

FIONA H.R. MURPHEY

Rockville, MD • they/he • fionarose.sf@gmail.com • <https://fionaroserolls.com/>

Fiona is a MULTI-HYPHENATE THEATRE ARTIST based in the DMV-Metro area. Molded by their work in live theatre and film; cultural studies, tech and pedagogy; and their lived experience as a queer and Disabled wheelchair user, Fiona brings a robust skillset, organizational savvy and a fierce dedication to gentleness to all their work. Fiona aims to thoughtfully represent and uplift oppressed people—as a director, writer, intimacy choreographer, researcher, educator, activist and collaborator.

PROJECTS & EXPERIENCE

Directing, Intimacy Choreography, Dramaturgy and Pedagogy

(IC* = shadowed our intimacy choreographer) (listed in date-descending order)

Commissioned Playwright – [Imagination Stage](#)

Feb–Oct. 2026

- Writing a 45-60 pg. full-length original play based on students' ideas in "Pegasus Ensemble," Imagination Stage's high school special education 2-year acting conservatory. Collaborating with teachers as they lead students through devising exercises. Engaging a three round editing process with Imagination Stage administrators before students perform the play Spring 2027.

Intimacy Choreographer (IC) + Asst. Director (AD) – [Coriolanus](#), Dir. Jae K. Gee (Silver Spring Stage)

Nov. 2025–Apr. 2026

- Created textured intimacy choreography for this sapphic, queered, gender-bent production of Shakespeare's "Coriolanus," adapted by Gee. Collaboratively integrating the fight choreographers' work with intimacy to explore power dynamics and how people are molded into violence. Taught researched intimacy and de-roling principles to full company.
- Coordinated actor boundaries and IC risk-mitigation protocols with the production and design teams. Wrote and upkept intimacy related documentation and paperwork. Supported with notes and text-based IC and de-roling resources.
- Assisted with admin tasks, meetings, rehearsals, staging and tablework discussions. Co-lead some rehearsals, including put-ins for swings, and supported actors and designers from pre-production through closing.
- Dir. Jae K. Gee, Fight Choreographer Kiefer Cure, Stage Man. Beth Rendely, Prod. Caitlin Valleskey
- Main Cast Partners – Brianna Goode, Erin Nealer, Tara Scully (overstudies); Courtney Sumlin (swing)

Theatre Arts Teacher & Disability Inclusion Facilitator (Grades 3-12) – [Imagination Stage](#)

Sept 2024–Present

- Managing large classrooms of students and assisting lead teachers across summer camp and after school theatre arts classes. Providing performance coaching to young actors. Integrating and supporting disabled students. Collaboratively designing and teaching curricula as a lead teacher from Nov. 2024–Present.

Intimacy Choreographer – [Galatea](#), Dir. Tracey Erbacher (Theatre Prometheus)

Feb–May 2025

- Created vulnerable, grounded intimacy choreography for this period-crossing celebration of queer love and joy. Assisted with rehearsals and tablework, co-led put-ins for swings, and coordinated IC risk-mitigation protocols through closing.
- Close Collaborators – Dir. Tracey Erbacher, Stage Man. Jessica De Rocco, Asst. Dir. Natalia Corvoisier, Asst. SM Deacon Withers, Line Prod. Lauren Patton Villegas
- Main Cast Partners – Amber Patrice Coleman, Cate Ginsberg (overstudies); Yael Schoenbaum, Hedy Valentine (swings)

IC + AD + Dramaturg – [tick, tick... BOOM!](#), Dir. Margo Myst McCready (Greenbelt Arts Center)

Jan–Apr. 2025

- Created collaborative, dance-infused intimacy choreography, especially for Larson's famed number, "Green Green Dress." Provided dramaturgical support around HIV/AIDS and supported costume designers, production team, and acting company with intimacy, rehearsal, staging and admin-related tasks.
- Close Collaborators – Dir. Margo/Myst McCready, Prod. Giulianna Weiss, Stage Man. Grass Harness, Musical Dir. Anton Van De Motter; Cast – Kainoa Jayce, Tumanyanelu, Sam Intrater; Michael McCarthy, Elizabeth Suzanne, Dylan Nicholson

Script Supervisor – [The Art of Care](#), Dir. Derek Goldman (Mosaic Theater Company)

Jul. –Nov. 2024

- Supported Goldman and company in tracking the evolving, devised script for this world premiere play.
- Helped organize interview transcription/documentation and file sharing, was present throughout rehearsals, and integrated in-person dramaturgical observations with team collaboration to help produce the best play in this care-forward process.
- Cast – Jabari Exum, Billie Krishawn, Raghad Makhlof, William T. Newman Jr., Tuyết Thị Phạm, Susan Rome, Tom Story

- Dramaturg** – [VSA Playwright Discovery](#), Facilitators Diane Nutting & Talleri McRae (Kennedy Center/KC) **Feb.–Jul. 2024, 2025**
- Provided dramaturgical support and guidance to young Disabled playwrights as they revise and developed 10-minute plays. Facilitating notetaking, feedback, and communication with industry professionals at in-person & virtual workshop sessions.
- Writer/Researcher** – [“Queering Neverland: A Dramaturgy of Care”](#) (Journal of Consent Based Performance) **May 2024**
- Wrote the cover article for the JCBP’s May 2024 issue (“Notes from the Field” section) on integrating dramaturgical ethics with directing and intimacy work, as practiced during American University’s spring 2023 production of “Lost Girl.”
- IC + AD** – [Alice by Heart](#), Dir. Margo Myst McCready (Wildwood Summer Theatre) **May-Aug. 2024**
- Devised, taught and documented intimacy choreography in close collaboration with actors, dance choreographers and director. Supported actors, designers and production team both creatively and administratively. Assisted with staging, tablework, rehearsals and meetings—working to ensure a safe and accessible process from pre-production through strike.
 - Close Collaborators – Movement Dir. Katie Quinn, Asst. Movement Dir. Kiefer Cure, Musical Dirs. Noam Slott & Rosie Elena Robertson, Stage Man. Erin Sanders, Dir. Margo McCready, Montgomery College Prod. Manager Chris Campanella
 - Main Cast Partners – Carolina Tomasi, Kainoa Jayce (overstudies); Noah Haren, Anthony “Bash” House (understudies)
- Dramaturg** – [Reunion Royalty](#) (Student Capstone), Written/Dir. Tess Rittenberg (Colorado College) **Aug. 2024–May. 2025**
- Assisted Rittenberg’s script through multiple drafts and provided directing/production guidance for their staged show.
- Deviser** – [Left Unsaid](#) (Student Capstone), Dir. Keren Gorman (American University/AU) **Mar.–May 2024**
- Did a devised theatre process based on Tectonic Theater Project’s “Moment Work” using Gorman’s partial one-act script.
- Producer + AD + IC** – [Holy Spirits](#) (Student Film), Dir. Griffin Stump (Middle Tennessee State University) **Dec. 2023–Jan. 2024**
- Primarily contributed to planning and execution of rehearsal and shoot days for Stump’s original horror short film.
- AD** – [Through the Sunken Lands](#), Dir. Cara Phipps (KC) **Sept. 2023–Mar. 18, 2024**
- Documented staging through multiple drafts of this world premiere; provided thoughtful analysis; and collaborated across departments to assist with creating staging, rehearsing staging and music, and supporting actors and the creative team. Helped facilitate a smooth and accessible process from pre-production through closing.
 - Supported stage management team and actors during understudy rehearsals for our Mar. 2-18 run.
 - Creative Team – Playwright Tim J. Lord, Composer Avi Amon, Musical Dir. Angie Benson, Stage Manager Marne Anderson, Movement Dir. Ronya-Lee Anderson, Puppets by Matthew Pauli, Sound by Justin Schmitz, Lighting by Sherrice Mojgani, Set by Andrew Cohen, Costumes by Jeannette Christensen, Props by Luke Hartwood, Assistant SM Stephen Bubniak, Copyist Nathan Blustein, Operations Manager Maribeth Weatherford, Kennedy Center Education Dir. David Kilpatrick.
 - Cast – Meredith Aleigha Wells, Sarah Anne Sillers, Carl L. Williams, Farrell Parker, Anna Theoni DiGiovanni (overstudies); Emily Erickson, Lily Lord, Tre’mon Mills, Molly Nilsen (understudies)
- Post-Show Discussion Moderator & Learning Guide Contributor** – [Through the Sunken Lands](#) (KC) **Jan.–Mar. 18, 2024**
- Moderated a post-show “Creative Conversation” after our Mar. 2 public preview.
 - Collaborated with Dir. Vanessa Thomas and Asst. Manager Katie Campbell to create a student learning guide, discussion moderator script, and other supplementary materials for the Kennedy Center’s education research.
 - Moderated pre- and post-show discussions & wraparound engagement for school groups attending on Mar. 2-18
- Directing Cohort** – [Kennedy Center Directing Intensive](#), Dir. Nicole A. Watson & Raymond O. Caldwell (KC) **Jul. 2023**
- Devised and pitched a 5-sonnet sample of [“Sonnets for an Old Country.”](#) Directed a 1-sonnet sample with KC actor company.
 - Participated in seminars on intimacy choreography, Indigenous dramaturgy, building creative teams, developing new works as a playwright-director multi-hyphenate, and refining a director’s aesthetic (among others).
- Dramaturg/AD (IC*)** – [Daughters of Leda](#), Dir. Angelisa Gillyard & Shanara Gabrielle (AU) **Jul.–Nov. 2023**
- Composed & continuously updated a [detailed research packet](#) (with fully accessible citations) on Greco-Roman, Jewish, and Christian mythology to collaboratively support the show’s cast and creative team. Offered dramaturgical and administrative support during production meetings, rehearsals, tech and the run. Wrote the dramaturgy playbill note
 - Kept a record of the intimacy choreography set by Intimacy Choreographer Sierra Young and Assistant IC Mallory Shear. Collaborated with actors and the IC, SM, and directing teams to assist with IC rehearsals and pre-show IC calls.

- Writer/Presenter** – [“Queering Neverland: Assistant Directing *Lost Girl* at American University” \(ATHE\)](#) **Aug. 2023**
- o Represented the [Disability, Theatre and Performance \(DTaP\) focus group](#) as a debut scholar at the American Theatre in Higher Education Conference – “Manifesting Care: Emerging Scholars in ATDS and DTaP” panel.
- AD (IC*)** – [Lost Girl](#), Dir. Aaron Posner (AU) **Nov. 2022–Mar. 2023**
- o Directed scenes, kept detailed rehearsal notes, and assisted with staging and tablework from pre-production through closing.
 - o Provided dramaturgical and rehearsal support to actors, designers, director, and intimacy choreographer (Carrie Edick).
- Teaching Asst.** – “Directing Techniques,” Prof. Colleen Sullivan seminar (AU) **Aug.–Dec. 2022**
- o Co-taught lessons, mentored student directors, and provided organizational & pedagogical support to professor & students.
- Asst. Musical Director** – [Into the Woods](#), Musical Dir. Nathan Blustein, Dir. Carl Menninger (AU) **Jan.–Apr. 2022**
- o Kept detailed music notes from pre-production and rehearsals through closing, helped teach vocal parts to actors, and provided musical dir. and team with administrative and musical support.
- Director** – *Six Years Old* (10-min. excerpt), Prof. Colleen Sullivan seminar (AU) **Aug.–Dec. 2021**
- o Proposed and directed a staged excerpt of “Six Years Old” with student actors at the end of our directing seminar.
- Online Tutor for Grades K-12 through College** – The Princeton Review via [Tutor.com](#) **May 2024–Sept. 2025**
- o Provide tutoring in writing, English and literature to students grades 9-12 through college; in social studies for grades K-8; in science for grades 3-6; and in computer fundamentals for all grade levels.
- Teaching Asst.** – “The Urban Experience,” Profs. David Pike & Daniel Esser (AU) **Aug.–Dec. 2018**
- o Helped with lesson design, classes, and writing tutoring; literature and social sciences class in the [AU Honors Program](#).
- Writer/Researcher** – [“Creating an Agent-Based Model to Explore the Spread of Zika Virus”](#) (Young Scientist) **May 2017**
- o Conducted and first-authored scientific research in a lab at Vanderbilt University through [The School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt](#), an advanced pre-college science program I attended alongside [Hume-Fogg Academic High School](#).
- Grades 9-12 Tutor for ACT English, AP English Language & Literature** – [Metro Nashville Public Schools](#) **Aug. 2009–May 2014**
- o Assisted with Saturday tutoring for the English section of the ACT exam as well as the AP English Language and Literature subject tests for students grades 9-12 at Maplewood High School in Nashville, TN.
-

Writing for Prose, Plays, and Screen

- Playwright/Director** – [Waiting for Access](#) (2-act play) ([Woolly Mammoth TC](#), [MoCo Arts Grant Award](#)) **Reading Mar. 2025**
- o Directed the reading of a 10-min excerpt as part of 3D Playwrights’ writers’ room at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, a workshop supporting Woolly’s production of “It’s a Motherf***ing Pleasure.”
 - o Cast – Margo Myst McCready, Victoria Mack.
 - o Developing this “Waiting for Godot” adaptation through the DC Disabled Dramatists playwriting group ([3D Playwrights](#)) and with grant support from the Montgomery County Arts and Humanities council.
- Screenwriter** – [Cassandra Presents: The Prince of Argos](#) (TV pilot WIP) **Jan. 2023—Present**
- o Writing this queer-crip Oresteia/Iliad retelling that centers Electra of the House of Atreus, features an ensemble cast, and heightens key moments of their Trojan War arcs with an innovative blend of live-action and animated storytelling.
 - o Developing with 3D Playwrights, pitching the pilot and show bible for television production.
- Playwright** – [MerBoy](#) (10-min. play) **Conceived Nov. 2024, Cont’d Apr. 2025**
- o Sample text available in [Drive](#).
- Playwright/Director** – [That Brat in the Wheelchair](#) (10-min. play) ([Open Doors Fest](#), [Woolly Mammoth TC](#)) **Reading Oct. 2024**
- o Directed a staged reading as a featured play in the Open Doors Disability Arts Festival at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Oct. 19, 2024.
 - o Cast – Margo Myst McCready, Kainoa Jayce, Tumanyanelu, Brianna Rodriguez Day.
- Playwright** – [Nebraska Avenue](#) (2-act musical) **Conceived Feb. 2020**
- o Wrote original book and lyrics with support from the AU theatre department, continued development with 3D Playwrights.

Screenwriter/Researcher – [Dreamweavers](#) (30-min. sci-fi pilot script & series bible) **Conceived Jan. 2023**

- *Workshopped as part of an MA capstone project at AU on the intersection of Navajo, queer & disability rights & how sci-fi writing may advance them, supervised by Dr. Chelsea Horne until Dec. 2023. Continued development with 3D Playwrights.*

Production, Arts, and Stage Management

Chair Elect – [Disability Theatre and Performance](#) (DTaP), [Association for Theatre in Higher Education](#) **Aug. 2025–Present**

- *Assisting Chair Katya Vrtis with recruitment, content creation, outreach & admin work for the July 2026 ATHE conference.*

Box Office Associate – Helen Hayes Awards (Theatre Washington) **May 2025**

- *Efficiently managed multi-tiered ticketing and check-ins for this 1600+ attendee theatre event.*

Chief Arts Officer – [Art Technically](#) (STEAM Education Charity) **Jan. 2020–Present**

- *Assist with grant writing, lesson planning, fundraising, organizing and public outreach.*

Operations Assistant – [Greenberg Theatre](#), Production Manager Greg Anderson (AU) **May–Dec. 2023**

- *Organized front of house staffing, co-managed patron customer service, and provided general administrative support.*

Assistant Stage Manager – [The Boy Detective Fails](#), Dir. Aaron Posner, Musical Dir. Nathan Blustein (AU) **Jan–Apr. 2020**

Web Designer – [Murphey Western Institute](#) (American West Preservation Nonprofit) **Oct. 2023–Jul. 2024**

Performance

[Squishy but Firm: Sexcapades of a Crip Girl](#) (Crip Girl 1) – Dir. Regan Linton (KC Local Theatre Fest) **Jul–Aug. 2024**

[Opie and the Open Tent](#) (Golde, Risa) – Dir. Regan Linton (The National Theatre) **May–Jun. 2024**

[VIORE: An Adaptation Story](#) (Little O) – Dir. Regan Linton (The National Theatre) **May–Jun. 2023**

[The Pliant Girls](#) (Father) – Dir. Ameenah Kaplan (AU) **Dec. 2020–Feb. 2021**

[How to Succeed in Business](#) (Ensemble) – Dir. Karl Kippola, Musical Dir. Nathan Blustein (AU) **May–Oct. 2019**

[AU Jazz Orchestra](#), [Hume Fogg Silver Jazz Band](#) (Trumpet/Cornet) – Dir. Josh Bayer (AU 2018-19), Dir. Rich Ripani (2016-17)

EDUCATION & TRAINING

American University (AU) – Washington, DC

M.A. Literature, Culture, and Technology – *Focuses: Theatre, Game Design, Science Fiction Writing & Culture* **Dec. 2023**

- *Notable Coursework – Cultures of Information & Technology (Dr. Despina Kakoudaki); Nation and Sexuality (Prof. Kirstie Dorr); Emotions, Texts, and Subtexts (Prof. Arielle Bernstein); The Global Western, To Hell with Dante (Dr. David Pike); Advanced Medieval Literature – King Arthur, Chaucer (Dr. Kathleen Smith)*

B.S. Computer Science – *Focuses: CS, Game Design | Minor: Theatre* **May 2022**

- *Experience – AU Honors Program, Department of Performing Arts, Frequent Coursework/Collaboration with Literature Department, Upsilon Pi Epsilon (CS Honor Society), AU Game Lab (Writing, Unity, Locative Media, 2D Digital Art)*
- *Tech Skills – Photoshop (digital art, asset creation, graphic/GUI design); video editing (iMovie, Premiere, various); Mac OS and Windows power user; basic familiarity with Unity (C#, 2D animation) and programming language fundamentals*

Theatrical Intimacy Education – Intimacy Choreography and Coordination

[Pregnancy & Intimacy](#) (2-hr. digital workshop): Prof. Laura Rikard & Kim Shively **Nov. 6, 2024**

[Actors & Intimacy](#) (3-hr. digital workshop): Prof. Laura Rikard **Oct. 21, 2024**

[Staging Intimacy Beyond the Binary](#) (3-hr. digital workshop): Prof. Raja Benz, Joy Brooke Fairfield & Leo Mock **Mar. 30, 2024**

[Working with Trans & Enby Artists](#) (3-hr. digital workshop): Prof. Raja Benz, Joy Brooke Fairfield & Leo Mock **Mar. 30, 2024**

[Staging Sex: Kissing](#) (3-hr. digital workshop): Prof. Chelsea Pace **Jan. 27, 2024**

[Intimacy Coordination for Film & TV](#) (6-hr. digital workshop): Prof. Chelsea Pace **Jan. 27, 2024**

[Staging Sex: Musical Theatre](#) (3-hr. digital workshop): Prof. Chelsea Pace & Lusie Cuskey **Jan. 21, 2024**

[Modesty Garments, Barriers, and Masking](#) (3-hr. digital workshop): Prof. Chelsea Pace **Jan. 21, 2024**

[Creating a Culture of Consent: Community Agreements](#) (3-hr. digital workshop): Prof. Kim Shively **Nov. 13, 2023**

[Staging Sex: Non-Consensual Intimacy](#) (3-hr. digital workshop): Prof. Chelsea Pace **Oct. 5, 2023**

[Best Practices](#) (6-hr. digital workshop): Dr. Emily Rolлие **Aug. 19, 2023**

Intimacy Professionals Association

[Increasing Disability Inclusion on Set](#) (1.5-2-hr. digital workshop): Emily Goodson, Sawyer VanVactor-Lee **May 24, 2025**