

Bonnie Duncan

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Bonnie Duncan is a dancer and puppeteer. She has been entertaining audiences of 5 to 5000 people, from Bangalore to Kalamazoo, as a dancer, acrobat, and puppeteer, as a solo artist and in touring companies. Her shows for families are selling out venues across the US & abroad and inspiring homemade puppet shows by kids everywhere. Bonnie is also a Teaching Artist, dedicated to using creative drama & movement techniques to strengthen language arts & social justice curricula, grades K-12.

Performing Arts Experience

Founder, Creator & Performer, The Gottabees, 2013 - present
Develop & perform performances for family audiences; lead collaborative process; manage business.

- Current shows: *Squirrel Stole My Underpants*, premiere 2013; *Lollipops for Breakfast*, premiere 2015; *Go Home Tiny Monster*, premiere 2018; *ScreenPLAY!*, Zoom premiere 2020. Featured performances in museums, festivals, and theaters in 18 states and 5 countries. Audience reach of 41,000 and counting.
- Grants: NEST touring grants, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2017; Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation / USArtists International grant, 2019; Jim Henson Foundation, 2018, 2013; Boston Cultural Council's Opportunity Fund, 2017; Puppeteers of America, 2015, 2009; Puppet Showplace Theater's Incubator Program, 2020, 2018, 2015, 2013.

www.thegottabees.com

Guest Costume Designer, Suffolk University's Performing Arts Office, 2007-present
Create costume concepts & designs for Pioneer Series & STEW productions. Shows include: *Urinetown: The Musical*; *Putnam County Spelling Bee*; *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play*

Company Member, Snappy Dance Theater, 1999-2007
Collaboratively developed & performed athletic, sculptural modern dance for national & international audiences. Bonnie's movement was called "breathtakingly simple" and "delightfully crafty" by the Boston Globe. Featured dancer: *String Beings, Lumen, Temperamental Wobble, Flip/Switch, Pants, Fall Collection*.

Resident Costume Designer, Rough & Tumble Theater, 1999-2008
Created costume concepts & designs for over 11 shows by this award-winning theater company. IRNE award nominee, 2003.

Selected Education Experience

Anti-Racist Educator, Play for Change in collaboration with Little Uprisings, 2020-present
Collaboratively developing interactive, anti-racist theatrical educational experiences for young learners and families in school and community settings. www.littleuprisings.org

Creativity Consultant, Babson College, 2016
Creativity Consultant to first year MBA students for a workshop called "Creating" at the F. W. Olin Graduate School of Business.

Teaching Artist, Very Special Arts Massachusetts (Open Door Arts), 2015-2017
Teach integrated arts with special needs and ELL students in Boston Public Schools, as part of their COOL Schools program.

Theater Arts Teacher, Cambridge Montessori School, 1999-2011
Created integrated drama and movement curriculum for multi-age classroom studies, grades 1-9. Led students in creation of original plays & performances for community. Developed curriculum and collaboratively taught "Film School" program for middle school.

Artist Educator, Hampshire Educational Collaborative, 2007-2008
Provided professional development for Massachusetts Department of Youth Services teachers on integration of the arts into the core academic curriculum. Taught integrated drama to at-risk youth, ages 13-20.

Teaching Artist, Arts in Progress, 2000-2006
Developed, conducted, & assessed artist residencies focused on MA Language Arts Learning Frameworks, Boston Public Schools, grades K-7. Led teacher trainings & developed materials for teachers under multiple MCC Creative Schools & private foundation grants.

Director of Educational Outreach, Snappy Dance Theater, 2000-2006

bonnie-duncan.com

Professional Affiliations

UNIMA-USA
Citation of Excellence, 2017
Blog contributor, 2019, 2018

Puppeteers of America
Featured performer, National Festival, 2017, 2015
Slam performer, National Festival, 2018, 2009

TYA/ASSITEJ member
Featured panelist, National Conference, 2020

NEST artist, NEFA

Massachusetts Cultural Council
STARS grant recipient, 2014, 2013

Continued Studies

O'Neil National Puppetry Conference
Emerging Artist, 2017
Participant with Martin P. Robinson, 2013, 2008

Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival
Catalyst Artist, 2017

New England Center for Circus Arts
Aerial & Partner Acrobatics, 2004-2009

Perishable Theatre
Resident Artist, 2007-2009

Atlantic Center for the Arts
Associate Artist with Paul Zaloom, 2005

Education

Lesley University, 1999
M.Ed., Creative Arts in Learning

New York University, 1998
"Classroom Drama in Great Britain"

Clemson University, 1997
B.A., Elementary Education
Theater minor
Magna Cum Laude
Departmental Honors

Interests & Skills

puppetry, physical theater, partner acrobatics, fiber sculpture, interior design, cardboard play space expert, distance running, mother to 3 under 12