

# **Rene Urbanovich**

## *Voice, Creativity and Humanities Instructor*

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Thirty-five years of teaching experience, degrees in Creativity and Humanities, works with hundreds of students per year—seminars, private lessons, workshops. Creator of effective curriculum and community programs. Committed to developing the whole person. Background research with top industry professionals and medical experts. Continual research in Creativity Studies and the science of learning.

### SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

An experienced, enthusiastic, resourceful, and passionate educator, mentor and advisor whose emphasis is on **why** a basis in creativity offers artists and learners a greater purpose for their goals.

Experienced with all ages, honoring the developmental stages of learning in light of the importance of *process* as well as *product*.

### **EDUCATION**

**2004-2006, Bachelor of Arts—Creativity**, Burlington College, VT

**2007-2010, Master of Arts in Humanities—Literature Track**, CSU Dominguez Hills, CA

**2010-2011, Post-Secondary Learning Certificate**, CSU Fullerton, CA

### *Bio*

#### *Experienced and Inspiring Educator in Voice & Creativity*

With over thirty-five years of teaching experience, Rene Urbanovich is a highly sought-after teacher in the LA area. Rene works with hundreds of students per year—doing seminars, private lessons, workshops and classes. In addition to training singers to compete in the industry, Rene is committed to developing the *whole person*.

After receiving her BA and MA degrees in Creativity and the Humanities, Rene earned her post-secondary learning certificate for adult students, which focuses on the learning process itself. Rene also studied at Dick Grove School of Music; gained vital knowledge under the world renown Dr. Hans Von Laden; trained under Jubilant Sykes in the 1980s; studied privately with Roger Love and Dr. Daniel Kemplar in the 1990s; mentored under Joanna Cazden; and added to her ever-increasing knowledge base by attending workshops with Seth Riggs and Gerald White in the 2000s—all leading experts in the vocal community. Rene has taught songwriting and Creativity at AMDA Conservatory, Hollywood (American Musical and Dramatic Academy); has performed vocal workshops for Osborne Head and Neck Institute., Artreach in Wise VA, Canyon Theater Guild, Escape Theatre; College of the Canyons; has taught Creativity for professional development at SAG/AFTRA; Creative Talent Network; Art

Center College of Design, Crafton Hills College, College of the Canyons, SCV Artists Association, City-Wide Symposiums and the SCV Parks and Recreation. In 2004 Rene won the \$5000 City Grant for Arts and Wellness.

Creatively, Rene produced an instructional DVD “*Singing with Ease*,” composed theme songs for two award winning films—“*The Passer-By*” and “*Outpost*”; has written and self-published 5 books: award winning “*Creativity Connection Conundrum*,” a boutique Mother’s Day book of memoirs “*Maternallyours*,” women’s upmarket fiction, “*Silence Broken*,” a short story collection, “*Sextolet*,” and a compilation of essays “*Musings of a Creativist*.”

Rene is wholeheartedly dedicated to helping others discover their distinct voice through the arts, believing that each individual voice, when fully developed, will contribute to the whole and change the world. Rene has four grown children and enjoys pole dancing and sipping wine (not simultaneously) at the fire pit alongside Jimmy, her life-partner for thirty—seven years.

## *Vitae*

### **HIGHLIGHTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CREATIVITY & VOICE:**

- *Creative Talent Network (CTN), LA, CA*
  - *Summer Offerings Why are we Creative? Creativity & Storytelling 2020*
- *Escape Theater, Santa Clarita CA*
  - *Creativity and the Audition Process February 2019, 2018*
  - *Master Class~Vocal Technique Spring 2016*
- *Osborne Head/Neck Institute, Pepperdine University Malibu, CA*
  - *Female Belt, March 2015*
- *College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita, CA*
  - *Professional Development, Flex Creativity Workshop; May 2014*
  - *World Premiere “Sing Me A Happy Song” by Georgia Stitt, New American Musical Theater, Vocal Director; Spring 2010*
  - *Musical Theatre Workshops; Summer 2005-2007 “Studio Singing” Music Dept., 12 weeks; Spring 2006*
- *Crafton Hills Community College, Yucaipa, CA*
  - *Creativity Workshop Spring 2015, 2016, 2017; Professional Development, Flex,*
  - *Creativity Workshops Fall, 2011; Spring 2012; Fall, 2013; Creativity and Public Speaking, Spring 2012*
- *Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA*
  - *Creativity Workshop; September, 2014*

- SAG/AFTRA, Los Angeles, CA
  - Creativity and the Singer; October 2014
- AMDA, Hollywood, CA
  - Songwriting & Creativity 10-week Workshops; Fall 2011-14
  - *Artreach*, Wise, VA ~ Summer Workshops; 2009-2010
- SCV Artists Association; Santa Clarita, CA
  - Creativity and the Artist; Fall 2007, Spring 2006
  - SCV Adult Day Care, HMN Hospital, Santa Clarita, CA
  - Creativity Advocate; Monthly Workshops 2000-2006

#### **PROFESSIONAL VOCAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH:**

- Dr. Rita Smilkstein, “How the Brain Learns” Seminar, Flex hours, SBCCA. 2005
- Joanna Cazden-MFA, MS-CCC, Speech Pathologist, Cedars Sinai, CA. 2003-2011
- Dr. Daniel Kemplar -UCLA Medical Center, LA, CA. 2000
- Seth Riggs- Founder SLS International, LA, CA. 2005
- Gerald White- MA. Top Session Singer, LA, CA. 1995-1999
- Roger Love- Warner Brothers, New York Music Institute, LA, CA. 1985-1988

#### **PROFESSIONAL COMPOSITION TRAINING:**

- Singer/Songwriter Certificate, Dick Grove School of Music, Los Angeles, CA. 1984

#### **CREATIVE PRODUCTIONS:**

- *Kulak’s Woodshed*, Regular Webcast Singer Showcases, North Hollywood CA; 2011-current
- *The Loft* Fundraiser, Los Angeles, CA; 2010 ~Singer
- Theme song for “Outpost,” Award Winning Short film 2009 ~Composer and Singer
- Theme Song for “The Passerby,” Award Winning Short Film 2004 ~Composer and Singer
- City Wide Songwriter Showcase, Santa Clarita, CA; 2004 ~Songwriter, Singer, Director, Producer
- *With Song* Community Service Benefit, Santa Clarita, CA; 2003-2019 ~Songwriter, Singer, Director
- ASCAP Songwriter, Collaborator for MTV Composition, “Secrets of My Soul” 2002
- Singer/Songwriter Leukemia Society Benefit, Hollywood, CA; 2000, Songwriter, Producer, Director
- Recording Artist 2000-present (Munchkin, ?What, Genius, Surface and Dream Studios)

### *Testimonials and Recommendations*

#### **MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

“I am pleased to recommend Rene Urbanovich teacher of singing and a specialist in safe, healthy production of pop/contemporary styles. I have known Rene since 2003 as a student and colleague, and she has impressed me with her dedication to the arts of singing and of teaching. When Rene has come to me for coaching, she is full of questions about vocal mechanics and pedagogical skills, clearly dedicated to giving her own students clear, up-to-date information. In my experience as a voice specialist and consultant, this shows an unusual degree of enthusiasm for all things voice-related, and an equally high concern for her students' well-being.”

~ Joanna Cazden, Speech Pathologist, *Voice Specialist; Founder, VoiceofYourLife.com*

“Rene has an excellent understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the vocal mechanism. She presents this information in such a simple and interesting way, that everyone can understand their vocal instrument!”

~ Dr. Daniel Kemplar, PhD, *USC Medical Center*

## PERFORMERS



“Rene used her incredible knowledge and positivity to make me a much more capable singer and performer! She made me feel completely comfortable so she could really get the best out of my voice!”

–Kevin McHale, “Artie” from *Glee*

“Rene helped me overcome vocal problems that had hindered me for years. Because of people like Rene, I have been able to reach my goals and most importantly... do what I love due to the support and instruction I've received. Rene comes highly recommended and commended as a major influence in the Los Angeles community.”

- Gerald White, *AFTRA; Screen Actors Guild; Professional L.A. Session Singer (Happy Feet, Spiderman, Princess Diaries, Disney, Whitney Houston, Patti La Belle); Top SLS Vocal Instructor (Idina Menzel, Val Kilmer, Beverly Mitchell)*





“Rene Urbanovich took me under her wing and essentially, explained how the voice worked. I still do the exercises that she taught me even after touring with Annie for over two years. Because of her instruction I was able to gain vocal agility, range and stamina. I’ve done over 500 shows and Rene taught me how to use my mixed voice and how to utilize my voice economically. I feel I owe her so much but would settle for a big hug!”

-Garrett Deagon, *Rooster in Broadway’s Annie*



“After working with Rene, our daughter booked professional roles and it is our belief that what she learned was a major piece in getting her to the proverbial ‘next level’ as a performer/artist. After just a few sessions our daughter gained a greater confidence. These one-on-ones have been instrumental in helping her to develop a quiet confidence.”

-Emma Howard, *Broadway’s Matilda and Violet*



“Rene Urbanovich is perhaps the finest voice teacher I’ve encountered. In five minutes of watching her teach, I learned more about the vocal instrument than in years of voice lessons. Her approach is clear and extremely accessible. She has an amazing ear and in the tradition of the great Bel Canto teachers, she discerns most of her understanding and approach with each student simply by listening. I’ve watched student after student be transformed vocally through her. Rene can work with anyone, regardless of age, training or personal limitations. For the past several years, she has been a part of a team of artists who I’ve enlisted to work art camps and seminars. Each year there are little (and some HUGE) miracles with these folks in their classes and workshops with Rene. One student, whose lovely tenor voice opened beautifully while working with Rene said it best – ‘She changed my life.’”

-Mark Salyer, *ArtReach, The Loft*

## ACADEMIC

“Critical to your needs is the demand for encouragement of students’ development, and it is

here where Ms. Urbanovich's abilities and talents will be most appreciated. Carefully-crafted communication and discretion are her strengths, and she has successfully managed several difficult situations with prudence and acumen. Ms. Urbanovich is very knowledgeable in creative theory and the encouragement of artistic imagination in composers, as she is an accomplished writer herself."

-Dr. Floyd Moos, *Assistant Superintendent, Vice President of Instruction 2013 College of the Canyons Santa Clarita, CA*

"Pedagogically, I have directly observed Rene's quiet confidence quickly disarm any performance anxiety or apprehension students may feel during a private lesson or a workshop format. Her decades of vocal teaching experience, strong academic background in fostering and developing creativity, and affable and nurturing personality all combine into a wonderfully inspiring and safe environment in which students can grow and flourish as developing artists. She has a natural ability to motivate students of all ages and ability levels; her engaging personality and inventive solutions to vocal barriers have made her a popular, dynamic teacher and a local vocal icon. I have served in a wide variety of peer and community leadership roles throughout my career in secondary education, and Rene Urbanovich is simply one of the best instructors I have encountered. She is the complete package, a natural teacher, caring and supportive yet demanding and precise, creative and innovative in her approaches, tirelessly dedicated to helping emerging artists, articulate and strong of character, and most importantly a passionate motivator for youth. Rene has clearly distinguished herself as an outstanding instructor with a deep commitment to arts education in the Santa Clarita community. She carries my highest recommendation and will certainly serve your students with the highest level of professionalism and inspiration."

-Ty Devoe, *Principal, Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District Acton, CA*<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>