

# SHANARA GABRIELLE

Theatre Maker • Educator • Artistic Producer  
917.543.8555 • www.shanaragabrielle.com

Shanara Gabrielle is a multi-hyphenate theatre artist working in a wide variety of mediums with a focus on gutsy, inventive, engaging performance for all audiences. As an actor, director, educator, and arts leader, Shanara is keen to find points of intersection and discover new ways to shape the future of performance. With over 10 years of collegiate teaching experience at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and nearly 20 years of professional work at the highest-level theaters across the country - as well as in TV, Film, commercial, and expansive on-camera mediums - Shanara brings professional excellence, passion, and an open spirit to every job she takes on.

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## Collegiate Teaching Experience

### **Catholic University of America** **2019 - present**

Lecturer, Undergraduate Musical Theatre Department, B.M.

MUS 449: Business of Theatre

MUS/DR: On-Camera Acting Intensive

MUS 111: Intro to Musical Theatre: Acting The Song

MUS 311: Musical Theatre Audition Technique

MUS 311: Musical Theatre Auditions - Self Tapes and Virtual Auditions

Lecturer, Drama Graduate Studies - M.F.A.

DR 629: Integrated Movement and Devising

DR 831: Theatre for Communities and All Audiences

Lecturer, Undergraduate Drama Studies - B.F.A.

\*Head of Movement Track & Curriculum Lead

DR 449: Business of Theatre

DR 103: Movement for the Actor 1A: Physical Conditioning & Awareness

DR 104: Movement for the Actor 1: Physical Impulse & Expression

DR 303: Movement for the Actor 3A: Laban & Intro to Dance

DR 304: Movement for the Actor 3B: Dance & Period Styles

### **University of Maryland, College Park** **2020 - present**

Adjunct Faculty, Summer Term - Undergraduate Theatre Department

THET328K-WB31: On-Camera Acting & The Biz of Showbiz

Professional Track Adjunct, Graduate Studies/Maryland Opera Studio

MOS Movement Faculty - Virtual, Synchronous (2020-21)

### **The Academy for Classical Acting at George Washington University** **2019-2020**

Guest Faculty, Shakespeare Theatre Company, M.F.A. training program

Professionalism and Marketing for Actors

On-Camera Audition technique

### **University of Missouri, St. Louis - UMSL** **2015 - 2016**

Adjunct Theatre Faculty

Acting I & Acting II

Theatre Movement and Voice

Audition Technique

**Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts** 2015 - 2016  
Guest Theatre Faculty  
On Camera and Commercial Acting  
Showcase and Professional Development

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

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

**Winona State University** 2009-2011  
Guest Artist and Teacher in Continuing Education  
Acting Shakespeare

**St. Mary's University** 2008  
Guest Artist in Residence  
Musical Theatre: Voice and Acting

### **Additional Teaching Experience**

Acting and Audition Coach, 2012-present  
Private coach for professional and developing actors in theatre and on-camera

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 musical theatre training and performance program

Hospital Audiences Incorporated, 2002-2006  
Creative Movement-Dance-Drama Teacher for Adults with Disabilities

The Leadership Program, 2002-2005  
Violence Prevention Program Facilitator for drama based leadership training in schools

Prison Performing Arts, 2000-2001  
Taught 10-18 year olds in State Juvenile Detention Center

## **Education and Training**

Bachelor of Fine Arts: Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University  
Major: Musical Theatre; Minor: Comparative Religions  
Magna Cum Laude Graduate; Webster University, Saint Louis, MO

### **Community Arts, Anti-Racism, & Anti-Oppression Training:**

Nicole Brewer, A.R.T. training and personal coaching  
TYA-USA Anti-Racist leadership series  
Allied with Broadway for Racial Justice training

### **On-Camera & Acting Training**

Stone Street New York University Tisch School  
Commercial Audition Technique: Barry Shapiro  
Film, TV, Commercial: Vagabond School of the Arts, Chicago  
Acting: Austin Pendleton

### **Movement, Devising & New Forms Training**

Frantic Assembly Teacher Training, Advanced Teacher 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  
Devising Musical Theatre: Lovewell Institute - Oskarshamn, Sweden

### **Arts Business Training**

Marketing for Artists: Social Media and Marketing Rockstar Graduate  
Regional Arts Commission: Writing Successful Grants Certificate  
Board Member, Volunteer Development Director for Grand Center Arts Academy Fund

### **Additional Skills & Training**

Advanced teleprompter and ear prompter  
Live and on camera hosting and interviewing, improvisation  
Sing (Soprano with Belt)  
Aerialist - silks, lyra, trapeze, partnering  
Strong mover/dancer, IPA & Dialect Training, Stage Combat

## Awards and Honors

Princess Grace Foundation Award Winner - Grace LeVine Theatre Award  
TCG - Theatre Communications Group, Audience Revolution Grantee  
Visionary Artist Award - Working Female Artist Nominee  
Regional Arts Commission, Individual Artist Grant  
Write Now Conference Grantee and Participant  
Marita Woodruff Award, Webster Conservatory  
Webster Alumni Association Leadership Award  
Dean's Award for Service Recipient, Webster University  
National Recognition and Featured in Rolling Stone Magazine, A.A.T. Ferguson  
Talib Kweli's Ferguson Defense Fund Grant Recipient, A.A.T. Ferguson  
Regional Arts Commission Social Impact Grant Recipient, A.A.T. Ferguson  
"Arts Maven of the Year" - Alive Magazine  
Best of DC Theatre 2021 for Directing *Working*  
DC Metro Theatre Arts "Staff Pick 2021" for *Working*  
Best of St. Louis Theatre 2014 for Directing *Swallows and Amazons*  
Best Actress - 48 Hr. Film Festival  
Critics Circle Awards - Best Actress Nominee and Award Winner  
Grant Recipient:  
    DC Arts & Humanities Commission  
    Equity League  
    Stage Directors & Choreographer's Society Foundation  
    Theatre Washington

## Professional Affiliations

The Ferguson Moment, Founding Member  
    National activism organizer with Theatre Communications Group  
Kennedy Center ACTF & Solas Nua Literary Teams  
    Play development reporter and reader with a focus on new projects  
District Dramatists - The Reach @ The Kennedy Center, Founding Member  
    Anti-Bias & Structure Committee  
TCG Individual Member  
    2015 conference presenter  
    Artist-Activist Grant recipient  
TYA-USA member  
    Freelancers Affinity Group  
    2020 Conference "Artist Host"  
Stage Directors and Choreographer's Society Associate Member  
Proud 15-year member of Actor's Equity Association  
Proud 12-year member of Screen Actor's Guild - American Federation of TV & Radio Artist

## Selected Performance Experience

### Theatre (selected)

<i>Easy Women Smoking...</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. D. Fracher)
<i>She Loves Me</i>	Ilona Ritter	Guthrie Theater (Dir. John Miller-Stephany)
<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	Elvira	Idaho Shakespeare/Great Lakes (Dir. C. 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. T. Near)
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	Courtesan	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis (Dir. P. 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. E.Coffield/J. 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. P. Barnes)
<i>The Love List</i>	Justine	American Heartland Theatre (Dir. Paul Hough)
<i>Othello</i>	Desdemona	Great River Shakespeare Festival (Dir. A. Wild)
<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	Rosaline	Great River Shakespeare Fest (Dir. P. 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
<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. A.Wild)
<i>Chicago</i>	Roxie Hart	Arrowrock Lyceum Theatre (Dir: C. Windom)
<i>Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i>	Albatross, Mariner	Upstream Theater (Dir. P. Siler/Lisa Tejero)
<i>Hannah Senesh</i>	Hannah/Catherine	New Jewish Theatre (Dir. Kat Singleton)

### Virtual & Hybrid Live Theatre

<i>Run Out of Sky</i>	Woman	Leslie Bramm/Alec Wild, S.A.T Theatre
<i>Three Tall Women</i>	B	Edward Albee
<i>Change Agent</i>	Cecily/Marilyn	Craig Lucas, Arena Stage
<i>Girlhood...Shakespeare's Heroines</i>	Ophelia/Lady M	Dan Nigro
<i>Love</i>	Phoebe	Aja Nisenson, Kennedy Center/NNPN
<i>Tales from the Decameron</i>	Various	Giovanni Boccaccio
<i>Dear Jack Dear Louise</i>	Louise	Ken Ludwig
<i>Blink</i>	Sophie	Phil Porter
<i>Sex with Strangers</i>	Olivia	Laura Eason
<i>Gidion's Knot</i>	Heather	Johnna Adams
<i>Hannah</i>	Hannah	CyberCraic/Solas Nua
<i>Easy Women Smoking...</i>	Lee	Dani Stoller, Signature Theatre

## Film & TV (selected)

<i>House of Cards</i> , Chapter 72	Co-Star	Netflix, Dir. Alik Sakharov
<i>The Enemy Within</i> , Pilot	Co-Star	NBC pilot, Dir. Mark Pellington
<i>Conan</i>	Co-Star	TBS, Writer/Dir. Robert Smigel
<i>Chicago Fire</i> "One More Shot"	Guest Star	NBC Primetime, Dir. Jean de Segonzac
<i>Conviction</i> "180.80/Hostage"	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
<i>The Look</i>	Supporting	Carmichael Films, Dir. David Sigal

## Commercial (selected)

Toyota	Hero	Regional	Producers Studio
United VanLines	Mom	National	Bruton Stoube
Sherwin Williams/Dutchboy	Mom	National	Doner
Menards	Wife	National	Doner
UMB Bank	Customer	Regional	Barkley US
Missouri Tourism	Wife	Regional	Aero Films
Siemens	Mom	International	Park Pictures
Ball & Kerr	Lead	National	Biscuit 8
Missouri Lotto	Yoga Instructor	Regional	Barkley US
Walgreens - "Valentine"	Lead	National	Cool Fire Media
Ralston Foods	Mom	Regional	Group 360
Baptist Hospital	Nurse-lead	Regional	Limbo Films
Knology	Spokesperson	Regional	Visontracks
Ameren UE	Homeowner	Regional	Group 360
Nationwide Automotive	Soccer Mom	Regional	Technisonic

## Industrial (selected)

Mytonomy  
76 Words  
Airline Pilots Association (ALPA)  
Marc Snyder, CO State Representative  
Rock Creek Productions  
Washington Area Bus Transformation Project  
United States Office of Personnel Management  
Zack Stephenson, MN State Representative  
Kristin Bahner, MN State Representative  
Booz Allen Hamilton  
Nine Yards Media

## Voiceover (selected)

AFSCME  
Crown Plaza Hotels  
Susan Collins, Senator from Maine  
Bri Buentello, CO State Representative  
St. Louis Convention & Visitor's Bureau  
Missouri State Lottery  
St. Clare Hospital  
Missouri Tourism  
76 Words  
Colorado Values  
Hallmark

## On-Camera, Virtual, & Live Hosting

The Atlantic Festival - live host and spokesmodel  
Lexus - host, live and on camera  
Nokia - host, live and trade shows  
Canon Cameras - host, live, on camera, trade shows  
Motorola - live and trade shows  
VH1 - live and radio spokesperson  
ReCarded.com - on camera and online spokesperson  
EcoBusiness.com - on camera and online spokesperson

## Print clients include:

Kashi, Siemens, My Eye Doctor, Ball/Kerr Jars, Leggett & Platt, Communicare, Sears, Macy's, The Red Cross, University of Maryland Global Campus, The Wedding Issue, Scrubs & Beyond, Cherokee, and more.

## Selected Directing Experience

### Theatre Directing (selected)

<i>Playboy of the Western World*</i>	Solas Nua Theatre	*upcoming
<i>Octet*</i>	InSeries Opera	Adapted by Adigun/Doyle Dave Malloy
<i>Man Covets Bird</i>	Spooky Action Theatre	Finegan Kruckemeyer
<i>Working, a musical</i>	WORKING IN DC/AFL-CIO	Schwartz/Miranda/Taylor
<i>ADA</i>	Signature Theatre (World Premiere Workshop)	Aeneas Saggar
<i>THIRST</i>	Solas Nua (World Premiere Reading)	Ronan Noone
<i>The Respectful Prostitute</i>	The Cell - NYC	Jean-Paul Sartre
<i>Enlightenment</i>	Arena Stage (Associate Director, Workshop)	Theresa Rebeck
<i>Kept Under Glass</i>	Goethe Institut - Washington DC	various female composers
<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>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>Locked In, Normalmstorgsdramat</i>	Lovewell Institute Sweden	Lovewell Company
<i>*devised in collaboration with high school and college students, faculty, and international professionals</i>		
<i>BITE! A Play for Families Who Eat</i>	OnSite Theatre Company	Nancy Bell
<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>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>The Hundred Dresses</i>	COCA Family Theater Series	Mary Hall Surface
<i>The Pajama Game</i>	Villa Duchesne Academy	Adler/Ross/Abbott/Bissell
<i>The Secret Garden</i>	COCA Family Theater Series	Sterling/Brunett
<i>Wisewrite</i>	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	Selected Playwrights

<i>Her Kind: Anne Sexton</i>	New York & San Francisco Fringe	Hannah Wolfe
<i>ANON(ymous)</i>	COCA Theatre Ensemble	Naomi Iizuka
<i>Blues for Mister Charlie</i>	The Black Rep (Assistant Director)	James Baldwin
<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	Gilmore Creek Theatre (Assistant Director)	Menken/Ashman

**Movement Director and Choreographer**

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

**Virtual, Audio, & Hybrid Theatre Directing and Curation, 2020-2022**

**Arena Riffs, Curator & Producing Director - Arena Stage, 21-22 Season:**

<i>The Greatest Poem</i> <a href="#">Link Here for The Greatest Poem</a>	Philippa Hughes
<i>The Beat: Drumfolk w/Step Afrika</i> <a href="#">Link Here for The Beat</a>	Jakari Sherman
<i>Freedom Sounds</i> <a href="#">Link Coming Soon</a>	Holly Bass
<i>Let Me Be Frank</i> <a href="#">Link Here for Let Me Be Frank</a>	DC Déla/InSeries Opera
<i>Tripping on Peace</i> <a href="#">Link Here for Tripping On Peace</a>	Ziad Foty
<i>If Only I...</i> <a href="#">Link Here for If Only I...</a>	Chandini Darby
<i>When Women Speak Tyrants Tremble</i> <a href="#">Link Here for When Women Speak...</a>	Yordan Silvera
<i>Blaze</i> <a href="#">Link Here for Blaze</a>	Charity Blackwell

**Additional Virtual Directing 2020-2021:**

<i>The Winter's Tale</i> <a href="#">Link Here for The Winter's Tale</a>	ACA at Shakespeare Theatre Co.	William Shakespeare
<i>Shear Pandemic</i> <a href="#">Link Here for Shear Pandemic</a>	BAADAss Women's Festival, NYC	Gonzalez/Ramirez/Finklestein
<i>History of Love</i> <a href="#">Link Here for History of Love</a>	Spooky Action Theatre	Robert Bowen Smith
<i>Natural</i> <a href="#">Link Here for Natural, a radio play</a>	The 4208 Group	Dana Leslie Goldstein
<i>Light, Next To Normal</i> <a href="#">Link Here for Light</a>	CUA Musical Theatre	Yorkey/Kitt
<i>The Respectful Prostitute</i>	The Cell, NYC	Sartre
<i>The Devil &amp; June Gantry</i>	Virtual Playwright's Workshop	Spotswood/Daughtery



## Producing & Artistic Leadership

### **Arena Stage**

About: As the voice of American theater resident in our nations capital, Arena Stage’s vision is to galvanize the transformative power of theater to understand who we are as Americans.

Areas of responsibility: Artistic development including: commercial partnerships, season planning, new work development, & artist relations; collaborating with leadership on strategic thinking, AD support; producing and curating new work commissions “Arena Riffs” digital companion season.

### **Artistic Associate**

### **Working In DC**

About Working In DC: A reimagined model for producing theater that centers civic engagement and offers radical hospitality. A celebratory event performed on Black Lives Matter plaza including performances of *Working: a musical*, curated conversations, community arts instigations, & activism.

Areas of responsibility: Leading a core leadership collaborative of 6 and full team of 35, contracting with AEA, USA829, IATSE, AFM, partnerships with AFL-CIO, labor justice activists, and over 20 additional partners, created and managed full project budget, ideation and producing from A to Z.

Highlights include: 1st “Allied w/Broadway for Racial Justice” in DMV, \$170k+ fundraised in 6 months.

### **Artistic Producer**

### **Statera Arts DC**

About Statera Arts: Uplift, Amplify, Advance. Statera Arts 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.

### **Mid-Atlantic Regional Director**

### **Center of Creative Arts**

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

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

### **COCA Theatre Company Director**

### **Sharpfield Films**

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.

### **Creative/Line Producer**

### **A.A.T. Ferguson**

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

### **Founder and Executive Director**

### **Great River Shakespeare Festival**

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 programing, managing teaching artists, apprentices, and education staff.

### **Education Director & Events Manager**

## Biography

Shanara Gabrielle is an arts leader and multi-hyphenate theatre artist with a focus on expansive and engaging experiences for all audiences. As a producer, director, actor, and leader, Shanara is inspired to shape the future of arts institutions and artistic practice as essentials of civic life. Driven by stories of humanity 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 looks forward to the next step as a national leader in the arts, and has the charisma, drive, and vision to make things happen.

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, joyful, and anti-oppressive creative processes. 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.”

Ms. Gabrielle is a recipient of the prestigious Princess Grace Foundation Award in theatre, the Grace LeVine Theatre Award, the Visionary Women in the Arts nomination, 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 her production of *Working in DC* and for the U.S. Premiere of *Swallows & Amazons*. As an actress, Shanara has been nominated and won numerous Helen Hayes, Kevin Kline, and Critic’s Circle awards. She has received grants from: TCG, Theatre Washington, Regional Arts Commission, a Write Now Conference, SDC Foundation, The Actor’s Fund, and more. Shanara is a founding member of TCG’s “The Ferguson Moment” and also the founder of A.A.T Ferguson, a non-profit arts and education organization founded in the wake of Michael Brown’s murder, which received support from Talib Kweli’s Action Coalition, and earned national recognition in *Rolling Stone Magazine*. She is currently a contractor in Artistic Development at Arena Stage and the Artistic Producer of WORKING in DC cohort. Shanara has been on the artistic leadership team at the Center of Creative Arts, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Artists-As-Tutors, Sharpfield Films and on the literary script reading team for Kennedy Center ACTF, Solas Nua, and Arena Stage. She is the founding director of Statera Arts DC regional chapter, launched in 2020, focused on mentorship to uplift, amplify, and advance women in the arts. Ms. Gabrielle is a proud adjunct professor at Catholic University of America and University of Maryland.

A proud Iowan, 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.

## Principles

\*click links here for full [artistic statement](#) and [manifesto](#).

ARTISTIC PRINCIPLES: excellence, intentionality, complexity, rigor, theatricality.

LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES: bravery, anti-oppression, justice, transparency, progressivism.

PERSONAL PRINCIPLES: truth, conflict-positivity, heterogeneity, activism, abundance.

\*References by request