



SIMONE COTTRELL

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CREATIVE, CHANGEMAKER & ARTS + ARTISTS ADVOCATE

Multidisciplinary theatre-maker, social justice theatre liaison, and arts advocate with leadership and facilitation experience centering on anti-oppression, social practice, devising, and youth theatre with disinvested communities.

SKILLS

Public Speaking (panels, moderating) | Creative Writing (short stories, poetry, scripts) | Directing (social practice theatre & youth theatre) | Budgets | Grant Writing & Review (panelist) | Publicity and Marketing (PSAs, press releases, print & social media design) | Independent Study of Non-Profits

EXPERIENCE

SOCIAL JUSTICE THEATRE LIAISON

Start By Talking (September 2021 - June 2022)

- Contracted position with anti-oppression group Start by Talking led by Wanda Swan
- Co-develop anti-oppressive arts administration and theatre strategies with SbT and non-profit Atlanta-based theatre company
- Guide SbT research team with nonprofit and theatre/arts knowledge

MULTIDISCIPLINARY THEATRE-MAKER

Lotus Rising Theatre (2019 - Present) | Northwest Arkansas

- Artistically support NWA Southeast Asian narratives through dance, theatre, and cultural practices.
- Work with co-ethnic and multigenerational SEAsians to create original theatre pieces originating from narratives
- Develop cultural agreements to pace progress of art while respecting literal and figurative spaces

Bwebwenato (2017 - 2019) | Springdale, AR

- Contracted with Marshallese Educational Initiative to develop original professional youth theatre based on the Marshallese oral traditions of bwebwenato.
- Developed & co-led cultural agreement with MEI
- Researched and co-wrote the script with MEI and youth
- Directed four young adults for public performances of Bwebwenato. All actors were paid equitably.

The Veterans Project (2016 - 2019) | Fayetteville, AR

- Contracted with Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks to develop original professional theatre performance
- Partnered with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art for the visual art portion of project
- Researched and worked within the VA in-patient mental health ward, out-patient and substance abuse departments, and with nurses, psychologists, and healthcare administration to develop process.

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY
THEATRE-MAKER**

Dia de Muertos (Fall 2017) | Springdale, AR

- Artistically support NWA Latinx immigrant poultry workers
- Utilized movement, music, and theatre of the oppressed to develop a 20-minute performance piece about the immigration experience and work within a poultry factory.
- Performance was the central focus for the Dia de Muertos event led by Workers Justice Center.

**ARTS RESOURCE DESK
MANAGER**

CACHE (2020 - 2021) | Northwest Arkansas

- Served 592 artists + creatives + nonprofits during the first & second years of the start-up nonprofit during a pandemic
- Led the first NWA arts & culture comprehensive survey + co-created the report & brochure format
- Co-developed CACHE grants and CACHE-affiliated grants such as the Bridge Fund Grants, Jones Center RFQs, and Artists 3 60 + co-led affiliated workshops
- Created six resource programs to assist NWA arts & creative community
- Artist liaison for OZCast Season One
- Curated artists + creative lists for external businesses & organizations; CACHE Spotify playlists; contracted programs such as the Momentary's Sunday Courtyard Series

**THEATRE TEACHING ARTIST
PREFERRED AGES 12 - 18
& ADULTS**

Various Organizations (2007 - 2019)

Starkville Community Theatre; Starkville-Oktibbeha Public Library; Mississippi State University (Communication-Theatre, English, & Outreach Depts); Lexington Children's Theatre; Lexington Public School District; Rowan County, KY School District; Trike Theatre; Upward Bound - University of Arkansas.

OTHER ARTISTIC PURSUITS

2020 - Present

Ozark Story Project (Photography & Poetry); Interform's The Collective (Model; Designer Rosie Rose); Sun & Sea Opera (Actor); Channels of Feelings (Dancer); #QuARTine (Photographer, Model & Creative Director); Guts & Guzzle - Ashley Kay (Curator).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Innovation & Interchange Grants Recipient, 2019 | Artists 3 60 Grant Recipient, 2019 | Planetree Global Person-Centered Healthcare Award, 2019 | PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story for Emerging Writers Nomination, 2016

EDUCATION

**BA
COMMUNICATION - THEATRE**

Mississippi State University (2003 - 2008)

Summa cum laude

**GRAD LEVEL COURSES
ENGLISH - CREATIVE WRITING**

Mississippi State University (2010 - 2015)

TRAINING

Interchange Grant Fellow (2019) | Artist INC Fellow (2019) | Sojourn Theatre (2018) | Lexington Children's Theatre (2008 - 2009) | Martha's Vineyard Creative Writing Institute (2015)