

Gena Sims

Producer/Performer/Director/Writer/Teacher

gena@autismtheaterproject.org
786-294-7238

Mezzo-Soprano w/belt
Height: 5'10"



Gena Sims is a professional actress, singer, and dancer, as well as the founder and executive director of the Autism Theater Project (ATP). She directs, produces, and writes the Autism Theater Project's productions alongside artists with and without autism.

ATP productions take audiences into the inner voices of special needs characters. On-screen and on-stage, ATP's work shows that everyone can overcome challenges and make an impact on the world.

Gena Sims also creates and runs educational programming inspired by ATP productions. You can learn more about the Autism Theater Project here: www.autismtheaterproject.org

PROFESSIONAL THEATER

An Enchanted April	Lady Caroline Dester	Theatre Row (<i>Off-B'way Premiere</i>)
The Perfect Mate	Susan Botelli	Pittsburgh CLO SPARK Festival
SKiNFoLK	Smiling Tuxedoed Man	Pittsburgh CLO SPARK Festival
Violet	Lula Buffington/Almeta	Front Porch Theatricals
Floyd Collins	Dr. Hazlett/Dancer	Front Porch Theatricals
In the Life of a Child**	Mother	Miami Children's Theater

FILM & EPISODIC SERIES

The Voice Inside**	Supporting	Dir. Gena Sims (on South Florida PBS)
Goodbye	Lead	Dir. Rechna Varma
A Warrior's Passage	Lead	Dir. Jeff Auger
Dream a Little Dream	Supporting	Dir. Stefan Rollins

****Wrote, directed, and produced these shows**

CARNEGIE MELLON THEATER

Detroit '67	Chelle	Mainstage
Cabaret	Fraulein Schneider	Mainstage
Medea/Shulie	Medea	Rauh Theater
Marisol	Angel/Woman in Furs	Rauh Theater

SPECIAL EVENTS

Singer with Daybreaker at **OPRAH's 2020 Vision: Your Life in Focus Tour**

"Holding On" Cabaret with Brian Lowdermilk at Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera Cabaret

Meeting of European Theatre Academies Festival in Florence, Italy

"The Voice Inside" screening event tour (speaker, musician, producer)

TEACHING

Autism Theater Project

Drama Workshops for children with and without special needs, at various locations, including Kia Kidz Martial Arts Center, Dan Marino Foundation, Alexander Montessori School, & Great Heights Academy (2014-2024)

- Workshops use role-play to teach children empathy with parents, students, and teachers, and effective behavior in everyday situations

Head of internship program for high school and college students (2021-2024)

- Teaches interns about grant research, social media marketing, fundraising, video editing, and effective communication in business

Freelance Acting Coaching

Acting Master Class at Chris Arroyo's Voice Studio (2019)

AWARDS

Filmmaking Los Angeles International Short Film Festival (Best TV Pilot Award); Niagara Canada International Film Festival (Award Winner); New York International Film Awards (Finalist); Toronto International Nollywood Film Festival (Finalist); Naked Mountain International Independent Film Festival (Official Selection); Miami International Short Film Festival (Official Selection)

Carnegie Mellon School of Drama Awards: John Arthur Kennedy Award & Thomas Auclair Memorial Scholarship Award

National Society of Arts and Letters Awards : NSAL Drama Competition (National Level) - 1st Place Winner 2019, NSAL Musical Theatre Competition (Pittsburgh Regional)- 2nd Place Winner 2016

Other Awards: McDonald's Top South Florida Golden Grant Award for Autism Theater Project (out of 400 nonprofit organizations); National YoungArts Finalist (Spoken and Musical Theatre); Carbonell Award Scholarship Recipient for Miami-Dade County

TRAINING

Carnegie Mellon University- BFA Degree in Acting/Musical Theatre

New World School of the Arts (Musical Theatre Major)

Workshops/Master Classes: Phylicia Rashad, Marcia Milgrom Dodge, Anne Bogart, Michael McElroy, Jen Waldman, Kenneth Mitchell, Kevin Carroll, Jodie Langel, Jamibeth Margolis

SPECIAL SKILLS- Sight singing, jazz voice, multiple dialects, Hip-Hop dance, conversational French, choreographing, directing, writing, songwriting, non-profit management, film production

SELECTED PRESS (*hyperlinked*)

- “Profile: Gena Sims” – **Carnegie Mellon University Alumni News, CMU Engage**, April 2023
- “South Florida Nonprofit Launches Web Series to Give Voice to Those with Autism” – **NBC Miami**, April 2023
- “The Autism Theater Project’s ‘The Voice Inside’: Changing Lives and the Entertainment Industry” – **Autism Spectrum News**, October 2024
- “How Theater Helps Young Adults on the Spectrum Find Their Voice” – **PBS NewsHour**, March 2025
- “How the Autism Theater Project Is Reshaping Miami’s Arts” – **Miami Herald**, July 2025