

# izzy sazak (they/them)

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## Profile

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*Freelance performer, director and interdisciplinary artist & educator  
Fostering community through the arts with an emphasis on decolonial pedagogy  
Facilitator of collaborative ensemble-building*

## Education & Training

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***Pig Iron School: APT & University of The Arts; MFA in Devised Performance 2019***

***University of Virginia, B.A. Drama; May 2011***

***National Theater Institute; Spring 2012***

***St Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy; March 2012***

***SITI Company Fall Intensive: Suzuki & Viewpoints; Fall 2012***

***Facilitation Training: AORTA Coop (Anti-Oppression Resource + Training Alliance), November  
+ May 2022***

## Experience

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### **Obvious Agency (upcoming work)**

**Space Opera Hospitality and Care Coordinator November/December 2023**

- + Design a festive, caring, and hospitable experience for the Space Opera community, including staff and audience/participants. This includes considering systems for community care, accessibility, and inclusivity in a gaming/role playing environment.
- + Design, implement, and manage systems that welcome participants of varied experiences and abilities into the Space Opera experience, focused on caring for the whole person.
- + Create clear and thorough documentation so that the systems and practices created can be easily recreated as necessary and appropriate.
- + Provide Company Management support, helping coordinate communal food, out-of-town housing/travel needs, and other needs of the project's staff during rehearsal times.
- + Strategies and projects used by the Hospitality and Care Coordinators may range from front-of-house design, vendor curation, providing one-on-one care during gameplay, to creating a sensory corner where participants may take a break.

## Applied Mechanics Theater Company

Company Member admin and produciorial work + creative collaboration from 2019-Present

Co-Assistant Director for "This Is On Record" July 2018

Performer & Co-Creator VAINGLORIOUS; WE ARE BANDITS ; OTHER ORBITS

Lead Singer of Applied Mechanics resident punk band, The Bandits

Co-Organizer for the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities; designed, produced, staffed and directed 4 public art actions and accompanying social media campaigns to organize for Housing Justice May 2020-September 2022

***Real PlaNet Life: The Film Episode of multi year, multimedia sci fi project, OTHER ORBITS.***

**On-screen premiere at Philadelphia's Fall Fringe Festival, September 2022**

Co-writer, script-supervisor, co-editor, actor & co-producer

*Real PlaNet Life* is AppMech's take on a reality Tv show episode, featuring the alien characters of OTHER ORBITS. Think *Real World* meets *Peewee's Playhouse*. Aliens of widely different backgrounds, some played by humans, some by puppets; all trying to live together in harmony in a sentient house (metaphor for their planet), despite their contradictory needs. Shenanigans and puppet humor ensue.

***The Bandits "Dirty Money" Single and Music Video, October 2020***

Co-director, editor, lead singer and performer of The Bandits' first music video. Conceived, co-directed, edited and performed as lead singer.

## Delaware Shakespeare

Associate Artist; member of Artistic Squad: August 2021-present

Culture Shifter: I provide trauma informed, care centered, anticolonial perspectives of collaboration; helping to design and facilitate systems of care, and processes that are reflective of the anti-racist, anti-imperialist values DelShakes is trying to foster in themselves.

Interim Co-Artist Director of Del Shakes December 2022-May 2023

Taking on shared duties of AD for DelShakes for the duration of AD's paternity leave.

Fundraising Game Party: Concept, Design, Production and Execution May 2023

- + I conceived, designed and hosted a fundraising event for Delaware Shakespeare's donors and supporters featuring a fully original hybrid game of Mafia and a Murder Mystery Party.
- + Inspired by DelShakes' summer production of *Macbeth*, the game featured 35 original characters and their backstories, complete with costume suggestions as well as playing and instruction cards fully designed, written and realized by myself.
- + The event also included a themed photo booth, behind the scenes production presentation of *Macbeth*, a signature cocktail, and a silent auction per my concept for the evening.
- + The event was open to both guests who wished to play, as well as those who did not. It was grossly entertaining, and raised almost \$7,000 from approximately 40 attendees
- Community Care Liaison for Fall 2023 Community Tour Production of Cymbeline
- + I designed and led a community building workshop for the cast and crew
- + Provided support in advocating for cast and crew's needs around covid safety, intimacy safety and rehearsal needs and practices

- + Provided weekly check-in support to address needs as they arose

### **University of The Arts**

Director of the Senior Showcase for Philadelphia Based Senior Acting Students, March 2022

Helped students select material for their showcase, coached them in their performances, and directed the final presentation for industry audiences. Provided additional workshops and education around devising, auditioning and self-tapes.

### **The Bearded Ladies Cabaret**

Late Night Snacks 2023 Director's Cohort

Directed and facilitated artists and tech crew for their curated performances as a part of the month-long cabaret festival produced by the Bearded Ladies for Philly Fringe.

## **Teaching Experience**

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### **University of Austin Texas**

#### **Guest Artist and Advisor for Cohen New Works Festival April, 2023**

Attended and observed student productions

Provided professional guidance and creative feedback for the artists and their works

**Ball State University Performance and Teaching Residency** January 17-23rd, 2022 Applied Mechanics shares their in-process work *The Colonialists*, as well as offers workshops in our methods of creating work and collaboration to university students.

### **Workshops Taught with Applied Mechanics**

How To Be A Bandit, An Online Workshop November 2020

A virtual workshop inspired by Applied Mechanics' iconic 2014 show, *We Are Bandits*, on the evolving definition of what it is to be an artist against the state, and how to be the kind of artist our society needs today.

Radical World Building 2018 & 2019

A workshop that teaches participants to make politically potent art that promotes justice and equity by demystifying Applied Mechanics' radical collaborative process. The workshop aims to empower participants to create spaces and performance pieces that reflect their values.

Thoughtful Collaboration 2018

A workshop about process and making positive, creative, and equitable collaborative/devised spaces for the creation of original work.

### **Abington Friends School**

Introduction to Clowning Workshop January 27, 2019

Solo devised curriculum for 4 hour workshop on Lecoq based clowning

The workshop was designed for a class of 21 highschool students and focused on the discovery of the body and movement of the individual clowns, through their breath and gaze. We identified their clown's main engine, discovered their clown names, and status, explored their clown's relationship to the space and audience, their clown's locus of desire, and exercised their clown's improvisational muscles.

### **University of the Arts**

*Teacher, Introduction to Devised Theatre* Fall Semester 2018

Section focused on *Tools For Devising: Measures, Dance Theater and Open Canvas*

### **Superhero Clubhouse Theater Collective** New York, Ny

*Teaching Artist for Big Green Theater* 2013-2016, & Spring 2022

Big Green Theater is an after school eco-theater program for underserved public schools in Bushwick, Brooklyn. 4th and 5th grade students from select public schools learn about issues surrounding Climate Change and the Biodiversity Crisis (aka the 6th Extinction), while also being introduced to the foundations of playwriting and theater making, including eco-friendly costume and set design, and song-writing. The program culminates with each student writing and completing an original ten page play which incorporates what they learned about the various environmental issues. Those plays are then professionally produced and performed for the community at the prestigious Bushwick Starr theater in Bushwick, Brooklyn.

### **Additional Professional Experience**

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**Props Designer/Builder and Second Outside Eye** for MK Tuomanen's work in progress, solo residency at Subcricle Residency in Biddeford, Maine. October 2023. I designed and built specialized props in real time as the piece was being developed and provided outside eye feedback and prompts to support the development of the work in collaboration with John Jarbo.

**Designer of Campaign Poster for the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities** September '23

Designed an original campaign poster to activate and educate the member communities of PCAC around their latest Housing Justice campaign.

**Monthly Co-Facilitator of Member Gathering for [Open Collective Finance](#)**, July 2022-Present

Co-designer and Facilitator of a creative gathering of celebration, introductions, on-boarding and self-reflection for member groups and organizations who have joined Open Collective; an international open-source financial service, aka the New Bank of the Solidarity Economy.

**Primary Cover Designer for "Meeting the Moment: Socially Engaged Performance, 1965-2020, By Those Who Lived It" written by Rad Pereira and Jan Cohen-Cruz. May 2021**

Published by NYU Press. [Click here to purchase](#)

**ZRNA: a new musical project formed by West Philly Orchestra Founder, Gregg Mervine**

Vocalist and song-writer April 2019-Present

ZRBA is a band where Turkish and Balkan rhythms meet to create tribalistic trance experience

**HATCH: At The Schoolhouse Residency for Women and Non-Binary Identifying Artists** Harrisville, NH

Lead Artist July 28-August 4 2019

Lead the exploration and development of a new puppet show in collaboration with Camilla Dely, a performer and visual artist, and current Costume Design Graduate Fellow at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. The residency culminated in an invited showing.

**Assistant Installation Designer & Builder**

*Time Is Due: A New Experimental Opera Written By Anais Maivel & Directed by Lilleth Glimcher*  
June 2019

Assisted in the design, curation, procuring of materials and building of installation

**The Flea Theater Company, New York, NY**

Resident Actor, Member of The Bats 2012-2016

Performer

Assisted in Administrative and Producing duties for the company and its projects

**Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville, Va**

Sound Designer and Youth Mentor September-December 2011

Designed and Programmed sound design for youth production of "The Giver"

Mentored students in the art of sound design

**University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va**

Scenic Painter and Assistant to Paint Charge 2008-2012

Painted and built sets, mixed paints, led teams of painters on builds

**Radio Ankara** Ankara, Turkey

Assistant DJ for English speaking radio program October 2004-April 2005

Create playlists and execute them in the studio

Host hour long improvisatory radio program discussion

## PERFORMANCE RESUME

Voice: Mezzo Soprano Height: 5'7" Eyes:

Brown, Hair: Brown

SELECT THEATER and FILM

<i>LATE NIGHT SNACKS</i>	Director's Cohort	The Bearded Ladies & Philly Fringe 2023
<i>TINY WITCH</i>	Writer, Creator, Performer	Cannonball/ Philly Fringe Fest 2023
<i>OTHER ORBITS</i>	Co-Creator/Performer	Applied Mechanics, '23
<i>Baby Theater: Water</i>	Performer/Facilitator	Ninth Planet, February '23
<i>Red Riding Hood</i>	Assistant Director	The Arden Theater, '23
<i>Head Over Heels</i>	Gynecia	Theatre Horizon, '23
<i>Night Science by MK Tuomanen</i>	Actor 4	The Wilma Theater, Dec 2022 New Play Workshop
<i>12th Night, O Lo Que Quieras (A Bi-Lingual Musical Adaptation)</i>	Violeta	Delaware Shakespeare Community Tour '22
<i>MAMMELEPHANT</i>	Mammelephant	Performance Space NY, Superhero Clubhouse '22
<i>Being/With by Nichole Canuso</i>	Performer/Guide	Nichole Canuso Dance, Philly Fringe '21
<i>Bodas De Sangre: A Virtual Film</i>	La Luna	Teatro Quarantine; dir. Tanaquil Marquez, Aug '20
<i>Big Green Theater: The Movie!</i>	Ensemble	The Bushwick Starr, Superhero Clubhouse; May '20
<i>HOME by Geoff Sobelle</i>	Swing	National & International Tour May- Nov 2019
<i>Her Room by Izzy Sazak</i>	Art Clown	SoLow Fest June 2019
<i>This Is On Record</i>	Co-Assistant Director	Applied Mechanics Theater Company, July '18
<i>Julius Eastman Festival</i>	Eastman Choir	The Kitchen; Bowerbird; Dustin Hurt, Nov '17
<i>A Period Of Animate Existence</i>	Izzy/Chorus	Pig Iron Theater Co; dir. Dan Rothenberg, Sept '17
<i>I Am Not My Motherland</i>	Dr. Leroy	The Lantern; Orbiter 3; dir. Rebecca Wright May '16

#### OTHER AFFILIATIONS and WORKSHOPS

- ❖ **MARINA by Eva Steinmetz**, a devised film scripting workshop with Pig Iron Theater Co. Sept '23
- ❖ Company Member of **Applied Mechanics Theater Co.**; currently in production as co-creator and producer for **Other Orbits: a new long-form immersive multimedia SciFi experience (June 2021-June 2023)**
- ❖ Artistic Squad member; **Delaware Shakespeare** Aug 2021-Present
- ❖ Member of **The Flea Theater** Resident Acting Company, The Bats; 2012-2018
- ❖ Lead Vocalist of **The Bandits**; local Philly punk-band 2014-Present; and **ZRNA** a turkish folk-jazz band led by founder of West Philly Orchestra Gregg Mervine 2019-2021
- ❖ Volunteer (2015), and Lead Teaching Artist (2016 + 2021) for **Big Green Theater** at PS 75 and PS 123, via **Superhero Clubhouse** and **The Bushwick Starr**; Core Collaborator with SHC 2014-2016

## TRAINING

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***SITI Company Fall Intensive: Suzuki & Viewpoints; Fall 2012***

***National Theater Institute & St Petersburg State Theater Arts Academy (Russia);  
Spring 2012***

## SPECIAL SKILLS

Turkish (fluent); Spanish (semi fluent); Bunraku; Thai Kickboxing; Basic partner acrobatics; Juggling; Burp on command; Silly voices & Accents; Yodeling; Some piano; some guitar; Scenic artist.