

DEBRA BUONACCORSI MCWILLIAMS

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CURRENTLY 2024

Adjunct Theatre Faculty, Towson University, Department of Theatre Arts at the College of Fine Arts and Communications, teaching Acting.

New work in development, *Professor Woland's Emporium* (eccentric rock/theatre performance piece, inspired by Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*) with Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue (Co-founder and Artistic Director), a Helen Hayes Award Winning, interdisciplinary theatre company; "rock concert as literary satire."

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Research Interests: Creating Unconventional, Interdisciplinary Works, Building Pathways to Engage Non-Traditional Audiences, Producing Theatre in Unexpected Places, The Intersection of the Whimsical and the Grotesque, Genre-bending Musical Theatre

EDUCATION

Academic

Towson University
College of Fine Arts and Communications

MFA in Theatre Arts
Class of 2024

New York University
Tisch School of the Arts

BFA in Theatre
Class of 1998

Study and Training

Tectonic Theatre Project

Moment Work Institute workshop in devising new work in a collaborative laboratory setting

Collaborative Arts Project 21 (CAP 21)

Professional musical theatre training conservatory, formerly affiliated with Tisch/NYU, New York, NY

Solo Performance	Workshop with Tim Miller, internationally acclaimed performance artist
Spoletto Vocal Arts Symposium	Opera, classical vocal training intensive, Spoleto, Italy
Performance Studies	At NYU with Peggy Phelan and Diana Taylor, and at TU with Michael Tristano
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training	Anti-racism and consent-based, equitable practices in the theatre
Song Interpretation	Studied with Broadway/cabaret veteran, Alix Korey, Broadway musical director Jack Lee, and with Metropolitan Opera singer Sharon Christman
Lessac Training	Voice, speech and movement training that uses body and vocal energy to release physical restrictions and creativity
Dance and Movement	Professional performance experience and training in ballet, modern, tap, jazz, theatre dance, and choreography

AWARDS/HONORS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Jerry Gietka Graduate Theatre Scholarship, Towson University, 2023-2024

Founders Day Award, University Honors Scholar, New York University, 1998

Helen Hayes Awards and Nominations:

(The HH Awards recognize outstanding achievement from professional theatres and theatre-makers across the Washington, DC region)

John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company, Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue, Recipient, 2012

Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences, *Flowers Stink*, Nominee, 2015

Best of Theatre, The Washington Post, *Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue presents The Brontes*, 2012

Washington Area Music Awards (Wammie):

Outstanding Roots Duo/Group, The Hummingbyrds, Nominee, 2015
Outstanding Female Vocalist, Nominee, 2015
Outstanding Roots Album, Nominee, 2015

Folk Alliance International Conference Scholarship, Recipient, 2020

New Musical Foundation, Developmental Grant, Recipient, 2008 and 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY

Towson University

Acting 1 (Fall 2024, Spring 2024)

Teaching Assistant

Advanced Study in Directing (Spring 2024)

Scene Study for Actors in Collaboration with Student Directors (Spring 2023)

Acting 1 (Fall 2022)

PRIVATE MUSIC INSTRUCTION

2001-present

Piano and Vocal Instructor, private lessons, ages five-adults, beginner through intermediate levels, classical repertoire, music theory and ear training.

THEATRE FOR YOUTH/TEENS

1998-2003

Slayton House Theatre Conservatory for teens, Columbia, Maryland. Ages 13-17, improvisation, scene study, script analysis, movement, voice and speech, theatre dance, acting techniques.

ORIGINAL WORKS CREATED

THEATRE

Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue

presents

Professor Woland's Emporium

Playwright, co-composer and lyricist

A new work in development, conceived as part of MFA Final Project, an interdisciplinary, rock

musical performance piece inspired by the novel
The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov

Staged reading, Towson University, 2024

Looking Glass

Playwright

A 10-minute memory play/movement piece,
exploring a couple's struggle with post-partum
depression in the 1950's, as observed by a
treasured glass collection

Premiered at the MFA 10-minute Play Festival,
Towson University, 2023

Flowers Stink

Co-playwright, composer and lyricist

A world premiere Kennedy Center Musical, co-
commissioned by the US Botanic Gardens, a
city kid's musical adventure through nature,
guided by two loveable plants come to life

Premiered, US Botanic Garden Amphitheatre
Stage, 2015, directed by Gregg Henry

***Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue
presents The Brontes***

Playwright, co-composer and lyricist

An interdisciplinary musical work based on the
life and literature of the Bronte sisters and their
ne'er do well brother, and the carnivalesque
spirit guides who lead them from death to the
other side

Premiered, Capital Fringe Festival, 2012

Fall Fringe, 2012

Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, 2013

New York Musical Festival, 2013

All productions directed by Rick Hammerly

***Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue
presents Finn McCool***

Playwright, co-composer and lyricist

A post-apocalyptic, rock musical retelling of the
Irish myth of Finn McCool and his band of
Fianna

Premiered, Capital Fringe Festival, 2010

Melton Hall at Woolly Mammoth Theatre, 2011

Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue
presents *The Saints*

Playwright, co-composer and lyricist
The lives of Catholic saints as told by a band of
rock and roll, carnival troubadours, through
song, movement and puppetry

Premiered, Capital Fringe Festival, 2009

Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue
presents *The Oresteia*

Playwright, co-composer and lyricist
A rock and roll, carnival retelling of Aeschylus'
Oresteia, through music, side-show acts and
movement

Premiered, Capital Fringe Festival, 2008
Keegan Theatre, 2009

OTHER MUSIC COMPOSED FOR THEATRE

Lily, Arthur by Steven J. Satta

Songs composed in 1940's style
Towson University, 2023

The Liminal Collective

Incidental music composed
MFA Final Project of Kai DonDero, Towson
University, 2024

The Saint Plays by Erik Ehn

Music composed for *The Monkey Seller*
Factory 449, at Church Street Theatre, DC, 2010

ALBUMS RELEASED

The TrueHearts

Co-songwriter and lyricist

Live at the Rafters

Recorded live in St. Louis, MO, 2020

Songs For Spike

Recorded in Nashville, TN, 2019

Purgatory Emporium

Recorded in Nashville, TN 2017

The Hummingbyrds

Co-songwriter and lyricist

The Hummingbyrds

Recorded in Baltimore, MD 201

PRODUCTION AND PERFORMANCE

DIRECTING

Musical Director/Asst. Director

Lily, Arthur

Towson University

Director

The Ritual of Remembering

Towson University

DMLRR presents Finn McCool

Melton Hall-Woolly Mammoth Theatre

DMLRR presents The Saints

Capital Fringe

DMLRR presents The Oresteia

Capital Fringe

Keegan Theatre

Capital Fringe

Director/Choreographer

I Left My Heart: The Music of Tony Bennett

Toby's Dinner Theatre

My Way: A Tribute to Frank Sinatra

Toby's Dinner Theatre,

Pippin

Slayton House Conservatory

The Pajama Game

Slayton House Conservatory

Guys and Dolls

Slayton House Conservatory

ACTING (selected credits, full acting resume available on request)

DMLRR presents The Brontes

Charlotte

New York Musical Festival

Deaf West's Big River

Ensemble/Understudy

Ford's Theatre

Camelot

Ensemble

Arena Stage

Kiss of the Spider Woman

Spider Woman Understudy

Signature Theatre

Carousel

Ensemble/Carrie Understudy

Olney Theatre Center

Anything Goes

Virtue/Hope Understudy

Olney Theatre Center

The Plagues for Our Time

Company

LaMaMa E.T.C

Dark Rapture

Renee

Spooky Action Theatre

Songs for a New World

Company

Open Circle Theatre

Evita

Mistress

Open Circle Theatre

Curious George

Marie

National Tour, Theatreworks

My Way

Woman #2

Cumberland Theatre

The Sound of Music

Elsa

Cumberland Theatre

Chicago

Velma Kelly

Toby's Dinner Theatre

Cats

Bombalurina

Toby's Dinner Theatre

West Side Story

Maria

Mac-Haydn Theatre

Fiddler on the Roof

Hodel

Mac-Haydn Theatre

MUSICIAN

Composer, songwriter and arranger
Classically trained vocalist and multi-instrumentalist:
Piano, Guitar and Accordion

The TrueHearts

Folk-Rock, Americana band, performing original music throughout Nashville, TN and in New Orleans, Memphis, Knoxville, St. Louis, Asheville, NC, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Thomas, WV, Bristol, VA, Floyd, VA, Richmond VA, Philadelphia, Folk Alliance International, NOLA Cutting Edge Conference, in the Baltimore/DC region at the Barns of Wolftrap, The Birchmere, The Hamilton, Bethesda Blues and Jazz, The Iota, The 8x10, Annapolis Baygrass Festival and others

ARTS ADMINISTRATION

2008-present	Producing Artistic Director and Co-Founder , Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue
2022-2024	Administrative Assistant , The Arts Integration Institute, Graduate Certificate Program, Towson University
2022-present	Patron Services Specialist , Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
2015-2022	Booking and Tour Manager , The TrueHearts
2001-2003	Camp Director , Slayton House Summer Theatre Conservatory

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Actor's Equity Association (AEA)
Americana Music Association (AMA)
Broadcast Music, Inc (BMI)