

SUMMER STUDIOWORKS INSTRUCTORS 2023

BRENDA GORLICK - DIRECTOR- STUDIOWORKS ACADEMY



Brenda Gorlick, a Manitoba born and bred performing artist has been a prolific part of the arts community her entire life.

As director/choreographer Brenda has designed over 250 productions nationwide and has been a member of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Banff Centre of Performing Arts Company and the Stratford Festival. She has designed events ranging from 1/2 time shows for the Blue Bombers to the Pan Am Games.

Selected stage credits include: Morticia in *The Addams Family* (Dry Cold Productions), *Les Misérables* and *Sister Act* (Rainbow Stage) and Anita in *West Side Story* (Banff).

In film she has performed opposite Danica McKellar in *Love in Design* and more recently starred as Ruth in *Capturing Love* - one of many Hallmark movies on her resume.

Brenda serves as Associate Artistic Director for Winnipeg Studio Theatre and helms the StudioWorks Academy & Players programs. Over the past fifteen seasons, WST has produced over forty musicals including such hits as *Avenue Q*, *Spring Awakening*, *School of Rock* and the world premiere, *Hysteria*. She pivoted to two virtual productions during Covid including *Super Happy Awesome News* and *Highlights from Be More Chill*. She also developed a series of professional training workshops called *Made in Manitoba Masterclass - Theatre edition* featured in the Safe At Home initiative.

Her artistic achievements include Winnipeg Theatre Awards (Evie) for Outstanding Educator, YMCA-YWCA's Women of Distinction Award, Rainbow Stage's Wall of Fame and WST's Award of Excellence.

Brenda is a sessional professor in dance and musical theatre at the University of Winnipeg (since 2003) and is extremely proud of her work with the Manitoba Arts Council's *Artists in Schools* program and Manitoba Possible's *All Abilities Dancers*. She is a founding member of the Winnipeg Theatre Awards and a member of the board for the Dancer Transition Resource Centre (DTRC) - a nationally based dance organization.
www.brendagorlick.ca www.winnipegstudiotheatre.com

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LAURA KOLISNYK - ASST. DIRECTOR

Ms. Kolisnyk has over twenty-five years experience teaching dance, musical theatre, drama, voiceover technique and children's yoga at many studios and schools throughout Winnipeg. An honours graduate of the University of Winnipeg theatre department, Ms. Kolisnyk has performed locally and internationally. Recent credits include: *Beauty and the Beast* and *Shrek* at Rainbow Stage, *The Little Prince* and *Lies of A Promiscuous Woman* at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival,



choreography for Celebrations Dinner Theatre, and directing and choreographing Junior Musicals at Manitoba Theatre for Young People. Specializing in theatre for young audiences, she spent ten years touring the world with Koba Entertainment. She has written, produced and performed shows for the Winnipeg Kids Fringe and has voiced many cartoon characters. She was also the voice director on Balloopo and is currently the singer for Winnipeg kids' band, *The Fun-Key Ducks*. When Ms. Kolisnyk is not performing on stage, she continues to share her passion for performing arts and yoga.

CHASE WINNICKY - GUEST INSTRUCTOR



A proud graduate of Randolph College, Chase is an internationally toured Performer and Director. Recent theatre credits include Assistant Director on *Million Dollar Quartet* (Theatre Calgary); Jack in *Into the Woods* (RMTC) and the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* (Rainbow Stage). He can be seen on screen in 'The Porter' (CBC/BET+), 'SkyMed' (Paramount+) and 3 Hallmark Channel original movies. Chase also took part in the inaugural Canadian Guild of Stage Directors & Choreographers Mentee program, and will be directing the Canadian Premiere of "The Prom" (Dry Cold) this spring! For more visit: www.chasewinnicky.com

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REBEKAH JONES - GUEST INSTRUCTOR

Rebekah is a graduate of the Teacher Training Program with the Royal Winnipeg



Ballet Professional Division where she won the Paddy Stone Scholarship for excellence in Musical Theatre/Jazz choreography as part of the First Steps Choreographic Competition. She has been a valued member of Winnipeg Studio Theatre as Asst. Director of the Academy, a senior instructor and more recently, Administrator of WST. She is also the resident musical theatre instructor with Kick-It Dance Studios. As a musical theatre performer Rebekah has appeared at Rainbow Stage (The Wizard of Oz, Mamma Mia), Royal MTC (Billy Elliot), as well as in Fringe Festival productions and local cabarets. In 2003, Rebekah had the honour of performing for HRH Queen Elizabeth II, and has performed for many Canadian dignitaries on Parliament Hill for Canada Day and at the Canada Games. As a choreographer, she has worked with Koba Entertainment, Sarasvati Productions,

Celebrations Dinner Theatre, Winnipeg Studio Theatre, and has apprenticed and assisted as a director and choreographer with Rainbow Stage (Les Miserables, Shrek The Musical), Dry Cold Productions (The Addams Family, A Man of No Importance, Kiss of the Spider Woman) and Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (Fun Home, Into the Woods). Next up: Choreographer for DryCold's production of *The Prom*.

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ELLIOT LAZAR - GUEST INSTRUCTOR

Born and raised on Treaty One Territory in Winnipeg, and currently based in



Boston, Elliot has performed across Canada and the United States in theatre, opera and in concert. He is currently playing Motel in the First National Tour of *Fiddler on the Roof*, directed by Bartlett Sher. Favourite credits include creating the role of Tobias Tweeney in *Another Roll of the Dice* (North Coast Repertory Theatre), Flounder in the Canadian Premiere of *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Rainbow Stage), Leo Frank in *Parade* (Opera NUOVA), Papageno in *The Magic Flute* (Manitoba Underground Opera) and Sergei in *Siberia* with Keanu Reeves (Saban Films). Elliot holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Manitoba and an M.F.A. in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee. For more information, visit www.elliottlazar.com.



HAILEY WITT - GUEST INSTRUCTOR

Hailey (she/her) is a triple threat performance artist with a passion for opera and musical theatre. Her first musical was performed at age 5! Born and raised in Manitoba, Hailey is originally from Brandon, where she completed her Bachelor of Music followed by Western University for her Master of Music Degree. Hailey is a classically trained mezzo-soprano and voice teacher and a proud member of the Manitoba Métis community. She is involved in the 2023 Creative Manitoba mentorship program alongside Brenda Gorlick.