

BIOGRAPHICAL RESUME, BARBARA LEIGH

Home municipality: Milwaukee, WI

Barbara Leigh is an originating artist, born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. A Ph.D. in French Theatre from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she has studied in London and Paris, with workshops in Marcel Marceau's School and that of Etienne Decroux. Upon her return from study abroad, she became the Associate Director of the Wisconsin Mime Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin.

In 1971 Barbara founded the London Theatre Workshop, Ltd. In 1974 she and Mike Moynihan co-founded Friends Mime Theatre, now named the Milwaukee Public Theatre.

As Artistic/Producing Director of MPT Ms. Leigh has co-created or produced over 90 original theatre and video plays and revues with the company. She has performed and given workshops and talks on acting, ensemble creation, diversity, healing and disability issues throughout the country and in Canada. She has also appeared in a variety of television commercials and educational and corporate video productions.

Ms. Leigh's work has been supported by grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wisconsin Arts Board, Milwaukee County and many private foundations, corporations and individuals. Awards include the GE Angel Award, the Milwaukee Sentinel/PAC Hall of Fame Award, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Community Leadership Award and a Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

After a serious accident in 1987, she now performs in a wheelchair. With this new perspective she has been very active on issues dealing with healing, disability and diversity, including a One-Woman Musical Comedy, THE SURVIVAL REVIVAL REVUE! and ADA, about the Americans with Disabilities Act. Barbara and Karen Stobbe also have developed workshops and performances that focus on issues of Alzheimer's Disease and trauma and the challenges faced by caregivers. Barbara also performs in and helped to produce UNCLOTHED, the Naked Truth; Stories of Sexual Abuse and Healing.

Dr. Leigh has worked as an Artist-In-Education throughout the state since 1975 and has developed hundreds of workshops and collaborative performances, including keynotes for diverse clients. She is currently the Artistic/Producing Director of Milwaukee Public Theatre, and spearheads many diverse projects.

Barbara Leigh, Ph.D., Artistic/Producing Director, Milwaukee Public Theatre
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