

SHANARA GABRIELLE

Artistic Leader • Theatre Collaborator • Cultural Producer

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Shanara Gabrielle is a purpose driven multi-hyphenate with a focus on exceptional theatrical experiences for all audiences. As an artist, leader, and cultural producer, Shanara is inspired to shape the future of arts institutions and artistic practice as essential to civic life. Driven by stories of justice and tales of imagination, she is interested in fostering new work and reimagining classics with artists of courage and depth. Shanara is a seasoned artist and entrepreneurial leader, with the vision, charisma, and insight to make things happen.

Artistic Producer

2012 - present

About: Producing exceptional performances for mission-based organizations to bridge the gap between arts and civic engagement, I execute innovative, professional arts experiences that stretch the theatrical form, build audiences, and further the mission and impact of organizations in their communities.

Highlights include: Extensive fundraising experience, production expertise in a wide variety of traditional and innovative performance settings, numerous awards including “Best of...” & Critic’s Circle Awards.

Artistic Associate – Shakespeare Theatre Company:

2022-2023 season

Producer, Project Contract

American Wildflowers: A Theatrical Field Guide

Shakespeare Theatre Company

Oak Spring Garden Foundation

Simon Godwin

Susan Barba/NYTimes

Artistic Associate – Arena Stage:

2021-2022 season

Arena Riffs, Producer, Seasonal Contract

The Beat

Arena Stage

Step Afrika/Jakari Sherman

The Greatest Poem

Arena Stage

Philippa Hughes

Freedom Over Me

Arena Stage

Holly Bass

Let Me Be Frank

Arena Stage

DC Déla/InSeries Opera

Tripping on Peace

Arena Stage

Ziad Foty Films

If Only I...

Arena Stage

Chandini Darby

When Women Speak, Tyrants Tremble

Arena Stage

Yordan Silvera

Blaze

Arena Stage

Charity Blackwell

Independent & Institutional Producing:

2012-2023

Enough! (*upcoming)

ENOUGH-Plays to End Gun Violence

Various Artists

40th Anniversary Gala

IN Series Opera

Various Artists

The Epic of Gilgamesh

National Arboretum

ACA at Shakespeare Theatre

Working, a musical

Black Lives Mater Plaza

AFL-CIO National

Rated SG

Gaslight Cabaret

Various Artists

The Little Prince

COCA Family Theater Series

Scoullar/Cummins

Two Gentlemen of Verona

Artists As Tutors

Shakespeare Fest. St. Louis

FarFetched Showcase

Artists As Tutors

FarFetched Records

A Midsummer Night’s Dream

Big Hall Club, Shake 38

Shakespeare Fest. St. Louis

**in collaboration with visual artist Ben Kaplan & Project Runway fashion designer Michael Drummond*

Every 28 Hours Plays

Artists As Tutors & Calling Up

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Swallows and Amazons

COCA Family Theater Series

Hannon/Edmundson

The Secret Garden

COCA Family Theater Series

Sterling/Brunett

MT Rocks!

Stages St. Louis Academy

Various Artists

The Hundred Dresses

COCA Family Theater Series

Mary Hall Surface

Callithump Gala Fundraiser

Great River Shakespeare

Various Artists

Professional Director, SDC

2012 - present

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

Highlights include: Numerous awards including Critic's Circle, People's Choice, "Best of", etc. Extensive network of professional relationships with renowned artistic leaders, actors, designers, playwrights.

Directing Credits (selected):

<i>Sweet Bird of Youth*</i>	Tennessee Williams Festival	Tennessee Williams	(*upcoming) 2023
<i>Pippin*</i>	COCA Berges Theatre	Schwartz/Hirson	
<i>Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*</i>	Coterie Theatre	Willems/Wicks La Puma	2022
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Chesapeake Shakespeare Co.	Adapted by Laura Rocklyn	
<i>Playboy of the Western World</i>	Solas Nua Theatre (Regional Premiere)	Newly Adapted by Roddy Doyle	
<i>ADA</i>	Signature Theatre (World Premiere Workshop)	Aeneas Saggarr	2021
<i>Working, a musical</i>	Working In DC /AFL-CIO	Schwartz/Miranda/Taylor	
<i>Kept Under Glass, an opera reflection</i>	Goethe Institut - Washington, DC	Various female composers	
<i>Man Covets Bird</i>	Spooky Action Theatre	Finegan Kruckemeyer	
<i>The Respectful Prostitute</i>	The Cell - NYC (Premiere Workshop Production)	Jean-Paul Sartre/Corey Allen	
<i>THIRST</i>	Solas Nua (Premier Workshop)	Ronan Noone	(virtual) 2020
<i>The Winter's Tale</i>	ACA at Shakespeare Theatre Co.	William Shakespeare	
<i>Shear Pandemic</i>	BAADAss Women's Festival, NYC	Gonzalez/Ramirez/Finklestein	
<i>History of Love</i>	Spooky Action Theatre	Robert Bowen Smith	
<i>Natural</i>	The 4208 Group	Dana Leslie Goldstein	
<i>The Devil & June Gantry</i>	Playwright's Workshop	Spotswood/Daugherty	
<i>Enlightenment</i>	Arena Stage (Assoc. Director)	Theresa Rebeck	2019
<i>Dear Jack, Dear Louise</i>	Arena Stage (Assistant Director, World Premiere)	Ken Ludwig	
<i>Bread</i>	Kennedy Center, Page-to-Stage	Jaclyn Enchin	2018
<i>River Like Sin</i>	Hartke Theatre - CUA (World Premiere)	Lindsay Adams	2017
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Great Lakes Theatre (Remount Director)	William Shakespeare	
<i>The Heart of Robin Hood</i>	Door Shakespeare	David Farr	
<i>Elephant & Piggie</i>	Coterie Theatre	Willems/Wicks La Puma	
<i>Charlotte's Web</i>	Imagination Stage (Movement Director)	Adapted from E.B. White	2016
<i>Locked In, Normalmstorgsdramat</i>	Lovewell Institute Sweden	Lovewell Company	
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Idaho Shakespeare (Movement 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, Tour	William Shakespeare	
<i>New Kid</i>	Metro Theatre Company	Dennis Foon	
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Door Shakespeare (Movement Director)	William Shakespeare	2015
<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Tour	William Shakespeare	
<i>Blues for Mister Charlie</i>	The Black Rep (Associate Director)	James Baldwin	2014
<i>Every 28 Hours</i>	Calling Up & Oregon Shakespeare	Various playwrights	
<i>The Tempest</i>	Webster Conservatory (Movement Director)	William Shakespeare	2013
<i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	Kim Esop Wylie	
<i>ANON(ymous)</i>	COCA Theatre Ensemble	Naomi Iizuka	

Professional Experience

2006-present

About: With extensive experience as an artist and creative leader in the theatre industry, I bring wide ranging experience from contracted leadership roles at large scale organizations like Arena Stage and the Kennedy Center, grassroots arts and activism projects, and a successful acting career. This experience has given me a deep understanding of best practices from across the field as an artist, leader, and entrepreneur.

Actor, AEA & SAG-AFTRA

Professional Actor

2006-present

15+ years of extensive professional experience performing at the greatest theaters across the country and working in all on-camera mediums including: Signature Theatre, Arena Stage, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Guthrie Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Co., Folger Theatre, St. Louis Rep., The Black Rep., as well as House of Cards, Chicago Fire, Conviction, The Enemy Within, The Conan Show, and also the face of Mytonomy Health, Toyota, Canon, and many more. Full resume upon request.

Working In DC

Artistic Producer

2021-present

Leading a creative team of 35 from grassroots ideation to full execution of a reimagined model for producing theater, the inaugural event was performed on Black Lives Matter plaza in partnership with the AFL-CIO, labor justice activists, and more than 20 partner organizations. Managed full project leadership, development, budget creation and oversight, and successful execution from A to Z.

Highlights:

1st "Allied w/Broadway for Racial Justice" in the mid-Atlantic region
Fundraised \$170,000+ in 6 months from the ground-up, in a grassroots campaign

Kennedy Center, Solas Nua, Arena Stage

Literary & New Work Development Team

2019-present

Working freelance as a new works consultant and literary team member and with Kennedy Center's ACTF, Solas Nua Irish Theatre Company, and Arena Stage, responsibilities include: playwright relationships (including Ken Ludwig, Theresa Rebeck, Craig Lucas, Lydia Diamond, Idris Goodwin, Ronan Noone, Bisi Adigun, and more), script reading, new project development, play reporting systems, supporting Artistic Development teams, and directing new works.

Arena Stage

Artistic Associate

2021-2022

Artistic Leadership seasonal contractor for 2021-22 season – producing Arena Riffs season, curating commissions, season planning, innovating audience engagement programs, cultivating commercial partnerships, supporting new work development with literary and dramaturgy teams, contracting artists, overseeing budgets, executing cross-organizational projects, and offering AD support.

MFA & BFA Collegiate Teaching

Affiliated Faculty

2013-2022

A dedicated mentor with 10 years of collegiate teaching experience in both undergraduate (BFA, BM, BA) and postgraduate (MFA) levels at Catholic University, Univ. of MD, St Louis University, Univ. of MO, and more. Areas of teaching: Acting, Musical Theatre, Theatre Business, Movement, Film & TV, etc.

Center of Creative Arts

COCA Theatre Company Director

2015-2017

Led artistic programming for youth performance company at Center of Creative Arts, including directing & teaching, curriculum development for pre-professionals, and managing creative teams.

Highlights:

Negotiated organization's CBA for work with professional actors and Actor's Equity Association
Founding artist-facilitator of COCABiz, a highly successful secondary revenue stream

A.A.T. Ferguson

Founding Director

2014-2016

Founded in Ferguson in the wake of Michael Brown's murder, AAT is a volunteer organization with a focus on social justice and the impact of the arts in the lives of young people. "With creativity and compassion, Artists As Tutors connects students through mentorship and arts engagement." Led development, ideation, budgeting, grant writing, producing/presenting, and community building.

Highlights:

National Recognition and Featured in *Rolling Stone Magazine*

Talib Kweli's Ferguson Defense Fund & Regional Arts Commission Social Impact Grant Recipient

Great River Shakespeare Festival

Engagement & Education Director

2011

Led programming for all education and community engagement projects and events including creating all-ages programs and access, managing teaching artists, apprentices, and staff, creating and managing departmental budgets, fundraising and development, and event producing.

Highlights:

Piloted regional public library partnership and all-ages ticket access program

Executed 1st large-scale gala, exceeded revenue goals, remains biggest fundraising event

Awards and Honors

Princess Grace Foundation Award Winner - Grace LeVine Theatre Award

Webster University Alumni Association Leadership Award

Directing & Acting Awards:

DC Theatre Arts "Best of" 2021 for *Working* & 2022 for *Playboy of the Western World*

"Best of" St. Louis Theatre 2014 for Directing – *Swallows and Amazons*

Kevin Kline, Critics Circle, Helen Hayes Awards – Nominee and Award Winner

Grant Recipient:

DC Arts & Humanities, Equity League, SDC Foundation, Theatre Washington,

Regional Arts Commission, Write Now Conference, Theatre Communications Group

Professional Affiliations

Board Member – Theatre Washington

DC alliance of theatres, promoting and nurturing the DMV theatre community

Sole independent artist serving on board

Mid-Atlantic Regional Director – Statera Arts

Organizing, funding & development, mentorship, marketing, artistic leadership

Board Member – Grand Center Arts Academy Fund

Served as volunteer Development Director

Theatre for Young Audiences-USA

Independent Artist Member, Freelancers Affinity Group

2020 Conference "Artist Host"

The Ferguson Moment, Founding Member

National activism organizer with Theatre Communications Group

TCG Audience Revolution Presenter & Facilitator

District Dramatists, Founding Member

Grassroots organizer, artistic leader collaborating with The Reach at Kennedy Center

TCG Individual Member

Artist-Activist Grant recipient and 2015 conference presenter

Unions: Stage Directors and Choreographer's Society, Actor's Equity Association, SAG-AFTRA

Education and Training

Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University, Magna Cum Laude, Bachelor of Fine Arts