PETULA CAESAR

Writer | *Playwright* | *Director* | *Producer* | *Performer*
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ARTISTIC PROFILE

Petula Caesar is a multidisciplinary writer and theater artist whose practice moves across playwriting, directing, producing, performance, memoir, journalism, spoken word, and arts education. Her work explores identity, cultural memory, power, autonomy, Black life, and the ways intimate and overlooked histories illuminate larger social questions. After a career spanning literary, performance, and cultural work, theater is currently the primary focus of her artistic practice.

CURRENT ARTISTIC PRACTICE | 2024–PRESENT

- *RECLASSIFIED* | Playwright | 2024–Present - Full-length historical drama inspired by events in the life of Caesar's father, a Black World War II serviceman.
    - LAB410 Playwright Residency, Baltimore Center Stage (2026–2027)
    - Atlanta Black Theatre Festival Staged Reading Series (2026)
    - Rapid Lemon Productions / The Strand Theater (2026) - Staged Reading
    - Developed from Shades of Honor, produced in Rapid Lemon Productions' Variations on Courage Playwrights Festival(2024).
- *A SOLO OF STRENGTH* | Co-Director & Producer | 2026
  Charm City Fringe Festival. Also contributed to set and lighting design. Production received multiple festival honors, including Best Overall Production, Creative Genius, Theater Everlasting, and OMG It's Me.
- *NOTHING FURTHER* | Playwright | 2026
  Ten-minute play selected for Rapid Lemon Productions' Variations on Silence staged reading series.
- PORCH ECHOES & FRONT STEP TRUTHS | Writer & Performer | 2026
  Literary performance program at Benjamin Banneker Historical Park.
- *A BLACK WOMAN'S KITCHEN* | Playwright | 2025
  Brown Sugar Bake Off Festival, Two Strikes Theater Collective / The Strand Theater.
- *BALTIMORE: IN RECOVERY* | Writer & Director | 2024
  Produced at Charm City Fringe Festival.
- *SHADES OF HONOR* | Playwright | 2024
  Ten-minute play produced in Rapid Lemon Productions' Variations on Courage Playwrights Festival; precursor to *Reclassified*.

SELECTED EARLIER THEATER AND CREATIVE LEADERSHIP | 2012-2023

- *THE PURPLE TAPE* | Executive Producer & Actor | 2023 | Baltimore Rock Opera Society
- *BALTIMORE: IN RECOVERY* | Writer, Co-Director & Director | 2022–2023 | Baltimore Rock Opera Society | Original production (2022); encore performance (2023).
- *FUNKTOPIA* | Executive Producer & Co-Creative Director | 2021 | Baltimore Rock Opera Society.
- *ROCK OPERA 101* | Producer & Creative Director | 2020 | Baltimore Rock Opera Society
  Three-part online concert series. Part I selected for The Kennedy Center's Arts Across America virtual stage.
- *LINGERIE* | Writer & Director | 2012 | D.C. Black Theatre Festival, Busboys and Poets, Hyattsville, Maryland. Received Best Short Play.

LITERARY & JOURNALISM PRACTICE

- SHE'S SUCH A BRIGHT GIRL: AN AMERICAN STORY | Author | 2018 | Memoir; Honorable Mention, North Street Book Prize, Nonfiction/Memoir.

- SPEAKERBOX MAGAZINE | Editor-in-Chief / Senior Writer / Content Manager | 2014–2017
- MIC LIFE MAGAZINE | Managing Editor / Senior Staff Writer | 2005–2013
- SIMON & SCHUSTER / STREBOR BOOKS | Editorial Assistant | 2011
- THE AFRO NEWSPAPERS | Writer / Copy Editor / Photographer | 2007–2009
- BALTIMORE CITY PAPER | Contributing Writer | 2006–2010
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SELECTED PERFORMANCE

- CHOCOLATE COVERED ROCKY HORROR | Special Guest Performer | 2024 | Baltimore Center Stage and Creative Alliance.
- ROCK OPERA 101 | Voiceover Artist & Live Spoken-Word Performer | 2020 | Baltimore Rock Opera Society.
- CHARM CITY KITTY CLUB | Performer | 2017 | Baltimore Theatre Project.
- SELECTED SPOKEN-WORD, BURLESQUE & VARIETY PERFORMANCE | 2012–2013 Appearances in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., including Tilted Torch: Modern Elegance, The Eros Salon, Judah's Jukejoint Thursdays, The Erotic Wonderland Rock 'N Roll Circus, D.C. Variety Show, and The Vagina Monologues.

TEACHING, FACILITATION, & ARTS LEADERSHIP

- UNFUNDED AND UNAFRAID | Workshop Facilitator | 2025 | ArtsLab / Maryland Citizens for the Arts. Workshop on sustaining creative practice during periods of limited or uncertain funding.
- BALTIMORE ARTS DISTRICT | Fundraising Workshop Facilitator | 2024
- SHORT STORY FEST | Writing Workshop Facilitator | 2021
- CREATIVE CHAMPIONS | Workshop Facilitator | 2019 | ArtsLab / Maryland Citizens for the Arts. Professional development workshop supporting artists as advocates, leaders, and cultural contributors.
- THE STRAND THEATER COMPANY | Board Member | 2025–Present
- CERTIFIED FUND RAISING EXECUTIVE (CFRE) | 2025

SELECTED APPEARANCES & READINGS

- WEAA-FM, BALTIMORE | Conversations with LaDawn Black | 2018
- WYPR-FM | On the Record with Sheilah Kast | 2019
- ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY | Author Talks & Book Discussions | Multiple Branches
- APPLE CARNEGIE LIBRARY, WASHINGTON, D.C. | The Future of Storytelling | 2019
- STOOP STORYTELLERS | The Senator Theatre, Baltimore | 2019