

## **KEDISHA THOMAS**

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### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

Dedicated and creative performing artist with over 15 years of experience in the performing arts, specialising in Acting. Proven track record in developing and implementing engaging drama curricula and productions that resonate with diverse audiences. Passionate about fostering a dynamic learning environment that encourages artistic expression and personal growth.

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### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **Artistic Director & Playwright**

[The Foundation for the Academic Advancement of Spiritual Baptist Youth] | [Southland Spiritual Baptist School of Theology, Chinese Village, LaBrea] | [2021- present]

- Developed original scripts and directed performances for children and adults, including culturally significant plays that highlight Trinidad and Tobago's Spiritual Baptist Faith.
- Coordinated and led workshops for aspiring actors and writers, focusing on monologue development, poetry, and performance techniques.
- Managed casting, rehearsals, and technical aspects of productions, ensuring a seamless execution of performances.

#### **Drama & Movement Teacher & Curriculum Developer**

[Kiddy Care Early Learning Center] | [10, Lynch Street, Couva] | [2015-2017]

- Designed and implemented drama curricula for students aged 2-5, fostering an appreciation for the performing arts.
- Directed school plays and managed student theater productions, integrating historical and cultural themes into performances.
- Provided one-on-one mentorship to students aged 5 helping them to develop their acting skills and confidence on stage.

#### **Freelance playwright & Director**

[7 Sheeda Gardens Cunupia] | [presently]

- Wrote and directed scripts for DMAD Company radio drama segment focusing on stories that explore Caribbean culture and folklore.
- Collaborated with local artists and performers to produce high-quality theatrical presentations, often incorporating elements of folk dance and traditional music.
- Worked closely with designers, choreographers, and technical teams to bring creative visions to life on stage.

**Guest Lecturer-** [University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago] | [Elements of Drama-Year 1] | [2023]

- **Introduce Fundamental Concepts:** Provide a clear overview of key elements of drama, including plot, character, setting, conflict, and theme, to build a foundational understanding of how these components work together in dramatic works.
- **Enhance Analytical Skills:** Equip students with analytical tools and methods to critically assess and interpret dramatic texts, encouraging them to explore how these elements contribute to the overall impact of a play or performance.
- **Foster Appreciation and Engagement:** Inspire a deeper appreciation for the craft of drama by discussing its historical development and contemporary applications, and by engaging students in practical exercises or discussions that connect theory with real-world examples.

**Full time Resident Actor-** [Shaw Park Cultural Complex, Shaw Park] | [Tobago Performing Arts Company] | [Dec 2021-November 2024]

- **Performance Preparation and Execution:** Involved in rehearsals, character development, and performance delivery, ensuring they bring their roles to life with authenticity and skill.
- **Creative Collaboration:** Working closely with directors, playwrights, and other actors to develop and refine scripts, choreography, and staging, contributing creatively to the overall production.
- **Training and Skill Enhancement:** Engaging in ongoing training and professional development, including acting techniques, voice training, and physical conditioning, to continuously improve their craft and adapt to different roles and performances.

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## EDUCATION

### **Bachelor of Fine Arts in the Performing Arts Specialisation - Acting**

[University of Trinidad and Tobago] | [National Academy for the Performing Arts, Port of Spain] | [2019]

### **Certificate in Education-Voice acting, Radio and Television Broadcasting**

[Increase Media] | [Coffee Street, Sanfernando] | [2019]

### **Certificate in Education- Voice Acting and Radio Broadcasting**

[Starr Broadcasting Media Skills LTD] | [No.7 Carlton Avenue, St. James Port- of -Spain] | [2021]

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## SKILLS

- **Creative Writing & Script Development:** Expertise in crafting compelling narratives and engaging dialogue for theater productions.

- **Directing & Production Management:** Strong ability to oversee all aspects of theatrical productions from concept to performance.
  - **Curriculum Design:** Developing drama programs that cater to various age groups, emphasising both technical skills and artistic expression.
  - **Mentorship & Leadership:** Adept at guiding students and actors through their artistic development, fostering a collaborative and supportive environment.
  - **Cultural Integration:** Understanding of Trinidad and Tobago's cultural traditions, with the ability to seamlessly integrate them into modern theatrical works.
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## NOTABLE PRODUCTIONS

- **"Calypso Rose Musical "** (2023): This dramaturge in Canada celebrated her life, career, and impact on calypso music, highlighting her struggles and achievements as a pioneering female artist.
  - **"Bitter Cassava"** (2022): A Trinidadian folk play by Dr. Lester Efebo Wilkinson about jealousy and revenge. The play blends drama, humour, and folklore from Trinidad and Tobago.
  - **"For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf"** (2019): Ntozake Shange choreopoem explores the struggles, resilience, and sisterhood of Black women through a series of poetic monologues. Addressing issues like love, abuse, empowerment, and identity.
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## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- **In Honour of Excellence in Academics** | [ Holy Mt. Zion International Spiritual Baptist Cathedral] | [2019]
  - **Recognition for Outstanding Performance in Performing Arts- Acting** | [Holy Mt. Zion International Spiritual Baptist Cathedral] | [2019]
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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Mrs. Khadija Glasgow- Speer, [Actors' Equity Association of America]
  - Mr. Michael Cherrie, [Assistant Professor of Acting at the University of Trinidad and Tobago]
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## REFERENCES

Available upon request.