



Nancy Kawalek

Professor and Distinguished Fellow in the Arts, Sciences, and Technology

Areas of Research Expertise

Theatre and performance, arts, innovation

Research Overview: STAGE Lab

Nancy Kawalek is an artist and innovator specializing in the creation and development of theatre inspired by science and technology.

Contact

Phone

773.702.5222

Address

Eckhardt Research Center
Room 215
5640 South Ellis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637

Email

kawalek@uchicago.edu

Website:

stage.ime.uchicago.edu

Assistant

Mary Pat McCullough

Research

Nancy Kawalek is the founder and director of *STAGE: Scientists, Technologists and Artists Generating Exploration*, a laboratory for devising multimedia theatre pieces using science and technology to inform content and structure.

Kawalek's team—an international array of professional artists, distinguished scientists, and talented students from all disciplines—engages in a collaborative work process modeled after the exploratory investigations of experimental science.

Through this practice of interdisciplinary creativity, *STAGE* stimulates and advances a deeper understanding of and support for the sciences in the public arena.

Bio

As a Studio Professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Kawalek taught acting, directing and the adaptation of literature for the stage. She was founder/director of UCSB's Professional Artists Lab, an incubator for creative professionals to collaborate on new work, and she originated *STAGE* at UCSB's California NanoSystems Institute.

Among the highlights of Kawalek's 25-plus years of professional acting experience is her role in *Strider* on Broadway, and several leading roles Off Broadway, including *Alice Without*, the one-woman show Kawalek co-authored. She has acted in regional theatre, film, television, numerous commercials, and on National Public Radio's acclaimed *Selected Shorts* series. Among her credits as a director is the documentary film, *Lost and Found*. She conceived, designed, and directed the opening events for the 100th anniversary of the Solvay Conferences in Physics, as well as the Nobel Week 2013 Festivities in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Kawalek earned a degree in Theatre and Performance Studies at Northwestern University.