

# Shanara Gabrielle

Theatre Artist and Educator  
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Professional with 10+ years of collegiate teaching experience at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Theatre artist with 20+ years of professional work at the highest level, in theaters across the country, as well as in TV, Film, commercial, and on-camera mediums.

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## Collegiate Teaching Experience

University of Maryland, College Park, 2020 - present  
Faculty Professor, Graduate Studies  
Acting & Movement Faculty  
Movement Director, Maryland Opera Studio  
Adjunct Faculty, Undergraduate Theatre Department  
On-Camera Acting  
Business and Marketing for Artists

Catholic University of America, 2019 - present  
Lecturer, Drama Graduate Studies  
Integrated Movement and Devising  
Theatre for Communities and All Audiences  
Lecturer, Undergraduate Musical Theatre Department  
Business of Theatre  
Acting The Song  
On Camera Acting Intensive  
Audition Technique

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 and Acting II  
Theatre Movement and Voice  
Audition Technique

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

## Collegiate Teaching Experience (cont.)

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 in 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

Artists as Tutors, 2014-2016  
Founder and Co-Director

Center of Creative Arts, 2009-2015  
COCA Theatre Company Director, Theatre Faculty

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

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

PrisonArts Program, 2001  
Taught 10-18 year olds in State Juvenile Detention Center

## **Awards and Honors**

Grace LeVine Theatre Award, Princess 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

## **Professional Associations**

Regional Director, StateraArts - "Bringing women into full & equal participation in the arts."  
Stage Directors and Choreographer's Society Associate Member  
Founding member of TCG's The Ferguson Moment and "Every 28 Hours" Festival  
TCG Individual Member  
TYA-USA Member  
Proud 15-year member of Actor's Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA

## **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

## Selected Directing Experience

*The Playboy of the Western World*, by Bisi Adigun/Roddy Doyle, from Synge (2020-21)  
Solas Nua Theatre, Director

*Enlightenment*, by Theresa Rebeck (2020-21)  
Arena Stage, Associate Director

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

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

*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

*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 Midsummer Night's Dream*, by William Shakespeare  
Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Shake38

*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

### Movement Director and Choreographer (selected)

Imagination Stage, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theatre, The Coterie Theatre,  
Door Shakespeare, Webster Conservatory of Theatre Arts, Belle of the Ball Productions

## Selected Performance Experience

### Theatre (selected)

|                                    |                         |   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Easy Women...</i>               | Lee                     | Signature Theater (Dir. Eric Schaeffer)                   |
| <i>JUNK</i>                        | Amy Merkin              | Arena Stage (Dir. Jackie Maxwell)                         |
| <i>Romeo &amp; Juliet</i>          | Lady Montague           | Shakespeare Theatre Co. (Dir. Alan Paul)                  |
| <i>The Comedy of Errors</i>        | Adriana/Luciana (us)    | Shakespeare Theatre Co. (Dir. Alan Paul)                  |
| <i>Twelfth Night</i>               | 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 with a focus on gutsy, inventive, engaging theatre for all audiences. As a director, actor, and arts leader, Ms. Gabrielle is keen to find these arts' points of intersection and discover new ways to shape the future of performance. Driven by exploring stories of justice and tales of imagination, she is interested in creating new work and reimagining traditional texts with artists of courage and depth.

Ms. Gabrielle has worked at the greatest theatres across the country, directed world premieres, and produced some of the most innovative performance experiences ever to sell out audiences. Ms. Gabrielle is dedicated to creating transparent, anti-racist, anti-bias creative processes and has a dedicated 51% non-white/cis/abled practice in her creative team building. Her directorial work has been lauded as “specific, joyful and a celebration of all that is great theatrical art”, “a terrific mixture of intelligence and instinct”, and “visceral, intimately connected with the audience, extremely smart and utterly engaging.” As a director and collaborator, “Shanara Gabrielle approaches her work with imagination, a dynamic point of view, and great technical skill”, “Director Shanara Gabrielle does a marvelous job...and pretty much guarantees a unique theatre-going experience.” - Broadway World, “Gabrielle poses thoughtful questions about the nature of responsibility and the relationship between actors and audience. - St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Ms. Gabrielle is a recipient of the prestigious Princess Grace Foundation Award in theatre, the Grace LeVine Theatre Award, a Visionary Women in the Arts Nominee, and was named by Alive Magazine “Arts Maven of the Year.” Shanara’s directing work has been nominated for a Critic’s Circle Award, and noted as the “Best of the Year” for the U.S. Premiere of Swallows & Amazons. As an actress, Shanara has won numerous Kevin Kline awards and Critic’s Circle awards. Shanara is a grant recipient for the TCG Audience Revolution Convening, a Regional Arts Commission Individual Artist Grantee, a Write Now Conference Grantee, a founding member of TCG’s The Ferguson Moment and the “Every 28 Hours” Festival. Ms. Gabrielle is also the founder of Artists-As-Tutors, a non-profit arts and education organization founded in Ferguson, MO in August 2014 and created in the wake Michael Brown’s murder, which strives “with creativity and compassion, to connect artists and students through mentorship and arts engagement.” AAT received a major grant from Talib Kweli’s Ferguson Defense Fund, and earned national recognition in Rolling Stone Magazine.

Shanara has been on the artistic leadership team at the Center of Creative Arts, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Artists-As-Tutors, and Sharpfield Films. She is the founding director of the Statera Arts DC regional chapter, launched in 2020, focused on mentorship to uplift, amplify, and advance women in the arts.

A proud lowan, Shanara 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 or spending time in the sunshine.

## **References**

Eleanor Holdridge, Drama Dept. Chair, Catholic University of America (holdridge@cua.edu, 917-488-6749)  
Jacqueline Thompson, Theatre Dept, University of Missouri (thompsonjac@umsl.edu, 314-494-4274)  
Jennifer Wintzer, Artistic Director of Theatre, Center of Creative Arts (jwintzer@cocastl.org, 314-561-4857)