

MELISSA CARTER

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

University of Connecticut, MFA in Puppet Arts

Expected Graduation 2026

Materials and Techniques: Matthew Sorenson

Marionette Construction and Performance: Bart Roccoberton

Directing: Matthew Sorenson

Rod Puppetry: Bart Roccoberton

James Madison University, BA in Theatre Performance and Studies

2013-2017

Acting: Drew Hampton, Ingrid DeSanctis, Wolf Sherrill, Ben Lambert

Devising: Dennis Beck

Movement: Robert Smith

Dance: Ryan Corriston

City Academy of London

2016

Advanced Acting and Shakespeare

Portland Experimental Theatre Ensemble Training Intensive, 2015

Viewpoints/Suzuki: Jacob Coleman, Rebecca Lingafelter, Cristi Miles, Amber Whitehall

Young Actor's Institute

2011

Acting: Sarah Harlett; Singing: Marke Rabe; Dancing: Katheryn Reed; Scene study/Audition class: Alban Dennis; Improv: Andrew McMasters; Fight choreography: Geoffrey Alm; Voice: Alyssa Keene

Private Lessons: Guitar lessons Ian Drummond; Voice Rebeqa Rivers; Auditioning Carol Roscoe

PUPPETRY BUILDING

The Old Man and the Old Moon, 2023

Designed and built giant fish puppet and found object, direct manipulation chicken and dog puppets

Middletown Playhouse, 2023

Designed and built large judge and monster puppet for children's circus

War of the Worlds, 2023

Designed flat surface puppets for this production at Connecticut Repertory Theatre

Dear Mapel, 2022

Helped build puppets and a collapsible miniature proscenium for this production at Mosaic Theatre

Pilobolus Dance Company, 2021

Assisted the props master of Pilobolus with the fabrication of a large goat skull.

Lady from the Village of the Falling Flowers, 2019

Built finger puppets for this premiere production at the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival

ORIGINAL PUPPET PIECES

How to Kiss, 2023

Short piece satirizing the practice of giving universal romantic advice by asking the advisee to practice kissing with an octopus.

A Brief Lecture, 2023

A simple, tabletop puppet gets up to give a lecture to the audience and finds a pair of underwear. They accuse members of the audience and the puppeteer of leaving their underwear on the stage before finally realizing the underwear is their own.

Boots are Made for Walking, 2024

Remade a Hannah Hoch collage of a shell with legs and boots as a large, flat surface puppet and had it dance to 'These Boots are Made for Walking.'

Some Slight Pressure, 2024

Satirical piece about inserting an IUD. A woman goes to get an IUD inserted and absurd things are done to her uterus in shadow.

R3AL eyes PAST ur pasturLIES, 2024

Satirical piece about the #tradwife movement, using unpasteurized milk as a physical representation of the harmful practices tradwives promote. Tradwife, played by an actor in a grotesque burlap bodysuit, offers the audience a taste of unpasteurized milk through her breasts. She then dies from drinking the unpasteurized milk herself.

ASSITANT DIRECTING PUPPETRY

The Old Man and the Old Moon, 2024

Assistant directing puppet movement for this Connecticut Repertory Production.

I Am the Village, 2023

Puppet pageant about the life of Marc Chagall

PUPPET PERFORMANCE

Thumbelina, Imagination Stage, DC

The Lady from the Village of Falling Flowers, Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival

Forest Treas, Pointless Theatre Co, DC

Alice in Wonderland, National Players, National Tour

War of the Worlds, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, Connecticut

Midnight Louie's, Lilypad Puppet Theatre, New York

The Infinite Tales, 4615 Theatre Co, DC

Watergate with Puppets, AnyStage Theatre, DC

(An Audio Guide for) Unsung Snails and Heroes, Manhattan Theatre Club Reading, NYC

Bronx Express, Theatre J Reading, DC

THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Emilia, *Othello*, Jason King Jones, National Players, National Tour

Titania, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Prince George Shakespeare, Maryland

Sky God, *Zomo the Rabbit*, Imagination Stage, Maryland

Myrtle Wilson, *The Great Gatsby*, National Players, National Tour

Janie/Old Man/Mom, *Do You Feel Anger?*, Theater Alliance, DC

The Guest, *Separate Rooms*, 4615 Theatre Co, Maryland

Young Hannah, *Hannah Arendt*, Goethe Institut, DC

GRANTS

Color the Curb, 2021

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, in partnership with the District Department of Transportation, funds District-based artists experienced in large-scale exterior murals and community-based projects to design and install ground murals at low visibility intersections in Washington, DC. Selected artists are awarded grant funds to be used for design, materials, fabrication, installation, personnel, and project management.

Art and Humanities Fellowship, 2020

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Fellowship Program supports qualified individual artists and humanities practitioners who significantly contribute to the District of Columbia as a world-class cultural capital

RESIDENCY

Resident artist with the 4615 Theatre Company, 2018-2023

4615 Theatre Company produces a provocative blend of classical and contemporary work, inspiring audiences to explore the echoes and resonances of storytelling passed down through the ages. 4615's Resident Artists are a group of theatre-makers who have made 4615 their artistic home, and whose work 4615 is committed to supporting.

PUBLICATIONS

Cuntry Living, 2020 Autumn Issue

This international feminist collective published two of my pieces in their seasonal zine; a line drawing of tourists taking pictures of the Venus de Milo with the caption 'take your own nudes' and a collage from my 2020 series on cryptic cleanliness titled 'what you will'

Necessary Meditations, self-published 2017

A collection of sketches and poems created in an attempt to gain perspective after being sexually assaulted. Subsequently bound into a zine.

EXHIBITIONS

WXJM Gallery Show, 2017

Displayed a variety of prints and zines

Center on Contemporary Art, 2014

Displayed 'Bleh' a sculptural head sticking its tongue out, created by adhering projection slides to a wire frame