



Laura B. Stearns

Artist/ Writer/ Advocate

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Acting and Production

Laura's career in the arts spans over four decades. As a child actor she performed and studied both theater performance and production. Her acting and production resumes include such theaters as The Peabody Playhouse (MA), Wang Theater (MA), Gloucester Stage Company (MA), Bigfork Playhouse (MT), The History Theater (MN), Penumbra Theater (MN), Illusion Theater (MN), Frank Theater (MN), Minnesota Orchestra (MN), Six Points Theater (MN), and the Guthrie Theater (MN). Favorite roles include

Gertrude in *Hamlet*, Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Aldonza in *Man of LaMancha*, The Diva in *Sugar Babies*, as well as more than forty roles over twenty-five years for The Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater. She has an extensive on camera and voice over commercial resume which includes such clients as Target, Standard and Poors, Texaco, Olive Gardens, Armed Forces, Welches and Crest. Over the years Laura's skill set has allowed her the opportunity to practice her craft in multiple areas of production, including stage management, costume and lighting design, choreography and direction. Most notably, she was the Assistant Wig Master in 2007 at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and was later promoted to Wig Master from 2014 to 2019.

Writing

As a writer, Laura studied under the tutelage of playwright and literary manager Thomas W. Olsen. Her play, *What My Mother Heard* was produced for the Fresh Ink! series at the Illusion Theater in 2014. Her memoir, [*Shattered: Exposing the Open Secret of the Children's Theatre Scandal*](#) was released in 2022. She is writing her second book, *Daring to Heal: Growing Beyond Trauma through Acceptance, Awareness and Action*. She is currently under the mentorship of screenwriter Jeffrey Hatcher.

Leadership and Advocacy

In 2015, Laura used her position as a respected artist in the theater community to shed light on the history of child sexual abuse at the Children's Theatre Company and School (CTC). She is a founding board member and current board secretary for [CTA Wellness](#), a wellness fund that supports the healing of victims like her who were abused as children at CTC. To address the historic and systemic issues of harassment, abuse and lack of accountability from artists, artistic leadership and arts institutions, she fought to establish the [MN Theater Foundational Standards for Safety and Accountability](#) and founded the grassroots organization the [Minnesota Theater Accountability Coalition](#) (MNTAC). Her testimony at the MN State Legislature in 2019 was crucial to eliminating the Statute of Limitations for Criminal Sexual Conduct in Minnesota.

Education

Laura is a graduate of the Children's Theatre Company and Conservatory School (CTC) in Minneapolis, MN. She holds an A.S. degree with honors in Individualized Studies with a focus on Philosophy and Studio Arts from North Hennepin College and is a trained Rape Crisis Support Advocate. She is currently studying to obtain Intimacy Director and Coordinator certification.

Feature Article-

[*Guthrie Wig Master Gets to the Root of Characters*](#)

Theater Review-

[*Oh My God*](#)