

Alicia Berneche

Soprano • Educator • Musical Theatre Acting Specialist
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Academic & Professional Profile

Accomplished actor, singer, and vocal educator with over three decades of professional performance and over two decades of university-level and private instruction experience of a variety of ages and genders. Winner of the 2024 Non-Equity Jeff Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical. Alumna of the Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago. Specialized in vocal stabilization for hypermobile singers, with certifications in Somatic Voicework™ and Acoustics of Singing. Expertise encompasses comprehensive musical theatre canon across eras, lyric analysis, acoustic vocal science, functional voice pedagogy, and structured acting techniques for the musical stage.

Education & Advanced Conservatory Training

Graduate Performance Diploma (GPD) in Opera	1993 – 1995
Peabody Conservatory / Johns Hopkins University — Baltimore, MD (Inaugural Candidate)	
Ensemble Member — Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center	1996 – 1998
Lyric Opera of Chicago — Chicago, IL	
• Acting & Coaching: Intensive acting training with Sheldon Patinkin and coaching with Richard Boldrey, Eric Weimer, Donna Brunσμα, Bill Billingham, Alan Darling, Tim Shaindlin, and Phil Morehead.	
Bachelor of Music (B.M.) in Vocal Performance	Graduated 1993
DePauw University, School of Music — Greencastle, IN	

Awards & Honors

- Legend of Howard County: Named a Legend of Howard County (2017)
 - Joseph Jefferson (Jeff) Award: Winner for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical
- ### Specialized Pedagogical Certifications & Bodywork

Hypermobility & Vocal Stabilization Specialization	Specialist
<i>Workshops & Training with Melissa Koehl (PT) & The Fibro Guy (Adam Foster)</i>	
Singer's Biomechanics Training — Musical Athlete	Completed / Ongoing
<i>Advanced Training in Vocal & Postural Biomechanics</i>	
Certificate in Acoustics of Singing (Gökçe Kutsal)	2016 – Present
Somatic Voicework™ (LoVetri Method) certification	
<i>All levels and continued study with Jeannette LoVetri's Institute for Somatic Voicework™</i>	

Notable Stage Directors Collaborated With

Mary Zimmerman, Darko Tresnjak, Robert Falls, Mark Lamos, Liviu Ciulei, John Copley, Dorothy Danner, David Gately, Albert Takazauckas, John Lehmeyer, Beth Wolf, Danny Kapinos, Rod Caspers, Joachim Schamberger, James Harms, Sheldon Patinkin.

University & Studio Teaching Experience

Private Vocal & Acting Studio	2005 – Present (21 Years)
Owner & Master Pedagogue — Evanston & Metropolitan Chicago, IL	
• Recommended by Northwestern University faculty for 14 years as an off-campus vocal and acting instructor for Northwestern students not taking internal university lessons.	
• Provide specialized coaching in acting for the musical stage, hypermobility stabilization, singer biomechanics, vocal acoustics, Somatic Voicework™ functional pedagogy, and audition preparation.	
Masterclasses & Workshop Creation	2024– Present
Creator & Lead Facilitator — Various Educational & Secondary Institutions	
• "Acting the Song" "Acting the Aria" and "Audition Acting": Developed structured curricula breaking down the component elements of acting in musical theatre, establishing a clear process to make song interpretation specific, text based, and deliberate.	
Substitute Vocal Instructor (Sabbatical Replacement for Mark Crayton)	2005 (1 Semester)
Roosevelt University, Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) — Chicago, IL	
Vocal Music Theatre Specialist	2013 – 2024
Glenbrook North High School — Northbrook, IL	

Selected Professional Stage & Operatic Credits

Role	Production / Work	Company / Venue	Year / Note
Madame de Sautron	Scaramouche	City Lit Theater Company	2026
Widow Corney	Oliver!	Metropolis Theatre	2026
Penelope Pennywise	Urinetown	Theo Ubique Theatre	2025
Queen of the Night	The Matchbox Magic Flute	Berkeley Rep	2024
Nettie Fowler	Carousel	Music Theatre Works	2024
Letitia P. Primrose	On the Twentieth Century	Blank Theatre Company	2024
Martha Watson	White Christmas	Music Theatre Works	2022
Agnes Gooch	Mame	Music Theatre Works	2016
Sharon	Master Class	Milwaukee Chamber Theatre	2014
Polly Peachum	The Threepenny Opera	Madison Opera / Opera Omaha	2012 / 2004
Gretel	Hansel and Gretel	Austin Lyric Opera	2010
Daisy Buchanan	The Great Gatsby (John Harbison)	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2000
Eos / Older Maria Celeste	Galileo Galilei (Philip Glass)	Goodman Theatre / BAM / Barbican (London)	World Premiere (Dir. Mary Zimmerman)
Featured Soloist / Roles	Le nozze di Figaro, Regina, Mahagonny, La Bohème, Un re in ascolto, etc.	Lyric Opera of Chicago	Principal / Understudy Roster

Critical Acclaim & Press Coverage

"To say that Berneche steals the show is an understatement... A jaw-dropping display of comedic genius... she delivers an absolute aria of laughs." — Third Coast Review (2024)
"Alicia Berneche steals nearly every scene as Letitia Peabody Primrose... Her Act I showstopper 'Repent' was a clear audience favorite..." — BroadwayWorld Chicago (2024)
"The show-stopping, Jeff Award-winning Alicia Berneche... plays the wacky warden with considerable flair and flamboyance. And what a voice!" — Chicago Theatre Review (2025)
"Berneche's strong, operatic voice is well-suited to the fan-snapping, sharp-witted actress, and she leans into the absurd melodrama..." — Talking Broadway (2026)