

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Award-winning playwright, educator, producer, and author whose career spans professional writing, publishing, university teaching, festival leadership, and creative collaboration, with nationally and internationally produced work and more than fifteen years of university teaching in creative writing, theatre, and cinema.

EDUCATION

- Master of Fine Arts. Creative Writing, Writing for Stage & Screen and Fiction Writing, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA
- Master Certification in Arts Administration – University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Baccalaureate of Arts - Creative Writing and Literature – Vermont College, Montpelier, VT
- Associate in Arts – Northwestern Connecticut College, Winsted, CT – Valedictorian
- Advanced Participant Guest Artist – Kennedy Center Summer Playwriting Intensive
- Special Citation for Excellence in Education, State of Connecticut General Assembly

CURRENT POSITION

- Faculty, University of Nebraska Omaha, College of Communication, Fine Arts & Media. MFAW/Writing for Stage, Screen, and Fiction; Department of Theatre/Theatre and Cinema. 2011 – present

TEACHING PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Faculty, University of Nebraska Omaha, College of Communication, Fine Arts & Media, MFA/Writing for Stage, Screen, and Fiction; Department of Theatre/Theatre and Cinema 2011 – Present

Program Leadership and Service

- Develop, secure, and oversee internship opportunities in theatre and playwriting.
- Organize staged readings for MFA in Writing students in playwriting and screenwriting at UNO Criss Library.
- Recruit and supervise UNO students working with international theatre companies at the Tennessee Williams Theatre Festival.
- Mentor recipients of the Presidential Graduate Fellowship and Outstanding Graduate Student Awards.
- Research and implement AI tools to deepen critical thinking in online courses.

Faculty, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA
Interdisciplinary MFA Creative Writing 2010 – 2015

Course Developer/Instructor, Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education, Torrington, CT 2007 – 2015

Invited Guest Lectures

- University of Nebraska Omaha – Playwright and Director Relationship
- University of Nebraska Omaha – Embodied Writing
- Boston College – Screenwriting
- New Orleans Tennessee Williams Literary Festival – Devised Theatre

- Tufts University, Cambridge, MA – Production & Stage Management
- KCACTF Region 1 – Playwriting
- University of Memphis – Playwriting & Theatre
- Emerson College, Boston, MA – Playwriting
- Lesley University, Cambridge, MA – Playwriting
- Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH – Creative Writing
- Episcopal High School, Houston, TX - Playwriting & Theatre
- Provincetown High School – Monologue Craft

Courses Developed and Taught

- American Women Playwright Pioneers; Anti-Hero Cinema; Art & Craft of Playwriting; Arts Entrepreneurship-Artist Executive; Arts Management-Intersection of Arts, Business, and Culture; Contemporary American Women Playwrights; The Craft of Script Analysis; Global Citizenship in the Arts; Introduction to Theatre/Theatre Appreciation; Magical Realism Cinema; Taylor Swift & Friends-The Drama of Storytelling, Stage, and Spectacle; Theatre History I-From Mystery to Hip-hop; Theatre History II-Breaking the Mold; Time Travel Cinema; Voices of Female Diversity in Contemporary American Drama; Writing the 10-Minute Play-Flash of Lightning

Lecture Topics

- One Bold Voice-Writing Compelling Monologues; Pink Elephants-Writing with Spontaneous Creativity; To Be or Not To Be A Changemaker With Your Creative Writing; Playing Tag in an Elevator-Crafting Taglines, Loglines, and Elevator Pitches; Looking Good on Paper-Crafting Professional Documents that Showcase Art and Commitments; Bad to the Bone-the Humanity of Anti-Heroes in Drama; Objects-Voicing Characters' Interior and Exterior Lives; Devised Theatre; Flash of Lightning-Writing Shorts Scripts and Flash Fiction; The 36 Dramatic Situations; The Hero's Journey-Mythic Structure for Dramatic Writing; Seeing is Believing-Storytelling by Design; Take Me Away-Setting as Character; Theatre Speak-Script Development Through the Language & Conversations of Production; Time Travel-Writing Historical Stories

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- New Strategies in Playwriting
- Intersection of Performance and Found Space Aesthetic
- Magical Realism in Cinema, Stage, and Literature
- Improvisation Expression in Creative Writing
- Adaptation from Page to Stage
- New Play Development

THEATRE PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Festival Leadership

- Festival Director, Goshen Players Roundabout Theatre Festival 2026
- Festival Director, Warner International Playwrights' Festival 2012 - 2024
- Producing Director, Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival 2008 - 2022

Script Reading and Judging

- Reader, Rattlestick Theatre and The Terrence McNally Foundation
Terrence McNally Recovery Project 2026
- Reader, California State University, Sacramento
Bazzanella Literary Awards 2026

- Winning Play Script Selection Reader
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 5 2013 – 2015

Producing and Production Management

- Producer & Co-creator, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
Judith Royer Award of Excellence in Playwriting 2015 - 2019
- Producer, Association for Theater in Higher Education
National New Play Development Workshop 2011 - 2015
- Stage Manager
 - Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, Provincetown, MA 2007
 - Cornwall Players & Northwestern Connecticut Community College, CT 2006
 - Warner Theatre, Torrington, CT 2005 – 2010

HONORS/AWARDS

University of Nebraska Omaha, College of Communication, Fine Arts, and Media	
Part-time Faculty Award, 2025	Omaha, NE
Certificate of Merit for Invaluable contribution to the development of culture and theatrical art internationally from the Chairman of Culture for the Samara Regional Assembly	Samara, Russia
North American Actors Assoc. Playreading Festival Award, <i>The Quadroon and the Dove</i>	London, England
Bottle Tree Productions Award in Playwriting, <i>Gift of an Orange</i> , Winner	Ontario, Canada
Best Connecticut Playwright, <i>The Perfect Job</i> , Nomination	Broadway World
Best Connecticut Playwright, <i>Always a Line</i> , Nomination	Broadway World
Best Connecticut Playwright, <i>Joanie & Freddie on Valentine's Day</i> , Nomination	Broadway World
Oregon New Plays Festival, <i>The Quadroon and the Dove</i> , National Finalist	Ashland, OR
Arizona New Works Festival, <i>The Quadroon and the Dove</i> , National Finalist	Phoenix, AZ
Wordsmythe Play Development, <i>The Quadroon and the Dove</i> , National Finalist	Houston, TX
Nor'eastern Playwrights Showcase Award in Playwriting, <i>Gift of an Orange</i> , Winner	Rutland, VT
New Urban Theatre Laboratory Season Opening Award, <i>Gift of an Orange</i> , Winner	Boston, MA
Ten-Minute Play Award, <i>Bones of Home</i> , Regional Finalist, KCACTF	Boston, MA
New Play Development Workshop, <i>Proverbs</i> , National Selection, ATHE	Chicago, IL
National Partners of American Theatre Playwriting Award, <i>The Quadroon and the Dove</i>	Washington, DC
John Cauble Short Play Award, <i>Another August</i> , National Semi-finalist, KCACTF	Washington, DC
Ten-Minute Play Award, <i>Who You Got to Believe</i> , National Finalist, KCACTF	Washington, DC
Nomination for Special Recognition, <i>Who You Got to Believe</i> , KCACTF	Washington, DC
Heideman Award, <i>Who You Got to Believe</i> , National Finalist, Actors Theatre of Louisville	Louisville, KY
New Play Development Workshop, <i>Who You Got to Believe</i> , National Selection, ATHE	Orlando, FL
Saints and Sinners Literary Festival, <i>Trinity</i> , National Finalist	New Orleans, LA
Louisiana Literary Journal, <i>Stillness: 8/29/05</i> , National First Runner-up	Thibodeau, LA
Asheville Writer's Workshop, <i>Drift</i> , National Honorable Mention	Asheville, NC

GRANTS

- University of Nebraska Omaha. Awarded Open Education Resources (OER) grant for new course development
- Haven Foundation. Awarded one-year continuing artist grant.
- Dramatists Guild of America. Awarded artist grant for new/continuing projects.
- Artists Relief Fund. Awarded artist grant for continuing projects.
- Authors League Fund. Awarded adversity grant for continuing projects.

- Pen America Writers Fund. Awarded adversity grant for new/continuing projects.

PUBLICATIONS

Books by Charlene A. Donaghy

- *One Bold Voice: Writing Compelling Monologues*
- *Bones of Home and Other Plays*

Craft Book, Hansen Publishing Group, NJ & NY

Collection of Plays, Hansen Publishing Group, NJ & NY

Anthologies

Clarice's Destiny
Italian Now
Sword Play
White Bra with a Pink Bow
Gift of an Orange
Bones of Home
Who You Got to Believe

Wearing Silk

She Persisted, Applause Theatre & Theatre Books
Best Ten-Minute Plays, Smith & Krause
Best American Short Plays, Applause Books
*25 * 10-Minute Plays for Teens*, Smith & Krause
Best American Short Plays, Applause Books
EstroGenius, Manhattan Theatre Source, New York, NY
Best American Short Plays, Applause Books
EstroGenius, Manhattan Theatre Source, New York, NY
In the Eye: A Collection of Writings, Thunder-Rain Publishing, Alamogordo, NM

Literary Journals

French Quarter Inspirations
Study of Herself
No Feathers
Silent Morning
Stillness: 8/29/05

Mad River Literary Journal, Winsted, CT
Mad River Literary Journal, Winsted, CT
Mad River Literary Journal, Winsted, CT
Mad River Literary Journal, Winsted, CT
Louisiana Literary Journal, Thibodaux, LA

PRODUCTIONS

4 a.m. Friends

Production
 Production
 Production
 Workshop Production
 Workshop Production
 Staged Reading

 Staged Reading
 Staged Reading

Women's Week, Provincetown, MA (2026)
 Endangered Species Theatre, Frederick, MD (2026)
 Cone Man Running Theatre, Houston, TX (2025)
 Goshen Players, Goshen, CT (2025)
 University of Nebraska Omaha, Omaha, NE (2025)
 League of Professional Theatre Women, Waterbury, CT (2025)
 Shelterbelt Theatre, Omaha, NE (2025)
 Truro Playwright Collective, Truro, MA

The Quadroon and the Dove

Broadway Option
 Dramatic Reading
 Dramatic Reading
 Dramatic Reading
 Development Prod.

Madison Square Productions, New York City, NY
 Confidence Theatrics, Gaithersburg, VA (Washington, DC)
 Reston Players, Reston, VA (Washington, DC)
 Chart Production/9th Floor, New York, NY
 University of Memphis, Memphis, TN

Always a Line

Production
 Production
 Production

Festival of Independent Theatre Cos, Jersey City, NJ
 Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, Provincetown, MA
 Warner International Playwrights Festival, Torrington, CT

Lifting as We Climb

Production
 Production

League of Professional Theatre Women, NY and CT
 Voices of African American Women – Waterbury, CT

<i>How to Fix a Broken Peacemaker</i>	Production Production	Vintage Soul Productions, New Haven, CT Voices of African American Women, Waterbury, CT
<i>Italian Now</i>	Production Production	Boston Theatre Marathon, Boston Playwrights Theatre Warner International Playwrights Festival, Torrington, CT
<i>Sliding</i>	Commission Production Production Production Production Production	BoCoCa Arts Festival, Brooklyn, NY BoCoCa Arts Festival, Brooklyn, NY Boston Theatre Marathon, Wheelock Theatre, Boston, MA New Urban Theatre Laboratory, Boston, MA Warner International Playwrights Festival, Torrington, CT Ramapo College Festival of New Plays – Mahwah, NJ
<i>Sword Play</i>	Production Production	Warner International Playwrights Festival, Torrington, CT Know Theatre Artists/Playwrights Fest, Binghamton, NY
<i>Gift of an Orange</i>	Production Production Production	New Urban Theatre Laboratory, Boston, MA Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, Provincetown, MA Tennessee Williams Literary Festival, New Orleans, LA
<i>Jingle of a Moment</i>	Production Production	Collage: A Collection of Plays, Boston Playwrights Theatre Ramapo College Festival of New Plays – Mahwah, NJ
<i>Broken Wings on St. Maurice</i>	Production Production Production	Ramapo College Festival of New Plays – Mahwah, NJ Support Women Artists Now, Boston, MA Know Theatre Artists/Playwrights Fest, Binghamton, NY
<i>Bones of Home</i>	Production Production & Encore Production Production Staged Reading	Collage: A Collection of Plays, Boston Playwrights Theatre Manhattan Theatre Source's EstroGenius, New York, NY West Coast Players, Clearwater, FL Theatre One Play Fest, Middleboro, MA “Sanctuary Plays”, Abingdon Theatre, New York, NY
<i>White Bra with a Pink Bow</i>	Production Production	Five & Dime, New Urban Theatre Laboratory, Boston, MA Warner International Playwrights Festival, Connecticut
<i>Another August</i>	Production Staged Reading Staged Reading Reading with improvised music inspired by play	Know Theatre, Binghamton, NY Actors Civic Theater Celebration of African American Arts, Pittsburgh, PA Pittsburgh New Works Festival, Pittsburgh, PA Fifth Letter Productions - Studio 59, Torrington, CT
<i>Proverbs</i>	Production Production	Five & Dime, New Urban Theatre Laboratory, Boston, MA Poor Mouth Theatre Company, Bronx, NY
<i>Freak Out!</i>	Production Production Production	Gracewell Productions, Staged InTent, Ivoryton, CT Towne Street Theatre, Los Angeles, CA Warner International Playwrights Festival, Torrington, CT

<i>Who You Got to Believe</i>	Production	Bluegrass C&T/Diane Evers Dancers, Lexington, KY
	Production	Kansas City Women's Playwriting Fest, Kansas City, MO
	Production & Encore	Manhattan Theatre Source's EstroGenius, New York, NY
	Production	Panoply Arts Festival, Huntsville, AL
	Production	West T. Hill Community Theatre, Danville, KY
<i>Joanie & Freddie on Valentine's Day</i>	Production	Playhouse 44, 9 Tens on 44, Avon, CT
	Production	Warner International Playwrights Festival, Torrington, CT
<i>Permanent Ink</i>	Production	Warner International Playwrights Festival, Torrington, CT
	Production	Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, Provincetown, MA
<i>The Perfect Job</i>	Production	Warner International Playwrights Festival, Torrington, CT
<i>The Wrong Taxi?</i>	Production	Firehouse Theatre, Newburyport, MA
<i>Grand Theatre Journey</i>	Production	Vintage Soul Productions, Worldwide
<i>Under the Baby Clothes Quilt</i>	Production	Vintage Soul Productions, Worldwide
<i>I Like</i>	Production	Virtual One Act Festival, Worldwide
<i>An Invitation to My Circus</i>	Production	Cone Man Running Productions, Houston, TX
<i>Tomato</i>	Production	Cone Man Running Productions, Houston, TX
<i>Everything Has a Season</i>	Production	BostonSLAM!, Boston, MA

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Association for Theater in Higher Education (ATHE)
- Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)
- Connecticut Theater Women Network (Advisory Committee)
- Dramatists Guild of America (CT/NE Regional Representative)
- Honor Roll!
- International Center for Women Playwrights
- League of Professional Theatre Women (LPTW)
- 9th Floor Writers and Actors Collaborative
- The Playwright's Center
- Proscenium Playwrights (Founding Member)