

# DIANE FELDMAN

THEATRE EDUCATOR

DIRECTOR | MUSICAL DIRECTOR | ACCOMPANIST

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## OBJECTIVES

**Provide instruction, direction, musical direction, inspiration, scholarship and leadership** in an **evolving, innovative, interactive, diverse environment** in the fields of Musical Theatre, Voice, Drama/Acting, Educational Theatre, Drama In Education, Youth Theatre, Theatre for Young Audiences, Theatre for Social and Emotional Wellness, Piano/Piano Accompaniment.

Employ theatre as a catalyst for social, emotional, personal and artistic exploration, growth and impact.

Use theatre as a resource for developing well-rounded, confident and capable individuals, and thriving communities.

## EDUCATION

**New York University: Master of Arts**, Music and Performing Arts Professions / Educational Theatre

**Hunter College:** Two years, Dramatherapy Studies

**California State University, Northridge: Bachelor of Arts**, Theatre

**University of California, Los Angeles:** Four years, Department of Theatre, Film and Television

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**California State University, Northridge**

*Content Literacy in Secondary Education*

*Computers in Secondary Education*

**Saddleback Community College**

*Psychology of Aging*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**August 2011 – June 2019**

**de TOLEDO HIGH SCHOOL (West Hills, CA)**

**Director of Drama, Musical Theatre and Vocal Performance**

- Created, built and developed an Award-Winning Drama and Musical Theatre program providing Conservatory-level training and education in Musical Theatre, Drama, Vocal Techniques and Performance, and Theatre Education.
- Directed, musical directed, produced, and accompanied all dTHS productions (musical and non-musical), as well as Galas, Performing Arts Showcases, Open Houses, and Concerts
- Developed and implemented interactive and experiential theatre-integrated curriculum and coursework
- Designed and implemented social/emotional wellness programming for students
- Created a *Performing Arts Cohort* within the dTHS Arts Department
- Instructed Theatre for Global Ed Department (**taught Master Classes in Budapest, Hungary**).
- Oversaw a fourteen-member professional production and design team, which included a conductor, pit bands, technical director, designers and stagecraft students
- Created and managed all Theatre production and Theatre/Vocal elective Budgets.
- Lead fund raising efforts for the dTHS Performing Arts Department and made enhancements to Performing Arts and Community spaces (main curtain, lighting and sound board, lighting fixtures, dressing room organization, foyer TV monitor screen, piano)
- Developed and advised Theatre Club on campus (SET-THE-STAGE)
- Mentored students in high school assimilation, stress management, and emotional wellness

**June 2019 – present**

**THE ALL WAYS UP FOUNDATION (Los Angeles, CA)**

**Director | Musical Director | Leadership**

- Facilitate theatre-based Energizers, Team-Builders and Ice-Breakers for week-long education summits with college postgraduates, graduates and undergraduates
- Presenter: Uncovering and Embracing Your Unique Energies and Vulnerabilities
- Director/Musical Director: Up Through Education Summit Celebration (Skirball Cultural Center)

**May 2017 – present**

**ENTR'ACTE REPERTORY THEATRE COMPANY™ (Los Angeles/Woodland Hills, CA)**

**Founder | Director | Musical Director | Producer | Accompanist**

- Lead Company for emerging, advancing and returning Artists, college age and older, who desire continued and accelerated training, and Broadway quality opportunities.
- Cabaret / Showcase Performances – STERLING'S UPSTAIRS at The Federal Bar
- Master Classes and Workshops
- Musicals and Plays

**June 2019 – present**

**LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**PIERCE COLLEGE ENCORE ADULT EDUCATION (Woodland Hills, CA)**

**Interim Musical Director | Accompanist: ENCORE Singers**

- Directed semester long classes focusing on vocal techniques, the voice as an instrument, lyric analysis, personalizing performance, exploring and sharing ensemble singing, solo and small group presentation. Each semester culminates with a Concert Showcase.

**May 1990 – August 2013**

**CHILDREN'S CIVIC LIGHT OPERA THEATRE COMPANY (CLO Theatre Company)™  
(Los Angeles, Culver City, Woodland Hills, CA)**

Founder | Owner | Director | Musical Director | Producer | Accompanist

- Developed, directed/musical directed, produced award-winning comprehensive Performing Arts Programming for youth and young adults age 5 – 25. (*Best of L.A., L.A. Parent Magazine, recipient of multiple National Youth Arts Awards in both Senior and Junior Divisions since 2006.*) Specialized in: Musical Theatre, Dramatic Theatre, Acting, Vocal Performance, Educational Theatre, Theatre for Social and Emotional Wellness, Exploratory Creative Dramatics, Theatre Teacher Mentoring and Theatrical Design. Seasonal Conservatories, Master Classes, Intensives, Private Coaching.
- Pit pianist for all productions since company's inception
- Lead a production, design, technical and creative arts team of 15. Team was comprised of both professionals, and alumni who returned to make contributions to the production process.
- Responsible for all budgeting, producing and operational aspects of the company
- Company's Achievements: strengthening self-worth, ensemble awareness, and challenging individuals to grow artistically and personally through professional training in a non-competitive, validating, diverse, interactive environment where energy, teamwork, honesty and trust were key. CLO's distinctive approach enabled growing Artists to share in a creative process filled with pride, accomplishment and joy. High theatrical standards, belief in the empowering effects of the theatrical process, and unparalleled commitment to all participants enabled CLO to sustain its mission.
- Performances were professionally produced as full-scale Broadway-quality musicals, and were accompanied by a live pit orchestra comprised of both professional and student musicians.
- Several alumni are working on Broadway, (on stage and behind the scenes), and several alumni have attended top performing arts universities in and outside of the United States.

**CLO's Three Troupes:**

Just KIDding Ensemble (ages 5 – 7): Personal and artistic growth and development through musical theatre skill building and dramatic explorations, **culminating in musical theatre Showcases**. Just KIDding Summer Theatre Playground students participate in the Mainstage Summer Theatre Conservatory Musical.

Mainstage Ensemble (ages 8 – 18): Professional training in an interactive, high-standard, validating environment. CLO's renowned Summer Theatre Conservatory culminates in a full-scale professional-quality, professionally-produced Broadway musical accompanied by a live professional pit orchestra.

Young Adult Ensemble (ages 18 – 25): Accelerated training for dedicated students who desire a theatrical career. Programs and performances vary.

**September 1990 – present**

**ACTING COACH**

**(Los Angeles, CA and New York, NY)**

- Provide coaching and instruction in acting techniques and styles, content/context analysis, choice-making, story interpretation, objectives, bits and actions, intention, character establishment, versatility and personalizing performance.
- Private coaching and group instruction.

***September 1990 – present***

**VOCAL COACH**

**(Los Angeles, CA and New York, NY)**

- Provide coaching and instruction in both technical elements, (breathing, placement, flexibility, range, phrasing, dynamics, physical voice, vocal vibration), and personal performance techniques, (choice-making, lyric interpretation, objectives, bits and actions, intention, character establishment, personalizing performance, versatility in performance.)
- Private coaching and group instruction

***September 1992 – present***

**AUDITION COACH**

**(Los Angeles, CA and New York, NY)**

- Provide coaching and instruction for professional, regional and community Theatre, high school and college auditions, television work. (Interpreting sides, songs, scenes; content/context analysis, choice-making, story interpretation, objectives, bits and actions, intention, character establishment, versatility and personalizing performance.)
- Accompanist and reader for self-tapes

***May 1984 – present***

**ACCOMPANIST / PIT PIANIST**

**Musicals | Cabaret Performances | Revues | Showcases | Soloists | Events**

- Pit pianist for more than 60 musicals.
- Accompanist / Musical Director for more than 40 smaller performances

***May 2017 – present***

**MUSICAL THEATRE EXPERIENCE (Los Angeles/Woodland Hills, CA)**

**Founder | Instructor**

- Teach a variety of theatre and musical theatre courses and theatrical interactions for students as young as five and as mature as 95
- Design programming for those who are exploring for the first time and those who want to revisit and refine their skills
- Scene study, theatre games and exercises, and musical theatre workshops

***October 2019 – present***

**PRESSMAN ACADEMY (Los Angeles, CA)**

**Interim Director | Musical Director of Middle School Musical Theatre**

**Interim Director | Musical Director | Accompanist, Middle School Choir**

**Interim Theatre and Music Instructor for Elementary School (grades K – 5)**

- Teach weekly theatre and music classes for all elementary school grade levels
- Provide social/emotional wellness and experiential education applying theatrical and musical activity as catalysts for learning and practicing awareness of self and of others
- Teach “onstage skills” for “offstage” connection and application
- Direct/musical direct/accompany, Middle School Choir
- Direct/musical direct/accompany, Middle School Musical Theatre Production
- Establishing new music, theatre and musical theatre curriculum for the school

***August 2010 – June 2012***

**CULVER CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE (Culver City, CA)**

Co-Creator | Co-Producer | Director | Musical Director

- Co-created, co-produced, directed/musical directed year-long theatrical programming developed specifically for the Culver City Middle School population to strengthen academic, artistic, social and emotional growth, awareness and development
- Performances of a full-scale Broadway musical, accompanied by a live pit orchestra comprised of both students and professional musicians, at the culmination of each season
- Winner GLEE:Give-A-Note Award (\$10,000)
- Recipient of numerous National Youth Arts Awards

***August 2007 – June 2012***

**WESTWOOD CHARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Los Angeles, CA)**

Creator | Producer | Director | Musical Director

**Award-winning after-school Musical Theatre ensemble for grades K -2  
Recipient: Several National Youth Arts Awards/Junior Division**

- Created and developed year-long musical and educational theatre programming for Westwood Charter Elementary School students to strengthen academic, artistic, social and emotional growth, awareness and development
- Performances of thematic showcases and/or full-scale Broadway musicals with live piano accompaniment, semi-professional sets, costumes, sound, and lighting at the culmination of each semester

***June 2000 – June 2002***

**HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY OF MUSIC (Los Angeles, CA)**

Director | Musical Director | Co-Producer  
Musical Theatre, Acting & Vocal Instructor

- Provided conservatory-level direction, musical direction, training and education in musical theatre and drama coursework, techniques and performance
- Directed/musical directed all productions
- Mentored student crew

***July, 1999 – June, 2002***

**The LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (New York, NY)**

Teaching Artist | Program Facilitator

- Facilitated and implemented theatre-based conflict management and leadership skills workshops with under-served and struggling elementary, middle and high school students identified as “at-risk” to provide opportunities for social and emotional achievement and success

***August 1996 – June 2001***

**SHINING STAR MUSICAL THEATRE (New York, NY)**

Co-Founder & Producer | Musical and Artistic Director | Accompanist

- Produced/directed/musical directed theatrical productions for students in grades 3 through 8 at PS 87 in Manhattan
- Provided education and training in dramatic and musical theatre techniques
- ***Shining Star Musical Theatre remains in operation today***

**May 1984 – August 1988**

**CHEVIOT HILLS DRAMA CAMP (Los Angeles, CA)**

Founder and Creator | Camp Director | Director | Musical Director | Accompanist

- Founded and developed the Summer Drama Camp at Cheviot Hills Recreation Center for students in grades 1 – 8
- Directed/musical directed/accompanied all productions
- Created comprehensive drama and musical theatre programming that provided opportunities for students to create their own sets, props and costumes, while rehearsing and preparing for a full-scale, professional-style Broadway musical
- ***Cheviot Hills Drama Camp remains in operation today.***

**DIRECTOR / MUSICAL DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS and AWARDS**

To date, I have directed/musical directed more than **60 productions** with as few as eight cast members (*YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN, 2005*) to as many as 110 cast members (*THE WIZARD OF OZ, 1991*).

***\*Complete list available upon request***

**Highlights:**

2018 YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

- **OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION WIN**, National Youth Arts (Seven additional awards, and eight additional nominations including OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE, OUTSTANDING DIRECTION.)

2016 URINETOWN: The Musical

- **BEST PRODUCTION WIN**, The Jerry Herman Awards (Pantages Theatre.) Ten additional nominations, including BEST MUSICAL DIRECTION.
- **OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION WIN**, National Youth Arts (Six additional awards, and five additional nominations including OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE, OUTSTANDING DIRECTION.)

2015 THE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

- Seven Jerry Herman Awards nominations, including BEST PRODUCTION, BEST ENSEMBLE and BEST MUSICAL DIRECTION
- **Five Awards**, and four additional nominations including OUTSTANDING DIRECTION, OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE, National Youth Arts.

2014 CABARET

- **OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION, OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE WINS, (Four additional awards**, and four additional nominations including OUTSTANDING DIRECTION, OUTSTANDING MUSICAL DIRECTION, National Youth Arts.)

2013 RENT

- **OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE, OUTSTANDING MUSICAL DIRECTION WINS**, (Six additional nominations, including OUSTANDING PRODUCTION, OUTSTANDING DIRECTION, National Youth Arts.)

2012 INTO THE WOODS

- **OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION WIN**, (six additional nominations), National Youth Arts

2012 LEMONADE

- **Premiere production**
- Original Musically-Staged Reading at the Skylight Theatre, Los Angeles

2011 JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

- **GLEE GIVE-A-NOTE Contest WIN (\$10,000 Grant)**
- **OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE WIN**, National Youth Arts. (Six additional Awards and nominations.)

2010 DAMN YANKEES

- **OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE WIN** (plus nomination for OUTSTANDING DIRECTION, National Youth Arts)

## PROFESSIONAL INVITATIONS

**March 2017** – Global Education program at de Toledo High School: **Week-long Theatrical Master Classes at the Lauder/Javne School in Budapest, Hungary.**

**February, 2017** – Developed, and implemented a collaborative, co-curricular Honors English/Theatre course for high school seniors at de Toledo High School.

**May, 2016** – Created “STEPPING INTO YOU,” an interactive and experiential program for incoming freshmen to support their assimilation into high school.

**November, 2010** – Co-created, implemented, directed/musical directed the premiere Musical Theatre Program at Culver City Middle School.

**October, 2008** – Presenter at the 2008 California Educational Theatre Conference: Conflict Management Through the Performing Arts

**June, 2008** - Contacted by the Oprah Winfrey Foundation’s Education Department to design and implement a performing arts program for the students at The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa. Interviews with Dr. Nicole Norfles, Dr. Sonya Anderson, Dr. Anna Karola. (*Position was deferred.*)

**September, 2007** – Educational Theatre Workshop: Using Marlo Thomas’s Free To Be....You and Me as a “study guide,” students trained in Educational Theatre philosophies, practitioners, modes, methodologies, teaching conventions and performance techniques.

**April, 2001** – Howard Gardner and “Dramatic Intelligence” presented at NYU to Professor Alistair Martin-Smith, and graduate students at The Steinhardt School of Education.

**December, 2000** – Emotional Intelligence in Drama: Presented at NYU to Professor Alistair Martin-Smith, and graduate students at The Steinhardt School of Education.

**March and May, 1999** – Presenter to undergraduate Theatre students at Hunter College: Conducting Classroom Drama FOR and WITH Youth: Techniques and Applications.

**June, 1998** – **DRAMATOGRAPHY**: Photography as a catalyst for character and story development, and original theatrical playwriting and performance.

## ADDITIONAL SPECIALIZED STUDIES

- Roundabout Theatrical Teaching Institute (Leese Walker and Paul Brewster)
- Globe Theatre Education Workshop: Shakespeare (Christopher Stafford & Yolanda Vazquez)
- Forum Theatre Workshop with Augusto Boal (“Theatre Of The Oppressed,” et al.)
- Creative Arts Team (CAT) at NYU (Chris Vine, Artistic and Education Director)
- Dr. Nellie McCaslin (“Creative Drama In The Classroom and Beyond”)
- Dr.s Lowell and Nancy Swortzell (“Around The World In 80 Plays”)
- Alistair Martin-Smith (NYU)
- Patricia Sternberg (“Theatre for Conflict Resolution”)
- Pat Harter (UCLA)

## COMPUTER SKILLS

Word, Excel, Pages, Power Point, iMovie, everything Google, various educational Apps (EX: Plickers, Coggle, Flubaroo, EdPuzzles, Padlet, Quizlet, etc.)

## GRANTS Received

### 1. GLEE: Give-A-Note Campaign

Recipient of \$10,000 for the after-school Performing Arts Program I co-created and directed/musical directed at Culver City Middle School in Culver City, CA  
(\*Video available upon request.)

### 2. Comprehensive Middle School Performing Arts Program for Santa Monica / Malibu School District

Won a bid to create and implement a Performing Arts program for two middle schools in the Santa Monica/Malibu, CA School District.

## THEATRE (as a Performer)

**\*IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE** (The Mouse, lead) - **National Tour**, Serendipity Theatre Company

**WOLFTALES** (Irving, the Big Bad Wolf's Son, lead) – Golden State Children's Theatre

**PINOCCHIO** (Carmella the Cat, lead) – **Regional Tour**, National Theatre For Children

**L'I'L ABNER** (Moonbeam McSwine, supporting lead) – Redondo Beach Theatre

**MOSES! An Original Musical** (Hannah, lead) – Brentwood Theatre

**WESTSIDE STORY** (Anybodys) – Culver City Civic Light opera

**ONCE UPON A MATTRESS** (Princess Winnifred) – Theatre Arts

**A CHORUS LINE** (Diana Morales) – Theatre Arts

**ANYTHING GOES** (Reno Sweeney) – Theatre Arts

**\* Equity Production**



## MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATIONS

Actor's Equity Association

California Educational Theatre Association (*presenter / Workshop leader, 2008*)

Musical Theatre Educators' Alliance

National Youth Arts

American Alliance for Theatre & Education

Theatre Communications Group

Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed

*\* Complete list of productions Directed and/or Musical Directed furnished upon request*

*\* References furnished upon request*

*\* Extended Curriculum Vitae furnished upon request*