

# Myra Greene Shaffer

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## Biography

Myra is a native of Greer, SC, daughter of Nelson and Mildred Greene, and graduate of Riverside High School. During her teen years she was selected by Virginia Uldrick, founder of the S.C. Governor School for the Arts, to be one of the Greenville County Singers and was privileged to sing with the Robert Shaw Chorale and the Greenville Singing Christmas Tree. She credits Uldrick as being a role model and major influence in her life.

She chose Lander University (then Lander College) and entered as a music major studying with the very talented Ann Hutto, and Anthony Lenti. During her sophomore year she changed her major to Sociology and graduated with a B.S. in Sociology in 1978. While at Lander she sang with the Lander singers and played Ado Annie in *Oklahoma* and Charity in *Sweet Charity* under the direction of Dr. Harvey Jeffries.

She taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Long Cane Academy in McCormick for one year and overlapped that position after being hired as the first Juvenile counselor for The S.C. Department of Juvenile and Probation and Aftercare in Abbeville County. During her five year tenure as counselor, court advocate and probation officer she pursued her love of acting and singing in her spare time with the Greenwood Community Theatre and Abbeville Opera House. From 1979-1985 she played leading roles in over 60 productions. Eventually the need to perform became her primary focus and she decided to pursue a career in the performing arts. She began touring with Creative Enterprises, a semi-professional touring company, and later co-owned MG productions both of which played resorts, colleges and clubs throughout the southeast. She also appeared in numerous SCTV productions as well as regional commercials and industrial films.

Deciding to see where her talents could lead she moved to West Palm Beach, FL and auditioned for the Burt Reynolds Institute for Theatre Training. She was one of five women chosen for a one year apprenticeship out of some 200 hopefuls from across the country. She was awarded the Carol Burnett scholarship and was thrilled to be able to thank her benefactor in person. During her time at BRITT she performed at the Burt Reynolds Jupiter Theatre where she was directed by and studied under entertainment greats such as Charles Nelson Reilly, Dom DeLuise, Liza Minnelli, Ozzie Davis, Beverly Sills, Guy Stockwell, Richard Kline and of course, Burt Reynolds. Her BRJT credits include Hope in *Anything Goes*, Gloria in *Mame*, understudy for Anna and Tuptim in *The King and I*. She worked with show business names such as Alice Ghostly, Betsy Palmer, Joe Mascola, Ted McGinley, Gigi Rice, Joyce DeWitt, Lorna Luft, Robert Hays, Gedde Watanabe and many others.

After her year at BRJT she married and returned to SC to start a family. Very soon (1991) after her return she was hired as a guest director for the Laurens County Community Theatre and the Greenwood Community Theatre while she continued to perform in commercials and industrials. In 1992 she was hired to re-establish the children's theatre for GCT. The success of the program led to her hiring as the Artistic/Executive Director of GCT, a position she held until 2005. In 2004 she began teaching drama at Greenwood Christian School which kindled a love for teaching. She resigned from GCT to pursue a Masters of Arts degree in Theatre History which she completed in May of 2007 from The University of South Carolina. While completing her coursework she was hired as a part-time Assistant to the Lander University Vice President of Advancement, Eleanor Teal concentrating on Alumni Affairs. She was hired as a lecturer for the Lander Theatre Department in the fall of 2007 and continues in that position. In August of 2008 she replaced Beverly Psomas as the Executive Director of Greenwood Lander Performing Arts.

Myra is married to Isaac Shaffer, owner of Palmetto Insurance, and they have two sons, Ike, who lives in Centreville, Virginia with wife Julie and daughters Kori and Olivia and Graham who is in his second year at Clemson University. She is a member of Main Street United Methodist Church where she sings in the Chancel Choir and is a member of the Emerald City Rotary Club where she serves on the Board of Directors. She is the past president of the Lander Alumni Tower Club Greenwood and also served on the Lander Alumni Board and Board of Visitors. In 2005 she was awarded the Lander University Distinguished Alumna of the Year.

# Resume

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## Professional Membership

Actors Equity Association

SAG and AFTRA eligible

## Education:

- 2007 MA in Theatre History Studies at University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
- 1988 Graduate of Burt Reynolds Institute for Theatre Training, Jupiter, Florida
- 1978 BS in Sociology, Lander University, Greenwood, SC

## Theatre Experience:

- **Present** **Executive Director Of Greenwood Lander Performing Arts and Lander University - Lecturer for Introduction to Theatre and Film**
- **2007-2008** **Lander University – Lecturer for Introduction to Theatre and Film**
- **2005-2008** **Assistant to Vice President for Advancement**
- **1994-2005** **Artistic/Executive Director at Greenwood Community Theatre**

Directed 7-10 shows per year including 2-3 youth productions. Taught 2 week Theatre workshops for ages 4-16. Producer of all shows as well as costume designer, lighting designer. Managed the day-to-day operations of theatre. 102 total productions including:

<i>Into the Woods</i>	<i>Rumors</i>	<i>The Sound of Music</i>
<i>Moon Over Buffalo</i>	<i>Lend Me A Tenor</i>	<i>Smoke on the Mountain</i>
<i>Foxfire</i>	<i>Annie</i>	<i>Grease</i>
<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	<i>The Foreigner</i>	<i>On Golden Pond</i>
<i>Funny Money</i>	<i>Social Security</i>	<i>Noises Off!</i>
<i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i>	<i>Oklahoma!</i>	<i>Crimes of the Heart</i>
<i>The King and I</i>	<i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>	
- **2004-2005** **High School Drama Teacher Greenwood Christian School 2004-2005** (4 semesters)

Taught Drama I, II, and III.
- **1997** **Guest Director at Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC**

*Miss Firecracker Pageant*
- **1992-1994** **Children's Theatre Director Greenwood Community Theatre**

Directed and costumed children's shows, taught 2-week workshops for ages 4-16, directed Saturday Morning Theatre audience participation shows

- **1992**           **Theatre 101 Instructor – Piedmont Technical College, Greenwood SC**
  
- **1991**           **Guest Director Greenwood Community Theatre, Greenwood, SC**  
*A Streetcar Named Desire*
  
- **1990-1995**   **Guest Director at Laurens County Community Theatre**  
*Foxfire, Dearly Departed, Steel Magnolias, Rumors, On Golden Pond*
  
- **1987-1988**   **Apprentice at Burt Reynolds Jupiter Theatre**  
*Anything Goes* – Hope with Joyce Dewitt – directed by Burt Reynolds (Equity Performance)  
  
*Mame* – Gloria Upson with Carole Cook and Betsy Palmer - directed by Charles Nelson Reilly  
  
*The Unsinkable Molly Brown*- Duchess with Lorne Luft  
  
*The King and I* – with Anita Gillette - understudy for Anna and Tuptim; wife  
  
*Crimes of the Heart* – Lenny - directed by Richard Kline  
  
*Laundry and Bourbon* – Hattie  
  
*Fifteen Minute Hamlet* - Ophelia
  
- **1984-1986**   **Co-Owner MG Productions Professional Touring Theatre**  
Producer, manager, actor  
  
*I Do! I Do!* – Agnes   *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* – Elaine, Jeanette and Bobbie Michelle
  
- **1984-1986**   **Children’s Theatre Director for Abbeville Opera House**  
Reactivated the Children’s Theatre. Directed plays with youth performers and directed/performed Saturday morning audience participation shows
  
- **1984-1986**   **Production manager for Abbeville Opera House**  
Supervised productions for Summer Seasons. Duties included costume and set dressing design
  
- **1981-1984**   **Member Creative Enterprises Professional Touring Theatre Company**  
Stage manager, sound technician and actor  
  
*I Do! I Do!* – Agnes   *Last of The Red Hot Lovers* – Bobbie Michelle    *Chapter Two* – Faye

**Television Experience:**

- *Miami Vice*
- South Carolina Educational Television *Crime to Court* recurring leading roles
- *Regional Commercials: Leading roles for such companies as Ford, Belk, J.B. White, Food Lion, Belk*
- Industrial Films: Leading roles for such companies as Hardees, Quincy’s, Florida Power and Light, S.C. Department of Labor, Gerber