

## **Tavia La Follette - Biography**

Tavia La Follette's work has been the subject of articles in publications such as *The Economist*, *Rolling Stone Magazine* and the *New York Times*. Currently she is the Artist in Residence at Carnegie Mellon University's Center for Arts in Society and CREATE Lab.



“SUN & MOON” by Tavia La Follette for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's First Night Pageant.  
Photo credit: Renee Rosensteel

Originally from New York City, Tavia La Follette is a director, designer, curator and performance artist. Her work has been seen at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, Arts at St. Ann's (St. Ann's Warehouse), the Tenement Museum, the Williamsburg Historical Society, and the Cooler in NYC. In Pittsburgh, where she is currently based, she has exhibited/performed at the Mattress Factory Museum, the Three Rivers Arts Festival, First Night, the Pittsburgh International Children's Festival, the Cultural Trust's Gallery Crawl and Gallerie Chiz. In the fall of 2010 she joined Carnegie Mellon University's Center for Arts in Society as the first Artist-in-Residence where she completed her doctoral research.

Tavia earned her MFA in Performance-Pedagogy from the University of Pittsburgh and recently completed her PhD in Leadership and Change through Culture and the Arts at Antioch University. She has taught, directed and designed at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, the Carnegie Museum, Colby College, Point Park University, Carnegie Mellon University, Earlham College, the University of Pittsburgh, Chatham University, and at the University of Virginia via the Semester at Sea program.

Tavia is the Founder and Director of ArtUp, a non-profit arts organization whose mission is to bridge a language of peace through the actions of art. ArtUp is a border crossing space for artists and companies that are concerned with exploring the contextual inter-relationships of theater, visual arts, movement, media, and sound. The work and archives can be seen at <http://www.artup.org>.



Her work has toured all over the United States, Europe, South America, Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. Awards include the 2013 Investing in Professional Artists award (\$35,000), the 2007 Artist Recognition Award (\$10,000 anonymous donor), the Heinz Creative Heights Award (\$40,000), the Sprout Fund, the Heinz Small Arts, the Greater Pittsburgh Artist Opportunity Grant, The Pittsburgh Foundation's A.W. Mellon Award, and most recently the *Having a Global Impact* award by the Women and Girls Foundation.

<http://www.artup.org>

<http://www.sitesofpassage.org>