

Annika Nori Ahlgrim

Remote | Based in Ashland, OR

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Annikanori.com

Understanding, adaptable, and compassionate collaborator committed to clear communication, creative integrity, and inclusive practice. I bring extensive experience in theater production, play development, and cross-disciplinary teamwork, with a deep passion for storytelling in all its forms. My work is grounded in empathy and driven by a desire to make space for underrepresented voices—whether through playwriting, teaching, content creation, or digital design. I'm especially interested in continued professional growth in university-level instruction, arts-based education, narrative development, and collaborative production. At the heart of everything I do is a love of language—working intellectually and imaginatively with words to craft meaningful experiences for diverse audiences.

EDUCATION

Arcana & Edgecraft: Tarot as Structure for Flash & Hybrid Writing — Zoom Seminar.

Writing Workshops (February 2026)

Instructor: Hillary Leftwich

The Haunted Muse: Memory, Trauma, Desire, and the Art of Ghosts — 4-Week Generative Writing Class. Writing Workshops (November 2025)

Instructor: Dr. Erica Anzalone

The Modern Gothic: Making Haunted Fictions for the 21st Century — Zoom Seminar. Writing Workshops (October 2025)

Instructor: Amber Sparks

Storytelling Outside the Box — 2-Day Online Lab. World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT/ITI (September 2025)

Instructor: Jurij Alschitz

Think Like a Content Creator: Social Media for Authors — 2-Day Seminar. Writing Workshops (Summer 2025)

Instructor: Sanibel Lazar

Writing Workshops: Word Witch: Exploring the Strange Magic of Embodiment (Summer 2025)

Instructor: Dr. Erica Anzalone

Playwrights Center: Online Playwriting Intensive: Writing History Plays (Spring 2025)

Instructor: P.C. Verrone

Dramatists Guild: Playwriting Workshop “Channeling Your Dreams” (Fall 2023)

completed October 7, 2023

Instructor: Steve Harper

Dragon Theater Playwriting Intensive (July 2021-September 2021)

completed September 2021

Instructor: Bridgette Dutta Portman

University of Birmingham, Stratford-Upon-Avon, U.K. — MA *Shakespeare & Creativity*

September 2017 - September 2018

Graduated with a Merit

The only Shakespeare MA of its kind, this program combines academic study with creative practice. Coursework integrated performance, scholarly research, and original writing. The program culminated in a fully devised production staged at the Royal Shakespeare Company's The Other Place Theatre.

Dissertation: Shakespeare's Greatest Smallest Storytellers

An exploration of three of Shakespeare's child characters—Young Lucius (Titus Andronicus), Young Macduff (Macbeth), and Mamillius (The Winter's Tale). The thesis investigates how these children bear witness to violence, loss, and injustice, and how their brief appearances act as narrative keystones in the larger tragedies surrounding them.

Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA — B.F.A. *Theatre & Original Works*

September 2012 - May 2016

Graduated with a 3.7 GPA

A rigorous conservatory-style program focused on acting, writing, and theatrical creation. Training emphasized both performance and the development of original work. Beginning in the third year, students in the Original Works track received concentrated instruction in playwriting, directing, and dramaturgy alongside their acting curriculum.

Waldorf School of the Peninsula, Mountain View, CA — *High School Diploma*

September 1998 – June 2012

Graduated with a 3.7 GPA

SKILLS

Writing & Editing

- SEO copywriting, narrative nonfiction, playwriting, adaptation, blog and educational content, script coverage
- Editing for tone, clarity, and story structure (AP style, creative voice adaptation)
- Research-driven writing and hybrid nonfiction

Content & Digital Design

- Website design (Wix), UX copy, metadata and accessibility practices
- Canva, Photoshop, basic HTML/CSS
- Multimedia storytelling and image-text integration

Teaching & Mentorship

- Curriculum development (playwriting, Shakespeare, storytelling)
- Workshop facilitation for diverse age groups and learning needs
- One-on-one mentorship (script development, educational coaching)

Theater & Live Production

- Directing, dramaturgy, stage and wardrobe management, solo show development
- Script development and new play festivals
- Stagecraft and immersive/live design

Tools & Platforms

- Google Workspace
- AI writing tools (e.g., ChatGPT), SEO tools
- Editing and formatting in Canva, Photoshop, Docs, and InDesign

Soft Skills

- Empathic communication, creative problem-solving, deadline management, interdisciplinary collaboration, adaptability

WORK EXPERIENCE

Publishing Assistant – Two Sisters Writing & Publishing

Remote | 2025- Present

- Collaborate on manuscript editing, book layout, and original cover design projects.
- Utilize background in creative writing, visual design, and publishing aesthetics to support authors through all stages of production.

Director of Communications & Website Designer – Beneath and Beyond

Remote | 2025–Present

- Led visual branding and communication strategy for a nonprofit focused on education equity.
- Designed and launched a fully responsive, accessible website aligned with the organization's voice and mission.
- Maintained visual consistency across platforms while adapting materials for multiple audiences.
- Collaborated with leadership team to ensure clarity, cohesion, and purpose-driven storytelling.
- Tools: Wix, Photoshop, Canva, Google Workspace

Freelance Copywriter, Graphic Designer & Content Creator

Remote | 2022–Present

- Develop brand-aligned digital content, social copy, and messaging for clients in education, wellness, and the arts.
- Write SEO-optimized blog posts, web pages, email campaigns, and ad copy with a focus on narrative voice and accessibility.
- Edit and proofread using AP style and client tone guides, ensuring clarity, consistency, and brand fidelity.
- Integrate content strategy principles—structure, readability, keyword targeting, and performance tracking.

- Pitch and research compelling, audience-focused topics for educational and values-driven brands.
- Leverage AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) to streamline ideation, drafting, and editing workflows.
- Coordinate deadlines, maintain version control, and manage high-volume, multi-client workloads.
- Portfolio: <https://www.annikanori.com/my-work>

Digital Content Writer & Designer – “The Hollow Skull”

Remote | 2022–Present

- Research and author historical blog posts and database entries for a public-facing digital humanities platform.
- Translate complex material into accessible content for general audiences while preserving historical nuance.
- Collaborate with researchers and designers to ensure UX-aligned copy and cohesive visual storytelling.

Creative & Academic Writer

Various Projects | 2017–Present

- Write hybrid nonfiction, narrative essays, and scripts that blend research with creative storytelling.
- Adapt voice, structure, and style for diverse platforms including magazines, literary blogs, and academic forums.
- Fact-check and edit manuscripts with a focus on accuracy, tone, and emotional resonance.

Director of Communications – Nori Society

Remote | 2020–Present

- Write and schedule communications including newsletters, event promotions, and editorial features.
- Craft original narratives and interviews highlighting the work of creatives across disciplines.
- Support content calendar development, coordinating rollout across digital channels.

Facility Supervisor

The City of Mountain View | Mountain View, CA | October 2023-June 2025

- Supervised performance venues, ensuring safety, policy compliance, and smooth operations during events.
- Maintained detailed show notes, coordinated with directors and stage managers, and tracked performance timelines.
- Responded to emergency situations, liaised with police and fire departments, and managed tech crews during load-in/strike.
- Delivered high-level customer service and facilitated communication between all stakeholders in the building.

Producer

Kimberly Clouse | San Francisco, CA | November 2021

- Oversaw scheduling, budgeting, and technical coordination for live staged readings and performances.
- Managed communications across creative teams and ensured seamless production execution.

Literary Council Member & Reader

Playwrights Foundation | Remote | September 2019 - April 2021

- Evaluated 40+ new play submissions annually for structure, originality, and artistic potential.
- Provided detailed written feedback to playwrights and participated in season programming decisions.
- Advocated for diverse, underrepresented voices in contemporary theater.

Nanny

Private Family | Menlo Park, CA | June 2020 – June 2025

- Provided daily care for two children, balancing academic, creative, and physical activities.
- Coordinated transportation, meals, and time management for school and extracurriculars.

- Supported behavioral development and modeled positive communication and emotional regulation.

Website Designer

Remote | March 2020 – Present

- Designed visually engaging, brand-forward websites tailored to individual client goals.
- Merged intuitive UX principles with personal branding to create accessible, memorable sites.
- Balanced technical design with narrative coherence, ensuring each website tells a compelling story.

Teaching Artist

TheatreWorks | Mountain View, CA | September 2019 – December 2019

- Taught playwriting curriculum to high school students in the Young Playwrights Project.
- Guided students through writing and revision processes leading to professionally directed staged readings.
- Designed and led creative writing and performance exercises.

Artistic Fellow

Playwrights Foundation | San Francisco, CA | January 2019 – April 2019

- Assisted Artistic Director with casting, artist outreach, and communication for national programs.
- Composed professional correspondence and maintained contact databases.
- Organized office systems and provided administrative support across multiple departments.

Teaching Artist

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust | Stratford-Upon-Avon, U.K. | October 2018 – December 2018

- Co-led Shakespeare workshops for groups of 15–30 students, ages 7–14, from across the UK.
- Facilitated interactive experiences blending performance, text analysis, and historical context.

- Guided students in crafting short adaptations to deepen engagement with Shakespeare's works.

PGT Research Placement Shakespeare and D/deaf Children

University of Birmingham | Stratford-Upon-Avon, U.K. | June 2018 - September 2018

- Supported research on inclusive Shakespeare education practices for D/deaf students.
- Scribed and contributed to R&D sessions during toolkit development with the Royal Shakespeare Company.
- Assisted in creating accessible exercises and curriculum resources.

Extended Care Kindergarten Teacher

Seattle Waldorf School | Seattle, WA | September 2016 - June 2017

- Supervised up to 20 kindergarteners in extended care, focusing on emotional and social development.
- Communicated daily with parents and teachers to support individual student needs.
- Led storytelling, group play, and behavior modeling activities.

Morning/Afternoon Extended Care Supervisor and Summer Camp Counselor

Seattle Children's Theater | Seattle, WA | June 2016 - December 2016

- Managed health and safety documentation, and communicated with parents and staff.
- Facilitated creative, structured play for summer campers and extended care participants.

House Manager

Cornish College of the Arts | Seattle, WA | September 2014 - May 2016

- Managed front-of-house operations during performances, including box office, ushering, and audience communication.
- Coordinated with stage managers and production staff to ensure smooth audience experiences.

Director/Asst. Director/Asst. Teacher

The Waldorf School of the Peninsula | Los Altos/Mountain View, CA | May 2009 – June 2015

- Directed and assisted in school theater productions (e.g., *Almost, Maine*, *Sound of Music*, *Taming of the Shrew*).
- Supported classroom instruction, enforced behavioral guidelines, and collaborated with faculty on creative learning.

RELEVANT PROJECTS

The Grief Spiral: Psychological Thriller Series | Author

Ongoing Fiction Project

Developing a 9-book thriller series centered on forensic genealogy, mitochondrial conditions, and systemic injustice. Designed long-form narrative arcs, detailed character journeys, and interwoven timelines across multiple books. Researched investigative procedures and genetic disorders. Crafted pitch decks and content samples for submission to publishers and collaborators.

Nori | Playwright

Ongoing Non-Fiction Creative Writing Project

A generational story of four women bound by blood, identity, and survival in a world not made for them. This project is an expanded, contemporary reimagining of the 2012 one-woman show of the same name, blending adaptation, memoir, and lyrical monologue.

The House on Monaco | Playwright

2023

Three adult siblings reckon with abandonment, addiction, and their mother's buried traumas. Inspired by true stories of remarkable Native women, the play explores inherited grief and generational silence through nonlinear narrative and intimate realism.

The Soul and the Angel | Playwright

October 2023

Twins Alma and Angelita carry the weight of cultural expectation and gendered trauma as first-generation daughters navigating identity and future-building. A portrait of sisterhood, resilience, and the pressure of becoming.

The Vapours | Playwright

September 2021

In 1863, a Victorian countess invites an old friend to tea in an attempt to unearth a repressed memory and relieve her long-standing illness. A period piece examining PTSD through the lens of 19th-century understandings of “hysteria,” melancholy, and femininity.

The Hollow Skull | Digital Historical Archive & Blog

Independent Project | 2021

Created a digital archive of long-form essays exploring overlooked histories, accompanied by multimedia visual storytelling. Built and designed an accessible, SEO-optimized website prioritizing user experience and inclusive educational access.

Tools: Wix, Photoshop, Canva, Google Workspace

Mentoring a Student in Playwriting | Playwright Mentor

November 2019 – May 2020

Mentored a high school senior through the process of writing a full-length play. Guided structure, theme development, and revision in preparation for a class production, fostering a supportive creative space.

The Seagull | Director, Producer, Designer

The Shakespeare Institute | 2018

Directed and designed an immersive, site-specific production of Chekhov’s *The Seagull*. Led audiences through psychological spaces mirrored in physical environments. Collaborated with cast and crew to craft a multisensory, experiential narrative.

Fourplay | Playwright, Actor, Producer

The Royal Shakespeare Company and the University of Birmingham | January 2018 - May 2018

Devised and performed *Fourplay*, an original play examining the women who fake their deaths in Shakespeare’s canon. Co-written with a creative cohort, the piece reimagines the afterlives of

Shakespeare's women in a shared liminal space. Staged at the Other Place Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon.

I Am Helena | Author

October 2017 - Still in Progress

A novel-in-progress about Helena, the daughter of a Shakespeare professor, whose life unravels after her mother's death. An intertextual coming-of-age story that blends grief, identity, and Shakespearean mythology as Helena navigates her mother's legacy and her own name.

The Winters Tale: A Modern Day Retelling | Playwright

January 2016 - Still in Progress

A contemporary reimagining of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* set in 1990s San Francisco and modern-day Winters, CA. The play explores familial fractures, legal injustice, and the redemptive potential of love and time.

Lavender Rose: A One-Man-Show | Producer, Director, Dramaturg, Playwright, Designer

November 2016 - April 2017

Told the true story of a lesbian couple's journey to motherhood in early 1990s Austin, Texas. Led all aspects of production including writing, direction, design, rehearsal management, and staging of this solo show.

Aaron & Sophie | Playwright, Director, Producer, Designer

October 2015 - February 2016

A retelling of the Pyramus and Thisbe myth through the lens of Greek gods Aphrodite and Ares. Oversaw production from script development through staging, working with dramaturgy and stage management teams.

Original Works Festival | Playwright, Director, Producer, Actor

Cornish College of the Arts | January 2015 - May 2015

Wrote, directed, and acted in multiple new plays for Cornish's annual festival.

Highlight: *Funeral of a Contradiction* – A raw, intimate exploration of sisterhood, addiction, and inherited grief set in the fluorescent aisles of a Costco.

Failure: A Love Story | Wardrobe assistant

Cornish College of the Arts | September 2013 – October 2013

Assisted in costume construction and design. Managed all costume logistics during the run, becoming the lead wardrobe coordinator throughout strike and performance.

Bat Boy: The Musical | Wardrobe assistant

Cornish College of the Arts | February 2013 – April 2013

Coordinated all backstage quick changes and maintained costume readiness throughout the production. Handled laundry, ironing, mending, and dressing room prep.

Nori | Playwright, Actor, Director, Producer, Designer

The Waldorf School of the Peninsula | October 2011 - May 2012

Created, performed, and staged a solo performance piece chronicling four generations of Nori women on their 18th birthdays. Managed all aspects of design and production for the final show.

THEATER

Directing

<i>The Seagull</i> (Anton Chekhov)	The Shakespeare Institute Players, Stratford-Upon-Avon, UK
<i>Lavender Rose</i> (A. A. Grimm)	Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA
<i>Aaron and Sophie</i> (A. A. Grimm)	Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA
<i>Lavender's Body</i> (Leah Webster)	Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA
<i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead</i> (Tom Stoppard)	Waldorf School of the Peninsula, Mountain View, CA
<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (William Shakespeare)	Waldorf School of the Peninsula, Mountain View, CA
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (William Shakespeare)	Waldorf School of the Peninsula, Mountain View, CA

Assistant Directing and Stage Managing

<i>The Sound of Music</i> (Rodgers & Hammerstein)	Waldorf School of the Peninsula, Mountain View, CA
<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> (Joseph Stein)	Waldorf School of the Peninsula, Mountain View, CA
<i>Almost, Maine</i> (John Cariani)	Waldorf School of the Peninsula, Mountain View, CA
<i>The Man Who Turned Into a Stick</i> (Kobo Abe) and <i>No Exit</i> (Jean-Paul Sartre)	Waldorf School of the Peninsula, Mountain View, CA
<i>As You Like It</i> (William Shakespeare)	San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Palo Alto, CA

Playwriting

<i>The House on Monaco</i>	reading	Épine Noir Society, 2024
<i>The Seagull</i>	reading	Épine Noir Society, 2021
<i>Aaron and Sophie</i>	reading	Dragon Productions Theater Company, 2020 (Canceled due to COVID-19)
<i>Fourplay</i>	production	The Royal Shakespeare Company, UK, 2018
<i>Lavender Rose</i>	production	Cornish College of the Arts, 2017
<i>Aaron and Sophie</i>	reading	Cornish College of the Arts, 2016
<i>Funeral of a Contradiction</i>	production	Cornish College of the Arts, 2015
<i>Griffen</i>	production	Waldorf School of the Peninsula, 2012

Collaborative Playwriting

<i>Fourplay</i>	production	The Shakespeare Institute and The Royal Shakespeare Company, UK, 2018
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Acting

The Little Foxes	Alexandra	City Lights Theater Company Dir. Mark Anderson Phillips (Canceled due to COVID-19)
The Wolves	#14	City Lights Theater Company, 2019 Dir. Kimberly Mohne-Hill
The Taming of the Shrew	Tranio	The Shakespeare Institute Players, 2018 Dir. Juliano Zaffino
Fourplay	Hermione	The Royal Shakespeare Company , 2018 Dir. Lorna Jinks
The Brother's K	Bet Chance	Book-It Repertory Theater, 2016 Dir. Myra Platt
Harrison, Texas	Dolores Henry	Cornish College of the Arts, 2014 Dir. Kelly Kitchens

Training & Education

University of Birmingham (2017-2018) MA Shakespeare & Creativity received December 2018

Theater Practice and The Shakespeare Ensemble: Abigail Rokison-Woodall

Shakespeare and Shakespeare in Society: Ewan Fernie

Shakespeare's Craftsmanship: Will Sharpe

Shakespeare and Early Modern Playhouse Culture: Simon Smith

Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Penelope Freedman

Cornish College of the Arts (2012-2016) BFA received May 2016

Acting: Marya Sea Kaminski, Lisa Norman, Timothy Piggee, Robin Lynn Smith, Annette Toutonghi, Amy Thone

Voice: Alyssa Keene, Rhonda J. Soikowski, Terri Weagant, Kate Myre

Movement: Ellen Boyle, Keira McDonald, David Taft

Stage Combat: Geoffrey Alm

Playwriting: Elizabeth Heffron, Stephanie Timm

Classics and Shakespeare: Hal Ryder

Directing: Kathleen Collins