

# SHANARA GABRIELLE

Artistic Leader • Director • Cultural Producer

SDC • AEA • SAG-AFTRA

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Shanara Gabrielle is a theatre artist with a focus on inventive, gutsy, and engaging experiences for all audiences. As a director, producer, and leader, Shanara is inspired to shape the future of arts institutions and artistic practice as essentials of civic life. Driven by stories of justice and tales of imagination, she is interested in creating new work and reimagining traditional texts with artists of courage and depth. With the skills to lead and curiosity to grow, Shanara is looking forward to the next step as an institutional leader, and has the charisma, drive, and vision to make things happen.

## Professional Director & Producer, SDC

About: With 10 years of experience and having worked with some of the country's greatest artists, directed world premiere new works, forged community partnerships, and directed sell-out shows.

Highlights include: Numerous awards including Critic's Circle, People's Choice, "Best of", and more. Close professional relationships with many renowned artistic leaders, actors, and designers.

## Statera Arts DC

## Regional Director

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

Areas of responsibility: development, marketing, artistic leadership, grassroots community organizing, publicity, mentor recruitment, institutional relationship building, national reporting.

## Arena Stage

## Literary Team

About Arena Stage: Arena Stage's vision is to galvanize the transformative power of theater to understand who we are as Americans.

Areas of responsibility: play selection committee reporting team member, reading scripts, writing play reports, helping to foster new plays for season and developmental.

## Professional Actor, AEA & SAG-AFTRA

About: With 15 years of professional experience having performed at the greatest theaters across the country and worked in all on-camera mediums. Extensive resume available upon request.

Theatre Credits Include: Signature Theatre, Arena Stage, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Guthrie Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Co., St. Louis Rep, The Black Rep, and Great Lakes Theatre.

TV & Film Credits Include: House of Cards, Chicago Fire, Conviction, The Enemy Within, The Conan Show, Whisper, and also the face of Mytonomy Health, Toyota, Canon, and many more.

\* Including Best Actress nominations and wins: Helen Hayes, Critics Circle, STL Film Festival.

## A.A.T. Ferguson

## Founder and Executive Director

About Artists-as-Tutors: With creativity and compassion, AAT connects artists and students 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 in the lives of young people.

Areas of responsibility: ideation, budgeting, grant writing, development, artistic programming, marketing, personnel management, community outreach, parent and teacher relationship building.

\* Featured in Rolling Stone Magazine and supported by Talib Kweli's Action Committee

## Center of Creative Arts

## COCA Theatre Company Director

About COCA Theatre Company: A performance company of Center of Creative Arts, whose mission is to enrich lives and build community through the arts, CTC produces professional theatre for families.

Areas of responsibility: artistic programming for performance company, directing shows, developing curriculum for pre-professional training, hiring of artistic personnel, artist relationship building.

## Sharpfield Films

## Artistic Producer

About Sharpfield Films: A film production company that believes in telling creative, compelling stories from concept to final delivery and helps to bring company's and individual's stories to life.

Areas of responsibility: creating and managing budgets, design and concept organization, scheduling, personnel management, artistic hiring, payroll and contracting.

## Great River Shakespeare Festival

## Education Director & Events Manager

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

Areas of responsibility: community engagement, fundraising ideation and leadership, producing events, creating all-ages programming, managing teaching artists, apprentices, and education staff.

## Professional Positions

District Dramatists - The Reach @ The Kennedy Center, Founding Member

Anti-Bias & Structure Team Lead

The Ferguson Moment, Founding Member

National activism organizer with Theatre Communications Group

Solas Nua Theatre, Literary Team

Play reader/reporter for theater with a focus on contemporary Irish arts

Grand Center Arts Academy, Board Member

Volunteer Development Director & Events Coordinator

TCG Individual Member

Conference Presenter, Grant recipient

TYA-USA member

Freelancers Affinity Group, 2020 Conference Artist-Host

Proud union member of SDC, Actor's Equity Association, and SAG-AFTRA

## 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
- Grant Recipient: DC Arts & Humanities Commission, Equity League, SDC Foundation
- Write Now Conference Grantee and Participant
- Arts Maven of the Year - Alive Magazine
- Webster Alumni Association Leadership Award, Dean's Award for Service, Webster University

## Collegiate Teaching Experience

University of Maryland, College Park 2020 - present

Professional Track Faculty Professor: Acting & Movement

Graduate Studies Maryland Opera Studio: MM, Theatre: BA

Catholic University of America 2018 - present

Faculty Lecturer: Acting, Musical Theatre, & Movement

Graduate Studies: MFA ,Musical Theatre: BM, Acting Conservatory: BFA

University of Missouri St. Louis 2015 - 2016

Adjunct Faculty: Fine & Performing Arts - Theatre & Drama: BA

St. Louis University 2014 - 2016

Adjunct Faculty: Performing Arts - Theatre Performance: BA

Guest Artist Faculty 2008 - present

George Washington University, Webster Conservatory, Washington University.

## Professional Directing Resume (selected)

<i>Working, a musical*</i>	Labor Heritage Foundation/AFL-CIO	*upcoming 2021-22 Schwartz/Miranda/Taylor
<i>Title TBA*</i>	Broadway Premiere (Associate Director)	Ken Ludwig
<i>Enlightenment*</i>	Arena Stage (Associate Director)	Theresa Rebeck
<i>The Respectful Prostitute*</i>	the cell, NYC	Jean-Paul Sartre
<i>Kept Under Glass</i>	Goethe Institut - Washington DC	various female composers
<i>Shear Pandemic</i>	BAADAss Women's Festival, NYC	Gonzalez/Ramirez/Finklestein
<i>Playboy of the Western World*</i>	Solas Nua Theatre	adapted by Adigun/Doyle
<i>History of Love</i>	Spooky Action Theatre	Robert Bowen Smith
<i>The Winter's Tale</i>	ACA at Shakespeare Theatre Co.	William Shakespeare
<i>Natural, a radio play adaptation</i>	The 4208 Group	Dana Leslie Goldstein
<i>The Devil &amp; June Gantry</i>	District Dramatists (Workshop)	Spotswood/Daughtery
<i>Dear Jack, Dear Louise</i>	Arena Stage (Assistant Director)	Ken Ludwig
<i>The Heart of Robin Hood</i>	Door Shakespeare	David Farr
<i>River Like Sin</i>	Catholic University of America	Lindsay Adams
<i>Charlotte's Web</i>	Imagination Stage (Movement Director)	adapted from E.B. White
<i>Bread</i>	Spooky Action (US Premiere Workshop)	Jaclyn Enchin
<i>Belfast Girls</i>	Solas Nua (Regional Premiere Workshop)	Jaki McCarrick
<i>Bread</i>	The Kennedy Center, Page-to-Stage	Jaclyn Enchin
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Tour	William Shakespeare
<i>Elephant &amp; Piggie</i>	Coterie Theatre	Willems/Wicks LaPuma
<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Tour	William Shakespeare
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Idaho Shakespeare (Movement Director)	William Shakespeare
<i>New Kid</i>	Metro Theatre Company	Dennis Foon
<i>Elephant &amp; Piggie</i>	Coterie Theatre	Willems/Wicks LaPuma
<i>Every 28 Hours Plays</i>	Calling Up & Oregon Shakespeare	various playwrights
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Great Lakes Theatre (remount Director)	William Shakespeare
<i>Tomás and the Library Lady</i>	Coterie Theatre	Mora/Cruz González
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Shakespeare Festival St. Louis Shake38	William Shakespeare
<i>*in collaboration with visual artist Ben Kaplan &amp; Project Runway fashion designer Michael Drummond</i>		
<i>Swallows and Amazons</i>	COCA Family Theater Series	Hannon/Edmundson
<i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	Kim Esop Wylie
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Door Shakespeare (Movement Director)	William Shakespeare
<i>The Little Prince</i>	COCA Family Theater Series	Scoullar/Cummins
<i>Suessical</i>	Villa Duchesne Academy	Ahrens & Flaherty
<i>The Tempest</i>	Webster Conservatory (Movement Director)	William Shakespeare
<i>Wisewrite</i>	The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	selected playwrights
<i>The Hundred Dresses</i>	COCA Family Theater Series	Mary Hall Surface
<i>The Secret Garden</i>	COCA Family Theater Series	Sterling/Brunett
<i>The Pajama Game</i>	Villa Duchesne Academy	Adler/Ross/Abbott/Bissell
<i>Her Kind: Anne Sexton</i>	New York/San Fran. Fringe Festivals	Hannah Wolfe
<i>ANON(ymous)</i>	COCA Theatre Ensemble	Naomi Iizuka
<i>Blues for Mister Charlie</i>	The Black Rep (Asst. Dir. to Ron Himes)	James Baldwin
<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	Gilmore Creek Theatre (Assistant Director)	Menken/Ashman

## Education and Training

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Magna Cum Laude Graduate; Webster Conservatory of Theatre Arts  
Lovell Institute, MoonFool, Vagabond School for the Arts, NYU, Int'l Aerial Arts Festival  
Anti-Bias Training: Nicole Brewer private coaching, TYA-USA antiracist leadership, ALI trainee