

Bonnie Duncan

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Bonnie Duncan is a theater artist, puppeteer, and maker of things. She creates work grounded in joy, truth, and magic and invites audiences to imagine themselves as creators of their own world. 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 sell out venues across the US & abroad and inspire 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 and performance tours.

- 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 43,000 and counting.
- Grants: LAB / The Boston Foundation, 2021; NEST touring grant, 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*; *Painted Alice*.

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 original 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.playforchangeboston.com

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

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'Neill National Puppetry Conference

Emerging Artist, 2017
Participant with Martin P. Robinson, 2013, 2008; Alice Gottschalk, 2022

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