
FRAN de LEON

actor • writer • director • educator

frandeleon@me.com

www.frandeleon.com

818.437.1272

PROFILE

Pronouns: she/her. LA Native Fran de Leon is an actor, writer, director, and educator born in Downtown Los Angeles, and raised in Hollywood and Manila. Her one-person show, *Faces of America*, toured over 500 venues across 49 states, including keynote performances for the United Nations Associations, California, and New York. Fran serves as Co-Artistic Director of Will & Company, Director of New Talent for Playfair, a Core Ensemble Member of Critical Mass Performance Group, and Adjunct Faculty at the University of Southern California. She is also a proud union member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Actors' Equity Association, and SAG-Aftra.

DEI STATEMENT

I align myself with institutions and programs that purposefully seek personnel and community stakeholders who identify as the global majority. While I often teach and direct at the university level, I had to forego a formal education, having been raised by a single mother and entering the workforce by age 15. My skills have been honed and continue to be refined with over 30 years of experience in professional theatre-making. My strength is in identifying each team member's style and adapting my methods to serve visual, kinesthetic, auditory, and reading/writing learners alike. I believe in creating a safe and inclusive environment built on mutual respect, full transparency, and the constant collaboration process towards a common goal.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Will & Company - 2015 to Present

Will & Company was founded in 1989 with local, national, and mainstage shows that promote inclusion and representation through both classical and contemporary works with artistic teams comprised of artists from all sections of life and culture.

- Producing-Managing Director for Will & Company's National Tour Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusions productions touring to colleges, theatres, national arts and social justice conferences, community arts complexes, and corporate conference events.
- Oversee all aspects of creation, production, and touring for the company's national presentations. To date, thirteen productions have played more than 3,000 performances at 542 campuses in 47 of the United States.

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING Playfair, Inc - 2016 to Present

Arguably the longest-running and most successful college campus event, Playfair tours nationwide to over 300 schools per year during orientation season with a one-person show that promotes team building, non-competitive gameplay, and community activism.

- Conducts talent search and auditions for performers/facilitators
- Co-created online program during the pandemic lockdown, personally facilitating 70+ programs for colleges and corporate events
- Annually directs new facilitators in one-week intensive training
- Coordinates booking of training shows for new facilitators

ASSOCIATE-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Will & Company - 2004 to 2015

- Producer of the *Bring Students to the Theatre Program* (2000 - 2007) at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, the Ricardo Montalban Theatre, and Disney's El Capitan Theatre: Nine, AEA governed theatrical productions, each for 7,000 students, through multi-year grant awards to bring in student audiences from Los Angeles County schools.

- Producer for performances at *The Getty Presents* (2000 - 2010), in association with Community Arts Resources to present adapted classical works at the Getty Museum.
- Producer for *Twenty-Four Hours of Shakespeare* (1999 - 2006), the annual, celebrity-backed, fundraiser for Will & Company's state education programs, in coordination with the Music Center on Tour, and Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts.
- Producer of *Shakespeare for Youth* (2003 - 2008), in association with multi-year grant awards from the Annenberg Foundation, the California Arts Council, and the Wilson Foundation at five traditionally underserved high schools in East and South Los Angeles: Garfield, Jefferson, Wilson, Inglewood, and Compton High.
- Producer for a project with *The National Endowment of the Arts Big Read*, a literacy advocacy program with multi-year grant awards from the NEA and the Ahmanson Foundation.
- Grant Writer - part of the grant writing team for annual applications for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for Humanities, the Stewart Youth Foundation, the Getty Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Annenberg Foundation, the Wilson Foundation, the Broad Foundation, the Ahmanson Foundation, the California Arts Council, the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department,.

COMPANY MANAGER Will & Company - 1998 to 2004

- Tour Manager and Equity Coordinator for Theatre for Young Audiences productions, in association with the Music Center On Tour and the Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts, throughout Southern California - Oversaw the touring of thirteen productions to theaters and education facilities in 116 cities in Los Angeles, Ventura, and Orange County.
- Tour Manager and Equity Coordinator for citywide tours of *Canopy* and *The WaterCycle*, environmental education productions in association with multi-year grant awards from TreePeople and the City of Los Angeles - to 'every schoolchild in L.A. City.' - Twice!
- Tour Manager for annual company tours of Northern California in association with multi-year grant awards from the City of Stockton CAD, the City of Redlands CAD, and the California Arts Council.
- Company Manager and Associate Producer for nine AEA-governed productions mounted at the Los Angeles Theatre Center and the Palmdale Playhouse, including the *6th World Shakespeare Conference* in 2006, in association with multi-year awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the Annenberg Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Chandler Foundation, and the Cultural Affairs Department of Los Angeles City, amongst others.

WORK EXPERIENCE: Writer / Director

GOD WILL DO THE REST Artists at Play / Latino Theatre Company at Los Angeles Theatre Center - 2024

World Premiere, heralded by the LA Times as an Essential Best Be, written by Nicholas Pilapil.

LOLA'S BANIG Center Theatre Group - 2024

Writer & Director. Second writing commission from CTG, presented at CTG Education and Community's 10th Anniversary of the Library Readings Series.

HAVE TO BELIEVE WE ARE MAGIC Theatre Squared - 2024

Arkansas New Works Festival, written by Sara Guerrero.

BODY COUNT Hollywood Fringe Festival - 2024

Solo show of actor/comedian Joy Regullano. Selected as Best of the Fringe.

HOLY SHIITAKE Whitefire Theatre & Santa Monica Playhouse - 2024

Director & Dramaturg. Solo show of celebrity chef, Katie Chin. Selected as Best of the Solo Fest.

SACRIFICE ZONE: LOS ANGELES Natural History Museum of Los Angeles - 2024

Interactive, multi-media, multi-sensory production highlighting the effects of oil drilling and the diesel death zone, conceived by Paula Cizmar and Michael Bodie.

EVERYBODY 5C Performing Arts - 2024

Guest Director for the Claremont Colleges, written by Branden Jacob-Jenkins.

INTO THE WOODS Pasadena Playhouse - 2023

Part of the Tony award-winning season. A landmark partnership with Pasadena Unified School District, with industry professionals mentoring 200+ students across 4 high schools in the cast and pit orchestra, scenic and costume build/design, stage management and crew, and assistant direct. Celebrity performers included Jane Kaczmarek and Alexandra Billings. Performances were at Pasadena Civic Auditorium and played to an audience of 9,000 over 3 performances.

MARABELLA Artists at Play / A Noise Within - 2022

Noise Now workshop and reading series, written by Boni B. Alvarez.

A WICKED SOUL IN CHERRY HILL the Geffen Playhouse - 2022

World Premiere. Associate Director to Mike Donahue, written by Matt Schatz.

MAMA, I WISH I WAS SILVER The Vagrancy Theatre - 2021

New play development as part of The Blossoming series.

WHEN THE FENCES WERE ONLY THREE FEET HIGH Cornerstone Theatre Company - 2021

Commissioned writer, performed by community members.

ALLOS: THE CARLOS BULOSAN STORY Artists at Play - 2021

Director & Editor. Remotely recorded and edited for limited pay-per-view streaming access, written by Giovanni Ortega.

HECUBA Playwrights' Arena - 2021

The Ghost Light Reading Series, written by Amanda L. Andrei.

VALOR Center Theatre Group - 2020

Commissioned Writer, Director & Editor. Digital Stage Community Stories and screened with online live watch party.

SZLA Arts in Action, University of Southern California - 2020

Devised documentary theatre, a mix of live stream and remote recordings, conceived by Paula Cizmar and Michael Bodie

TWENTY-TWO The Garry Marshall Theatre - 2020

New Works Festival, written by Erin Considine.

THE FANTASTIC KIM SISTERS East West Players - 2019

Theatre for Young Audiences tour followed by a remotely recorded audio theatre program.

THE GREAT LEAP Pasadena Playhouse / East West Players - 2018

Assistant Director to BD Wong, written by Lauren Yee.

L.A. VOICES: ORIGIN STORIES Grand Park L.A. / Playwrights' Arena - 2018

Commissioned to conceive, write, and direct.

SEISMIC SURPRISES ENLIVEN OUR LIVES The Garry Marshall Theatre - 2018

Presented for New Works Festival..

ALLOS: THE CARLOS BULOSAN STORY Center Theatre Group - 2017

Presented at Library Reading Series for Community Stories, written by Giovanni Ortega.

THE ENCHANTED NIGHTINGALE The Garry Marshall Theatre - 2016

Marshall Arts Family Series, written by Joseph Leo Bwarie and Lori Marshall.

SMOKE & MIRRORS Playwrights' Arena - 2012

Commissioned to create a site-specific flash performance in Historic Filipinotown.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BULLYING Segerstrom Center for the Arts - 2007

Commissioned to write and direct TYA touring show for Orange County schools.

HOMER'S THE ODYSSEY Los Angeles Music Center Education Division - 1996-1999

TYA presented by Will & Company, adapted by Colin Cox.

THE WATER CYCLE TreePeople and LA Stormwater - 1996-1999

Four-year TYA tour throughout Los Angeles Unified School District for environmental awareness, co-writer and co-director with Colin Cox

TIME FREEZE SPACE Twelfth Night Repertory - 1995

Commissioned to create, write, and direct devised theatre piece for the LAUSD mental health program. Five-year TYA tour.

WORK EXPERIENCE: ACTOR

ALIEN OF EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES written Chloe Hung, directed by Michael John Garcés

"F3" - THE GREAT PLAINS THEATRE CONFERENCE - 2024

MARIOLOGY written and directed by Nancy Keystone

COLLABORATOR / PERFORMER - MIXED BLOOD THEATRE / CRITICAL MASS PERFORMANCE GROUP
- 2024

GOD WILL DO THE REST written by Nicholas Pilapil, directed by Rodney To

"MAGGIE" - THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE - 2023

AFTER IPHIGENIA written and directed by Nancy Keystone

COLLABORATOR / "IPHIGENIA" - THE GETTY VILLA - 2022

A JORDAN DOWNS ILLUMINATION, written and directed by Nancy Keystone

COLLABORATOR / "MRS. MALKOVICH" - CORNERSTONE THEATRE - 2019

UNTITLED COMMUNION written and directed by Nancy Keystone

COLLABORATOR/ PERFORMER - REDCAT - 2017

TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING by Judy Blume, adapted by Bruce Mason, directed by Robin Larsen

"ANNE HATCHER" & "MS. VINCENT" - SOUTH COAST REPERTORY - 2016

EMBRACE THE CHAOS by Velina Hasu Houston, music by Ozomatli, directed by Sheldon Epps

PRINCIPAL ROLE - PASADENA PLAYHOUSE - 2016

STAGE RAW INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL PLAY FESTIVAL directed by Nancy Keystone
COLLABORATOR/ PERFORMER - BOSTON COURT - 2015

STANDOFF AT HWY #37 by Vicki Ramirez, directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera
"EVELYN LEE" - NATIVE VOICES - 2014

CHARLOTTE'S WEB by EB White, adapted by Joseph Robinette, directed by Laurie Woolery
"MRS. ARABLE" & "THE OLD SHEEP" - SOUTH COAST REPERTORY - 2014

THE GIRL MOST LIKELY TO by Michael Premsirat, directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera
"LI'L MAMA" - PLAYWRIGHTS' ARENA - 2012

BREAD directed by Nancy Keystone
COLLABORATOR/ PERFORMER - CORNERSTONE THEATRE - 2011

CALLIGRAPHY by Velina Hasu Houston, directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera
"SAYURI" - PLAYWRIGHTS' ARENA - 2010

RUBY, TRAGICALLY ROTUND written by Boni B. Alvarez, directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera
EDWINA - PLAYWRIGHTS' ARENA - 2009

SEA CHANGE by Nick Salamone, directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera
"ELLE" - LA GAY & LESBIAN CENTER - 2008

365 DAYS/365 PLAYS by Suzan-Lori Parks, directed by Nancy Keystone
PERFORMER - CENTER THEATRE GROUP - 2007

THE THIRD FROM THE LEFT by Jean Colonomos, directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera
"JANET" - NEW YORK FRINGE FESTIVAL - 2008

DOGEATERS by Jessica Hagedorn, directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera
"TRINI GAMBOA" - CENTER THEATRE GROUP - 2007

ILLYRIA written & directed by Stephan Wolfert
PERFORMER - FAIS DO DO'S - 2006

DOGEATERS by Jessica Hagedorn, directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera
"TRINI GAMBOA" - SIPA/ PLAYWRIGHTS' ARENA - 2004

ROMEO & JULIET by William Shakespeare, directed by Colin Cox
"JULIET" - WILL & COMPANY - 2004

A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Charles Dickens, adapted & directed by Colin Cox
"BELLE" - WILL & COMPANY - 2002

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM by William Shakespeare, directed by Colin Cox
"SNUG THE JOINER" - WILL & COMPANY - 2001

MIRROR OF LA MANCHA written & directed by Colin Cox
"SANCHO PANZA" - WILL & COMPANY - 1999

THE TEMPEST by William Shakespeare, directed by Colin Cox

"CALIBAN" - WILL & COMPANY - 1999

A WOMAN'S HAND written & directed by Dev Ross

PRINCIPAL - FLAGSTAFF FESTIVAL FOR THE ARTS - 1998

ROMEO & JULIET by William Shakespeare, directed by Colin Cox

"JULIET" - WILL & COMPANY - 1998

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM by William Shakespeare, directed by Colin Cox

"PUCK" - 6TH WORLD SHAKESPEARE CONGRESS - 1997

Performed at the Los Angeles Theatre Center.

MERCHANT OF VENICE by William Shakespeare, directed by Colin Cox

"NERISSA" - WILL & COMPANY - 1996

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES directed by Dev Ross

"D.S." - EDUCATIONAL THEATER COMPANY - 1995

TIME OUT ZONE directed by Dev Ross

PRINCIPAL - TWELFTH NIGHT REPERTORY - 1995

CANTON JAZZ CLUB book by Dom Magwili, music by Nathan Wang and Joel Iwataki, directed by Tim Dang

"QUARTET ALTO" AND "MIMI" US - EAST WEST PLAYERS - 1994

WORK EXPERIENCE: PUBLIC SPEAKER / FACILITATOR

PLAYFAIR 1993 - present

Featured and keynote speaker for inclusivity and community building at major colleges and corporations. *

FACES OF AMERICA 1995 - 2018

Keynote at major conferences including the United Nations Association, Conference on Race and Ethnicity, and Fulbright Scholars. *

*comprehensive list of engagements upon request

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

DANNY FELDMAN

Artistic Director, Pasadena Playhouse
df@pasadenaplayhouse.org • 626.737.2868

AMY HILL

Actor / Producer / Arts Advocate
tokyobound@yahoo.com • 323.610.4238

AMY LEVINSON

Associate Artistic Director, Geffen Playhouse
amy@geffenplayhouse.org • 323.841.2438

LURIE WOOLERY,

Director of Public Works, The Public Theatre, NYC
lwoolery@publictheater.org • 323.715.2156

JESUS REYES

Community Partnerships Director, Center Theatre Group
jreyes@ctgla.org • 213.972.8028

JESSICA KUBZANSKY

Artistic Director, The Theatre at Boston Court
jessicak@bostoncourt.com • 626.683.6888