

CHARI ARESPACOHAGA

Director and Teacher of Theatre and Performance

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PRESENT

- Director of Creative Development, *GUARDIAN PRINCESS ALLIANCE* (New York and California)
- *Visiting Scholar*, Department of Media and Cultural Studies, University of California Riverside
- *Director*, Department of Theatre, Film and Digital Production, University of California Riverside

THEATER CREDITS

Recent New York Associate Directing/Dramaturgy/Observerships

- LOCH LOMOND by Reilly and Herskowitz. Director. Jeff Whiting. Hard G Productions, New 42nd Studios, NY.
- DOT by Colman Domingo. Director. Susan Stroman. Vineyard Theatre, 2016. (SDCF Directing Observer)
- SINGLE WIDE by George Nelson and Jordan Kamalu. Director, Jeff Whiting. NYMF, 2015. (SDCF Observer and Dramaturg)

Directing Highlights

- *25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE* by William Finn and Rachel Sheinkin, UCR, 2016.
- *AMADEUS* by Peter Shaffer. Phoenix Theatre, UVIC, 2015.
- *9 MINUTES* by Cami de Urioste. PopUp Theatrics New York, 2015.
- *ROCK OF AGES* by Chris D' Arienzo. Atlantis Productions, 2012/13/14.
- *Disney's TARZAN* by Phil Collins, David Henry Hwang. Viva Atlantis Theatricals, 2013.
- *THE FULL MONTY* by Terrence McNally, David Yazbek. Viva Atlantis Theatricals, 2013.
- *Disney's ALADDIN* by Alan Menken, Howard Ashman, Tim Rice. Atlantis Productions, 2012.
- *AVENUE Q* by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx. Base Entertainment and Mediacorp, 2012, Singapore Repertory Theater 2010, Atlantis Productions 2007/08.
- *Disney's THE LITTLE MERMAID* by Alan Menken, Howard Ashman, Doug Wright. Atlantis Productions, 2011.
- *Disney's AIDA* by Elton John, Tim Rice, Linda Woolverton. Atlantis Productions 2011.
- *LEGALLY BLONDE* by Laurence O'Keefe, Nell Benjamin and Heather Hach. Atlantis Productions, 2010.
- *SPRING AWAKENING* by Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater. Atlantis Productions, 2009.
- *ALTAR BOYZ* by Gary Adler, Michael Patrick Walker, Kevin Del Aguila. Repertory Philippines, 2008.

- *SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL* by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, Philippine-Ayala Malls Tour. Atlantis Productions, 2007.
- *HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL* by David Simpatico. Ateneo Blue Repertory, 2006.
- *DOUBT* by John Patrick Shanley. Atlantis Productions, 2006.
- *FOOTLOOSE THE MUSICAL* by Tom Snow, Dean Pitchford, Walter Bobbie. Stages / Trumpets, 2005. Ateneo Blue Repertory, 2002.
- *HONK* by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. Trumpets, 2003.
- *INTO THE WOODS* by Stephen Sondheim. Ateneo Blue Repertory, 2001.

In Research and Creative Development as Director/Dramaturg/Writer

- *GUARDIAN PRINCESS ALLIANCE*, writer and director for the development of *PRINCESS TENTEN* into a musical.

TEACHING HIGHLIGHTS

AS ACADEMIC TEACHER

As Academic Professor for different institutions for over 10 years, Chari has designed syllabi for courses she taught. Teaching highlights include work with:

University of California Riverside

Department of Theatre Film and Digital
Production: TFDP 170
Department of Ethnic Studies:
Filipino-American Relations:
Colonialism to Globalization
Public Speaking

University of Victoria
Meridian International College
(MINT)
La Salle - College of Saint Benilde

Musical Theater 2013
Theatre History
Introduction to Production
Directorial Brief: Scenography
Film History
Film Production
Film Theory

University of Asia and the Pacific

Introduction to Arts
Humanities
Business Communication
2004-2007

International School of Manila

Afternoon Activity Drama
Middle School
1996 – 1998
Basic Acting: Arts Course
Humanities and Communications
Forensics Team Coach
High School
1997 – 1999

OTHER THEATER HIGHLIGHTS

Choreography and Musical Staging Highlights

- NEXT TO NORMAL by Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt. Director, Bobby Garcia. Atlantis Productions, 2011.
- A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC by Stephen Sondheim. Director, Bobby Garcia. Atlantis Productions, Manila and Singapore, 2010.
- 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE by William Finn. Director, Bobby Garcia. Atlantis Productions, Manila and Singapore, 2009.
- TICK...TICK...BOOM! By Jonathan Larson. Director, Bobby Garcia. Atlantis Productions, 2002.

Associate Directing / Resident Directing / Dramaturgy Credits include:

- VENUS IN FUR by David Ives. Director, Michael Shamata. Belfry Theatre, 2014.
- THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH by Thornton Wilder. Director, Linda Hardy. Phoenix Theatre, University of Victoria, 2013.
- IN THE HEIGHTS by Lin Manuel Miranda and Quiara Alegria Hudes. Director, Bobby Garcia. Atlantis Productions, 2012.
- CINDERELLA by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein, Asian Tour. Director, Bobby Garcia. Broadway Asia, 2008 – 09.

Affiliations/Awards

Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab (2007), SDCF, Matoto Arts Bursary, Guardian Princess Academy Artist-In-Residence (2015-present)

Acting Credits

Available upon request.

OTHER TEACHING HIGHLIGHTS

AS DRAMA WORKSHOP MODERATOR and FACULTY

Over 15 years of experience as Drama Workshop/Summer Stock Moderator. Work included creating a comprehensive musical theatre / performance workshop where students, build communication skills and confidence, learn the basics of musical theatre acting, song interpretation, building a character. Created classes for children, teens, adults and advanced musical theatre students of different ages. Classes were composed of 20-40 students and ran from one to eight weeks. Each class ends with a showcase which Chari directed and adapted (or created) scripts for.

Screen Act
Kate Rubin School
Repertory Philippines

Trumpets Playshop

Film and TV Performance 2015
Summer Camp 2014
Summer Workshops
1991 – 2000
Summer Workshops
Playshop Year-round Series
1998-2010

AS PROFESSIONAL MENTOR

As a director in the Philippines I believe in creating as diverse a background as possible in my casting choices. I mix newcomers with theatre professionals, professionals from as varied a pool of theatre backgrounds as I can find, student actors with professionals and cross over artists from the concert/TV/movie industries. This means an extra investment in training and mentoring these artists whether in the language or the basics of creating a part and telling a story for the stage.

My years as a mentor and teacher contributed to a new generation of strong and very promising student actors who cross over into the professional theatre industry. Some mentees also went on to very successful international theatre acting opportunities in Asia and the West End.

As the Professional Mentor for Blue Repertory, Chari directed their big musicals for their season. This involved also training students and preparing them to be part of the show as actors, members of the creative team, members of the team and members of the producing team. Chari also served as consultant for their other plays in their season.

Blue Repertory

Professional Mentor/Director
2003 - 2007

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- MFA University of Victoria 2013 – 2015
Theatre Directing
- College University of the Philippines 1990 – 1994
Diliman, QC
AB Masscom: Film and Audiovisual Communication
Cum Laude
- MTI Musical Theater Workshop for Teachers, New York, 2005
- Lincoln Center Theater DIRECTORS LAB, New York, 2007
- Master classes with Ana Valdes-Lim, Royal Shakespeare Company, Phillip Glass, Dee Canon, Asian Puppetry Workshop (Hawaii), among others.
- SDCF Musical Theatre Symposium, New York, 2014.

References available upon request