

DEBRA ANN BYRD

Actress, Playwright, Producer, Founding Artistic Director - Harlem Shakespeare Festival
229 West 135th Street, New York, NY 10030 | 646-512-2467 | debraann@harlemshakespearefest.org

THEATRE

A Caribbean Christmas Carol	Mrs. Crachit	Queens Theatre In The Park
For Colored Girls...	Lady In Yellow	Black Box Theatre @ MMC
Brown Women Who Fly	Woman No. 5	Henry Street Settlement
A Secret Lies Inside...	Antonia [Lead]	American Theatre Of Actors
Looking For Love In Darkness	Donna	American Theatre Of Actors
The Bad Seed	Mrs. Diagle [Lead]	Victoria Five Theatre
The Other Woman	Paula [Lead]	Victoria Five Theatre
You Shouldn't Have Told	Aunt Freda / Marie	Playwrights Horizon Theatre
Nzinga's Children	Ludie Mae	National Black Theatre
Mother His Nature	Mother [Lead]	Apollo Theatre
Nobody Loves A Black Little Girl...	Grandma / Glenda	Henry Street Settlement
The Domestic	Mamie [Lead]	The Impact Theatre
The Color Of God	Emma White [Lead]	Tribeca Performing Arts Center

CLASSICAL THEATRE

all-female: OTHELLO	Othello [Lead]	Southwest Shakespeare Festival
SABLE SERIES: The History of ...	Henrietta Vinton Davis	Harlem Shakespeare Festival
OTHELLO: The Moor of Venice	Othello [Lead]	Harlem Shakespeare Festival
The Importance Of Being Earnest	Lady Bracknell	TWASInc @ Poet's Den
Antony & Cleopatra	Cleopatra [Lead]	TWASInc @ Poet's Den
ANTIGONE	The Choragos	TWASInc @ National Black Theatre
PECONG	Mediyah [Lead]	TWASInc @ National Black Theatre
The Rivals	Mrs. Malaprop	TWASInc @ National Black Theatre
Richard III	Queen Elizabeth	TWASInc @ American Theatre of Actors
AuNT VANYA	Marina	Chekov Now Festival 2001
NYSF - The Shakespeare Lab	Volumnia / Gertrude	The Shiva @ Joe Papp Public Theater
Antigone	The Choragos	Theresa Lang Theatre @ MMC
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Hippolyta	Marymount Shakespeare Company

MUSICAL THEATRE / TOURS

Freedom Train	Old Rit	TheatreWorks USA - Touring Co.
Once On This Island	Asaka	The Theatre Barn - New Lebanon, NY
The Making Of A Perfect Mate	Perfect Woman	Positive Entertainment - Touring Co.
Don't Play That Song For Me	Holiday	In-A-Woman Productions - Touring Co.
Sweet Daddy & Amazing Grace	Sis. Jones / Chi-Chi	American Showcase Theatre - Touring Co.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Shakespeare & Company, Month-Long Intensive and 3 Day Training (2017/2016)

Acting: *Tina Packer* Scene Study: *Claire Warden* Voice & Speech: *Gwendolyn Schwinke / Dave Demke*
Acting: *Dennis Krausnick* Clown: *Michael F. Toomey* Text Analysis: *Andrew Borthwick-Leslie*

League of American Theatres and Producers - CTI, Certificate of Completion (2007/2005)

- Commercial Theatre Institute, 14-week Certificate Program, *Jed Bernstein*
- Producing for the Commercial Theater, 3-Day Intensive Program, *Various*

Teacher's College - Columbia University | Arts & Business Council, Certificate of Completion (2004)

- Arts Leadership Institute, Professors: *Joan Jeffri | Thomas P. Ference | Edward P. Henry | Schon L. Beechler*

Marymount Manhattan College, Continuing Education (2003)

- Management of the Arts, *Prof. Alvin Reiss*
- Careers in Arts Administration, *Prof. Alvin Reiss*

New York Shakespeare Festival – Shakespeare Lab, Public Theater (2001)

Acting: *Ron Van Lieu* Voice & Speech: *Debra Hecht* Stage Combat: *J. Steven White*
Scene Study: *Michael Cumpsty* Voice & Speech: *Kate Wilson* Text Analysis: *John Dias*

Marymount Manhattan College, Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Acting, Theater Department (2001)

Acting: Contemporary and Modern Theatre *Adrienne D. Williams*
Acting: Heightened Language and Period Styles *Kevin Connell*
Acting: Shakespeare and Restoration *Elizabeth Swain*
Musical Theatre Performance *Patricia Hoag-Simon*
Musical Theatre Dance for Actors & Singers *Haila Strauss*

Musical Theatre Technique *Barry Moss* TVI-Actor's Studio - NYC
Improvisation *Mamie Perfit* Inspirational Theatre Co.

ACCENTS: Southern / Spanish / Caribbean / High British / IPA Literate. **OTHER:** Spoken Word Poet / Quick Study.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- *Harlem Shakespeare Festival, New York, NY*
- Founding Artistic Director (2013-present)

Take Wing And Soar Productions, Inc., New York, NY

- Producing Artistic Director (2003-2013)
- Founder and Chief Executive (1999-2003)

National Black Theatre, Inc., New York, NY

- Associate Producer (2004-2008) ▪ Asst. to the Producer (2002-2004)

Actor/Singer, New York, NY and Touring Companies

Classical, Contemporary and Musical Theatre (1989 – Present)

HONORS, GRANTS AND RESIDENCIES

Columbia Community Scholar Fellow-Cohort VI, *Becoming Othello Project*, Columbia University (2018-2021)

Artist-In-Residence Fellow, *Becoming Othello Project*, Folger Institute, Folger Shakespeare Library (2018)

Writer-In-Residence, *Becoming Othello Project*, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK (2017)

Warwick Impact Fund, *Becoming Othello Project*, University of Warwick, UK (2017)

Center for Actor Training Scholarship, Shakespeare & Company (2017)

Outstanding Achievement Award, Actress/*Othello*, AUDELCO Black Theatre Recognition Award (2016)

Shirley Stewart Farmer Woman of Excellence Award, NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch (2016)

Shakespeare On The Road Honor, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust & University of Warwick, UK (2014)

Woman of the Year, Riverside Club, National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women (2014)

The Lucille Lortel Award (2009) & Josephine Abady Award (2006), League of Professional Theatre Women

Women's Forum Educational Award, The Women's Forum (2001)