

DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

Theatrical Composer, Music Director, Arranger
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AWARDS

- 2020 Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Family Musical, *She Persisted: The Musical*
- 2018 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Adaptation, *Ella Enchanted: The Musical*
- 2016 LA Ovation Award Nominee for Lyrics/Composition for an Original Musical, *Elephant & Piggie's We Are In A Play!*
- 2009 Parent's Choice Award Winner for cast album of *Nobody's Perfect*
- 2009 iParenting Best Children's Audio Award for cast album of *Nobody's Perfect*
- 2008 Helen Hayes Nomination for Outstanding New Musical, *Chasing George Washington*
- 2002 Parent Choice Audio Award for cast album of *Walking the Winds: American Tales*
- 1996 Jane Chambers Playwriting Award recognizing new feminist works: *The Fifth Season*
- 1994 NEA New American Works Grant: *The Fifth Season*

MUSICALS for Young Audiences *representative sample*

"She Persisted: The Musical" commissioned and premiered at Bay Area Children's Theatre, Berkeley, CA (2019). Directed by Khalia Davis, with book and lyrics by Adam Tobin, based on the book by Chelsea Clinton. Published by Music Theatre International.

"Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience" commissioned and premiered at Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle, WA (2018). Directed by Linda Hartzel, libretto by Mo Willems, based on the bestselling children's books by Mo Willems. Published by Music Theatre International and currently in development as an animated special on HBO Max.

"Ella Enchanted" co-commissioned and premiered at First Stage, Milwaukee and Adventure Theatre, MD (Premiere 2016). Directed by John Maclay and Mary Hall Surface, libretto by Karen Zacarias, based on the Newbery Honor book by Gail Carson.

"OLIVÉRIO: A Brazilian Twist" commissioned and premiered at the John F. Kennedy Center, Washington DC (2016). Directed by Juliette Carrillo, libretto by Karen Zacarias, based on the novel by Charles Dickens. Samba/Bossanova score, published by Dramatic Publishing, and part of the upcoming anthology *Palabras del Cielo: An Exploration of Latina/o Theatre for the Young Audiences* (Volume 2).

"Nobody's Perfect" co-commissioned and premiered at the John F. Kennedy Center, Washington DC and VSA Arts (2007), youth premiere at the Norris Center for the Arts, Palos Verdes, CA (2009). Directed by Coy Middlebrook, libretto by Doug Cooney, based on the book by actress Marlee Matlin. National tour in 2009. Bilingual musical in English and ASL.

"Elephant and Piggie's We Are In A Play" commissioned and premiered at the John F. Kennedy Center, Washington DC (2013), directed by Jerry Whiddon, youth cast premiere at Christian Arts & Theatre, Corona, CA (2018) directed by Cyndi Monroe. Libretto by Mo Willems. Jazz/Musical Theatre score. Published by Music Theatre International.

"Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans: A Salsa Fairytale" commissioned and premiered at Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD (2002). Directed by Kate Bryer, libretto by Karen Zacarias. Salsa and hip-hop score. Published by Dramatic Publishing, part of the anthology *Palabras del Cielo: An Exploration of Latina/o Theatre for the Young Audiences* (Volume 1), winner of the AATE Distinguished Book Award.

Other MUSICALS

representative sample

“**Making Paradise: The West Hollywood Musical**” commissioned and premiered with Cornerstone Theatre, West Hollywood, CA. (2010) Directed by Michael John Garces and Mark Valdez, book by Tom Jacobson, lyrics by Shishir Kurup. Rock and Pop score. Created with and performed by the West Hollywood Community.

“**The Bell Witch**” commissioned by the Theatre at Boston Court, Pasadena, CA. (2012) Workshop reading Directed by Ken Sawyer, book and lyrics by Tom Jacobson. Folk/Bluegrass score.

“**The Fifth Season**” premiered at Olney Theatre, Olney, MD (1995) Directed by Jim Petosa, libretto by Kathleen Cahill. Lyric light opera. The first musical to win the ATHE Jane Chambers Award recognizing new feminist plays.

MUSIC DIRECTING

(Representative sample)

“**You’re A Good man, Charlie Brown**” at South Coast Repertory Theatre, Costa Mesa, CA (Upcoming Summer 2021). Directed by Kari Hayter.

“**A Christmas Carol**” at The Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis, MN (November 2018 and 2019). Directed by Lauren Keating. Teaching, arranging, recording for large Equity & community cast.

“**Destiny of Desire**” at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, OR (February 2018). Directed by José Luis Valenzuela, by Karen Zacarias, music by Rosino Serrano.

“**Frida Libre**” at La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, CA. (February 2011) Directed by Rosemary Newcott, book and lyrics by Karen Zacarias, music by Deborah Wicks La Puma.

“**Making Paradise: The West Hollywood Musical**” with Cornerstone Theatre, West Hollywood, CA. (2010) Directed by Michael John Garces and Mark Valdez, book by Tom Jacobson, lyrics by Shishir Kurup, music by Deborah Wicks La Puma.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Studied Mexican folk and indigenous music with musicologist Alfredo Lopez (1998).

Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, New York, NY. MFA degree in Musical Theatre Writing (1993).

Stanford University, Stanford, CA. BA degree in Music (honors) with focus in Composition and Vocal Performance (1991). Dean’s Award for Academic Achievement and Golden Medal recipient for composition honor’s thesis, the musical *One Bad Apple*.

MORE

- 14 musicals published by Music Theatre International and Dramatic Publishing
- Most produced TYA Artist in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Season
<https://www.tyausa.org/tya-today/national-tya-season-preview-2019-2020/>
- Mexican American with dual citizenship
- Conversational Spanish and Portuguese speaker
- Member of ASCAP, Maestra Music, the Dramatist Guild, and TYA/USA