

The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio

(formerly CATCO)

WRITTEN BY SELINA FILLINGER
DIRECTED BY LEDA HOFFMANN



POTUS

SEPT 21
– OCT 8

*Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are
Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive*

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The
Contemporary
Theatre of Ohio

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We seek to inspire a community of empathy and have a responsibility to recognize the ways in which we benefit from colonization, both historical and ongoing. A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and celebrates the resilience and strength that all Indigenous people have shown worldwide.

We acknowledge that in Central Ohio, we are on the traditional homelands of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe, and Cherokee Indigenous nations who have strong ties to these lands. Today, individuals from a broad range of Indigenous backgrounds call Columbus and central Ohio home.

We recognize generations who contributed their traditions, hopes, and spirit to make the history that led to this moment. While some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted, others arrived here hoping for a better life, while others were forcibly taken and brought here against their will. Acknowledging the truth of these realities is critical to building mutual respect and connection.



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A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CONTEMPORARY:

Thank you for joining us for POTUS!

This is our first full season under our new name – The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio. As The Contemporary, it is our goal to bring you the best of what theatre can be when it's connected to the current moment.

POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive is a great example of that. Funny, fresh, and entertaining, it also has something to say about the state of our country, our workplaces, and the way we deal with each other. It is a play that asks us to consider what we will do in moments of chaos, or when our ethics are tested. And, it reminds us to count on each other – even in the most unlikely places – for camaraderie and allies.

POTUS is the first production in our 2023-2024 Season. We hope you will join us for the rest of our season! Come back in November for *Good Grief*, in December for a one-woman version of *A Christmas Carol*, and then in the new year for *The Worries of Wesley*, *Skeleton Crew*, and *Ride the Cyclone*. All of these stories are guaranteed to engage and uplift you.

We hope you have a great time at the theatre tonight. Thank you for supporting professional theatre made right here in Columbus!

Leda and Christy



Leda Hoffmann
Artistic Director



Christy Farnbach
Executive Director



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The
Contemporary
Theatre of Ohio

Leda Hoffmann
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Christy Farnbauch
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



presents

POTUS



*Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are
Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive*

BY SELINA FILLINGER

Leda Hoffmann
DIRECTOR

Angelina M. Herin
COSTUME DESIGNER

Joy Heino
SOUND DESIGNER

Jessica Morgan
VIOLENCE & INTIMACY DIRECTOR

Jaclyn Benedict*
STAGE MANAGER

Dan Gray
SCÉNIC DESIGNER

Marly Wooster
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Lonelle Yoder
PROPS DESIGNER

Nicholas Wilson
CHOREOGRAPHER

Aaron Auld
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER



The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

POTUS

CAST

HARRIET



LAURIE CARTER ROSE* she/her

JEAN



NOELLE ANDERSON she/her

STEPHANIE



KELSEY HOPKINS she/her

DUSTY



ARRIA RATANAPAN she/they

BERNADETTE



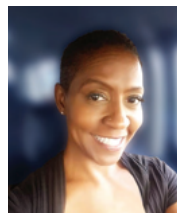
CHRISTINA YOHO any

CHRIS



SHANELLE MARIE she/her

MARGARET



ANITA DAVIS she/her

UNDERSTUDIES

JACINDA FORBES she/her

JO MICHELLE SHAFER they/them

VOICEOVERS

I.5 Newscaster:
MIKAELA HUN

II.1 Newscaster:
SHAWN IRELAND

**"Grand Ole Flag" and
"Hail to the Chief" Vocals**
SUMMIT J STARR she/they

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Rowan Winterwood
MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Tony Koehler
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Augusta Kinzel
**COSTUME COORDINATOR
& WARDROBE**

Isaac Steinhour
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Nicole Hunter
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER COVER

Set Built by CCT Scenic

SPECIAL THANKS:

The League of Women Voters Metro Columbus, The Matriots, Women's Fund of Central Ohio, Positively Blue, Ohio Women's Coalition, Dave Wallingford, Keya Myers-Alkire, Eric Farnbauch



*Actors and Stage Managers appear courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association.

CAST BIOS

LAURIE CARTER ROSE* [SHE/HER] (HARRIET) is excited to be making her Contemporary Theatre debut in her home state! Originally from Cincinnati and a graduate of Miami University, Laurie has been fortunate to live and perform in NYC, LA, Tokyo and London before landing in Chicago and calling it home for the last two-plus decades. Favorite regional theatre credits include *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina), *Butterflies are Free* (Riverside Theatre), *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (NC Stage), *The Roommate* (Theatre Silco), *The Cake* (Human Race), *Good People* (New Harmony Theatre), *Menopause the Musical* (Fireside Theatre), *Lifespan of a Fact* and *It Shoulda Been You* (Farmers Alley Theatre), and *Calendar Girls* (Clinton Showboat). London's West End and US National Tours: *Sunset Boulevard* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. TV/Film credits include Chicago Med, FORCE, Early Edition, and The Tonight Show. Love to "Rose Boys" S,N,D&H. LaurieCarterRose.com

NOELLE ANDERSON [SHE/HER] (JEAN) is thrilled to perform her first show with The Contemporary Theatre in POTUS! A Columbus native, Noelle Anderson has been a professional performer for over 20 years as a singer, musician, and actor. Currently, she works as Shadowbox Live's Director of Data Systems. Some of her favorite past roles include Maureen in *Rent*, and Simon Zealot in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. In her off time, she runs a web design and marketing agency (Sage Nine Creative) with her husband Brandon, and they both spend too much time spoiling their Jack Russell Terrier, Archie.

KELSEY HOPKINS [SHE/HER] (STEPHANIE) is thrilled to be back this season with The Contemporary after appearing in *9 to 5* as Margaret. Favorite Regional credits include: *The Taming*, *Heathers*, *As you Like It*, *Dracula*, *Pete the Cat*, *August Osage County*, *Into the Woods*. Receiving her BFA in Acting (Musical Theatre) from Wright State University, backed by the Tom Hanks Scholarship, Kelsey went on to live and work in NYC and traveled nationwide as an actor before returning to her hometown of Columbus where she works as an acting coach and local theatre artist. Lots of love and thanks to her amazing community of friends, Mom & Dad, and her fiancé, Sam, for their unending support! ColumbusThespianGuild.com

ARRIAH RATANAPAN [SHE/THEY] (DUSTY) is a recent graduate of The Ohio State University and is thrilled to make her Contemporary Theatre of Ohio debut! She has previously worked with the company as an Artist Educator and is excited to take the stage with them. Recent performances include *Freaky Friday* with Off the Lake Productions and *Love's Labour's Lost* with Actors' Theatre of Columbus.

CAST BIOS (CONT'D)

CHRISTINA YOHO [ALL] (**BERNADETTE**) has been involved in Columbus theater since '98, a Good Medicine Specialist (healthcare clown) since '17, and is psyched to join this team and The Contemporary for the first time. Recent shows include *Machinal* (The Sound Company), *Love's Labor's Lost*, *Dracula*, and *Tale of Two Cities* (Actors' Theatre), *Whiskey Wars*, *Ghost Story Tours*, and *Uptown Scrooge* (Good Medicine). A few other favorites: *Cowboy Mouth* (Warehouse), *The 39 Steps* (SRO), *Awake and Sing!* (Civic), and a couple *Midsummer Night's Dreams* (IO St. John's College, NM & 'OI Columbus Parks and Rec). Has a cat.

SHANELLE MARIE [SHE/HER] (**CHRIS**) is happy to be returning to The Contemporary's stage where she was last seen acting in *Home* and directing *School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play*. She is an Available Light Theatre company member. Some of her favorite moments on stage include performing for Ruby Dee in *Legends and Legacies*, "Ruth" in *A Raisin in the Sun*, and as a Tedx Columbus Women speaker. She credits her first acting teacher as her beloved grandmother, who would bring Paul Lawrence Dunbar's poetry to life.

ANITA DAVIS [SHE/HER] (**MARGARET**) is an actor, writer, vocalist, dancer and model. She has worked throughout the U.S., creating standout performances both onstage and onscreen. Stage productions include the award-winning *School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play*, as well as *Steal Away*, *Stepper's Ball*, *Sisters*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *The Trip* and numerous others. Onscreen roles include the films *The Endangered*, *Compensation*, *Cruel and Unusual*, and *Turning the Corner*, along with made-for-TV movies *Skin Complex* and the Emmy-award winning *Our Father*. Additional work includes lead vocals with several bands, runway and print modeling and podcast hosting.

JACINDA FORBES [SHE/HER] (**UNDERSTUDY**) is making her film debut in *Hauntology* (2024) and recently performed in The Contemporary's *9 to 5*, *The Musical* as Maria/Ensemble, and award winning *School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play* as Mercy. This Ohio State University alum is excited to continue her acting career with The Contemporary.

JO MICHELLE SHAFER [THEY/THEM] (**UNDERSTUDY**) is very excited to be returning to The Contemporary's team with this incredibly poignant and hilarious show! Jo is a non-binary actor/singer based in Columbus, OH. Coming up next for Jo, you'll find them back on this stage in November for *Ghost Quartet* with Available Light Theater. Previous credits include: *#7 - The Wolves* (The Contemporary), *Pamela - Head Over Heels* (The Contemporary), and *Magenta - The Rocky Horror Show* (Short North Stage). In the wise words of Beyoncé, (why isn't she president?) "Who run the world? Girls!"

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

LEDA HOFFMANN [SHE/HER] (**Director/Artistic Director**) is in her fourth season as The Contemporary's Artistic Director. The Contemporary directing credits include *9 to 5 The Musical*, *Indecent*, *Head Over Heels*, *Mr Burns: a post-electric play*, *An Iliad*, the reading of *George and the Hidden Dragon*, and the virtual production of *A Columbus Christmas Carol*. Previously, Leda was Artistic Director at Strawdog Theatre Company in Chicago. Before that, Leda served on Milwaukee Rep's artistic staff for seven years, working in the Education and Literary departments and founding Milwaukee Rep's Community Engagement Department. Also in Milwaukee, as the Artistic Director of Luminous Theatre, Leda produced and directed site-specific productions of *Mr. Burns: a post-electric play* and *The Penelopiad*. Leda's work as a director has been seen across the country at Milwaukee Rep, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, University of Miami, Door Shakespeare, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Jedlicka Performing Arts Center, Northbrook Theatre, The Alchemist Theatre, Max and Louie Productions, and Riverside Theater Iowa City. Leda has also been a teaching artist for over ten years, directing youth and teaching with Hartford Stage, Milwaukee Rep, Mudlark Theater, Northbrook Park District, and Skyline Studios. Leda is a proud graduate of Grinnell College, a former Milwaukee Rep directing resident, Hartford Stage apprentice, SDCF Observer and a member of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. www.ledahoffmann.com

DAN GRAY [HE/HIM] (**Set Designer**) is thrilled to be part of another season at The Contemporary and this production of *POTUS*. Other recent designs at The Contemporary include *Indecent*, *Head Over Heels*, *Life Sucks*, *Educating Rita*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, *The Seafarer*, *The Secret Garden*, and *The Pillowman*. Dan's other regional theatre credits include numerous designs for The George Street Playhouse, Capital Rep, Players Theatre Columbus, the Delaware Theatre Company, and The Human Race Theatre Company (Dayton, OH). He also designs for many Central Ohio companies, including BalletMet, Opera Columbus, The Dayton Ballet, and The Columbus Symphony. Dan recently retired from the OSU Department of Theatre, Film and Media Arts where he was an Associate Professor and the Resident Scenic Designer.

MARLY WOOSTER [SHE/HER] (**Lighting Designer**) is thrilled to return to The Contemporary where she previously designed *Head Over Heels* and *Mr Burns: a post-electric play*. She received a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Lighting Design from Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre from Northwestern I4 College in Orange City, Iowa. Marly has designed lighting for productions across the midwest including *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* for Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park Off the Hill, two seasons at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and three seasons as the resident lighting designer for the Clinton Area Showboat where she designed over twenty shows. Some of her favorites included *Richard II*, *O Gents*, *Hamlet*, *Into the Woods*, *Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Big River*. She has also designed for a number of other theatres in Illinois including Provision Theatre, Citadel Theatre, Fox Valley Repertory, Peoria Ballet, 20% Theatre Company and others. Marly is an assistant professor at Miami University.

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CONT'D)

JOY HEINO [SHE/HER] (**Sound Designer & Education Coordinator**) is a highly skilled artist educator, with more than five years' experience facilitating after-school learning, pre-school, and early age childcare programs. Additionally, she works in various elementary and middle schools in central Ohio as the director of their school musicals. Joy has worked in the Columbus theatre scene with companies such as CCT, The Actor's Theatre of Columbus, and Short North Stage. She is a member of the Actor's Equity Association as a Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager. Prior to joining The Contemporary as our Education Coordinator, Joy has worked as a sound designer on recent productions. Joy also serves as the Founder and Producing Director of Free Range Productions, whose mission is to educate and introduce young people living in rural communities to the arts. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wittenberg University in Theatre, Technical Theatre, and Music.

LONELLE YODER [SHE/HER] (**Props Designer**) has been loitering about the Columbus theatre scene, in various capacities, for many years - first at the Phoenix Theatre for Children and BlueForms Theatre Group, and, more recently, at Available Light Theatre Company, The Contemporary, Opera Columbus, and Columbus Children's Theatre. When she's not having fun building food props, Lonelle gardens, dabbles in wildlife rehab, and makes jam out of foraged wild fruits.

ANGELINA M. HERIN [SHE/HER] (**Costume Designer**) is a Cleveland, Ohio based costume, wig, and makeup designer with roots in the Pacific Northwest. She is pleased to have her work presented at many venues, including Cleveland Play House, the Seattle Opera, Cleveland Public Theatre, Northern Sky Theatre, Montana Repertory Theatre, Texas Shakespeare Festival, The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, and Theater at Monmouth. In addition, Angelina has worked with several television/production companies as a makeup artist and stylist for national and regional programming. Since 2011, she has been the Resident Costume Designer and an Associate Professor of Theater at Case Western Reserve University. As an educator, Angelina has received numerous nominations for her teaching and mentorship. www.angelinaherin.com.

JESSICA MORGAN [SHE/HER] (**Master Electrician**) is thrilled to be working on her first production with The Contemporary. She was born and raised in Ohio and still considers Columbus her "hometown." Jessica is based in Morgantown, West Virginia where she is an Associate Professor of Stage Movement for the BFA/MFA Acting program at West Virginia University. Professional and academic Intimacy Direction credits include *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night* (Vintage Theatre Company), *Dracula*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *House of Yes* (Cumberland Theatre Company), *When We Were Young and Unafraid* (Shepherd University), *Indecent*, *Mud*, and *Cloud 9* (West Virginia University). Jessica also teaches workshops on consent and boundary practices for theatre training programs and companies. Jessica is a graduate of Kent State University and has an MFA from Ohio State. She is a Certified Intimacy Director with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators (IDC) and a member of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA).

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CONT'D)

NICHOLAS WILSON [HE/HIM] (**Choreographer**) Born and raised in Ohio, Nicholas graduated from Eastmoor Academy High School and attended Kent State University's theatre studies program with an emphasis in performance. He is a principal performer and administrative leader for the Columbus-based residential theater Shadowbox Live. Nicholas has always been fascinated by the intersection of the arts and business administration, and he looks forward to continuing his journey with unwavering dedication. He deeply cherishes the ability to communicate unique artistic expression through the language of dance and aspires to make a positive impact that aims to inspire others. In 2023, Nicholas was nominated for Columbus Business First 40 Under 40 and a Columbus Makes Art Brand Ambassador. Favorite Credits: *Jeffrey in Godspell*, Male Swing in *Chicago*, Buck in *No Return: The Deadly Dance of Bonnie and Clyde*, Bar Patron #1 in *Musical the Musical*, Production Director for Overnight Brew: The 24-Hour Theatre Festival.

ROWAN WINTERWOOD [SHE/HER] (**Master Electrician**) is a lighting designer, director, stage manager, artist educator and aerialist. She is the Associate Artistic Director and Lighting Designer/Engineer for Actors' Theatre of Columbus, where she will be directing *Love's Labours Lost* this July. Selected lighting design credits include Available Light Theatre (*Everybody, Witch*), Actors' Theatre of Columbus (*Hamlet 1603*, *Eurydice*), Columbus Children's Theatre (*A Christmas Story*), CATCO is Kids (*Luchadora!*, *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*), and Denison University (*You On The Moors Now*; co-design: *Pippin, Company*).

AUGUSTA KINZEL [SHE/HER] (**Costume Coordinator & Wardrobe**) is a Coshocton, Ohio native. She is a recent grad from Muskingum University, where she received her B.A. in history and theatre. During her time at Muskingum, Augusta acted, designed, and worked on tech staff. Her favorite shows at Muskingum were *The Gypsy Woman* and *Seussical*. She is new to The Contemporary staff and is excited to be working at The Contemporary this season. Enjoy the show!

ISAAC STEINHOUR [HE/HIM] (**Technical Director**) is a graduate of Ohio Northern University with a bachelor's degree in International Theatre Production, Musical Theatre, and French. While in the theatre department, he focused on Technical Direction studying under the former Technical Director of the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. He worked as the resident lighting and sound designer at Findlay High School for ten years and the resident technical director and scenic designer at The Findlay YouTheatre for four years. He moved to Columbus five years ago with the love of his life, Michelle, and started as the Technical Director at Columbus Children's Theatre in August of 2018. He and his wife just recently had their second child. In addition to running the scene shop at CCT, Isaac also frequently serves as a sound and projection designer and teaches production classes. Isaac is honored to be working with the amazing team on this production.

JACLYN BENEDICT* [SHE/HER] (**AEA Stage Manager**) is thrilled to be joining The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio as the stage manager of *POTUS*. Recent credits include *The Wolves* (The Contemporary), *Sound of Music* (Butterly Guild), *Prima Donna* (CATCO), *Cinderella* (Butterly Guild), *Mamma Mia!* (Butterly Guild), and *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play* (CATCO). Thanks to Leda, Aaron, Nicole, the whole production team, and this wonderfully talented cast for their incredible work!

AARON AULD [HE/HIM] (**Assistant Stage Manager**) is thrilled to be making his debut with The Contemporary! Aaron has been involved in the Columbus Community theatre scene since 2005. Recent credits include: *Once Upon a Mattress* (Director), *Seussical* (Director), *Lizzie* (Production Stage Manager), *Bunnicula* (Harold), *The 25th Annual...Bee* (William Barfee), *Urinetown* (Officer Lockstock), *Grease* (Roger) and *Beauty and the Beast* (The Enchanted Keg). He currently serves on the board for Little Theatre Off Broadway. He would like to thank his friends and family for always supporting him and to Jo Shafer for getting him back out there!

ADDITIONAL STAFF BIOS

CHRISTY FARNBAUCH [SHE/HER] (**Executive Director**) became The Contemporary's executive director in April 2020. She is a highly respected leader in central Ohio's arts and cultural sector, as well as nationwide. Her professional journey has included managing funding and programs for the Ohio Arts Council, building community partnerships for Hilliard City Schools, managing a first-of-its-kind national study of jazz audiences, and serving as executive director of an association for women business owners. She founded her consulting business in 2006 to support nonprofits and small businesses through strategic planning, board development, and fundraising. Her entrepreneurial and innovative mindset has led to the creative transformation of organizations while strengthening their governance structures. Christy holds degrees from Otterbein University in music performance and business administration.

TONY KOEHLER [HE/HIM] (**Production Manager**) is a teaching artist, actor, director, and designer, most recently was production manager at GALA Hispanic Theatre in Washington, D.C., and a teaching artist at The Theatre Lab School of Dramatic Arts also in Washington, D.C. Other positions include properties master at The Folger Shakespeare Theatre, and theatre credits at Constellation Theatre Company and Rainbow Theater Project in Washington, D.C., and Piven Theatre Workshop, Redmoon Theatre, and Northwestern University in Chicago. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a BA in theatre, he has received numerous awards including a 2019 Helen Hayes Award for Best Musical and Best Ensemble and Broadway World's 2019 regional award for Best Musical in the Small Professional Theatre Category for *FAME: The Musical*, and a 2017 Helen Hayes Award for the Spanish language premiere of *In the Heights*. In addition to his theatre background, he also has several years of business management experience as an operational manager at J.Crew.

BETH GRAHAM [SHE/HER] (**Development Manager**) is a Columbus native and longtime fan of The Contemporary. She has served in various fundraising roles with arts organizations in town including the Columbus Symphony and most recently the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) where she has been a partner to The Contemporary for the last three years. Beth also held a fellowship with the Ohio Arts Council following graduation from Miami University with a degree in Arts Management and Media Culture Studies. She loves supporting local and has even worked for a local jewelry store, Red Giraffe Designs. In her free time, she likes to read, take walks in her neighborhood of Harrison West, and spend time with her rescue cat, Ivy.

ADDITIONAL STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

KARA HANCOCK [SHE/HER] (**House Manager**) is excited to be the House Manager for The Contemporary. Kara graduated from University of Dayton with a degree in Music Education and a focus on operatic vocal performance. Previously, she has worked with Funny Bone and Shadowbox. When she isn't working in the front of the theatre, she can usually be found on a roadtrip to her next audition, taking dance classes, or making some sales for her day job. She's thrilled to be part of the team.

STEVE HILLER [HE/HIM] (**Education Director**) Steve Hiller became CATCO's education director in April 2023. He has over 15 years experience working in non-profit with a focus on youth and family programming and development, training and leadership and fostering community partnerships. Steve has chaired and served on different advisory boards and currently serves as a board member for a Columbus non-profit organization. He also has over 10 years of experience working in secondary and post-secondary education. Steve was born in Seoul, Korea and has lived most of his life in Ohio. He has a bachelor's degree in education from Ohio State and is a buckeye for life. In his free time, Steve enjoys playing piano and acoustic guitar, various outdoor activities, trying new foods and spending time with family and friends.

SUMMIT J STARR [SHE/THEY] (**Administrative & Casting Coordinator**) is a Columbus-based artist with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre & Dance from The College of Wooster. While you can catch her acting in local theatre productions, she is also the lyricist/vocalist for FOX+RAM and lead singer for the cover bands Boombox Riot & Level Up!. She is the COO of Photography for RockDaddyDesign and was previously the Assistant to the Vocal Director and an administrator at ShadowboxLive. As of 2013, she has been a member of Teatro Travieso/Troublemaker Theatre and has performed internationally with their social justice production *Women of Ciudad Juárez*.

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