

SHANARA GABRIELLE

Director and Theatre Artist

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www.shanaragabrielle.com/portfolio/directing/

Upcoming Projects

Elephant & Piggie: We Are In A Play, by Mo Willems (2019)
The Coterie Theatre - “back by popular demand” remount

Recent Projects

River Like Sin, by Lindsay Adams
Catholic University of America

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

Heart of Robin Hood, by David Farr
Door Shakespeare Company

Elephant & Piggie: We Are In A Play, by Mo Willems
The Coterie Theatre

A Midsummer Night’s Dream, by William Shakespeare
Great Lakes Theatre, Associate Director

A Midsummer Night’s Dream, by William Shakespeare
Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Choreographer/Movement Director

New Kid, by Dennis Foon
Metro Theatre Company

Locked In, En Musikal inspirerad av Normalmstorgsdramat
Lovewell Institute, Oskarshamn Sweden
**a new devised musical theatre piece written in conjunction with students aged 16-22 and professional composers, writers, and theatre artists.*

Julius Caesar & Midsummer - Movement Director
Door Shakespeare Company

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

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

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

BITE! A Play for Families Who Eat, by Nancy Bell
OnSite Theatre Company
**a site-specific performance of a world premiere play, created for and hosted by visual artist and activist Cbabi Bayoc’s bakery: Sweet Art*

A Midsummer Night’s Dream, by William Shakespeare
Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Shake38
**a cross-disciplinary event in collaboration with visual artist Ben Kaplan and Project Runway fashion designer Michael Drummond.*

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

Two Gentlemen of Verona, by William Shakespeare
Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Touring Company
The Little Prince, by Rick Cummins
COCA Presents: Family Theater Series
The Tempest, by William Shakespeare - Movement Director
Loretto-Hilton Center, Webster Conservatory
Blues for Mister Charlie, by James Baldwin
Assistant Director, Washington University/The Black Rep
Swallows and Amazons, by Neil Hannon and Helen Edmundson
COCA Presents: Family Theater Series, U.S Premiere
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
The Hundred Dresses, by Mary Hall Surface
COCA Theatre Ensemble
Antigone in Progress, adapted from Sophocles by Ensemble, Assistant Director
Epic Theatre Ensemble

Movement Director and Choreographer

Imagination Stage
Idaho Shakespeare Festival
Great Lakes Theatre
Catholic University of America
The Coterie Theatre
Door Shakespeare Company
Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts
Belle of the Ball Productions

Related Experience

Acting Resume available on website.
Regional highlights: Arena Stage, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Guthrie Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Great Lakes Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Notre Dame Shakespeare, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Northern Stage and many more.
NYC highlights: The Wild Party, Meet Me In St. Louis, Twelfth Night, American Girls Revue, War Bonds, In The Mood, and many more.
TV & Film highlights: House of Cards, The Enemy Within, Conan, NBC's Chicago Fire, Conviction, CBS's Guiding Light, numerous commercials and independent films.
Aerialist and performer, reels available on website.

Guest Artist, Adjunct Faculty, and Educator

Catholic University of America, 2019
The Academy for Classical Acting at George Washington University, 2019
University of Missouri St. Louis, 2015 - 2016
St. Louis University, 2014 - 2016
Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts, 2014 - 2016
Washington University, 2015
Winona State University, 2009-2011
St. Mary's University, 2008
Artists as Tutors, 2014-2016, Founder
Center of Creative Arts, 2009-2015
Great River Shakespeare Festival, 2011
Stages Academy, 2009-2011

Education and Training

Bachelor of Fine Arts: Musical Theatre; Minor: Comparative Religions
Magna Cum Laude Graduate; Webster University, Saint Louis, MO - May 2001

Movement Training

Aerial, Circus, Acro: International Aerial Arts Festival, Boulder, CO
Grotowski/A-C-T: Moon Fool Theatre and Anna-Helena McLean
Clown: Jef Awada
Aerial and Circus Training: Kat Day & Laura Stokes (silks, lyra, created apparatus)
Dance Improvisation/Acro Partnering: Bekah Voight, Wise Fool Theatrics
Suzuki/Viewpoints: Anna Pileggi, Washington University

On Camera Training

Commercial On-Camera Training: Stone Street New York University Tisch School
Commercial Audition Technique: Barry Shapiro
Film, TV, Commercial: Vagabond School of the Arts, Chicago

Additional Training

Ongoing Acting Technique: Alec Wild, Austin Pendleton
Marketing for Actors: Heidi Dean, Social Media and Marketing Rockstar Graduate

Awards and Honors

Grace LeVine Theatre Award, Princes Grace Foundation
TCG -Theatre Communications Group, Audience Revolution Grantee
Visionary Award - Women in Arts, Nominee
Regional Arts Commission, Individual Artist Grant
Write Now Conference Participant
Marita Woodruff Award, Webster Conservatory
Webster Alumni Association Leadership Award
Dean's Award for Service Recipient, Webster University
Talib Kweli's Ferguson Defense Fund Grant Recipient, Artists-As-Tutors
Regional Arts Commission Social Impact Grant Recipient, Artists-As-Tutors
Best of St. Louis Theatre 2014 for Directing "Swallows and Amazons"
Best Actress - winner, 48 Hr. Film Festival
Critics Circle Awards - Best Actress Nominee and Award Winner

Biography

Shanara Gabrielle is a theatre artist working in a wide variety of mediums. As a director, actor, and teacher Ms. Gabrielle is keen to find these arts' points of intersection and discover new ways to shape the future of American performance. Both in the classroom and in the professional world, Ms. Gabrielle is driven by exploring physical strength, courage, and emotional risk-taking in conjunction with clear storytelling and heightened language. She is interested in creating new work and reimagining traditional texts. She has been fortunate to work closely with playwrights, directors, actors, and musicians on a number of new plays and musicals as well as had the pleasure of exploring the great classics, from Dickens to Coleridge to Shakespeare.

Ms. Gabrielle is a recipient of the prestigious Princess Grace Foundation Award in theatre, a Visionary Women in the Arts Nominee, and Grant Recipient for the TCG Audience Revolution Convening. She recently received a Regional Arts Commission Grant to partner with Lovewell Institute in Sweden as a director and deviser of new musical theatre works. Ms. Gabrielle is also the founder of Artists-As-Tutors, a non-profit arts organization created in Ferguson, MO in August 2014, which strives, "With creativity and compassion, to connect artists and students through mentorship and arts engagement," and which received a major grant from Talib Kweli's Ferguson Defense Fund, and earned national recognition in Rolling Stone Magazine.

Ms. Gabrielle has worked professionally at theaters across the country including: Arena Stage, Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Guthrie Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Great Lakes Theatre, Northern Stage, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Imagination Stage, The Coterie Theater, Metropolitan Playhouse, St. Louis Repertory Theatre, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Stages St. Louis, Theatre for the New City, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Hollywood Playhouse, Musicals Tonight, The Black Rep, American Heartland Theatre, Upstream Theater, and has been an ensemble member at The Great River Shakespeare Festival. She has appeared in film, television, and commercials. She is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association and Screen Actor's Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

or, in brief:

A proud Iowan, Shanara has worked all over the country - from prime time guest star roles to Shakespearean heroines, 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 on set or on stage, look for her to be road-tripping with her family and spending time in the sunshine.

References

Jeff Church, Artistic Director, The Coterie Theatre (jefchurch@aol.com, 816-863-1127)
Jennifer Wintzer, Producing A.D., Shakespeare Festival St. Louis (jwintzer@sfstl.com, 314-531-9800)
Joe Hanreddy, Director, Former A.D. of Milwaukee Rep. (jhanreddy@gmail.com, 414-708-6398)
Shawna Flanigan, Director of Arts, Center of Creative Arts (sflanigan@cocastl.org, 314-725-1834)