

MaryJayne Waddell

Biography

MaryJayne Waddell's extensive professional career began in 1980 and she has worked steadily in practically every capacity of the business. The past 37 years have taken her to stages around the world, performing on Broadway, Off-Broadway, National and International Tours, cruise ships, theme parks, feature films, television and scores of regional productions.



She is a member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), Screen Actor's Guild (SAG), and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA). Some of the many career highlights include starring in the North American Tour of *Mamma Mia!* as Donna Sheridan, the Broadway and National Tour of *Les Misérables* where she covered the role of Fantine and the Factory Girl, *The Sondheim Celebration* at the Kennedy Center in 2002 in the extraordinary casts of *Merrily We Roll Along* where she was co-choreographer and dance captain, and *Sunday in the Park with George* which she was also dance captain. Four seasons were spent singing and dancing alongside the Rockettes as a New Yorker in *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular*.

Ms. Waddell has been seen in numerous workshops and readings including new works performed in The New York Musical Theatre Festival (NYMF) and The Manhattan Theatre Festival where she was nominated for outstanding lead actress in *1812 The Musical*.

Other world premieres include *Becoming George* at MetroStage in Alexandria, Virginia, *The Fix* at Signature Theatre in Arlington, VA, *Eleanor* at Ford's Theatre, and *Naked in Encino* at The Jewish Community Center in Rochester, NY.

As a cabaret artist, her shows *What I Know*, *Calendar Girl*, and *In the Middle* have been seen at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, Germano's Cabaret Club in Baltimore, MD, The Art's Club in DC, Signature Theatre in VA., Rochester Fringe Festival and many corporate and private events. Her newest show *Completely Christmas* has played for three seasons at Actor's Theatre of Indiana. She is an active member of The DC Cabaret Network and has coached and created shows for new artists entering the cabaret art form.

As a director/choreographer her many credits include *Route 66* at Actor's Theatre of Indiana, production numbers for touring rock band *Nik and the Nice Guys* (Rochester, NY), *You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up!* (Rochester, NY), *Girls Only* (Rochester, NY), Carnival Cruise Lines, Royal Viking Line, and the summer theatre camp program at Catholic University (ages 7-18).

Her training started with dance at an early age studying ballet, tap and jazz under Lorraine F. Abert, who was president of Dance Masters of America. She attend SUNY at Geneseo as a theatre/dance major. Making the dean's list after her first year, she was hired as a dancer and understudy to one of the leads in *The Stephen Foster Story* in Bardstown, Kentucky and continued to work non-stop after that. Her dance and theatre training led her to outstanding teachers in Miami, Nashville, and NYC. Her voice teacher, Margaret Riddleberger coached her for 15 years and saw her develop from chorus girl to starring roles like Fantine in *Les Misérables*, Donna in *Mamma Mia!*, Aldonza in *Man of LaMancha*, Kate in *Kiss Me Kate*, and Rhoda in *A New Brain* starring opposite Michael Rupert. She has studied with reputable, in demand teachers and coaches in New York City such as Craig Carnelia, VP Boyle (Musical Theatre Forum), Eric Woodhull, Barry Moss, and Jamibeth Margolis.

In addition to her theatrical career she is a registered yoga teacher with Yoga Alliance with over 1000 hours of training, and more than 2,000 classes since 2006. She is the owner and creator of ShareYoga and has hosted dozens of events to raise money and bring awareness to local charities. Since its inception in 2015 ShareYoga has raised over \$3K.