

## THERESA COLUMBUS

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### Artist statement

My work celebrates the poetry and movement of everyday language and conversation, exposing the confusion and absurdity of human emotion and interaction while at the same time exploring the profound nature of connecting through relationships and art. Building community around live theater and being an educator are central to my practice.

### Selected Plays

***Please Take Off/Take Off Your Blank:*** as part of the Are You Thinking What I'm Thinking? (AYTWIT) Collective, collaborated with 3 creators through improvisation and writing and performed piece at 2640 Space in Baltimore, and on tour to Providence, Philadelphia, and DC (2024) Remounted at St. Mark's in Baltimore with 3 performances at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival (2025)

***Small Wins:*** collaboratively devised and performed theatrical production at the Submersive Productions Headquarters as part of the AYTWIT Theater Collective, Baltimore (2025)

***Greetings From:*** co-directed and devised theatrical musical production performed at the Motown Ballroom as part of the AYTWIT Collective, Baltimore (2024)

***Variety Show the Musical Play:*** wrote in collaboration with 5 performers and directed 3 sold-out shows at the Marder Theater at Towson University, Towson (2022), remounted to a large sold-out show at the Mobtown Ballroom and on tour to New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh. This was the first production of the Are You Thinking What I'm Thinking? (AYTWIT) Collective (2023).

***8 Short Plays:*** wrote, co-directed, co-produced and performed in full-length musical play, performed three weekends, nine sold-out shows at Mercury Theater, Baltimore, and on tour to Pittsburgh and DC (2019)

***A Flood of Emotions:*** wrote, directed and performed ensemble piece, at Psychic Readings as part of the Late Night Theater Series, Baltimore (2016); and DC Art Center, DC (2017)

***Chaza Show Choir:*** wrote, directed and performed full length musical with a cast of 22, music written in collaboration with five musicians, performed at Milwaukee's Miramar Theater and on tour to Detroit, Philadelphia, New York City, Providence and Richmond (1999)

## **Selected Solo Performance Pieces**

***Miss Universe:*** wrote and performed one woman piece as part of a night of performances curated by Bao Nguyen at 2640 Space, Baltimore (2025)

***Artist House:*** wrote and performed one-woman multi-media piece at Usable Space Gallery, an artist-run space in Milwaukee, and Copy Cat, artist live-work studios with established performance spaces, Baltimore (2018)

## **Selected Collaborations and Organizational Experience**

***Gathering Act:*** as part of Free Fall Baltimore, is co-organizing and co-hosting the first of a series of events that will include group singing, community/activist activity, curated acts and an open mic, Area 405, Baltimore (Oct. 23 2025)

***It's About Time:*** created with the three members of the Tingle Troupe and three members of HeardSpace, online performance commissioned for the opening of the Milwaukee Women's Art Library at the Charles Allis Museum, Milwaukee (2021)

***Kidult Presents: Outside the Box with Abu the Flutemaker*** co-organized performance collaboration with art faculty at Connexions School for the Arts, Abu the Flutemaker and students at Gwynns Falls Elementary School, performed at St. John's (2640 Space), Baltimore (2017)

## **Selected Teaching Experience**

Teaching artist, taught arts integration through Arts for Learning in ALD and EIR programs, Baltimore and PG County (2023-present)

Teaching artist, taught collaborative playwriting at various schools through Summer Arts for Learning Academy (SALA), Baltimore (Summer 2021-present)

Teaching artist, SummerLit program at several different elementary schools (Summer 2021), taught as an AFL roster artist at different elementary and middle schools, Baltimore and surrounding counties (2022-2024)

Teaching artist, John Ruhrah and Tench Tilghman Elementary/Middle School, through Creative Alliance after school program, taught theater and playwriting to grades K-1st grade, Baltimore (2018- 2019)

Art teacher, ConneXions School for the Arts, taught visual art including painting, drawing, sculpture and performance art to grades 7 through 10 part-time during the school day, Baltimore

## **Selected Honors and Awards**

***Variety Show the Musical Play***, received Creativity Grant through Maryland State Arts Council to perform at Mobtown Ballroom, Baltimore (2023)

***8 Short Plays***, received Creativity Grant through Maryland State Arts Council to perform at Mercury Theater, Baltimore (2019)

***Kidult Presents: Outside the Box with Abu the Flutemaker***, received Grit Fund Grant to fund collaboration at 2640 Space, Baltimore (2017)

***Chaza Show Choir*** (film), won first place for Wisconsin's own competition in Madison Film Festival (2004)

## **Selected Publications**

Written about in the following publications:

**“Insect Soup for the Soul, Q & A with Theresa Columbus, one of the creators of “Variety Show the Musical Play,”** by Ed Schrader, published online in the *Baltimore Fishbowl*, 2023. (<https://baltimorefishbowl.com/stories/qa-with-theresa-columbus-one-of-the-creators-of-variety-show-the-musical-play/>)

**“The Way Wheee! Were,”** by Bret McCabe, published online in *Bmore Art* (2015)

**“Local filmmaker brings experimental technique to adolescent musical genre,”** by Baynard Woods, published online in *Baltimore City Paper* (2015)

**“What Made Milwaukee Famous?”** by Nick Frank, published online in *The Milwaukee Record* (2016)

***Convergence: Performance Art in Milwaukee***, book by Pegi Taylor (2004)

## **Trainings**

Anti-Racist Theatre Workshop, by Nicole Brewer, through Towson University, Baltimore (2021)

Making Theater Inclusive, workshop by Paige Hernandez, through Towson University, Baltimore (2021)

Intro to Restorative Practices, attended training through Creative Alliance at Family League, Baltimore (2019)

BRJA Racial Justice Training for White People, Baltimore Racial Justice Association, Baltimore (2017)

## **Education**

Towson University, MFA in Theatre (2020-2022)

University of Maryland Baltimore County, BA in INDS: Performance Art (graduated 2011 magna cum laude)

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, studied creative writing and poetry, (2004-2005)

Brown University, studied writing, theater, environmental studies (1991-1992)