

# Michelle Rios

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<http://www.mmrios.com>

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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 Theatre for Social Change/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**

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 teach the origins and development of theatre art; introduction to theatre aesthetics; and engage in group exploration of some of the craft and experience of theatre performance.
- DR 1020 – Play Analysis  
I teach 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 teach 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 teach the study of acting, including the analysis and enactment of scripted scenes, and characterization.
- DR3210 - The Creative Process of Drama  
I teach 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

### **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 both 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 Music (Edmonton, Alberta)**Invited Guest Teaching Artist (Spring 2012)

- MUS 246 – Opera Workshop  
I provided a seminar on the fundamentals of vocal technique and acting for the operatic stage.

**University of Alberta - Department of Drama (Edmonton, Alberta)**Research & Teaching Assistant (Spring 2012)

- DR 507 – The Practice of Community-based Intergenerational Theatre  
Research and practice emphasized intergenerational theatre through theatre exercises, storytelling techniques, music, and devised play development. *Supervisor: David Barnett*

**University of Alberta - Department of Drama (Edmonton, Alberta)**Research Assistant (Fall 2011)

- Principles of Voice Production  
I researched 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 First Nations 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 - Present)
- **Speak it Away** – Suicide prevention initiative with and for First Nations 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 / Instructor (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**

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**

- Director/Facilitator  
*Journey: Songs and Stories* – Collective creation/Devised piece  
Grande Prairie Regional College / Black Box Theatre
- Playwright  
*Abuela's Coqui* – I was commissioned to write and premiere this new bilingual play for *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**

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**

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, AB
The Raven Steals the Light	Noni/Sky Daughter	Groove Soldier Productions, Edmonton, AB
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**

Man of La Mancha  
The Capeman  
The Sound of Music

Maria/Housekeeper  
Aurea Agrón  
Ensemble

Al Hirschfield Theatre *Jonathan Kent, dir.*  
Marquis Theatre *Mark Morris, dir.*  
Martin Beck Theatre *Susan Schulman, dir.*

**National Tour**

The Mystery of Edwin Drood

Helena Landless

Troika Organization, Inc. (U.S. & Canada)

**Off Broadway/Regional Theatre**

In the Heights (U.S. Spanish Premiere)  
The Travels  
The Absent One  
Giant *Jonathan Butterell, dir.*  
The Light in the Piazza  
In the Heights  
Metamorphoses  
The Beauty Inside  
Sleepwalkers *Ruben Polendo, dir.*  
Star Messengers *Paul Zimet, dir.*  
Bitterroot *Paul Zimet, dir.*  
Unmerciful Good Fortune  
Miriam's Flowers  
Missionaries *Elizabeth Swados, dir.*  
Beggar's Holiday  
Caballero de Milagro

Abuela Claudia  
Consuela Podera  
Fernanda  
Lupe  
Signora Naccarelli  
Abuela Claudia  
Narrator  
Peri  
Skinny Woman  
Salviati  
Miss Fitz  
Luz  
Delfina  
Maria Elena  
Lucy  
Alguacil

Gala Hispanic Theatre *Luis Salgado, dir.*  
2014 NY Musical Theatre Festival  
New Works Lab/University of Alberta  
Signature Theatre, VA (World Premiere)  
Weston Playhouse, VT  
37 Arts, NYC \**opposite Lin Manuel Miranda*  
Weston Playhouse, VT  
New Georges Thtr Co., NYC/InterAct, PA  
The Alliance Theatre Co., Atlanta, GA  
LaMaMa E.T.C., NYC  
LaMaMa E.T.C., NYC  
INTAR, NYC  
INTAR, NYC  
NYS&F/LaMaMa E.T.C.  
The Smithsonian Institute  
Gala Hispanic Theatre

**Staged Readings/Workshops**

Like Water for Chocolate  
Giant *Michael Greif, dir.*  
The Mambo Kings  
Dogeaters *Michael Greif, dir.*  
Stranger *Trip Cullman, dir.*  
The Rise and Fall of Isabella Rico  
26 Miles  
Hotel Carter *Joe Calarco, dir.*  
Brooklyn Bridge  
Centrifugal Force  
Little Ham  
George Dandin  
90 North *Scott Schwartz, dir.*  
Carmen Jones

Mama Elena  
Lupe  
Blanca  
Trinidad Gamboa  
Serafina  
Cecilia  
Beatriz  
The Mayoress  
Single Mom  
Woman  
Sugar Lou  
Claudine  
Alekasina  
Ensemble

Sundance Theatre Lab  
Joseph Papp Public Theatre  
Daryl Roth Productions  
Joseph Papp Public Theatre, NYC  
New Musicals Now/Joe's Pub, NYC  
The Director's Company, NYC  
Philadelphia Theatre Company  
New Dramatists, NYC  
New Dramatists, NYC  
Geva Theatre Center, NY  
AMAS Musical Theatre, NYC  
Festival of 'Wrights'/92<sup>nd</sup> St. Y  
Berkshire Theatre Festival/The Kennedy Center  
Goodspeed Musicals/Lincoln Center

**OPERA**

Goya (*w/ Placido Domingo*)  
Don Pasquale  
Abduction from the Seraglio  
Don Procopio  
The Merry Widow  
From the Diary of Virginia Woolf

Soprano/Ensemble  
Soprano/Ensemble  
Soprano/Ensemble  
Bettina  
Valencienne  
Virginia Woolf

The Washington Opera/The Kennedy Center  
The Washington Opera/The Kennedy Center  
The Washington Opera/The Kennedy Center  
Maxlrain Summer Opera Co./Germany  
Repertorio Español, NYC  
The "IN" Series/Washington, DC

**CONCERTS**

Spoletto Music Festival (U.S.A.)  
Spoletto Music Festival (Italy)  
Rome Festival Orchestra  
Missionaries in Concert

Guest Artist  
Guest Artist  
Guest Artist  
Guest Artist

Music in Time Series/Charleston, SC  
Spoletto Vocal Institute/Spoletto, Italy  
Bel Canto Concert/Rome, Italy  
St. John the Divine, NYC *Elizabeth Swados, dir.*

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**

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 Nomination** – Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical for *In the Heights*

**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**

Dr. Stefano Muneroni, Associate Professor  
MA Drama Program Coordinator  
University of Alberta Department of Drama  
Email: Stefano.muneroni@ualberta.ca  
(780) 492-8734

Jan Selman, Professor (Graduate Advisor)  
MFA Directing Program Coordinator  
University of Alberta Department of Drama  
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