

# MARK PIEBENGA

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## Summary of Skills

- Over 7 years experience developing and teaching improvisation and acting techniques.
- Experience incorporating improvisation into professional environments to encourage adaptability and quick thinking within team-driven, goal-oriented organizations.
- Proven success creating innovative ideas to engage audiences across different cultures and age groups.
- Ability to generate effective results within strict time constraints.
- Experience managing and facilitating groups and projects with limited resources.

## Theater Education Experience

- Adjunct Faculty** – *Second City Training Center, Chicago IL* **2004-Present**  
Taught weekly acting/improvisation classes to youth, teens, and adults.
- After School Drama Teacher** – *Rowe Elementary School, Chicago IL* **2011-Present**  
Created and implemented after school performing arts curriculum for 60-plus inner-city Chicago students.
- High School Improv Teacher** – *GCE High School, Chicago IL* **Fall 2011**  
Created curriculum and taught improv elective class to high school students at Global Citizenship Experience, an experiential, independent Chicago school.
- CPS Teacher Workshops** – *CPS Campuses, including Peace and Education School, Chicago* **Aug 2011**
- Corporate Workshop Teacher** – *Business Improvisation, Columbia MBA Program, NYC* **Dec 2010**
- Long-Form Improv AfterSchoolMatters Teacher** – *Sullivan High School (CPS)* **2008-2009, 2009-2010**  
Developed curriculum and co-taught full year ASM program teaching scenic improvisation for at-risk youth. Directed students in twenty-minute long-form final performance for community members.
- Summer Intensives Teacher** – *Second City Training Center, Chicago IL* **Summer '08, '09, '10**  
Instructed one-to-two week sketch comedy intensives for adults, and staging short, original teen revues.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Sketch Comedy Class** – *Noble St. Charter High School (CPS)* **Fall '08–Spring '09**  
Proposed, recruited for, and instructed two semester long improv-to-sketch comedy afterschool classes for Noble's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center, culminating in semester-end performance written by teens.
- Summer School Theatre Teacher** – *Venture Theatre, Billings MT* **July '05, '08, '09**  
Taught two-week intensive classes to students ages 10-18 in voice, movement, improv, and acting theory.
- Summer Day Camp Teacher / Founder** – *Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare, Ireland* **August 2007**  
Organized week-long drama camp for children ages 6-10, directed production of students' written/improvised play *Hogie's Headache*, facilitated art class creation of sets, props, and costumes.
- Scene Coach** – *Clare Youth Theatre, Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland* **Spring 2007**  
Instructed actors ages 13-17 in voice production and acting techniques, assisted director with staging for production of *AlienNation* by Max Hefler.
- Team Instructor** – *Dramarama Youth Workshop, Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare, Ireland* **Winter 2007**  
Planned curricula and team-taught community drama classes, ages 4-12, and assistant-directed three final productions.
- Drama Teacher / Ass't Director** – *Fanore National School, Fanore, Co. Clare, Ireland* **2005-2006**  
Team-taught weekly two weekly drama classes, ages 4-6 & 7-11, developed, rehearsed, and assistant-directed two original productions for spring school performance.
- Director / Teacher** – *Noble Street Charter High School, Chicago IL* **2004-2005**  
Directed high school adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, co-written by the students and a professional playwright via collaboration with Chicago Dramatists, and assistant-taught weekly drama class.
- Improvisation/Acting Workshop Teacher**
- Kalamazoo Improv Festival **Jan 2009**
  - Keshet Summer Day Camp, Ages 15-18, Skokie IL **June 2008**
  - Kalamazoo Public Library Improv Workshop, Ages 14-18, Kalamazoo MI **May 2006**
  - Evanston Youth Arts Program Summer Camp, Ages 11-13, Evanston IL **June 2004**

**Education Experience**

**Substitute Teacher, Francis W. Parker School, Chicago IL**

**2007-Present**

**AmeriCorps Project YES (Youth-Education-Service) - Northwestern Settlement House**

**2004-2005**

*AmeriCorps Leader*, Chicago, IL

Recruited, interviewed, hired, trained, and managed a 24 member corps for the 2004-2005 Project YES AmeriCorps service/education year. Facilitated team and large group service projects. Wrote an Illinois Arts Council Quickstart Grant funding *Cyrano De Bergerac* project at Noble Street Charter High School.

*AmeriCorps Member/Teacher*, Chicago, IL

**2002-2003**

Created lesson-plans for various Head-Start, after-school and summer programs for at-risk children ages 3-12 at Settlement House. Developed curriculum for eight-week Fine Arts Club. Created and implemented visual art programming, enhanced language literacy with writing and reading projects, coordinated numerous volunteer opportunities and special events serving and celebrating West Town.

**Education:**

**Kalamazoo College**, Sept. 1998 – June 2002

Kalamazoo MI

Bachelor of Arts, English Literature and Theater

Deans List, Recipient of Kalamazoo College Honors Scholarship, Michigan Competitive Scholarship

**Université Marc Bloch**, Sept. 2000 – Jan. 2001

Certificat 1<sup>er</sup> Degré

Strasbourg, France