

Michelle Rios

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Accomplished performing arts career (Broadway, Off-Broadway, Regional, TV/Film, and Concerts). Proven success as a performing arts educator and facilitator in both higher education and non-for-profit levels. Competencies include: Theatre within social activism, devised theatre, collective creation, storytelling methodologies, musical theatre/opera instruction, and directing. Experience in grant writing, administration, community outreach, and the development and implementation of arts-based programming for various not-for-profit organizations in both the U.S. and Canada.

EDUCATION

MFA in Theatre Practice – Concentration in Community-based Theatre Practice.
 University of Alberta Department of Drama, Edmonton, Alberta (2013). GPA: 3.9.
Thesis Title: Changing the Conversation: Instilling Resilience and Advocacy with LGBTQ and Allied Youth through Community-based Theatre Practice and Facilitation. Supervisor: Jan Selman

TEACHING SPECIALITIES

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| Musical Theatre, Opera, and Cabaret Song | Alexander Technique |
| The Viewpoints Acting/Movement Training | Theatre of the Oppressed methodologies |
| Community-based theatre facilitation | Collective Creation/Devised Theatre |
| Improvisational techniques | Stanislavski based actor training |
| Meisner based actor training | Shakespeare techniques |

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

2012 Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship - Master's Level (\$10, 800).
 2013 Graduate Student Scholarship - Minister of Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education (\$3,000).

UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Grande Prairie Regional College University Studies – Department of Fine Arts (Grande Prairie, AB)
 Full-time Sessional Instructor (Fall 2017 – Spring 2018)

- DR 1010 – Introduction to Theatre Art
 I taught the origins and development of theatre art; introduction to theatre aesthetics; and engaged in group discussions and explorations focusing on the craft and experience of theatre performance.
- DR 1020 – Play Analysis
 I taught students a variety of play analysis concepts including: elements of genre, structure, style, character, theme, language, imagery, and dramatic action.
- DR 1490 – Introduction to Dramatic Process I
 I taught an introduction to the dramatic process through devised theatre methodologies including: The Viewpoints acting/movement, improvisation through speech and movement, imaginative development, and collective creation.
- DR 2310 - Scene Study I
 I taught the study of acting, including the analysis and enactment of scripted scenes, and characterization.
- DR3210 - The Creative Process of Drama
 I taught a practical course for education majors and those interested in using drama in a variety of educational contexts, including theory to the design, practice, and evaluation of drama projects and practices across the curriculum, particularly focusing on theatre for young audiences.

- Instructor - Musical Theatre Masterclass for GPRC Voice Majors (Department of Music)
I was invited to facilitate several voice masterclasses focusing on song interpretation and analysis for both classical and musical theatre repertoire.

Concordia University of Edmonton - Department of Drama (Edmonton, Alberta)

Sessional Instructor (Fall 2014 – Spring 2016)

- DR 102 – Play Analysis
I taught students a variety of play analysis concepts including: elements of genre, structure, style, character, theme, language, imagery, and dramatic action.
- DR 149 – Introduction to Dramatic Process I
I taught an introduction to the dramatic process through devised theatre methodologies including: The Viewpoints acting/movement, improvisation through speech and movement, imaginative development, and collective creation.
- DR 252 – Fundamentals of Public Speaking
I taught the basic techniques of oral communication and public speaking with an emphasis on speech construction and delivery.
- Department of Music - Applied Music Seminar: “Fundamentals of Musical Theatre” (Masterclass)
Voice majors and minors explored music theatre song literature from the 1950’s to the present and focused on the skills required to create a music theatre song performance.
- DR 353 – Scene Study I
I taught drama minors and majors techniques in acting, script analysis, enactment of scripted scenes, and characterization.
- DR 453 – Studies in Advanced Acting
I taught drama majors techniques in acting, script analysis, enactment of scripted scenes, and characterization. I also provided assistance in the preparation of Capstone projects.

Guest Director

- I was the invited Guest Director for the 2014 Fall production of *The Secret Garden* adapted by Canadian playwrights Michael Shamata and Paula Wing.

Guest Juror

- I was an invited Guest Juror for Voice majors and minors at the Department of Music.

Portage College - University Studies (Lac La Biche, Alberta)

Distance Education Instructor and Lecturer (Spring 2014-Winter 2015)

- DR 102 – Play Analysis
I taught students a variety of play analysis concepts including: elements of genre, structure, style, character, theme, language, imagery, and dramatic action. *This course is delivered through Blackboard Collaborate online instruction.*
- ARTH 101 – Introduction to the History of Western Art I
I taught students the history of visual arts and design from the earliest evidence to the fourteenth century. *This course is delivered through Blackboard Collaborate online instruction.*
- SOCI 102 – Social Problems
I taught undergraduate students different theoretical concepts applied to particular social problems in society. *This course is delivered through Blackboard Collaborate online instruction.*

University of Alberta - Department of Drama (Edmonton, Alberta)

Sessional Instructor (Fall 2011 – Winter 2014)

- DR 149 – Introduction to Dramatic Process
I taught an introduction to the dramatic process through devised theatre methodologies including: The Viewpoints acting/movement, improvisation through speech and movement, imaginative development, and collective creation.
- DR 534 – BFA Company Class - Voice
I created the content and structure of this course employing a master class approach within a company class setting. Fourth year BFA students explored voice and drama techniques with a focus on musical theatre song interpretation.

- DR 595 – Professional Orientation for Theatre Artists - Lecture
During this course, I prepared fourth year BFA students to successfully transition into professional theatre with a concentration on networking, marketing, professional development, and grant writing.

University of Alberta - Department of Drama (Edmonton, Alberta)

Research Assistant (Fall 2011)

- Principles of Voice Production
I assisted in gathering material relevant to the physics and physiology of voice production.
Supervisor: Betty Moulton

TEACHING AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Citadel Theatre Robbins Academy (Edmonton, Alberta)

Guest Artist Instructor (Winter 2015)

- Musical Theatre Masterclass - I provided instruction in singing and acting with a focus on musical theatre song interpretation and audition technique in a group masterclass setting.

iHuman Youth Society (Edmonton, Alberta)

Studio Manager and Teaching Artist (2010 – 2011)

I provided robust support to the Executive Director in the operation of iHuman Youth Society and its arts-based programming. Tasks included: grant writing, fundraising, marketing, and public presentations. I worked to support Indigenous youth in arts-based programming areas. In addition, I facilitated theatre workshops that promote resilience and provided resource materials to offer support for iHuman youth.

The Youth ‘Artist’ Theatre Project (Edmonton, Alberta)

Artistic Director / Founder / Teaching Artist (2011 – Present)

This community-based theatre project initiative is an extension of the practice and research of my MFA thesis. The objective of this initiative is to promote resilience, advocacy, and social change for marginalized and at-risk youth. All workshops are structured with a strong focus on story circles, open dialogue, applied theatre methodologies, spoken word, and music. Workshops include:

- **Spectrum** - Anti-bullying initiative with and for LGBTQ and Allied youth
Facilitator/Director - Leduc Composite High School GSA students (2013)
Facilitator/Director - Black Gold Regional Schools (2013)
- **Speak it Away** – Suicide prevention initiative with and for Indigenous youth
Facilitator/Director - Chief Napeweaw Comprehensive School at Frog Lake First Nation (2013)

ENACT, Inc. (New York, New York)

Site Director and Family Support Outreach Coordinator (2007 - 2009)

I maintained collaborative partnerships with families of students involved in a drama therapy/conflict resolution dropout prevention program at Middle School 399 (Bronx, NY). I coordinated and structured an intensive after-school academic enrichment program that incorporated arts in education and Community-based theatre practices as learning strategies for inner city and immigrant youth. Bilingual skills were used on a daily basis (English/Spanish).

Citizens for NYC (New York, New York)

Youth Outreach Coordinator / Teaching Artist (2006 - 2007)

I provided outreach support to immigrant youth and families throughout Manhattan, NYC. I also facilitated theatre workshops to promote resilience and provided resource materials to offer support for immigrant youth. Bilingual skills used on a daily basis (English/Spanish).

Soyulla Artists, Inc. (New York, New York)

Artist-in-Residence / Teaching Artist (1999 – 2008)

I taught voice, acting, and musical theater techniques in private, as well as in group and master class settings.

- Musical Theatre Masterclass – The Julliard School (2005)
- Group Vocal Intensive – The Julliard School (2003)
- Acting Intensive Masterclass – The Julliard School (2002)

THEATRE PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Upcoming: **Spectrum** workshop – Egale Canada OUTShine Conference (May 2019)
Spectrum musical theatre workshop and project - Collaboration with NY organization
 “Ring of Keys” (Summer 2019)

Facilitator – *ACTRA Self-Tape Workshop*. During this workshop, I focused on self-tape audition techniques for professional actors. *ACTRA Alberta commissioned this workshop*.
 Edmonton, Alberta (2018).

Guest Teaching Artist – *The Youth ‘Artist’ Theatre Project at Teatro Gala*. During this workshop, I incorporated acting techniques (including song, movement, and improvisation) with a focus on individual creative expression and performance in a safe, collaborative, and bilingual environment. *Gala Hispanic Theatre, through the Paso Nuevo Youth Program, commissioned this workshop*.
 Washington, DC (2017).

Theatre workshop facilitator – *Occupying the Body: Exploring decolonization through embodied performance*. Research and facilitation explored the political and aesthetic realities of race, gender, sexuality, feminism, colonization, and continuance through applied theatre practice. *The Escape Velocity Festival, presented by the Undercurrent Theatre Co., commissioned this workshop*.
 Edmonton, Alberta (2014).

Theatre workshop facilitator – *The Youth ‘Artist’ Theatre Project at Camp fyrefly*.
 Research and facilitation emphasized instilling resilience and advocacy with and for LGBTQ and Allied youth through applied theatre practice. Research is still in progress. *The Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta commissioned these workshops*.
 Edmonton, Alberta and Regina, Saskatchewan (2011 – 2012).

Theatre workshop facilitator - *High Risk Youth Uncensored: An Education Exchange through Theatre*.
 Research and facilitation emphasized conflict resolution and advocacy with and for high-risk youth through applied theatre practice. Research is still in progress. *Supervisor: Dr. Diane Conrad*
 University of Alberta Arts-based research lab/studio.
 Edmonton, Alberta (2011).

Theatre workshop facilitator - *Engaging and Involving Families*.
 Facilitation emphasized parent/student relationships and conflict resolution through applied theatre practice (ENACT, Inc.). Professional Development Exchange - United Way of NYC.
 New York, New York (2008).

Theatre workshop facilitator - *Creating Collaborative Relationships*.
 Facilitation emphasized dynamics and relationships in the workplace through applied theatre practice (ENACT, Inc.). Professional Development Exchange – United Way of NYC.
 New York, New York (2008).

RECENT DIRECTING & PLAYWRITING CREDITS

- Teaching Artist/Director/Actor
#Writes of Passage/Workshop West Playwright’s Theatre
 Edmonton, Alberta (Fall 2018)
- Director & Facilitator
Journeys – Songs & Stories – Collective creation/devised collaborative performance including visual, theatre, and music students at Grande Prairie Regional College Fine Arts. (Spring 2018)

- Playwright
Abuela's Coqui – I was commissioned to write this bilingual play (Spanish/English) with music, which premiered at *Concrete Theatre's 2016 Sprouts New Play Festival for Kids*. Westbury Theatre/Edmonton, Alberta (Spring 2016)
- Guest Director
Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre/Theatre Blitz: New Voices Festival
Victoria School of the Arts/Edmonton, Alberta (Winter 2015)
- Guest Director
The Secret Garden
Tegler Auditorium /Concordia University of Edmonton Department of Drama (Fall 2014)
- Director
The Wax Museum
Studio Theatre Showcase /University of Alberta
Department of Drama (Spring 2013)
- Assistant Director/Vocal Coach/Composer **Micheline Chevrier, Guest Director*
Saint Joan
Timms Centre for the Arts / University of Alberta (Winter 2013)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Presenter / Panelist: *Exploring 'Artivism' with LGBTQ and Allied youth.*
The altView Foundation for Gender Variant and Sexual Minorities Conference.
Edmonton, Alberta (2012).

Panelist: *Community initiatives for At-Risk youth.*
Represented the iHuman Youth Society - Big Sky Summit Conference.
Edmonton, Alberta (2011).

Presenter: *Arts-based programming and mentorship in Latino communities.*
United Way NYC Focus Forward Youth Development Arts Fair.
New York, New York (2008).

Presenter: *HIV prevention strategies and the reinforcement of responsible sexual behavior.*
NYC Adolescent workgroup / Discussion on HIV Prevention Activities in NYC Public Schools.
New York, New York (2008).

AREAS OF ACADEMIC INTEREST AND RESEARCH

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| Arts in Education | Interdisciplinary Practice |
| Intercultural Theatre | Latin American and Border Theatre |
| Queer Theatre | Oral Tradition / Storytelling |
| Intersectionality / Cultural Theory | Voice Pedagogy |

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Spoletto Vocal Institute – Summer Intensive in voice, theatre, and language studies (Spoletto, Italy)
Rome Festival Orchestra - Summer Intensive in voice (Rome, Italy)
The William Esper Studio - Sanford Meisner Intensive (New York, NY)
Alexander Technique workshop w/ Leland Vall (New York, NY)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Unions: AEA, CAEA, SAG/AFTRA
Golden Key International Honours Society
Artist-in-Residence. Soyulla Artists, Inc., NYC

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCE (Selected credits)

FILM & TV

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| Dead again in Tombstone (<i>w/Danny Trejo</i>) | Zerelda De La Cruz | Universal Pictures <i>Roel Reine, dir.</i> |
| Frontera (<i>opposite Ed Harris</i>) | Flora | Magnolia Pictures <i>Michael Berry, dir.</i> |
| Dirt | Claudia | Exile Films/Showtime Networks <i>Nancy Savoca, dir.</i> |
| Come True | Principal | Brent Kawchuk Productions, Edmonton/Toronto |

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| The Raven Steals the Light | Noni/Sky Daughter | Groove Soldier Productions, Edmonton, A |
| Law & Order | Principal | NBC-TV |
| One Life to Live | Principal | ABC-TV |
| Washington Heights | Featured Vocalist | Stolen Car Productions, NYC |
| Third Watch | Principal | NBC-TV |
| Guiding Light | Day Player | CBS-TV |
| My America | Carmen | Silver Lake Productions, NYC/LA |
| Galavision Industrial | Principal | Stolen Car Productions, NYC |
| Culturally Responsive Care - PSA | Principal | Darklight Productions, Inc., Edmonton, AB |

THEATRE

Broadway

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| Man of La Mancha | Maria/Housekeeper | Al Hirschfield Theatre <i>Jonathan Kent, dir.</i> |
| The Capeman | Aurea Agrón | Marquis Theatre <i>Mark Morris, dir.</i> |
| The Sound of Music | Ensemble | Martin Beck Theatre <i>Susan Schulman, dir.</i> |

National Tour

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| The Mystery of Edwin Drood | Helena Landless | Troika Organization, Inc. (U.S. & Canada) |
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Off Broadway/Regional Theatre

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| In the Heights (U.S. Spanish Premiere)* | Abuela Claudia | Gala Hispanic Theatre <i>Luis Salgado, dir.</i> |
| The Travels | Consuela Podera | 2014 NY Musical Theatre Festival |
| The Absent One | Fernanda | New Works Lab/University of Alberta |
| Giant <i>Jonathan Butterell, dir.</i> | Lupe | Signature Theatre, VA (World Premiere) |
| The Light in the Piazza | Signora Naccarelli | Weston Playhouse, VT |
| In the Heights * <i>opposite Lin Manuel Miranda</i> | Abuela Claudia | 37 Arts, NYC |
| Metamorphoses | Narrator | Weston Playhouse, VT |
| The Beauty Inside | Peri | New Georges Thtr Co., NYC/InterAct, PA |
| Sleepwalkers <i>Ruben Polendo, dir.</i> | Skinny Woman | The Alliance Theatre Co., Atlanta, GA |
| Star Messengers <i>Paul Zimet, dir.</i> | Salviati | LaMaMa E.T.C., NYC |
| Bitterroot <i>Paul Zimet, dir.</i> | Miss Fitz | LaMaMa E.T.C., NYC |
| Unmerciful Good Fortune | Luz | INTAR, NYC |
| Miriam's Flowers | Delfina | INTAR, NYC |
| Missionaries <i>Elizabeth Swados, dir.</i> | Maria Elena | NYS&F/LaMaMa E.T.C. |
| Beggar's Holiday | Lucy | The Smithsonian Institute |
| Caballero de Milagro | Alguacil | Gala Hispanic Theatre |

**2018 Helen Hayes Award Nomination – Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical*

Staged Readings/Workshops

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| Like Water for Chocolate | Mama Elena | Sundance Theatre Lab |
| Giant <i>Michael Greif, dir.</i> | Lupe | Joseph Papp Public Theatre |
| The Mambo Kings | Blanca | Daryl Roth Productions |
| Dogeaters <i>Michael Greif, dir.</i> | Trinidad Gamboa | Joseph Papp Public Theatre, NYC |
| Stranger <i>Trip Cullman, dir.</i> | Serafina | New Musicals Now/Joe's Pub, NYC |
| The Rise and Fall of Isabella Rico | Cecilia | The Director's Company, NYC |
| 26 Miles | Beatriz | Philadelphia Theatre Company |
| Hotel Carter <i>Joe Calarco, dir.</i> | The Mayoress | New Dramatists, NYC |
| Brooklyn Bridge | Single Mom | New Dramatists, NYC |
| Centrifugal Force | Woman | Geva Theatre Center, NY |
| Little Ham | Sugar Lou | AMAS Musical Theatre, NYC |
| George Dandin | Claudine | Festival of 'Wrights'/92 nd St. Y |
| 90 North <i>Scott Schwartz, dir.</i> | Alekasina | Berkshire Theatre Festival/The Kennedy Center |
| Carmen Jones | Ensemble | Goodspeed Musicals/Lincoln Center |

OPERA

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| Goya (w/ <i>Placido Domingo</i>) | Soprano/Ensemble | The Washington Opera/The Kennedy Center |
| Don Pasquale | Soprano/Ensemble | The Washington Opera/The Kennedy Center |

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| Abduction from the Seraglio | Soprano/Ensemble | The Washington Opera/The Kennedy Center |
| Don Procopio | Bettina | Maxlrain Summer Opera Co./Germany |
| The Merry Widow | Valencienne | Repertorio Español, NYC |
| From the Diary of Virginia Woolf | Virginia Woolf | The "IN" Series/Washington, DC |

CONCERTS

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| Spoletto Music Festival (U.S.A.) | Guest Artist | Music in Time Series/Charleston, SC |
| Spoletto Music Festival (Italy) | Guest Artist | Spoletto Vocal Institute/Spoletto, Italy |
| Rome Festival Orchestra | Guest Artist | Bel Canto Concert/Rome, Italy |
| <i>Missionaries</i> in Concert <i>Elizabeth Swados, dir</i> | Guest Artist | St. John the Divine, NYC |
| The Palm Beach Symphony | Guest Artist | Palm Beach Pops/West Palm Beach, FL |
| The Pan American Symphony | Guest Artist | DeFalla's "El Amor Brujo"/Washington, DC |
| The Arlington Symphony | Guest Artist | Arlington Pops Concert/Arlington, VA |
| The Fairfax Symphony | Guest Artist | Broadway Celebration Concert/Fairfax, VA |
| The Music of Kurt Weill | Guest Artist | The Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC |
| The Music of Cole Porter | Guest Artist | The Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC |

RECORDINGS

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| The Capeman (<i>Paul Simon/Derek Walcott</i>) | Featured Artist | Broadway Cast Recording (Dreamworks) |
| Man of La Mancha | Featured Artist | Broadway Cast Recording (RCA Victor/BMG) |
| Missionaries | Featured Artist | Original Cast Recording/ <i>Elizabeth Swados, producer</i> |
| Latin Broadway | Featured Artist | Varese Sarabande |
| Pa' Los Treseros | Featured Artist | Agogo/Qbadisc Records * <i>Latin Grammy nomination</i> |

2018 Helen Hayes Award Nominee – Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical for *In the Heights* (U.S. Spanish language premiere – Gala Hispanic Theatre, Washington, DC)

2007 Drama Desk Award – Best Ensemble Award for *In the Heights* (Off-Broadway production).

Semi-finalist - **Metropolitan Opera** Mid-Atlantic Regional Auditions.

SKILLS

Languages: Fluent in English and Spanish. Proficient in Italian. Basic French.

Experience in both Macintosh and PC environments (MS Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Excel).

Experienced Blackboard Collaborate instructor.

Experienced Moodle Instructor.

REFERENCES

Jan Selman, Professor (Graduate Advisor)
MFA Directing Program Coordinator
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Dr. Stefano Muneroni, Associate Professor
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