

LEESA CASTAÑEDA

AEA / SAG-AFTRA

Winter Park, FL 32792 | 407-879-6760 | leesacastaneda@gmail.com | leesacastaneda.com

Height: 5'5" | Vocal Range: G3-F5 | Certifications: Valid STCW & US Passport



PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Accomplished Professional Performer, Director, and Producer with over two decades of high-level experience spanning regional theatre, film/television, major theme parks (Walt Disney World, Universal Studios), and elite international cruise lines (Disney Cruise Line). A dynamic leader and founding theatre manager highly skilled in staging, script analysis, and improv coaching. Exceptionally equipped to deliver engaging, high-energy, and inclusive adult enrichment drama programs and theatrical workshops for vacationing cruise line guests.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Instruction & Leadership:** Adult Drama Workshops, Improv Coaching, Script Breakdown, Monologue Selection & Coaching, Solo Show Development
- **Theatrical Direction:** Staging & Blocking, Playwriting, Musical Theatre, Cross-Functional Ensemble Leadership
- **Arts Management:** Production Budgeting, Show Logistics, Marketing, Volunteer & Guest Management
- **Industry Relations:** 20+ Years Theme Park & Cruise Experience, Public Speaking, Conflict Resolution

DIRECTING & CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

Freelance Director / Playwright / Assistant Director | 2008 – Present

PRODUCTION	ROLE	VENUE / COMPANY / NOTES
The Mocking Bird News	Director	Orlando Fringe, 2024 (Critics Pick-Best Director)
La Reina Yolanda	Playwright / Performer	One-Woman Show, Orlando Fringe 2017 (Critics Pick-Best Solo Performance)
Los 49	Playwright	After Orlando, 2016
Jekyll & Hyde, The Musical	Assistant Director	2015 / 2009
Extremities	Assistant Director	2012
Spring Awakening	Assistant Director	Greater Orlando Actors Theatre, 2011
Pandemonium	Playwright	Orlando Fringe Festival, 2011
Aida	Assistant Director	Greater Orlando Actors Theatre, 2011
RENT	Director	Greater Orlando Actors Theatre, 2009
Reservoir Dogs	Director	Greater Orlando Actors Theatre, 2009
Proof	Director	Greater Orlando Actors Theatre, 2008
Godspell	Assistant Director	Greater Orlando Actors Theatre, 2008

Greater Orlando Actors Theatre | Winter Park, FL

Managing Producer & Founding Member (2007 – 2020)

- Directed and produced diverse seasons of plays and musicals, managing daily operations, budgeting, and public relations for a non-profit local theatre.
- Coordinated large ensembles and technical crews, cultivating an inclusive environment for both seasoned professionals and local talent.
- Oversaw front-of-house operations, box office CRM systems, marketing plans, and audience engagement initiatives.

CRUISE LINES & THEME PARKS

Disney Treasure / Disney Cruise Line

Mainstage Performer — Plaza de Coco (Inaugural Cast)

Walt Disney World | Orlando, FL

Contract Stage Performer (1997 – 2024)

Universal Studios | Orlando, FL

Contract Stage & Improv Performer (1996 – 2024)

- Entertained diverse international audiences in scripted and high-stakes improvised live mainstage productions across Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and Disney Cruise Line

THEATRE PERFORMANCES (SELECTED)

PRODUCTION	ROLE	VENUE / COMPANY
Somewhere	Inez Candelaria (u/s, perf.)	Guthrie Theater
Nine - the musical	Saraghina	Central Florida Vocal Arts
On Your Feet	Gloria Fajardo	Garden Theatre
Next to Normal	Diana	G.O.A.T.
In The Heights	Camila	Orlando Shakes
Sweeney Todd	Mrs. Lovett	BSP
A Streetcar Named Desire	Blanche	G.O.A.T.
El Wiz	Anita / Bruja Mala	Orlando Shakes
The Ritz	Googie Gomez	BSP
Orpheus Descending	Lady	Dark Side of Saturn Prod.
9 Parts of Desire	Layal	Empty Spaces Theatre
The Spitfire Grill	Effy	Mad Cow Theatre
The Sandwich Ministry	Claudia (Reading)	Orlando Shakes
72 Miles to Go	Anita (Reading)	Orlando Shakes
Hundreds & Hundreds of Stars	Vega (Reading)	Orlando Shakes

FILM & TELEVISION (SELECTED)

PRODUCTION	ROLE	NETWORK / PRODUCTION COMPANY
One Tree Hill	Supporting	Gregory Prange / WB
Sheena	Guest Star	Jon Cassar / TriStar
Taina	Guest Star	Kim Fields / Nickelodeon
Sudden Terror	Co-Star	Paul Schneider / ABC
SeaQuest	Guest Star	Anson Williams / NBC
No Charge	Co-Star	Carmen Treffiletti / DME
Oscar	Supporting	John Landis / Touchstone

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- **American Academy of Dramatic Arts** (New York, NY) — Theatre & Acting
- **Valencia College** (Orlando, FL) — General Studies / Theatre Arts
- **Vocal Coaching:** Melanie Galiardo (Orlando, FL)

SKILLS

Conversational Spanish, Singing (Mezzo-soprano), Various Accents & Dialects, Improv & Sketch Comedy, Stage Combat, Swimming, Horseback Riding, Licensed Driver (Automatic).