

AMANDA JANE

**SCHAAR**

**PLAYWRIGHT, POET, PRODUCER**

*"If you thought doing Disneyland on acid was a trip, you haven't seen Schaar.  
Best Avant Garde." -East Valley Tribune*

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Sunny SoCal, USA.

**Education:** B.A. in Theatre Arts from ASU (double full-ride scholarships: academic and acting)

2005

**College Production (PREMIERE)**

*Rummy Starker Love Fest* Herberger College of Fine Arts (ASU) Phoenix, AZ

2006

**Professional Production**

*Rummy Starker Love Fest* Theatre in My Basement (TIMB) Phoenix, AZ

Reviews:

*"If you thought doing Disneyland on acid was a trip, you haven't seen Schaar."* – East Valley Tribune

**Awards: Best Avant Garde – East Valley Tribune, End of Year Awards**

2016

**Professional Reading**

*Kill Socrates* New Fortune Theatre Company San Diego, CA

2019

**Professional Reading**

*Kill Socrates* New Fortune Theatre Company La Jolla, CA  
*A command performance for the 'Einstein of the Oceans,' Walter Munk, his wife, and his colleagues.*

2020

**Professional Workshop**

*Three Sisters* New Fortune Theatre Company Virtual Workshop

2021

**Professional Production (PREMIERE)**

*Kill Socrates* Don Bluth Front Row Theatre Scottsdale, AZ

Reviews:

*"It's an absolutely beautiful piece. Absolutely gorgeous."* – Don Bluth, producer of Kill Socrates and animated film director of Secret of NIMH, American Tale, Land Before Time.

*"...a drama that is very humorous while also moving and ultimately heartbreaking... With a talented cast...staged perfectly... directed beautifully... Kill Socrates: at Don Bluth Front Row Theatre is a winning production of a funny, charming, moving, interesting and intriguing new play."* – Talkin' Broadway

**Kill Socrates Award Noms: Arizonis for Best Production, Best Actor in a Major Role (all actors), Best Director**

# 2023

## Published Plays with the Black Chicken Unlimited Imprint

*Kill Socrates*

*Three Sisters*

*Twelfth Night of the Living Dead, Or What You Kill*

*The Triumph of Moriarty*

## Published Novel with the Black Chicken Unlimited Imprint

*The Storybook Coroner*

**Award: INDIE BOOK WE LOVE from LoveReading, the UK's most trusted book reviewers. *The Storybook Coroner* was one of the few independent novels chosen from over 35,000 titles submitted each year.**

# 2024

## Professional Reading

*Oggetto Metallico*

New Fortune Theatre Company

San Diego, CA

## Professional Production (PREMIERE)

*Twelfth Night of the Living Dead, Or What You Kill*

Loud Fridge Theatre Group

San Diego, CA

Reviews:

## KPBS Arts Editor's Pick! Theater and Pop Culture

**San Diego Union Tribune Arts & Culture Pick!** *"Some folks love Shakespeare. Some folks love zombies. For those who love both, there's a **clever mash-up** of the two onstage... **Highly entertaining.** It's got all the familiar trappings — and most of the lines — from The Bard's "Twelfth Night," but **the zombies steal the show.**"*

*"Zombie Shakespeare comedy is Clever, Funny... Daring, inclusive, engaging, and accessible. All of the lines in the play are Shakespeare's own... but Viola (and her twin brother, Sebastian) don't wash ashore alive in Schaar's version of the play. The twins drowned in a storm at sea and are now limping and growling their way through Illyria as undead flesh-eaters... While some Shakespeare characters emerge mostly unchanged in Schaar's play... others emerge wildly different. **For fans of "Twelfth Night," Schaar's clever use of the Bard's words add extra layers of meaning to the play.**" - San Diego Union Tribune Review*

*"Lots of **deadpan comedy among the living dead...** Imaginative... Entertaining, the most interesting and diverting Viola I've yet seen in my many "Twelfth Night" experiences. Loud Fridge Theatre Group has done well by [Shakespeare's] peerless legacy while having **much fun** doing it." - Stage West Review*

*"**Bloody fascinating...** Salacious satirist A.J. Schaar[']s] construct is astute and intelligent. **The Bard is a playwright for all time and dimensions.** I think he would have loved Schaar and Loud Fridge's daring and diverse production." - Scene by Jenni Prisk Review*

*"From the title alone, **you can grasp the creative wit...** There have been many experiments and creative takes while staging a Shakespeare piece. This is one of the most creative. And the [audience reaction] after the performance that I saw, I consider to be **one of the best reviews you can get.**" - From Another Zero Review*

*"The play is a **fun mashup** that balances the original plot with zombie and horror movie tropes. Foreboding... Fast and Funny... Funny and Fierce... Clever and Creative..." - Broadway World Review*

*"Fun sacrilege... **To die for...**" - Union Tribune preview article*

**Published Play** with the Black Chicken Unlimited Imprint  
*Oggetto Metallico (Metal Object)*

**Professional Workshop**

*We The Pyrates*

New Fortune Theatre Company

San Diego, CA

**2025**

**Published Play** with the Black Chicken Unlimited Imprint  
*WE THE PYRATES*

**Published Book** with the Black Chicken Unlimited Imprint

*American Monkeys: World's First "Reader's Edition" of The Scopes "Monkey Trial" Transcripts*

**Professional Event (PREMIERE)**

*American Monkeys*

New Fortune Theatre Co., in partnership with The Library Foundation of San Diego, The Friends of the San Diego Public Libraries (Corporate and Downtown), The Central Public Library, and the Westminster Presbyterian Church Committee of Peace and Justice; in collaboration with several San Diego bands, nonprofit orgs, and leaders.

Reviews:

*"The highly ambitious project, "American Monkeys," didn't just recall a famous historical event from America's past. It also brought into sharp focus how everything old is new again in modern-day America, where religious conservatism is once again on the rise."*

**Professional Reading**

*Three Sisters*

*New Fortune Theatre*

*San Diego, CA*

**Professional Reading**

*Three Sisters*

*Studio 34*

*Los Angeles, CA*

**2026**

**Professional Production (PREMIERE) (COMMISSION)**

*Mr. Mud E. Shoe*

*Nevada Conservatory Theatre*

*Las Vegas, NV*

Reviews:

*"A world-premiere play from **one of the most thrilling voices in American theatre.**"*

**Professional Reading**

*The Farce (of an Authoritarian Coverup) in Progress*

*New Fortune Theatre*

*San Diego, CA*

**Professional Reading**

*The Farce (of an Authoritarian Coverup) in Progress*

*Living Room Productions*

*New York City, NY*

**Professional Reading**

*The Farce (of an Authoritarian Coverup) in Progress*

*Studio 34*

*Los Angeles, CA*

***Schaar is the founding executive director of the New Fortune Theatre Co.'s award-winning programming. To see the full production history and press, please visit: [www.newfortunetheatre.com](http://www.newfortunetheatre.com)***