

ARIEL TESS MEJIA

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INDEPENDENT AUDIO PRODUCER WORK HISTORY

- **Features for *Hope From the Frontlines* from Juneteenth Productions**, stories of struggle and survival on the front lines of COVID-19, titled “Detective Caretaking” and “Hope in Practice”
- **Feature for *Antibody*, a series from The Dig of Jacobin Magazine**, in *Making Contact* episode, titled “Hardwood Flesh”
- **Feature for the BBC Radio 4 *Short Cuts* from Falling Tree Productions**, in *Tarot* episode, titled “Shadow Work”
- ***SheCast Lead Producer*, a podcast from SheCrew**, providing safe spaces and expressive platforms for girls and gender nonconforming youth across Chicago
- ***It's Still Death Lead Producer***, an organizing and multimedia campaign to end life sentencing in the state of Illinois and beyond
- ***MURMUR Oral Historian***, Conduct oral histories/interviews with abortion providers who have had abortions -shape histories into anecdotal accounts for use in editorials and legislative purposes
- ***The Shape of the World Podcast Lead Producer*, Season 2**
- ***Mic Check! A Podcast from the Third Wave Fund Lead Producer***, Healing Justice episode
- ***The Lit Review Podcast***, created introduction stems
- Tape syncer extraordinaire

ALL WORK HISTORY

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER 04/2020 to Current

Appearances, a fiction podcast by Sharon Mashihi from Mermaid Palace and Radiotopia

- Research, including: finding voice actors, seeking music rights, and podcasts for cross-marketing
- Coordinate and conduct auditions
- Writing all web copy
- Social media campaign organization
- Coordination of listening events

HOST and LEAD PRODUCER 06/2020 to Current

Mirror and a Flashlight, a podcast from the Chicago Women’s Health Center

- Developed and created vision of the podcast
- Book, conduct, produce and edit interviews into complete storylines and arcs
- Hosting of all episodes
- Research and fact checking

YOUTH RADIO LEAD INSTRUCTOR 06/2019 to Current

After School Matters, Chicago, IL

- Create curriculum to include audio production, interview technique, microphone best practices, sound design, editing, and story structure for teens to create audio stories in the style of documentary, features, audio postcard, audio essay, or experimental
- Organize teaching artist workshops, visits, and field trips
- Schedule and organize audio showcase events, live and virtual
- Teach digital audio software Reaper, and lead editor for course instructing 16 teens per semester, ages 14-18

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FEATURES 01/2017 to 03/2020

CHIRP Radio, Chicago, IL

- Perform Interviews and produce local Chicago artist features (12 interviews to date)
- Manage station's feature programs, promos, and voice-overs
- Coordinate scheduling, editing, audio production, and back-end web production and maintenance
- Establish and maintain relationships with band managers, artists, and venues
- Conduct interview, recording, and studio best practice trainings in studio and in field

COMPETITION INTERN 07/2018 to 09/2018

Third Coast International Audio Festival, Chicago, IL

- Organizing over 500 competition entries and selections
- Used online platforms to do data compilation and organization (Submittable, Airtable)
- Judging team for Directors' Choice Award

HEALTH EDUCATOR AND PHONES SPECIALIST 07/2015 to 12/2018

The Chicago Women's Health Center, Chicago, IL

- Continually improved knowledge, skills and performance based on feedback and self-identified professional developmental needs
- Hiring and Management of front desk staff, ensuring client health care security, scheduling
- Provide culturally appropriate and accessible health education and information
- Partner with client to assess healthcare needs and administer health screenings
- Support client autonomy, providing tools for assessing risk and preventative care
- Member of the Inclusivity, Diversity, and Equity Committee (IDE)

SKILLS, AWARDS, AND ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Proficient in DAWS: Reaper
- Recipient of 2019 Air New Voices Award
- Presenter at the 2019 Third Coast International Audio Festival, session titled "Gonna Make You Sweat"
- Co-Founder of the Radio Rejects, a queer + POC audio collective challenging what it means to make experimental work based out of Los Angeles, Chicago, and New Orleans
- Ukulele, saxophone, and guitar player
- Ceramic and stained glass Artisan
- Chicago Childcare Collective, former core organizer, providing childcare to caregivers (specifically mothers) to participate in community organizing
- Kitchen Witch
- Advanced Spanish speaking skills

EDUCATION

12/2019

Full Spectrum Audio Storytelling Intensive– New York City

One week of workshops, hands-on instruction, lectures, pitch sessions and experiments

02/2020

Oral History Summer School - New York City

A two-day workshop on Oral History with a Queer Art focus

02/2018

Duke University - Durham, North Carolina

Intro to Podcasting, Center for Documentary Studies

Bachelor's Degree: Gender and Women's Studies, 2013, **University of Illinois** - Chicago, IL

Associate's Degree: 2011, **Harold Washington College** - Chicago, IL