

Shanara Gabrielle

Theatre Artist and Educator
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www.shanaragabrielle.com

Collegiate Teaching Experience

Catholic University of America, 2019
Lecturer, Drama Department, Graduate Studies
Integrated Movement - M.F.A. students

The Academy for Classical Acting at George Washington University, 2019
Guest Faculty, Shakespeare Theatre Company, M.F.A. training program
Professionalism and Marketing for Actors, On Camera Audition technique

University of Missouri St. Louis, 2015 - 2016
Adjunct Theatre Faculty
Acting I & II, Theatre Movement and Voice, Audition Technique

St. Louis University, 2014 - 2016
Adjunct Theatre Faculty
Acting I & II, Voice and Movement for the Theatre

Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts, 2014 - 2016
Guest Theatre Faculty
Commercial/On Camera Acting, Showcase and Professional Development

Washington University, 2015
Guest Theatre Faculty - Lifelong Learning Institute
Shakespeare in Performance

Winona State University, 2009-2011
Teacher and Guest Artist - Elderhostel Continuing Education
Acting Shakespeare

St. Mary's University, 2008
Guest Artist in Residence
Musical Theatre Department - Voice and Acting

Additional Teaching Experience

Acting and Audition Coach, 2012-2019

Private coach for professional and developing actors

*Focus on: audition coaching, applying theatre skills to on camera work, and works as on-set acting coach for film and TV

Artists as Tutors, 2014-2016

Founder and Co-Director

*With creativity and compassion, we connect artists and students through mentorship and arts engagement.

Center of Creative Arts, 2009-2015

Theatre Faculty, COCA Theatre Company Director

*Classes taught include: Musical Theatre, Acting, Vocal Technique, Theatre Movement, Audition technique, Circus skills

Great River Shakespeare Festival, 2011

Education Director: Managed all educational outreach, created all-ages programming

Stages Academy, 2009-2011

Musical Theatre Faculty, Choreographer and Director

*Classes taught include: Musical Theatre, Dance for Actors, Audition technique, Monologue Prep, On Camera Technique

Gilmore Creek Summer Theatre, 2008

Vocal coach for full summer season of professional musical theatre

Hospital Audiences Incorporated, 2002-2006

Creative Movement-Dance-Drama Teacher, built and executed lesson plans

The Leadership Program, 2002-2005

Violence Prevention Program Facilitator for drama based leadership training in schools

Piper Theatre Productions, 2002

Education Director, Created and taught Shakespeare curriculum for 12-19 year olds

Epic Theatre Center, 2002

Assistant Director and teacher for "Antigone in Progress"

PrisonArts Program, 2001

Taught 10-18 year olds in State Juvenile Detention Center

Movement Director and Choreographer

Imagination Stage

Idaho Shakespeare Festival

Great Lakes Theatre

The Coterie Theatre

Door Shakespeare

Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts

Belle of the Ball Productions

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

Commerical 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

Directing Experience (selected)

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

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

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

New Kid, by Dennis Foon
Metro Theatre Company

Locked In, En Musikal inspirerad av Normalmstorgsdramat
Lovewell Institute, Oskarshamn Sweden
**a new devised musical written in conjunction with students and professional theatre artists.*

Julius Caesar & Midsummer - Movement Director/Choreographer
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

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

ANON(ymous), by Naomi Iizuka
COCA Theatre Ensemble

The Hundred Dresses, by Mary Hall Surface
COCA Theatre Ensemble

Performance Resume (selected)

Theatre (selected)

JUNK	Amy Merkin	Arena Stage (Dir. Jackie Maxwell)
Romeo & Juliet	Lady Montague	Shakespeare Theatre Co. (Dir. Alan Paul)
The Comedy of Errors	Adriana/Luciana (us)	Shakespeare Theatre Co. (Dir. Alan Paul)
Twelfth Night	Olivia	Alchemical Theatre (Dir. Christopher Marino)
<i>Charlotte's Web</i>	Charlotte	Imagination Stage (Dir. Kathryn Chase Bryer)
<i>Trojan Women</i>	Andromache	Taffety Punk (Dir. Kelsey Mesa)
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Christmas Past/Narrator	Actors Theatre of Louisville (Dir. Drew Fracher)
<i>She Loves Me</i>	Ilona Ritter	Guthrie Theater (Dir. John Miller-Stephany)
<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	Elvira	Idaho Shakespeare/Great Lakes (Dir. Charles Fee)
<i>A Winter's Tale</i>	Hermione	Notre Dame Shakespeare (Dir. Drew Fracher)
<i>Clybourne Park</i>	Betsy/Lindsey	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis (Dir. Timothy Near)
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	Courtesan	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis (Dir. Paul Barnes)
<i>They're Playing our Song</i>	Sonia (swing/us)	Stages St. Louis (Dir. Stephen Bourneuf)
<i>Yentl</i>	Yentl	New Jewish Theatre (Dir. Edward Coffield/Jill Sobule)
<i>Maple & Vine</i>	Katha	Hot City Theatre (Dir. Doug Finlayson)
<i>Black Pearl Sings!</i>	Susannah Mullally	The Black Rep (Dir. Andrea Frye)
<i>Macbeth</i>	Witch/Murderer	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis (Dir. Paul Barnes)
<i>The Love List</i>	Justine	American Heartland Theatre (Dir. Paul Hough)
<i>Othello</i>	Desdemona	Great River Shakespeare Festival (Dir. Alec Wild)
<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	Rosaline	Great River Shakespeare Festival (Dir. Paul Barnes)
<i>The Wild Party</i>	Queenie	Columbia Stages (Dir. Saheem Ali)
<i>Meet Me In St. Louis</i>	Rose Smith	Musicals Tonight (Dir. Tom Mills)
<i>The American Girls Revue</i>	Millie/Cornelia/Tia	Original NY Cast, American Girl Place (Dir. H. deMichele)
<i>Lend Me a Tenor</i>	Maggie	Northern Stage (Dir. Catherine Doherty)
<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	Sarah Brown	Northern Stage (Dir. Brooke Ciardelli)
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Viola	Great River Shakespeare Festival (Dir. Alec Wild)
<i>Chicago</i>	Roxie Hart	Arrowrock Lyceum Theatre (Dir. Christopher Windom)
<i>Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i>	Albatross, Mariner	Upstream Theater (Dir. Patrick Siler/Lisa Tejero)
<i>Hannah Senesh</i>	Hannah/Catherine	New Jewish Theatre (Dir. Kat Singleton)

Film & TV (selected)

<i>House of Cards, Chapter 72</i>	Co-Star	Netflix, Dir. Alik Sakharov
<i>The Enemy Within, pilot</i>	Co-Star	NBC pilot, Dir. Mark Pellington
<i>Conan</i>	Co-Star	TBS, Writer/Dir. Robert Smigel
<i>Chicago Fire "One More Shot"</i>	Guest Star	NBC Primetime, Dir. Jean de Segonzac
<i>Conviction "180.80/Hostage"</i>	Co-Star	NBC Primetime, Dir. Norberto Barba
<i>Guiding Light</i>	Co-Star	CBS Daytime
<i>Whisper</i>	Principal (best actress)	Independent Short, Dir. Alec Wild
<i>Madeleine</i>	Principal	Independent Short, Dir. Peter Engelsmann
<i>Zoe</i>	Principal	Independent Short, Dir. Steve Isom
<i>Canon Cameras</i>	Supporting	ADM Productions, Dir. Gabriel Barre
<i>Books & Beans</i>	Principal	Adobe Premiere Pro Industrial Short

Special Skills & Training

Sing (Soprano with Belt), Aerialist (silks, lyra, trapeze, partnering), Strong mover/dancer
Extensive Dialect Training, Stage Combat, Functional piano and guitar, Play flute and piccolo well

Commerical

Extensive commercial and industrial resume, conflicts available upon request.

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 lowan, 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 onset or onstage, look for her to be road-tripping with her family and spending time in the sunshine.

References

Jacqueline Thompson, Theatre Dept, University of Missouri (Thompsonjac@umsl.edu, 314-494-4274)
Shawna Flanigan, Director of Arts, Center of Creative Arts (sflanigan@cocastl.org, 314-725-1834)
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)