

Sarah Bierstock Bio- March 2022

Sarah has been nominated for the Blackburn Prize and Primus Prize and is a proud member of both the Playwrights Collective at Florida Studio Theater (FST) the Dorset Theatre Festival's Women Artists Writing group (DTFWAW). She has received commissions from Center Stage (Baltimore), the Neo-Political Cowgirls, and FST for her play, *Pandora and her Top Secret and Exceptionally Important Scientific Mission*, which will have its world premiere at Florida Studio Theater in the fall 2022. *Pandora* was featured at the Children's Reading Series at The Boise Contemporary Theater (Boise, Idaho) and will have a workshop production this summer (2022) at the Theater at Monmouth (Monmouth, ME.)

Her first play, *Honor Killing*, received initial development through the John Drew Theater Lab at Guild Hall (East Hampton). It went on to a world premiere that ran for eight weeks at Florida Studio Theatre (FST) to full capacity audiences. It received its second production at Athena Project in Denver, CO. *Honor Killing* was read at WAM Theater in West Stockbridge, CT, as part of the Fresh Takes Series. In 2017, it was one of three plays featured in the New Works Reading Series at the Athena Theater, FST's Sarasota Festival of New Plays, and the PROJECT W Festival at the Cherry Lane Theatre in New York City (InProximity Theater). Sarah received the award for Runner up for The Woodward International Playwriting Prize at the University of New Hampshire earlier in 2017, where two readings of *Honor Killing* were conducted both at the University of New Hampshire and the 3S Artspace in Portsmouth, NH. Other accolades for *Honor Killing* include: Honorable Mention for the Bridge Initiative Playwriting Contest: Playwright of the Year Award, Finalist for the 2017 Ashland New Play Festival, Semi-Finalist for the Bay Area Playwrights Festival (2017), Semi-Finalist for the Premier Stages 2017 Play Festival, Semi-Finalist for the Id Theaters 2017 Playwriting Conference, Finalist for the Hudson River Artists Playwriting Award (2017), final consideration for the PlayPenn New Play Development Conference (2017), Semi-Finalist for 2016 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, and Semi-Finalist for Stage Left Theatre's Playwriting Residency (Chicago, 2017).

Her play, *MAD*, was workshopped at FST as part of the 2018 Playwrights Collective and the Spring of 2019 as part of the NNPN's Women in Playwriting Festival. Monologues from *MAD*, performed by actress Ellen Dolan, were featured in Neo-Political Cowgirl's Andromeda Sisters. It has had developmental readings by the 50/50 Arts Production Company in October 2020, the Rising Sun Performance Company in March 2021, in April 2021 with actors: Ellen Dolan, Lauren Galliard, Heather Michele Lawler, Kate Mueth, and Janet Sarno. Sarah's play, *Graceland 2.0*, was workshopped at the Hewitt School in New York City and is a semi-finalist for the New Work Presentation at Columbia College Chicago.

On stage, as an actor, Sarah has toured nationally on the productions of Lewis & Clark and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Off-Broadway, Ms. Bierstock has been seen in the musical Chess (Lincoln Center), Jacques Brel Returns (The Triad), Committed: The Musical (West End Theater), and Gift of the Magi (The Schoolhouse Theater). Other stage highlights include Mary Hatch in It's a Wonderful Life (The Chain Theater), Wendy in the world premiere of Leonard Bernstein's Peter Pan (the Lobero Theater, Santa Barbara, CA) and Virtue in Anything Goes (the Tri-Arts Theater, now called the Sharon Playhouse, CT).

Sarah resides in New York City with her husband and two red headed little girls and is currently writing and rewriting new plays, and has launched a multi-media production company, Pass The Salt Productions, LLC.

Producing Endorsements:

“While I was the executive director of the SDC Foundation, Sarah wrote and produced a two-hour awards ceremony honoring several high-profile directors and choreographers. It was a dream to work with her. Sarah was completely unflappable - entirely professional, endlessly patient, and always, always diligently organized. She managed a wide range of personalities with respectful

kindness and even in the most stressful moments never lost her sense of humor. I can't recommend her enough; she'll quickly become a trusted and valued colleague."

-Rebecca Hewitt, Program Director, The Shubert Foundation

"As a producer, Sarah always delivers! She has a way of threading the difficult needle of the vision of a project with its execution in the real world. Sarah is collaborative, anticipates and solves problems, has deep knowledge of the field, and is a joy to work with. Definitely someone you want on your team."

- David J. Roberts (Arts Executive, Consultant, and Educator)

"I have had the honor of supporting Sarah's work as a producer, writer, actor and collaborator for many years. Her work is deeply meaningful and profoundly thought provoking. She is always striving for the best in her scripts, her actors, and the legacy she leaves behind. I'm delighted to support her newest endeavors in Pass the Salt and cannot wait to witness the magic she'll be making with her innovative Bits."

-Tricia Brouk International Award Winning Director, Author, Producer and Founder of The Big Talk Academy

Writing Endorsements:

"...Sarah's probably one of the best playwrights I've worked with. She's right up there in my top ten—her, Mark St. Germaine, some of those guys, that are just great to work with. She's very special because she's a great theater person. She's very practical, she's an actress herself, so she gets it."

-Richard Hopkins, Producing Artistic Director, Florida Studio Theater

"I'm noticing a hallmark of a Bierstock play - sharply written dialogue spoken playfully and intelligently by smartly drawn and deeply felt characters."

-Josh Gladstone, Artistic Director, Guild Hall

Acting/Performing Endorsements:

"One thing I love about working with Sarah Bierstock (of the many reasons) is her intelligence in the work. She questions and plumbs the depths in search of the innermost parts of the character at hand. She makes the relationship of director to actor a fascinating and intriguing journey in the seeking of a character."

-Kate Mueth, Founder/ Artistic Director Neo-Political Cowgirls

"Sarah has terrific stage instincts and lights up the room. She is a wonderfully generous actor and a wonderfully generous person, too!" - **Josh Gladstone, Artistic Director, John Drew Theater Guild Hall (East Hampton, NY)**

"Sarah is a very talented actor who is also great to work with. Her professionalism and generosity of spirit made working with her a real delight. I genuinely look forward to our next project together."

- Rob Fruchtman, Director/Producer at LIRO Films

"Then (she) introduced a lovely soprano named Sarah Bierstock who sang songs from Jacques Brel and the audience was impressed with her astute handling of these very difficult songs. I was really bowled over. She has tremendous talent and beauty and is bound to become a television star because of her magnetism."

-Amanda S. Stevenson, PR