

# Christiana Cole

Christiana@christianacole.com \* 512-694-7464 \* www.christianacole.com

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## EDUCATION & WRITING WORKSHOPS

**BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Writers Workshop** New York, NY  
*Lyricist* Fall 2012-Present \* ADVANCED WORKSHOP

**The Manhattan School of Music** New York, NY  
*Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice* awarded May 2009

**Columbia University** New York, NY  
*Undergraduate studies – Creative Writing Workshop* Fall 2008

**The University of Texas** Austin, TX  
*Grant Writing Workshop* August 2008

**Southwestern University** Georgetown, TX  
*Undergraduate studies* August 2004 to May 2006

## PERFORMANCE TRAINING

**Voice Teachers:** Ron Raines (*Follies* on Broadway), Cynthia Hoffmann (Chair of Juilliard Vocal Dept, 1995-2006)

**The Manhattan School of Music** New York, NY  
*The Business of Vocal Music* Fall 2008

**Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre** New York, NY  
*Improv* Winter 2012

## AWARDS & COMPETITIONS

Winner of **THE MOTH** story slam, June 2014, for her story about a weird thing that happened to her when she was 10. The theme of the evening was “Breathless.” She performed at the Moth Grand Slam at the Williamsburg Music Hall in February 2015 and was featured on NPR.

Winner of **Tune in Time** at the York Theatre August 2015. Christiana (lyrics) and Joe Kinosian (music) wrote a song together in 20 minutes based on the prompt title, “The Sweaty Smorgasbord” and the requirement that it be in the “experimental” style. It was a sensation.

**2016 MAC Award Nominee** for Best Original Comedy/Novelty song – “Way Way Back,” with lyrics by Christiana Cole and music by Rick Bassett

## MUSICAL THEATRE WORKS

**Republicana** (book/lyrics/music) *work in progress*  
90-minute song cycle about Republicans in America today. In development in the BMI Workshop.

**Make the Earth Great** (book/lyrics), with composer Rona Siddiqui  
*Presented at the TimesCenter, July 8, 2017, as part of the Prospect Theater Company's IGNITE Series of concerts, WORLD VIEWS: 2017 Musical Theater Lab.*

*Ten-minute musical. Cast of four actors and piano.*  
A con-artist alien talks humanity into giving the Earth to him.

**The Charm** (book/lyrics), with composer David Shenton  
*Presented at the 47<sup>th</sup> street Theatre, December 13, 2013*  
*Ten-minute musical. Cast of five actors, piano and synth*

A pair a newlyweds, fresh from a fairy tale wedding, who are struck by a very modern fear: how will they know that they will always love each other? With the help of a wizard, an international road trip, and one very special pair of underwear, the couple finds true happiness where they least expect it.

**\*OFFICAL SELECTION and FINALIST: Sound Bites Musical Theatre Festival 2013**

### **Bombshell Baby! A World War II Musical Starring Veronica Garland**

(book/lyrics/music), with collaborator Rachel Felstein.

Two act musical, Presented in a sold-out run at the Ensemble Studio Theatre, July 2012

*Cast of 16 actors, piano*

1944: When the Super Secret Service has a trouble finding Hitler, they call on Veronica Garland, the most beautiful woman in the world, star of stage and screen, to come to the rescue. Accompanied by a cross-dressing fighter pilot, a contraband candy dealer, and a French-Canadian cabaret dancer, Veronica belts and shimmies her way across Europe. Will she be derailed by an unexpected "bundle of joy"?

### **Happy Hamster Birthday** (Book/lyrics/music)

*Ten-minute musical. Cast of five actors, piano.*

It's Hamster's birthday, and she invites all her friends to celebrate – the prissy Mouse, Flopsy Bunny, and HedgeHog. But why did all of Hamster's friends give her such lousy gifts? And wait – what if the Cat finds them?!

**\*OFFICIAL SECTION: Leela NYC Theatre Festival**

## PLAYS FOR CHILDREN & CHILD PERFORMERS

**Peanut Butter and Cupcake: The Musical!** (lyrics) with composer Brad Ross and bookwriter Jill Santopolo

*45 minute musical for cast of 6 adults or large flexible cast of children.*

"Peanut Butter and Cupcake" is a new musical for young audiences based on the book of the same name by Terry Border. What's a little piece of bread to do when he's feeling lonely? Find a friend, of course! And that's exactly what Peanut Butter tries to do. But sometimes friends are hard to come by, especially when Hamburger has to walk his (hot) dogs, Cupcake is too busy building castles in her sprinkle box, and Meatball won't stop jumping rope with his spaghetti! Does Peanut Butter have a soulmate? Young audiences will know the answer long before Peanut Butter does and laugh along with each mismatched pairing.

**\*Commissioned by Interlakes Summer Theatre in Meredith, NH. Produced August 2017.**

**The Frog Prince** (lyrics) with composer Brennan Johnson and bookwriter Kristin Madden.

*30-minute musical with flexible casting for child actors.*

Can two little princesses and a frog become the best of friends? Twin sisters Princess Sunny and Princess Cloudia are as different as can be, but they come together to help a prince of a frog rise up and save his beloved pond from destruction. A greedy clan of beavers is eager to sell off the land and build luxury condos! It's all for one and one for all as the royal family, plucky pond creatures, a magical enchantress, hip hop fly girls, and soul singing "Ribbettes" join forces and show what good teamwork can do, even in the most unlikely of friendships.

**\*Commissioned by Random Farms Kids' Theater in Westchester, NY. Produced June 2017.**

**Sparkle Spa: The Musical** (lyrics) with composer Brad Ross and bookwriter Jill Santopolo

*50 minute musical. Cast of five child actors and 15 child actors.*

A group of 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls run their own nail salon, and decide to open a Sparkle Spa booth at their elementary school's fall fair. But will the boys steal the show? Based on the middle grades series authored by Jill Santopolo and published by Simon & Schuster. **\*Commissioned by Interlakes Theatre in Meredith, New Hampshire. Produced July/Aug 2016.**

### **It's a Pea-Nutty World**

*15 minute play with brief singing. Cast of 16 (can be adjusted to 15). (Ages 7-15)*

A story about a princess who comes down with a bad case of the hiccups, and the various wacky characters (scientists, pirates, a pirate pig, a jester, a hair stylist, a witch) who attempt to cure them.

### **Suzy and The Alien**

*12-minute play. Cast of eight. (Ages 9-15)*

Suzie and her friend Gloria want to win the school science fair, but aren't having any luck with their project. When a mysterious note arrives, they discover that the aliens they hoped to find might be closer than they expected!

## DRAMATURGY

### **Invisible Cities**

Opera by Christopher Cerrone

First presented in a semi-staged reading at the Italian Academy in NYC, subsequently **nominated for the 2014 Pulitzer Prize in Music** for world premiere in LA. Served as a dramaturge from the inception of the piece

### **Home Street Home**

Punk Musical by Jeff Marx, Fat Mike (of NOFX), and Goddess Soma.

Christiana was hired to consult with the writers after a workshop performance of the musical in New York. Her contributions were used in subsequent versions.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

### **The Water Coolers**, New York, NY *Writer*, July 2014-present

The Water Coolers are a corporate entertainment group that specializes in sketch comedy and parody songs about corporate and office life, in the style of Forbidden Broadway or the Capitol Steps. I write those parody lyrics.

### **Emerging Pictures**, New York, NY

*Director of Performing Arts Programming and Marketing*, October 2009-October 2012

Curates season of HD operas, ballets and Shakespeare plays broadcast from Europe into network of digital movie theatres across the country. Coordinate and/or create all marketing materials for cultural programming, including all printed materials, press releases, cross promotions, e-newsletters and social media. Writes program notes, synopses and promotional copy for each opera, ballet or play. Manages and creates cross-promotions in markets nationwide. Communicates regularly with venues regarding programming and marketing. Trains and manages team of marketing interns. Syncs, corrects and improves opera subtitles using proficiency in Italian, German, French and Catalan. Reports directly to company owners.

### **Kids Acting** Austin, TX

*Acting and Voice instructor*, Summers of 2006, 2007 and 2008

Taught children age 3-14. Wrote and directed plays. Guided improvisational activities and games. Coached vocal music and taught basic vocal technique. Choreographed dances. Communicated directly with parents. Designed programs for performances in MS Word and Adobe Photoshop.

### **College Prowler Press**

*Writer*, 2005

Wrote a complete 152-page guidebook to Southwestern University. Researched the history of the school. Interviewed and polled students. Available at all major book retailers.

#### SKILLS SUMMARY

Types 67 wpm. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Publisher, Access, Outlook; Library database software; Point of sale software; Windows Movie Maker; Adobe Photoshop, Acrobat; InDesign; Facebook; MySpace; Twitter; iPhone, iPad. Cash register. Competent in Italian, German, French and Spanish. Working knowledge of Yiddish. Plays piano, ukulele, accordion. Really good singer.