

## **ANDREA SZÚCS, LMSW, RDT, SIFI**

Licensed Master of Social Work, Registered Drama Therapist, Seminar in Field Instruction, NY Certificate of Applied Positive Psychology  
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### **SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Creative, innovative self-starter with excellent leadership, and communication skills  
Trained as an actor ([Andrea Sooch](#)) and as a clinician (Andrea Szucs)  
Designed and developed programs and curriculum  
Co-creator of *The ACTing Cure* group model  
Researched, created and facilitated groups for individuals with ID/DD  
Experienced working with persons with Alzheimer's and dementia  
Focused on Experiential, Behavioral and Relation Oriented Therapies  
Proficient in languages: Native Hungarian, fluent English, fluent German  
Teaching experience in diverse fields and populations (educational, professional performance, wellness, languages, clinical)

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Columbia University - Columbia School of Social Work, NYC      September 2017 - Present  
***Field Supervisor / Part-time Lecturer***

- Supervision of MSW interns in field placement

AHRC, New York, NY      September 2014 – Present  
***Consultant Drama Therapist / Trainer / Supervisor***

- Designed and facilitated drama based projects and programs for groups and individuals with ID/DD -- using tools of Drama Therapy and Improvisational Theater.
- Supervised, trained and mentored interns
- Made assessments; case formulation / conceptualization / treatment plans
- Supported and cultivated talent, spotted strength and helped individuals with ID/DD to express feelings, discover and enhance creativity, autonomy and relatedness.
- Maintained records for each individual through progress notes and record of sessions.
- Assisted individuals with community integration and socialization skills.

New York Certificate of Applied Positive Psychology, NYC      December 2016 - Present  
***Teaching Assistant to Director***

- Assisted experiential and didactic sessions
- Conducted quality assessment of assignments / student communication
- Videography and editing

Hearthstone Alzheimer Care, New York, NY      December 2014 – January 2016  
***Assistant Program Director / Creative Drama Specialist***

- Facilitated all programs and developed new ones.
- Provided creative drama activities to help residents to maintain and maximize cognitive and communication skills – using tools of Drama Therapy and Improvisational Theater.
- Created daily full schedules and monthly events.
- Wrote service plans and conducted assessments.

- Executed management roles
- Established long-term relationships with community partners and families, conducted trips to community.
- Performed public speaking, participated in service plan meeting

AHRC, New York, NY 2012 –2014

***Social Work and Drama Therapy Intern***

- Provided clinical interventions with individual clients
- Researched, developed & facilitated therapeutic drama groups
- Mentored and supervised interns to co-lead drama group
- Made assessments; case formulation / conceptualization / treatment plans

Performance of a Lifetime, New York, NY 2006 – 2008

***Corporate Trainer / Actor / Facilitator***

- Facilitated transformative education through role-play
- Conducted experiential and didactic sessions

**EDUCATION**

Fordham University, New York, NY  
Master of Social Work, 2014  
Concentration: Clinical Leadership

North American Drama Therapy Association  
Registered Drama Therapist Alternative Training Program – Completed 2014

The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, New York, NY  
Professional Performance in Musical Theater, 1995

Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst , Vienna, Austria  
Associate Degree in Performing Arts, 1993

Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary  
Faculty of Education and Psychology / Centre of Teacher Training  
Bachelor's Degree in Teaching, 1988

**LICENSE, CERTIFICATION**

Seminar in Field Instruction, Fordham University, New York, NY - 2017

NY Certification in Applied Positive Psychology - NYC Open Center -2016

Registered Drama Therapist - NADTA – 2015 (#603)

Licensed Master of Social Work – State of NY – 2014 (#093231)

Interactive-Behavioral Therapy (Positive Group Psychotherapy for people with intellectual and psychiatric disabilities) Brock University, Ontario, Canada, 2013

## **AFFILIATIONS:**

AEA (Actors' Equity Association)

NADTA (North American Drama Therapy Association)

ASGPP (American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama)

SAG-AFTRA (The Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists)

## **PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE:**

*The ACTing Cure: Strengths-based Group Techniques for People with Intellectual Disabilities*  
38<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Drama Therapy Association Conference, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Roleplay as a Social Work Tool*

Guest Lecture, Fordham University, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Positive Psychology in Clinical Settings: Creative Interventions for Counseling & Psychotherapy*  
8th Annual Expressive Therapies Summit - New York, New York, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Engaging Persons with Dementia through Action Methods: A Strengths-Based Approach*  
8th Annual Expressive Therapies Summit - New York, New York, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Challenges, Triumphs, Successes*

Guest Lecture, Vanguard High School, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Wrong to Strong: Applying Positive Psychology to the Field of IDD*

Annual START National Training Institute Conference – Rye Brook, NY, May 2017

*Engaging Persons with Dementia through Action Methods: A Strengths-Based Approach*  
7th Annual Expressive Therapies Summit - New York, New York, November 10, 2016

*Positive Supervision: Positive Psychology in Action*

NADD 33rd Annual Conference - Niagara Falls, ON, Canada, November 3, 2016

*The Acting Cure: Strengths Based Group Techniques for People with Cognitive Limitations*  
74th Annual ASGPP Conference -- Phoenix , AZ, April 3, 2016

*Ménage à trois: Couples Therapy, Positive Psychology, and Psychodrama*

74th Annual ASGPP Conference -- Phoenix , AZ, March 31, 2016

*Positive Supervision in Mental Health*

Behavioral Health Network, Inc. -- Springfield, MA, March 9 - 11, 2016

*Make Volunteering Work for You*

The Actor's Fund of America

AWP Panel, New York City, NY, January 2016

*Positive Interactive-Behavioral Therapy*

ServiceNet, Springfield, MA, November 12-13, 2015

*Integrating Positive Psychology, Couples Therapy & Psychodrama*  
Expressive Therapies Summit -- NYC, November 8, 2015

*Positive Supervision for Mental Health Professionals*  
ServiceNet, Springfield, MA, October 30, 2015

*Working with Older Adults*  
The Actor's Fund of America  
AWP Panel, New York City, NY, November 2014

*Positive Supervision for Mental Health Professionals*  
Behavioral Health Network, Springfield, MA, October 2014

*Teaching Adults*  
The Actor's Fund of America  
AWP Panel, New York City, NY, March 2014

*Interactive-Behavioral Therapy – Positive Group Psychotherapy for people with intellectual and psychiatric disabilities*  
Brock University, Ontario, Canada, June 2013

**PUBLICATION:**

Tomasulo, D., & Szucs, A. (2015). The ACTing cure: evidence-based group treatment for people with intellectual disabilities. *Dramatherapy*, 37(2-3), 100-115.

On line: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02630672.2016.116282>

**UPCOMING PRESENTATION:**

*Positive Psychotherapy – Cultivating Hope Through Strength Based Practices*  
Annual START National Training Institute Conference – Boston, MA, May 2018