

# Che'Rae Adams

**Actor/Director/Dramaturgy**

# Biography

# Che'Rae Adams

Che'Rae Adams is currently the **Director of Operations and Programming for the Moss Theater in Santa Monica.**

She has been the **Producing Artistic Director of the LA Writers Center** since 2006 where she develops new work with local writers. She has also been a **Development Executive for Playhouse Pictures Studios, Co-Artistic Director of the Road Theatre Company, and Managing Producer for the LA Women's Theatre Festival.**

She began her career as the **Assistant to the Staff Producer at The Mark Taper Forum** where she worked on the writing workshop of the Pulitzer Prize winning *Angels in America, Part II: Perestroika*. Also for the Taper, she coordinated the Taper Lab Series and Mentor Playwright's Series working with writers such as Luis Alfaro, Anthony Clarvoe, Marlane Meyer, David Lee Lindsey, Oliver Mayer, Ellen McLaughlin, Alice Tuan and Mac Wellman.

She has a **Masters Degree from the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music (CCM)** where she met and worked with Fred and Adele Astaire Award nominated choreographer Josh Prince, Tony winner Karen Olivo, and Broadway stars Matt Bogart, Aaron Serotsky, Damian Baldet and author Todd Almond. She also has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from California State University, Northridge and has been on the Steering Committee of Directors Lab West for ten years.

Che'Rae has developed and directed the West Coast premiere productions of several new plays including pieces by Lee Blessing, Ken Hanes, Patricia Cardosa, John DiFusco, Jon Bastian, and Abi Morgan. She has also directed for Cincinnati Opera Outreach, Disney/ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshop, Highways Performance Space, and



# Biography (cont.)

Troupe Vertigo at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre. She has worked with prominent performers such as **Tonya Pinkins**, Lynn Redgrave, **Patti Cohenour**, Liz Callaway, Jody Watley, Jon Secada, Kim Fields, and Carlos Alazraqui. She has worked with award winning directors and choreographers such as **Vincent Paterson**, Tom Hulce, **Bonnie Story**, Lula Washington, Kitty McNamee, Tina Kronis, and celebrated designers John Iacovelli, Cricket S. Myers, and **Ming Cho Lee**.

As the Director of Programming for The Moss Theater she works with numerous musical acts including **Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (LACO)**, Duo Del Sol, Jazz Bakery, Musical Theatre Guild, Musicians At Play Foundation (including **Seth McFarlane's Jazz Band**). As part of the Moss Theater's **Live Talks LA** and **Writers Bloc** series, she has hosted celebrities such as John Irving, Jason Segel, Shepard Fairey with Moby, Kevin Costner, **Linda Ronstadt**, Penn Jillette, Diane Keaton, Maria Bello with Camyrn Manheim, Eric Bogosian, **Herb Alpert**, Deborah Voigt, Ann Rice, Nicholas Kristof, Amy Tan, **Russell Brand**, Mitch Albom, Malcolm Gladwell, and Kristoffer Kristofferson.

As a **Steering Committee member for Directors Lab West** she has created close to ten years of programming (workshops, panels, and master classes) annually at the Pasadena Playhouse. Highlights include **Vincent Paterson**, Moises Kaufman, **Jason Alexander**, Martin Benson, **Marc Masterson**, Todd London, Sheldon Epps, Geoff Elliott and Julia Rodriguez-Elliott, Des McAnuff, Jessica Kubzansky, Chay Yew, **Jack O'Brien** and Bill Rausch.

Che'Rae is also an experienced public speaker and teacher having taught acting and writing workshops at various institutions around the country such as **The Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University**, Catholic University, Miami Dade University, **California State University, Fullerton**, UCLA Extension, and **Azusa Pacific University**. She has also served on panels for Hollins University, The New Playwright's Festival at the College of the Desert, and the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

# Biography (cont.)

Che'Rae has been the Producing Artistic Director of the LA Writers Center since 2006. Her writers are **Academy Award winners**, New Century Writer Award Finalists, **SCR California New Plays Prize Winners**, PEN West Literary Award Drama Nominees, **New York Drama Desk Award winners**, Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle Award Winners, Heideman Award Recipients, **Mercer Great American Songwriting Program (at Northwestern University) Residents**, and Playwrights' Center Jerome Fellows. They have been produced at The Public Theater, **South Coast Repertory Theater**, The Pasadena Playhouse, The Alleyway Theatre in New York, San Jose Repertory Company, The Road Theatre Company, **the Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater (REDCAT)**, Downtown Urban Theater Festival, LATC, Sacred Fools, The NYC International Fringe Festival, **Actor's Express Theatre**, Currican Theatre, Annex Theatre, Celebration Theatre, and The National Black Theatre Festival, among others.

Che'Rae has had 22 articles published online at [NOHOARTSDISTRICT.COM](http://NOHOARTSDISTRICT.COM), and published a workbook for writers called Writing is Hard... She is the recipient of a **SDC Foundation Observership award** and been nominated for a Cincinnati Enquirer Entertainment Award and Backstage West Garland Critics Citations Award. Fun fact: In 2009, Che'Rae played Gladys Presley in **Cirque du Soleil's Viva Elvis** which opened the Aria Casino in Las Vegas.

# Programming

# 2013 - Present



**Director of Operations & Programming  
for**

## **The Ann & Jerry Moss Theater**

**at the**

**Capshaw/Spielberg Center for Arts  
and Educational Justice**

a 350-seat State of the Art Theater  
in Santa Monica

### **Programmed 600 Shows:**

200 Rentals

350 Presented

50 Produced

### **Accomplishments include:**

Built brand new theater into a “beacon of culture” for the City of Santa Monica. Created online presence, including website and social media platforms

### **Partnerships include:**

Arts for LA, KCRW, KPCC, California Dance Institute, Jazz Bakery, Human Rights Watch, The Young Storytellers Foundation, The Mandell Collection, LACO, Live Talks LA, and Writers Bloc

### **Artists Include:**

Jazz Bakery, Seth McFarlane Jazz Band, Linda Ronstadt, Herb Alpert, Gloria Gaynor, Billy Ray Cyrus, Duo Del Sol, LACO, Louis Price, Diane Keaton, Kristoffer Kristofferson, Russell Brand with Dr. Drew Pinsky

# 2008 - Present



**Steering Committee Member  
of**

## **Directors Lab West**

**at the  
Pasadena Playhouse**

Programs, workshops, panels, master classes  
and performances for 50 directors  
and choreographers annually

### **Programmed:**

Over 500 workshops, panels, master classes,  
and roundtables

### **Accomplishments include:**

21 years of excellence, developed Online  
Presence

### **Partnerships include:**

The Pasadena Playhouse, Center Theater  
Group, The Theater at Boston Court, A Noise  
Within Theater, Cal State LA, and LATC

### **Guest Artists include:**

Vincent Paterson, Moises Kaufman, Jason  
Alexander, Martin Benson, Marc Masterson,  
Todd London, Sheldon Epps, Geoff Elliott and  
Julia Rodriguez-Elliott, Des McAnuff, Jessica  
Kubzansky, Chay Yew, Jack O'Brien, Bill  
Rausch, and Lisa Wolpe



# 2006 - Present



**Producing Artistic Director**  
of

## **The LA Writers Center**

### **Produced:**

75 Readings of new plays and musicals  
1 Solo Festival including three shows, two workshops, and two readings

### **Directed:**

50 Readings of New Plays  
2 Shows in Solo Festival

### **Taught:**

15 Beginning Writing Classes  
20 Intermediate Writing Classes  
80 Advanced Writing Classes  
10 Solo Performance Classes

### **Partnerships include:**

Syzygy Theater Ensemble, Lankershim Arts Center, North by South Theatre LA, and Son of Semele Ensemble

### **Writers include:**

William Katt, Karen Grassle, Jasmine DiAngelo, Tim Toyama, Jon Bastian, Nathan Singer, Megan Gogerty, John DiFusco, Alisa Tangredi, Ser Anzoategui, Mark Knowels

# 2002 – 2003



**Development Executive**  
for

## **Playhouse Pictures Studios**

at the  
**El Portal Theater**

a 360-seat Theater  
in North Hollywood

### **Programmed:**

6 Shows per year  
8 Shows a week  
12 Weeks per run

### **Included:**

- 2 World premiere musicals
- 3 World premiere plays
- 1 Commission

### **Artists included:**

Lee Blessing, Vincent Paterson, Mitch Hale,  
Ron Palillo, Nate Weida, Hollye Levin, and  
Mia McCollough

# 2002 - 2004



**Managing Producer**  
of

## **LA Women's Theater Festival**

at the  
**Barnsdall Gallery Theater**

a 299-seat Theater  
in Hollywood

### **Programmed & Produced:**

26 Shows selected from 150+ applications  
Outdoor music concert

### **Directed:**

1-2 Shows each year

### **Taught:**

2 Solo playwriting classes

### **Partnerships included:**

Barnsdall Gallery Theatre, California Arts Council, LA County Arts Commission, City of LA Cultural Affairs Dept, UCLA, LATC, and the Lankershim Arts Center

### **Artists included:**

Lily Tomlin, Danny Glover, Lorraine Toussaint, Hattie Winston, Edie McClurg, Jude Narita, Linda Hopkins, Freda Payne, Corey Madden, Shelley Morrison, Arigon Starr, Kitty McNamee, Lan Tran, Lyena Strelkoff, and Marla Gibbs

# 1991 – 1994



**Co-Artistic Director  
of**

## **The Road Theatre Company**

**at the  
Lankershim Arts Center**

a 99-seat Theater  
in North Hollywood

### **Produced:**

5 World or west coast premiere plays a year  
Created a weekly reading series for new plays  
Created a workshop series for off-nights

### **Directed:**

1 World premiere per year  
10 Readings per year

### **Accomplishments included:**

2003 BackStage West Landmark Award for  
Sustained Excellence in Theatre

1998 Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle  
Margaret Harford Award for Sustained  
Excellence in Theatre

### **Artists included:**

Broadway stars David Burnham and Lance  
Guest, Dan Butler, Michele Mais, Paul  
Haypenny, Ken Hanes, Jon Bastian, Ken  
Sawyer, Leon Martell, Brady Thomas, Richard  
Herd, Steven Culp, Barbara Lindsey, Tim  
Toyama, and Taylor Gilbert

# 1991 - 1992



Assistant to the Staff Producer  
of

## **The Mark Taper Forum (Taper, Too...)**

at the  
**John Anson Ford Theater**

a 99-seat Theater  
in Hollywood

### **Produced:**

Taper Lab Series

9 Workshops

7 Readings

Mentor Playwrights Reading Series

8 Readings

### **Directed:**

Reading of “Dim Sums” by Alice Tuan

### **Partnerships included:**

The John Anson Ford Theater, Audrey Skirball-Kenis Theatre Inc, and the National Endowment for the Arts

### **Artists include:**

Luis Alfaro, Oscar Eustis, Robert Egan, Mara Isaacs, Anthony Clarvoe, Marlane Meyer, David Lee Lindsey, Oliver Mayer, Ellen McLaughlin, Alice Tuan, Leon Martell, Mac Wellman, Han Ong, Brian Kulick, John Fleck, Peter Brosius, and Roger Guenveur Smith

# Directing/Acting



# ***Amadeus***

by Peter Shaffer

directed by Che'Rae Adams

sound design by Drew Dalzell

at University of Cincinnati, College  
Conservatory of Music



# ***Tender***

by Abi Morgan

directed by Che'Rae Adams

sound design by Dave B. Marling

light design by Dan Reed

set design by Dan Jenkins

at The Syzygy Theatre Ensemble





# ***Portrait of a Poet***

a play with music...

by Yrneh Gabon

directed by Che'Rae Adams

choreography by Winifred R. Harris

at The Ivar Theater



# ***Walkin' Thru The Fire***

a play with music...

by John Difusco

co-directed by Che'Rae Adams and Janet Roston

choreography by Janet Roston

at The Hayworth Theater





## ***Select Solo Shows***

directed by Che'Rae Adams  
written and performed by

Kim Fields, "Facts of Life" and "Living Single"

Carlos Alazraqui, "Reno 911"

Anastasia Coon, "Friday Night Lights"

Adria Dawn, "Popular" and "Dorkumentary"

Fadik Atasoy, Turkish Film and TV Star



# ***Loving the Silent Tears***

by Don Pippin & David Shire (selected)

directed by Vincent Paterson

assistant directed by Che'Rae Adams

choreography by Bonnie Story

set design by John Iacovelli

sound design by Cricket Myers

at The Shrine Auditorium





# ***The Notebook of Trigorin***

by Tennessee Williams

directed by Steven Hollis

assistant directed by Che'Rae Adams

starring Lynn Redgrave

set design by Ming Cho Lee

at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park



# ***Viva Elvis***

by Cirque du Soleil

directed by Vincent Paterson

starring Che'Rae Adams as Gladys Presley

at City Center Hotel in Las Vegas



# Accolades

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“There is physical humor aplenty, and Stevens, with the ingenious help of director Che’Rae Adams, mines it for all it’s worth.”

—Brad Schreiber, *Back Stage West* on “Chesapeake” by Lee Blessing | **Critics’ Pick**

“Literate yet idiomatic, Abi Morgan's trenchant drama of the human hunger for connection receives a gripping U.S. premiere by Syzygy Theatre Group. Working with striking designs, director Che'Rae Adams locates the script's nerve endings. Her sterling actors, cast for emotional quality, play it to the bone.”

— David C. Nichols, *Los Angeles Times* on “Tender” by Abi Morgan | **Critics’ Pick**

“Director Che’Rae Adams effectively stages the action drawing out the script’s quirky humor and gathering gloom and she is not afraid to put some fire into it.”

—Daryl H. Miller, *The Daily News* on “Freak of Nature” by Ken Hanes | **Weekend Best**



# Accolades

“It's been more than two decades since the Vietnam vet-fueled drama ‘Tracers’ took off from the Odyssey Theatre to blaze across the nation's stages. In ‘Walk'n Thru the Fire’ at the Hayworth Theatre, ‘Tracers’ creator John DiFusco and four talented actors share the touchstones and lessons of his life with appealing brio. Under the smooth direction of Che'Rae Adams and Janet Roston, “Walk'n” dives into issues that DiFusco has grappled with for a lifetime.”

—David C. Nichols, *Los Angeles Times* on “Walking Thru The Fire” by John Difusco

“Adams uses the sparse production design to great advantage, emphasizing ingeniously expressive blocking patterns and eloquent crescendos of dramatic tension to delineate the characters’ complex inter-relationships. This electrifying, supremely intelligent production easily qualifies as one of the finest offerings of the theatre year to date”

—Les Spindle, *Frontiers Magazine* on “Fixing Frank” by Ken Hanes

”Field’s efforts are amplified by the fluid helming of director Che’Rae Adams...”

—Julio Martinez, *Daily Variety* on “Pandora’s Trunk” by Kim Fields

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