

SHANARA GABRIELLE

Director and Theatre Artist

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www.shanaragabrielle.com/portfolio/directing

Upcoming Projects

The Playboy of the Western World, by Bisi Adigun/Roddy Doyle, from Synge (2020)
Solas Nua Theatre, Director
**in a new modern version, set among gangs in West Dublin, the playboy is a Nigerian asylum seeker in Ireland.*

Recent Projects

Dear Jack, Dear Louise, by Ken Ludwig
Arena Stage, Associate Director

Belfast Girls, by Jaki McCarrick
Solas Nua Theatre, Director (East Coast Premiere Reading)

Heart of Robin Hood, by David Farr
Door Shakespeare

River Like Sin, by Lindsay Adams
Catholic University of America

Bread, by Jaclyn Enchin
Spooky Action Theatre, The Kennedy Center - Page-to-Stage

Every 28 Hours
Oregon Shakespeare Festival/One-Minute Play Fest

Charlotte's Web, adapted from E.B. White
Imagination Stage - Movement Director

A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare
Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Touring Company

Tomás and the Library Lady, by Pat Mora and José Cruz González
The Coterie Theatre

Elephant & Piggie: We Are In A Play, by Mo Willems
The Coterie Theatre - 2017 & 2019 "back by popular demand" remount

Two Gentlemen of Verona, by William Shakespeare
Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Touring Company

New Kid, by Dennis Foon
Metro Theatre Company

A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare
Great Lakes Theatre/Idaho Shakespeare - Associate Director/Choreographer

Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare
Door Shakespeare Company - Movement Director

A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare
Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Shake38
**an interdisciplinary performance event in collaboration with visual artist Ben Kaplan and Project Runway fashion designer Michael Drummond.*

Swallows and Amazons, by Neil Hannon and Helen Edmundson
COCA Presents: Family Theater Series, U.S. Premiere

Blues for Mister Charlie, by James Baldwin
The Black Rep & Washington University - Assistant Director

Hansel and Gretel: The Next Generation, by Kim Esop Wylie
The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Imaginary Theatre Company

The Little Prince, by Rick Cummins
COCA Presents: Family Theater Series

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare
Webster Conservatory - Movement Director

Suessical, by Ahrens & Flaherty
Villa Duchesne Academy

The Pajama Game, by Adler/Ross & Abbott/Bissell
Villa Duchesne Academy

Wisewrite, by selected young playwrights
The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

Her Kind: The Life and Poetry of Anne Sexton, by Hannah Wolfe
New York Fringe Festival
San Francisco Fringe Festival
Bowery Poetry Club/Dixon Place Theatre

ANON(ymous), by Naomi Iizuka
COCA Theatre Ensemble

Arts Leadership (selected)

Statera Arts DC Chapter, launching 2020

Founding Director

About Statera Arts: Uplift, Amplify, Advance. StateraArts is dedicated to creating pathways that bring women into full and equal participation in the arts.

Artists-as-Tutors, 2014-2016

Founder and Executive Director

About Artists-as-Tutors: With creativity and compassion, AAT connects artists with communities through mentorship and arts engagement. Founded in Ferguson in the wake of Michael Brown's murder, AAT is an organization with a social justice focus on the impact of the arts on communities.

* Featured in Rolling Stone Magazine

* Talib Kweli's Action Support Committee Organizational Grant Recipient

Center of Creative Arts, 2009-2016

COCA Theatre Company Director

About COCA Theatre Company: As a performance company of Center of Creative Arts, whose mission is to enrich lives and build community through the arts, CTC enables young actors to perform in professional productions and work with top theatre professionals.

Great River Shakespeare Festival, 2011

Education Director and Events Manager

About GRSF: Great River Shakespeare Festival creates dynamic, clearly spoken productions of Shakespeare's plays, which enrich people's lives through artistic excellence, education, and community engagement.

Awards and Honors

Princess Grace Foundation Award Recipient, Grace LeVine Theatre Award
TCG -Theatre Communications Group, Audience Revolution Grantee
Regional Arts Commission, Individual Artist Grant
Visionary Artist Award - Working Female Artist, Nominee
Write Now Conference Grantee and Attendee
Arts Maven of the Year - Alive Magazine
Best of St. Louis Theatre 2014 for Directing “Swallows and Amazons”
Critics Circle Awards - Best Acting Nominee/Award Winner, Best New Play Nominee (director)
Alumni Association Leadership Award, Dean’s Award for Service, Marita Woodruff Award

Professional Associations

TCG Individual Member, TCG’s “Ferguson Moment” founding member, TYA-USA member,
Proud 15-year member of Actor’s Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA

Adjunct Faculty, Guest Artist, and Educator

Catholic University of America, Lecturer and Theatre Faculty, 2018 - 2020
University of Maryland, Adjunct Performance Faculty, 2020
University of Missouri St. Louis, Theatre Faculty, 2015 - 2016
St. Louis University, Theatre Faculty, 2014 - 2016
Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts, 2014 - 2016
Washington University Guest Artist, 2015
Great River Shakespeare Festival Education Director, 2011
St. Mary's University Guest Artist, 2008

Education and Training

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Magna Cum Laude Graduate; Webster Conservatory of Theatre Arts

Summary

As a leader in the theatre field with a focus on inventive, engaging theatre for all audiences; Shanara has the charisma, drive, and vision to make things happen. She’s worked at the greatest theatres across the country, directed world premieres, and produced some of them most innovative performance experiences ever to sell-out audiences. Looking forward to the next step as an institutional leader, Shanara has the skills to lead and the curiosity to grow.

Or, more personally... A proud lowan, Shanara has worked in theatres all across the country - she brings professionalism, impeccable training, and an open spirit to every job she takes on. Shanara makes a mean bowl of popcorn, can whip up a delicious meal from an empty cabinet, and since she's an aerialist, she can probably climb a rope faster than you can. Though she loves her work, when she's not in the rehearsal room or in the theatre, look for her to be road-tripping with her family and spending time in the sunshine.