

**CAROL L. FARRELL**

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Portfolio:

<http://www.figures.org/costumedesign>

## **PROFILE**

Ideas-oriented theater artist/costumer with over 30 years of professional experience in creating dynamic, collaborative theater with an emphasis on innovative use of mixed stage media and outstanding production values. Positive working style inspires outside-the-box idea generation in tandem with solid skills-based training.

## **SKILLS**

Costume design, costume shop management, pattern drafting and draping techniques, period construction, rendering techniques, costume history, mask making/performing, all aspects of the puppetry arts, and development of original theater. Teaching experience in all aforementioned areas at the University level.

## **EXPERIENCE**

### **1982-PRESENT: CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FIGURES OF SPEECH THEATRE**

Figures of Speech Theatre is an award-winning theater that tours locally and internationally with ground-breaking multidimensional work featuring an interplay of actors, puppets, masks and movement. Because the Co-Directorship represents such a significant piece of Ms. Farrell's professional experience, an addendum page describing her role in carrying out Figures of Speech's mission is included.

### **2010: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE BATES COLLEGE**

Taught 5-week intensive course, "East-West Fusion Theater," emphasizing Bunraku and Noh forms, as well contemporary world puppet theater, while developing a mixed-media piece for full performance by students.

### **1991: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE TRINITY COLLEGE**

Directed a group of Theater and Dance students during a 5-week intensive term to develop, design, produce and perform a mixed-media production entitled **The Dragon's Daughter**, based on a Chinese folk tale.

**1982-1984: ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF COSTUME DESIGN  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE**

Set up new costume shop space, designed productions (including the opera **Così fan Tutti** and **Miss Julie**), taught courses in Costume Design (including rendering techniques, pattern drafting and costume construction), and worked closely with Costume Shop supervisor to mount productions.

**1981-1984: MANAGER OF MANUFACTURING  
GAZELLE CLOTHING, PORTLAND, ME**

Worked as pattern maker, cutter, grader and supervisor of custom garment construction for women's retail clothing establishment.

**1979-81: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE, ORONO**

Created new costume shop space and costume storage area, designed all main-stage productions (including **The Tempest**, **The Cherry Orchard**, **The Music Man**, **The Madwoman of Chaillot**, **Inquest**, **The Front Page**, **Macbeth**), managed costume shop and student workers, mentored Graduate Assistants, taught courses in Costume History (including rendering techniques), Costume Construction (including pattern drafting, draping, and period construction), Stage Makeup, and Puppetry.

**1977-79: GRADUATE ASSISTANT IN COSTUME SHOP  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

Served under Costume Designer to construct costumes and instruct undergraduate students for all Theater Department and Puppetry Department productions. Extensive experience in period and non-traditional construction techniques gained during employment. (Also hired by University of CT in 1982 to design costumes for **Measure for Measure**)

**1975-77: RESIDENT COSTUME DESIGNER/SHOP MANAGER  
LONE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE, SAN FRANCISCO**

Created Costume Design Department from scratch: designed work and storage spaces, organized stock, designed costumes for all Theater and Dance Department productions (including giant vegetable costumes!), taught mini-courses in Costuming (basic drafting and construction techniques).

## **RECENT/CURRENT COLLABORATIONS:**

### **Magic of Christmas**

Portland Symphony Orchestra  
Costume/Puppet Design and manipulator training  
December 2009 and 2010

### **All the World's a Grave**

Bates College Department of Theater  
Costume Design for large Shakespearean production  
November 2009

### **Peer Gynt**

Portland Stage Company  
Co-conception and puppet design/construction  
January 2009

### **Gilgamesh**

Heartwood Regional Theater  
Co-conception and costume design/construction  
May 2008

### **The Tempest**

Freeport Shakespeare Festival  
Giant puppets and costumes for Juno, Ceres, and Sycorax  
July 2010

## **EDUCATION**

**U.S.–Japan Creative Artists' Program**, six-month Fellowship in Japan, 2000 (Noh, Bunraku, and traditional clothing)

**MA in Theater Design**, University of Connecticut, 1979

**BA in Costume Design and Dance**, Lone Mountain College, San Francisco, 1976

**Fashion Institute of Technology**, NYC, 1979 (Courses in drafting and draping)

**Certificate**, Institut Internationale de la Marionnette, France, 1984 (Object Theatre)

**Certificate**, Salinger Academy of Fashion, San Francisco, 1973–75 (pattern drafting and construction techniques)

**Ensemble Theater Studies**, University of the New World, Switzerland, 1971–72

## **FIGURES OF SPEECH THEATRE**

### **CAROL FARRELL, CO-FOUNDER & CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

#### **COMPANY OVERVIEW ([WWW.FIGURES.ORG](http://WWW.FIGURES.ORG))**

Figures of Speech Theatre was founded in 1982 to explore the interplay of puppets, actors, shadows, music, movement, and masks. The company has toured all over the world – from Sofia, Bulgaria to Tokyo, Japan, to Lima, Peru. Besides performing at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian Institution, and the New Victory Theatre on Broadway, the company retains a strong commitment to teaching and performing in rural schools and theater venues throughout its home state of Maine.

Figures of Speech Theatre is a four-time recipient of the coveted UNIMA Citation of Excellence, the highest distinction in American puppet theatre, as well as numerous grant awards from organizations including the National Endowment for the Arts, the Jim Henson Foundation, and the New England Foundation for the Arts.

#### **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

##### **TOURING PRODUCTIONS**

Figures of Speech has produced 18 productions over the past 29 years. As Co-Director, I'm involved in a highly collaborative process wherein we work with various artists to collectively select material to be explored, then wend our way through the creative labyrinth to conceive, develop, design, produce, perform and manage each new production. Costume Design for the actors and puppets is my exclusive domain.

##### **COLLABORATIONS**

When theaters hire FST to collaborate on the conception and/or execution of new work, my role is to co-conceive the work, and normally also to serve as Costume Designer. Recent/current co-productions include: [Peer Gynt](#) with Portland Stage Company, [Gilgamesh](#) with Heartwood Theater, [Magic of Christmas](#) with Portland Symphony, and [The Tempest](#) with the Freeport Shakespeare Festival.

##### **TEEN ENSEMBLE PROGRAM**

In 2007, we established the Figures of Speech Student Ensemble to work with interested high schoolers on the creation of mixed-media ensemble theater. My role in this is to select material for adaptation, mentor, teach, and design costumes for the productions.

##### **TEACHING PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH**

To serve FST's commitment to education, I have created and developed a full menu of teaching options for students of all ages. I administer the residencies for grades K-12, which are then taught by FST's Director of Education.