Che’Rae Adams

New Play Development

Biography

Che’Rae Adams

Che’Rae has been the **Producing Artistic Director of the LA Writers Center** since 2006 where she develops new work with local writers. She was the **Director of Operations and Programming for the Moss Theater in Santa Monica for 7 years. 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 S**teering 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-Elliot, 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 Playwrights Festival at the College of the Desert, and the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

Biography (cont.)

With the LA Writers Center, she works with **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, 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.

Arts Management

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 650 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

Producer
for

Directors Lab West

at the
Pasadena Playhouse

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

Programmed:
Over 900 workshops, panels, master classes, and roundtables. Directors Lab West Connects, an online lab reaching 6500 people.

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

2006 - Present

Producing Artistic Director
for

The LA Writers Center

Produced:
75 Readings of new plays and musicals
1 Solo Festival including
Online BIPOC reading series in partnership with Howlround

Directed:
50 Readings of New Plays
2 Shows in Solo Festival

Taught:
15 Beginning Writing Classes
20 Intermediate Writing Classes
100 Advanced Writing Classes
20 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, Mark b. Perry, Tim Toyama, Jon Bastian, Nathan Singer, Megan Gogerty, John DiFusco, Alisa Tangredi, Ser Anzoategui, Mark Knowels, Michael Barmish, Marc

2001 – 2004

Development Executive
at

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

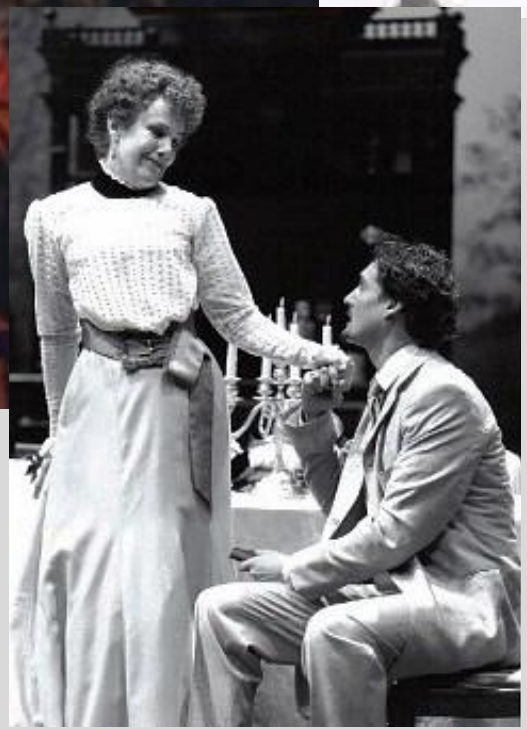
at The Shrine Auditorium

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

Accolades

“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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