

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

Award Nominations: Arizonis for Best Overall 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

PLANS FOR 2025 AND BEYOND...

Audio Recording for Global Distribution

The Triumph of Moriarty!

Production Company TBA

Publication

We The Pyrates

Black Chicken Unlimited Imprint

Production

Currently in talks with different theatres in the Southwest (in CA, NV and AZ) for the potential production of various titles. Each of these productions may (or may not) be programmed in the season following next, in 2026. TBD/TBA.

Mentorship

I've been invited to participate as a mentor to crowd-selected new writers during the pilot of a new emerging playwright program (still TBA) in support of the professional development of experimental and diverse voices. Yes please.

Extensive experience as a teacher of storytelling nationwide; teaching resume available by request.

Schaar is a producer of the New Fortune Theatre Co.'s award-winning programming; www.newfortunetheatre.com