

ADARA ALSTON

ACTOR | DIRECTOR | MUSICIAN - AEA / SAG-AFTRA

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EDUCATION

Cornell University, Ithaca NY — B.S. D+EA

1995-1999 Bachelor of Science in Design and Environmental Analysis

Concentrations in Human Factors/Ergonomics, and Facility Planning & Management

Western Governors University, Salt Lake City UT — M.Ed-ID

2021 Master of Education in Instructional Design

DIRECTING EDUCATION

Leadership Initiative Project / dir. Michael Barakiva

2022 Graduate – Pilot Program Class

Program led by founder and creative director Michael Barakiva for theatre artists from historically excluded backgrounds who receive training, mentorship, and professional development opportunities in directing.

ACTING WORKSHOPS / COACHING

Michael Chekhov Technique

Cornell University Workshop with Carolyn Goelzer

Acting Coach

Tim Gleason (Individual), Susannah Berryman (Performance, Movement), Karl Gregory (Performance)

Vocal Coach

Jan DeAngelo, Matthew Vavalle

DIRECTING - THEATRE

<i>Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed</i>	Director	Hangar Theatre	Ithaca, NY
<i>Men on Boats</i>	Director	Ithaca College	Ithaca NY
<i>Eleemosynary</i>	Director	SUNY Cortland	Cortland, NY
<i>The Mountaintop</i>	Director	Chenango River Theatre (AEA)	Greene, NY
<i>Toliver and Wakeman</i> (workshop/performed reading)	Director	Franklin Stage Company (AEA)	Franklin, NY
<i>Trouble in Mind</i>	Associate Director	Franklin Stage Company (AEA) / dir. Patricia Buckley	Franklin, NY
<i>Bricktop: Legend of the Jazz Age</i>	Assistant Director	Franklin Stage Company (AEA) / dir. Rodney Hudson	Franklin, NY
<i>Doubt, A Parable</i>	Director	Elmira Little Theatre	Elmira, NY
<i>My Race</i>	Director	Därkhorse Dramatists	Binghamton, NY
<i>Wonderlove</i>	Director	Därkhorse Dramatists	Binghamton, NY
<i>Goth vs. Cheerleader</i>	Director	Därkhorse Dramatists	Binghamton, NY

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE (PARTIAL LIST)

<i>Trouble in Mind</i>	Millie	Franklin Stage Company / dir. Pat Buckley	Franklin, NY
<i>Good People</i>	Kate	Franklin Stage Company / dir. Chris O'Connor	Franklin, NY
<i>Doubt, A Parable</i>	Mrs. Muller	Franklin Stage Company / dir. Julie Kline	Franklin, NY
<i>Fences</i>	Rose Maxson	RedHouse Arts Center / dir. Ted Lange	Syracuse, NY
<i>Men On Boats</i>	John Wesley Powell	Chenango River Theatre / dir. Kiara Pipino	Greene, NY
<i>An Odyssey</i>	Odysseus, Calypso	Hangar Theatre / dir. Sam Buggeln	Ithaca, NY
<i>The Inferior Sex</i>	Shirley Chisholm	Hangar Theatre / dir. Cynthia Henderson	Ithaca, NY
<i>The Skin of our Teeth</i>	Joy	Hangar Theatre / dir. Michael Barakiva	Ithaca, NY
<i>As You Like It</i>	LeBeau, Corin*	Cherry Arts / dir. Sam Buggeln	Ithaca, NY
<i>The Fan</i>	Coronato	Cherry Arts / dir. Sam Buggeln	Ithaca, NY
<i>Emmett & Ella: A Doggone Mystery</i>	Louella	Kitchen Theatre's Fitz&Startz / dir. Rachel Lampert	Ithaca, NY
<i>Pericles, Prince of Tyre</i>	Goddess Diana	Ithaca Shakespeare Co. / dir. Steve Ponton	Ithaca, NY
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Hippolyta	Cider Mill Playhouse / dir. Tim Mollen	Endicott, NY
<i>South Pacific (concert)</i>	Nurse, French girl**	Cider Mill Playhouse / dir. Kate Murray	Endicott, NY
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Robin Starveling	Ithaca Shakespeare Co. / dir. Amina Omari	Ithaca, NY
<i>The Skriker</i>	Grand-daughter	House of Ithaca / dir. AJ Sage	Ithaca, NY
<i>The Pillowman</i>	Mother	House of Ithaca / dir. Christopher Tautelbaum	Ithaca, NY
<i>Vieux Carré</i>	Nursie (u/s)	Know Theatre / dir. Brandt Reitner	Binghamton, NY
<i>Fertile Ground</i>	Billie (u/s)	Civic Ensemble / dir. Carley Robinson	Ithaca, NY
<i>Katrina: A New Musical</i>	Larinda	Walking on Water / dir. Priscilla Hummell	Ithaca, NY

EDUCATIONAL THEATRE

<i>The Wolves</i>	Soccer Mom	Cornell University Performing Media Arts	Ithaca, NY
<i>The Loneliness Project</i>	Mary Morton, et al.	Cornell University Performing Media Arts	Ithaca, NY
<i>for colored girls...</i>	Lady in Green	Binghamton University / Independent	Binghamton, NY
<i>Everyone Knows Someone</i>	Kora, Jem	Binghamton University / The Forthright Theatre Project	Binghamton, NY

FILM / TELEVISION (PARTIAL LIST)

<i>It's A Wonderful Binge</i>	Drunk Caroler (featured/ special ability)	Hulu & American High Film / dir. Jordan VanDina
<i>The Monkey's Paw</i>	Miss Sampson	WSKG (PBS) / dir. Andrew Pioch, Kate Murray
<i>Stolen Joy Project</i>	Autum (Book Fair)	Village at Ithaca / dir. Shira Evergreen, Tyler Struble

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMING EXPERIENCE (PARTIAL LIST)

<i>Expressions TV Show</i>	Host	WSKG-TV (PBS) - Ithaca/Binghamton	Vestal, NY
<i>MR Scan Empathic Design Video</i>	Technologist Stella	General Electric (GE) / PSP	Ithaca, NY
<i>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</i>	Cynthia Brown	Cornell University	Ithaca, NY
<i>Virtual Communication video</i>	Job Interviewee	Cornell University	Ithaca, NY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cornell University, Ithaca NY — Student Evaluation of Teaching Central Administrator

MARCH 2024 - PRESENT

- Leads and administers for the conversion of the entire university to a new platform and a consistent set of questions for end-of-term course evaluations.

Binghamton University, Vestal NY — Instructional Design Contractor, NENY (New Energy New York)

JANUARY 2024 - PRESENT

- Consults for the Battery Academy Program on instructional design updates, improvements, and proposes additional innovations.

Cornell University, Ithaca NY — Adjunct Actor, Cornell Interactive Theatre Ensemble (CITE)

JANUARY 2020 - PRESENT

- Performs as actor in instructional videos and in-person DEI and HR workshops.
- Travels to universities and organizations performing scenes and monologues to simulate workplace scenarios and interact with staff as the character in the scenario.

(CITE combines live theatre and audience participation to foster dialogue on a wide variety of problematic workplace issues that are challenging for employees at all levels. CITE presentations have been designed and implemented for academic institutions, corporations, not-for-profit organizations, professional groups, conferences, government agencies, and hospitals. CITE received Cornell University's prestigious James A. Perkins Prize for Interracial Understanding and Harmony.)

WGU, Salt Lake City UT — Sr. Lead Instructional Technologist

SEPTEMBER 2022 - JULY 2023

- Led and supported projects on the Standards and Practices team, including Structured Rapid Design/Development (creating efficiency through standardized learning patterns), and projects involving coaching reports, activity flashcards, drag & drop activities and branching scenarios.

Cornell University, Ithaca NY — Sr. Instructional Designer

JULY 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2022

(Senior STEM Instructional Designer - APR 2021 – SEPT 2022; Instructional Designer - JULY 2019 – MAR 2021; Instructional Design Associate - JULY 2018 – JUNE 2019)

- Planned, organized, and developed course technology for curriculum, materials, and programs to meet specific educational needs, primarily for STEM/technical courses.
- Led design efforts for certificate courses including User Experience Design certificate, Data Science in R certificate, and Machine Learning for Investment certificate; Led Design Thinking certificate redesign.

JAGGAER, Vestal NY — Sr. Functional UI/UX Designer in Product Management

JULY 2000 - APRIL 2018

(Senior Functional Designer - 2012 – 2018; Functional Designer - 2000 – 2012; Usability/UX/UI Consultant - 2000 – 2018; Client Consultant - 2004, 2006, 2017)

- Designed high-level interfaces and functional UI/UX documentation for the Product Management team as the lead functional designer / content owner of product areas that included Contract Management, Category Management, Sourcing Management, and across various other apps.
- Trained new members of the PM team, including the Category Management PM successor who was able to seamlessly transition into the role in only a few weeks.
- Supervised workload of the PM staff in Bangalore India office.
- Created and managed functional documentation used to communicate requirements to product developers, including the creation of flow diagrams, screen designs and related requirements.

Lockheed Martin, Owego NY — Industrial Engineer / Project Presenter

JUNE 1999 - JULY 2000

- Managed space planning of 12 buildings (375,000 sq. ft. of space and 1000+ people).
- Delivered project proposals to the executive team.

City of Ithaca, Ithaca NY — Civil Engineer Aide

JUNE 1997 - MAY 1999

- Completed contracts, drawings, and specifications for the redesign of community center doorways and for a complete gymnasium renovation, including new floors, heating, and ceiling repair.
- Supervised construction projects while on-site.

PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION

NY Emmy 2022 Nomination and Win	<i>Expressions</i> (Host)	WSKG-TV (PBS) - Ithaca/Binghamton
BroadwayWorld.com Central NY Supporting Performer Nomination 2023	<i>As You Like It</i> (Supporting Performer)	Cherry Arts / dir. Sam Buggeln
BroadwayWorld.com Central NY Supporting Performer Nomination 2023	<i>Good People</i> (Supporting Performer)	Franklin Stage / dir. Chris O'Connor
BroadwayWorld.com Central NY Lead Performer Nomination 2022	<i>Men on Boats</i> (Lead Performer)	Chenango River Theatre / dir. Kiara Pipino
Top Play Selection, Know Theatre 14th Annual Playwrights Festival	<i>Do or Don't Do</i> (Playwright)	Know Theatre / dir. Tim Gleason

EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

Broome County Celtic Pipes and Drums

DECEMBER 2013 - PRESENT

(Vice President - 2018; Drum Major - 2018 – PRESENT; Member - 2013 – PRESENT; Corresponding Secretary - 2015)

- Helps lead band in parades and rehearsal, when not performing as snare drummer.
- Coordinated band functions, performances and appearances, negotiated fees, booked busses and other travel components, and arranged parade accommodations. (Yearly, the secretary arranges ~30 official band events/gigs, ~20 private gigs with a band subset or solo performer.)
- Promoted band events and created associated graphical posters.
- Updated and monitored band social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and the band website (via Wordpress).
- Attended monthly board meetings as executive board member, holding a key vote in band decisions. Also kept minutes at monthly meeting.

Cornell Online Learning Community (COLC)

MARCH 2019 - DECEMBER 2021

(Advisory Board Member - MAR 2019 – DEC 2021)

- Helped organize regular events for the online learning community of Cornell University.

The ART Mission & Theater

OCTOBER 2015 - SEPTEMBER 2017

(Secretary and Board Member- OCT 2015 – SEPT 2017)

- Maintained and recorded minutes for monthly meetings.
- Converted all board paperwork from manual storage to online storage for the first time in board history.

Cornell University Big Red Bands Alumni Association

JANUARY 2005 - DECEMBER 2006

(Event Coordinator - JAN 2005 – DEC 2006; Executive Board Member - JAN 2005 – DEC 2006)

- Coordinated band alumni events, including setting up locations and arranging food/refreshments.
- Voted on band alumni business as an executive board member.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS / CERTIFICATES / HONORS

<i>Certified Usability Analyst (CUA-2015-5543)</i>	Human Factors International Training for conducting usability studies and testing on product design.
<i>Project Management certificate 2019</i>	Cornell University Project Management Certificate, a five-course short course series taught by Professor Linda Nozick.
<i>Effective Listening 2019</i>	Completed LinkedIn Course/Certificate
<i>OLC Presentation Selection 2023</i>	Proposal for presentation was selected for the Online Learning Consortium Conference in Washington DC. Presentation was on Structured Rapid Development.
<i>Explorance World Presentation 2025</i>	Presented at Conference in Montreal Canada on the topic of Managing Complex Data with the 3-level relationship model for course evaluations; Assisted with proposal submission.

PERFORMANCE SKILLS AND INTERESTS

<i>Accents and Dialect:</i>	New York, Southern (Alabama, New Orleans, Carolinas, Texas), Sub-Saharan African (Kenyan, Nigerian), Jamaican, Irish, and British (RP).
<i>Music:</i>	Drums (Drum Kit**, Marching Snare, Cajón*) and Brass (Trombone, Trumpet, Tuba, Baritone Horn)
<i>Trained Dance:</i>	Partner Dance (East/West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Salsa, Various Latin Styles)
<i>Additional:</i>	Martial Artist (2nd Degree Black Belt - Tang Soo Do (Karate); 1st Degree Black Belt - Haidong Gumdo (Sword)), Improvisation, Roller Skating, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Football, Bowling

SERVICE

<i>5K/10K/Half-mar. Races</i>	Regular participant in charity races and race volunteer
<i>Charity / Fundraising Volunteer</i>	Participant in fundraising events for American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen, Habitat for Humanity, Greater Ithaca Activities Center, Southside Community Center, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and several other organizations
<i>Speaker/Presenter</i>	Presents in various class and conference settings for universities such as Cornell University and Binghamton University

MEMBERSHIPS

<i>AEA, 2024 - Present</i>	Actors' Equity Association Equity Membership
<i>AEA-EMC, 2018 - 2024</i>	Actors' Equity Association Equity Membership Candidate Program
<i>SAG-AFTRA, 2022 - Present</i>	Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists member
<i>Cornell Tradition, 1996-99</i>	Cornell University Volunteerism and Scholarship organization