
STEVE WILLIS

336/691-9416 home

336/517-2302 office

336/508-9887 mobile

SWillis07@aol.com

- Bio-

STEVE WILLIS holds a Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A) degree in Acting/Directing from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in English/Dramatic Arts & Speech from Averett University. He is an Assistant Professor of Speech and Theatre at Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he resides with his partner, Scott, and their cat, Maggie. He also teaches playwriting at Guilford College and is on the teaching staff at Triad Yoga Institute.

Steve has received numerous prizes and awards for his playwriting including the 2004 and 2003 Carolina Contemporary Playwrights Competition (for *Falling So Slowly* and *The Shadow of Eldorado*); the North Carolina Theatre Conference's 2003 New Play Award (for *The Shadow of Eldorado*); and a 2001-2002 Playwrights' Fellowship from the North Carolina Arts Council (also for *The Shadow of Eldorado*). He was awarded a 1997 Emerging Artist Grant from the Central Piedmont Regional Artists Hub Program (for the completion of two monologues, *Good Sense* and *The Sign Lady*) and also won the 1999 Savannah Playwrights Festival (for *We Never Close*) and the 1994 North Carolina New Play Project (for one-act version of *The Shadow of Eldorado*). Steve also received an Honorable Mention citation in the 2002 Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation's Playwriting Competition (for *Passing Ceremonies*) and he was recognized as a finalist in the 2003 YES Festival of New Plays at Northern Kentucky University (for *Sprouting Wings*); a Top Ten finalist in both the 2003 and 2002 Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre's Playwrights Competition (for *The Shadow of Eldorado* and *Sprouting Wings*); and a runner-up in Mockingbird Public Theatre's 2001 and 2000 New Southern Theatre Festival (for *The Jeff Trilogy* and *Mother, May I?*).

Steve's plays have been produced internationally as well as throughout the United States. In 2005, his romantic comedy/drama *Falling So Slowly* premiered in Melbourne, Australia, produced by Fly-on-the-Wall Theatre at St. Martin's Theatre. Other plays have been produced in South Africa (National Arts Festival in Grahamstown), New York City (Grove Street Playhouse, Bank Street Theatre), Chicago (Bailiwick Rep), San Diego (Diversionary Theatre), Atlanta (Emory University) and in various cities throughout the Carolinas.

Steve has written stage adaptations of short stories and novellas by Allan Gurganus ("Condolences to Every One of Us", *Blessed Assurance*), Lee

Zacharias (“Postcards”) and Richard Bruce Nugent (“Smoke, Lilies and Jade”). In 2005, The Essential Theatre produced *Blessed Assurance* in Richmond, Virginia. He recently completed gay-themed adaptations of two modern classic plays: Arthur Schnitzler’s *La Ronde* and Ibsen’s *Ghosts*.

In 2006, Steve completed a Scholar in Residence appointment at New York University during which he continued research for his latest project, a one-woman play based on the life and career of the late African-American actress Diana Sands.

Steve has studied yoga since 2001 and he completed the 330-hour Teacher Training Program at Triad Yoga Institute in 2005. In addition to teaching at the Institute, he continues to attend yoga classes regularly. As a yoga instructor, Steve encourages his students to listen to their bodies, discover energy in their postures, and find individual expression throughout their practice.