

ANDREA ANDRESAKIS
DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER/TEACHING ARTIST
SDC
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Biography

Andrea Andresakis is an experienced Stage Director/Choreographer/Teaching Artist. In her dynamic productions, which range from musical theatre to drama, opera and dance, she allows each medium to inform the others. Her wide range of creative and technical skills coalesce into truthful and imaginative stories. Adapting her approach to the specific and evolving needs of the production, Andrea is a patient, insightful and strong leader.

A native New Yorker, Ms. Andresakis grew up in the landmark Ansonia Hotel on Broadway with the ghosts of Florence Ziegfeld, Tony Curtis and Enrico Caruso roaming the halls. From an early age, she had dual paths in drama and dance. Her father, an actor, producer and Emmy award winning film maker, weaned her on Stanislavsky. While her pianist mother played Chopin and Gershwin, young Andrea would leap and twirl around the living room. The family attended Broadway shows religiously every Thursday night.

Ms. Andresakis began her performing career dancing choreography by George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins at the age of nine. Graduating from the High School of Performing Arts drama department, she appeared in both the film and television series *Fame*. On Broadway, she performed in *A Tribute to Angela Lansbury* at the Majestic Theatre. At Lincoln Center, she played Young Alma in *Summer and Smoke* and performed in several operas including the original production of *Turandot* directed by Franco Zeffirelli at the Metropolitan Opera. At City Center, she danced works by Alvin Ailey and Mercedes Ellington including *Memoria*, a tribute to Joyce Trisler.

Making the transition from performer to director/choreographer, Ms. Andresakis had the privilege of mentoring under several masters. She worked with the iconic Onna White (*Music Man, Oliver, Mame*) to develop original choreography for a stage version of *The Wizard of Oz* which opened at Radio City Music Hall and toured the US. At New York Stage and Film, she was the SDC Observer for the workshop of the Broadway bound *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever*, directed by Michael Mayer and choreographed by JoAnn Hunter. At Chautauqua Opera, she assisted Artistic Director, Jay Lessenger. At the Broadhurst Theatre on Broadway she assisted Jacques d'Amboise on *Dancin' Man, Peter Gennaro*. At the American Playwright's Theatre, she assisted founder and Artistic Director, Dr. Frances Galton.

Ms. Andresakis has over a hundred New York City credits, including the direction and choreography of popular shows such as *Little Shop of Horrors*, adaptations such as *The Little Prince*, historical pieces such as *Nellie* (about the groundbreaking journalist Nellie Bly) and original work. She directed the world premieres of *Spandex, A New Musical for all Sizes* and *My Purple Wig*, both Off Broadway. In 2015, she directed a new Albee-esque play entitled, *The Egg Project* for the NYC International Fringe Festival.

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Biography, continued

Ms. Andresakis has choreographed dozens of musicals and plays including *Final Analysis* at The Signature Theatre and Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* at Wing's Theatre. She frequently works with New York Classical Theatre as a choreographer and style coach.

At the Barrington Stage Company, she was thrilled to direct an age-appropriate production of *Fame* in which the high school students were played by teens and the teachers were played by adults. Being a graduate of the "Fame School" (LaGuardia) she had gone full circle. As choreographer of the revival of Michael Bennett's *Ballroom* at Broadway at the Center in Virginia, she relied on her training with the American Ballroom Theatre. Her Ballroom teacher, Pierre Dulaine, was the subject of the films *Mad Hot Ballroom* and *Take the Lead*. Other regional productions include American classics such as *Crimes of The Heart*, new works such as *Family Penalty* (in Hollywood) and the east coast premiere of *The Marvelous Wonderettes*.

With her piano and voice training as well as her experience at The Metropolitan and NYC Opera, Ms. Andresakis has directed operas ranging from Bernstein to Verdi to Gilbert and Sullivan.

With her love of travel, Ms. Andresakis has had several sojourns to far-away places. She spent a year in Anchorage as Resident Choreographer for the Alaska Dance Theatre where she created *Peter and the Wolf*, *Fables and Tales* (a full-length story ballet) and *Someone is Speaking*, a pop/rock ballet to songs by the Beatles. In 2014, she ventured to New Delhi India for five months to choreograph *The Beatles in India* and teach for the company Musical Dreams.

As a teaching artist, Ms. Andresakis has taught, directed and/or choreographed at SUNY, Purchase; CUNY, Queens College; Georgetown University and Johns Hopkins University. In 2013, Eastern Mennonite University received a grant from the Stage Director's and Choreographer's Foundation to invite Ms. Andresakis to direct their production of *Arms and The Man* by George Bernard Shaw. She is currently on the Musical Theatre faculty of NY Film Academy.