

# Tara G Cariaso

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## Experience

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**Founder, Educator, Designer, *Waxing Moon Masks: A Theatrical Mask Design and Education Company***  
Since 2011, Waxing Moon Masks has provided education in physical theatre and mask performance, as well as custom-design theatrical masks for training and performance. Original Designs Training Mask Sets Created by Waxing Moon Masks include: LARVAL MASK SET, NEUTRAL MASK SET, COMMEDIA MASK SET, EMOTION MASK SET, CHARACTER MASK SET, REIMAGINING COMMEDIA MASK SET  
See [www.waxingmoonmasks.com](http://www.waxingmoonmasks.com)

**Founder, Director: *Dogs of Art Political Theatre Collective***

In 2018-2019, in response to the growing sentiment of bigotry nationwide, Baltimore's Guerilla Theatre Front produced Tara's concept of social justice devising to create original, theatrically masked spectacle performances that engaged Baltimore citizens in public spaces. Works were performed across the city, specifically addressing anti-semitism and LGBTQIA+ hate crimes.

**Pedagogy, Educator: *Reimagining Commedia***

2020-present In response to a growing wariness of practicing and teaching deeply problematic historical forms, Cariaso began developing a series of critical observations about harms and oppressive frameworks in the traditional Commedia Dell'Arte form, providing alternate models for educational and production settings. In collaboration with Faction of Fools, DC the team has created a 4 workshop training series for actors in a reimagined form, and designed a new set of 6 masks with a character creation process.

**Pedagogy, Educator, Designer: *Masks for Good***

2016 Movement, Drama and Mask performance Residency in Liberia, West Africa with B4 Youth Theatre. Created a unique mask training program in service to their social justice playwriting process, materials generated included a workbook, a 10 video training series, and 48 original masks exploring the emotions associated with stigma and shame in the wake of the Ebola outbreak; ; worked on site in Liberia with over 50 students and student instructors. (also see Service to the Community, MASKS FOR GOOD.)

Original Pedagogies developed, (pending publish)

**Pedagogy, Educator, Designer: *Emotion Masks***

**Pedagogy, Educator: *Performing Archetypes***

## Selected Positions: Educator in High School & Higher Education

*Mask- Making* Guest Artist, Pig Iron School of Physical Theatre, PA; Mask Making, 2019-2021

*Movement II* Adjunct Faculty, UMBC, Spring 2021

*Comic Acting* Adjunct Faculty, UMBC, Spring 2021

*Intro to Acting* Spring 2020 Adjunct Faculty, UMBC, MD.

*Movement* Spring 2019 - 20 CCBC Catonsville campus, MD.

*Commedia Dell'Arte* Fall 2017 Adjunct Faculty, UMBC; MD.

*Interim Theatre Director* 2018 St Paul's School for Girls, International Baccalaureate theatre courses: IB Advanced Acting, IB Collaborative Theatre, Acting 3 (Styles) and Acting 1, (Aug to Jan). Fall 2018

### Selected Residencies

Spring 2018 Mask Performance Residency at Ohio State University, OH  
Fall 2015 Mask Making Teacher for George Washington University, DC;  
Fall 2014 Movement Consultant and Mask Maker for Catholic University of America, DC  
Winter 2011 Educator and Mask Making Residency at UMBC;

### Conferences and Festivals:

2017 South Eastern Theatre Conference (SETC);  
Workshop presentations included, "Actor GPS: Archetypes" and "Emotion Masks: Making Theatre in Liberia, West Africa"

2016, 17, 18 Florida State Thespian Festival, FL;  
Workshop presentations include, "Performing Emotion Masks", "Actor GPS", and "Mask Performance for Instructors". Small Ensemble adjudication.

## Selected Custom Mask and Puppet Design

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**Hair**, (9 spectacle masks and puppets) for Guerilla Theatre Front, MD, **Mr Burns** (6 masks) for Cohesion Theatre, MD, **Madama Butterfly** 1 giant mask for Lyric Opera of Baltimore, MD, **Oedipus** 6 masks for Catholic University, DC, **Pinocchio** (12 masks) for Faction of Fools, DC, **Commedia Christmas Carol**, (19 masks) for Faction of Fools, DC, **Stag King**, (8 masks) for Folsom Community College, CA, **The Ravens**, **Dry Bones Rising**, **Algaonike's Tiger**, **Witches Vanish**, **RAW**, masks for these original productions at Venus Theatre in Laurel, MD, **Imaginary Autopsee** (6 masks) for University of MD, Baltimore County, MD.

## Selected Performances of Devised/Collaborated Original Works

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**reCHOLlection** (*Immersive*) 2021: Devisor in this outdoor exploration of memory and loss, belonging and isolation in pandemic times

**See Also** (*Immersive*) 2020: Devised, Immersive experience where the audience meets a character who is sneaking books of Filipino American Theatrical History INTO the historic Peabody Library of Baltimore.

**Tornkid** (*world premiere by Katelyn Kenney*) 2019: Children's show with puppets and masks followed a young girl in a fantastical world of legendary characters from south east Asia.

**Mass/Rabble** (*Immersive and Butoh*) 2019: Enter the Baltimore War Museum and experience a wordless immersion in the timeless evolution of human migration.

**One Glitz Wish**, (world premiere by Kristin Harrison) 2014: Commissioned and Directed this Commedia-inspired masked original comedy examining gender performance and belonging, at a little girl's beauty pageant, MD.

## Education

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M.F.A. 2007 Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre

B.A. 2001 University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Drama: Acting  
Yoga 200 hour 2021 Online Yoga teacher training  
Certificate 2011 Sartori Museum, Italy; Mask Design

### **Influential Anti-oppression Training Practices and Healing Communities**

*Non-Violent Communication training* 2022-Ongoing, DC Peace Team, DC.  
*W O C A (Women Of Color in the Arts)* Jan - Dec 2020, Leadership through Mentorship Program  
*Somatic Abolition*, 2020-2021, training and practice of racial trauma healing  
*Nicole Brewer's Anti-racism in Theatre*, 2020, Workshop series, online.  
*Emergent Strategy Immersion*, 2018, Transformative Justice 3 day Immersion, DC.  
*Women's Performance Wrkshp*, Jan/Aug 2018, Jayme Kilburn, Strand Theatre, MD.  
*Undoing Racism Intensive*, July 2017, People's Institute for Survival & Beyond, MD

### **Traditional Commedia Training**

Mask Performance	July 2011	Fabio Mangolini, Padua, Italy
Commedia Dell'Arte	June 2010	Antonio Fava, Center for Movement Studies, DC, USA
Human Comedy & Mask Mknng	2005	Bruce Marrs, Dell'Arte Intl, Blue Lake, CA
Clown	2005	Ronlin Foreman, Dell'Arte Intl, Blue Lake CA
San Francisco Mime Troupe	1999-2000	SFMT Collective, CA

## **Writing**

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### **Published Articles**

"*Tara in Whiter-land*" Blog, Reflections on bias, physical theatre education, white supremacy culture in theatre communities, intersectional identities, restorative & transformative justice practices in the theatre community. <https://tarainwhiterland.blogspot.com/>

"*Growing up Filipino in the US*", Exploring Identity.  
<https://baltimoreapac.org/our-thoughts/2019/2/25/s7pzzm9ksx1twoukfpvbp4x2zh9syy>

## **Service**

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### **Service to the Community through Organizing**

July 2021- present Organizer: *WOCA SOLIDARITY!* online cohort of non-black women of color  
Jan 2021- present Advisory Board member: *Asian Pacifika Arts Collective (APAC)*  
Jan 2021- present Admin: Founded and admin for online facebook group, *Baltimore BIPOC Creators* for area BIPOC artists  
Fall 2020 Organizer: Masks For Good Defund Auction, raised 1200.00 in funds for Baltimore grassroots activist organization, *Organizing Black*.  
Aug 2019 Organizer: Baltimore Theatre Community Education Gathering: Discussing Migrant Detentions & ICE in our city, in support of the Latinx community.