Design Strategy from the Institute without Boundaries at George Brown College, as well as completing summer intensive studies in Graphic Design at Parsons the New School for Design. Miriam has worked in arts education for 15 years, and engages with a variety of media in her work including painting, drawing, fibres and material structures, sculpture, digital print, and graphic design.



Briana Brown – Writing Instructor

Briana is an award winning playwright and screenwriter. She's a graduate of UBC's Creative Writing program (MFA), the Thousand Island Playhouse's Playwright's Unit, and the Stratford Festival's Playwrights' Retreat. Her first full length play, The Concessions earned a Jessie nomination for Outstanding Original Play. Her comic one-acts have had fringe and festival productions across Canada, and are available in anthologies from Signature Editions. Briana was shortlisted for the Stage West Pechet Family Comedy Award and is currently developing a TV fantasy series. She teaches Creative Writing, The Business of Writing, Screen Writing and Writing for TV & Film in our SHSM programs.



Abby Buchmeyer – Screenwriting Instructor

Abby is a New York-based filmmaker and screenwriter who graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in Film and Screenwriting with high honors. She has earned the prestigious Hopwood Award for her feature-length script, an honor shared by playwright Arthur Miller and screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan. Abby has worked for shows on Showtime, Netflix, and AppleTV+, and recently was a member of the Writers' Room for a new drama for HBO. Abby's SHSM training programs include Screenwriting, Writing for the Stage and Screen, and Sketch Comedy.



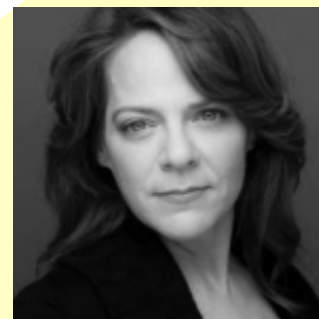
Veronica Lincoln – Dance Instructor

Veronica completed her B.F.A at Ryerson University in their Performance Dance program. While performing professionally, she also worked as a news writer at Canada's leading Dance Magazine, The Dance Current and in marketing and sales for Mirvish. Veronica has completed extensive dance examinations through the Cecchetti Society of Canada, the Royal Academy of Dance, and the Canadian Dance Teachers Association, and most recently certified through Acrobatic Arts and Alixa Flexibility. Professional performance credits include "Gameshow the Musical" (Best of Fringe), "When Love is Not Enough" (The Hallmark Channel), "Taekwondo" (Walk Off the Earth), Women in Dance, Dance Ontario Weekend, The Junction Comedy Festival and many events with her What's On TAP! Company. Veronica is Artistic Director of Canadian Dance Company's Burlington location.



Erica May – Acting Instructor

Erica May-Wood is a graduate of LAMDA, a prestigious drama school in London, England. She is a professional performer, director, teacher, producer and writer. Erica runs her own theatre company in Toronto, and as an RCM-certified Artist Educator she works in schools, professional theatres and community settings. Selected acting credits include: The Importance of Being Earnest (Gryphon Theatre), Godspell (The Stage Co.), Beauty and the Beast (Playbill Theatre), Guilty Secrets (Magnus Theatre), Brighton Beach Memoirs (Variety) and Dine Her (RealSpace Theatre). Erica leads SHSM programs in Acting for TV & Film, Audition Skills and other acting-related subjects.



Cullen McFater – Film Instructor

Cullen is a Toronto based filmmaker who has worked on projects worldwide, from Iceland to Italy to Los Angeles. His most recent work includes "The Sun's Gone Dim", which was in the official selection lineup and screened at the Olympus Film Festival in Los Angeles, the documentary "Outward Thinking" shot in California, and a number of films produced under his production company, Postromo Pictures, which has amassed over 175,000 followers online. While Cullen primarily works as a cinematographer and director, he also has experience as a producer, camera operator and an actor. Cullen offers SHSM 'Arts and Culture' training programs in Indie Filmmaking.



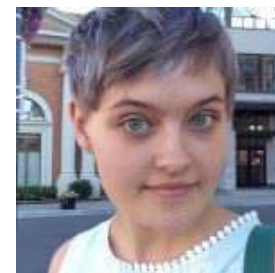
Helen Tran – Writing & Photography Instructor

Helen is a poet and novelist who has published poetry and short fiction in literary magazines and anthologies throughout Canada, including The Antigonish Review, Augur Magazine, Carousel Magazine, and Ricepaper Magazine's Currents anthology. She completed her MFA in Creative Writing at UBC, and these days works as a journalist, freelance writer and photographer in Toronto and Niagara. Helen has her own photography business, focusing on nature photography and portraiture.



Bonnie Warburton – Podcasting Instructor, Equity & Diversity Workshops

Bonnie is a graduate of Quest University Canada where she received an interdisciplinary education, incorporating her many arts passions (written, visual and audio). Her undergraduate thesis took the form of a comedic podcast, and was nominated for academic distinction. These days, Bonnie works freelance in the arts, creating podcasting guidelines for communications departments and building educational podcasts. Bonnie has worked with Centauri Arts for 6 years, and leads our SHSM programs in Podcasting.



Are you interested in booking our instructors for a SHSM training program at your school? For more information, go to

<https://www.centauriarts.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Centauri-Arts-SHSM-Programs.pdf>

Please contact : Julie Hartley – Director, Centauri Arts, julie@centauriarts.com
www.centauriarts.com, 416 766 7124