

Carol Higgins

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Personal Statement

I am an American interdisciplinary artist known for creating musical short films that challenge stereotypes. My work is characterized by colorful imagery over dark palettes, artistic alchemy, and instrumental music composition. I studied information technology in the U.S. Army and also have experience in fashion design, garment production, screenwriting, photography, cake decorating, sugar crafting, and dance, as well as a host of other skills and interests. I have spent 9 years in Europe where I had the opportunity to self-study across Germany, France, and Italy. Thanks to my unique experience and technical training, I am able to grasp concepts quickly, work effectively on a team, and adapt to changing environments.

I recently earned a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance from Arizona State University, where I was honored with the Outstanding Undergraduate award. I am working towards a Master in Fine Arts degree and ultimately a Doctor of Philosophy in Visual and Performing Arts degree as I continue to work on personal and community projects.

The most current version of my CV can be download at your convenience:
<https://carolhiggins.art/#Education>

Education

January 2021 – December 2024

Bachelor of Arts | Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance

Arizona State University

- Completed a four year program in three years maintaining above 4.0 GPA while living abroad.
- Participated in each course with an interdisciplinary approach combining knowledge to further understand and explore topics.
- Notable courses included science & Art of Botanical Design, four French language courses, Animating Virtual Worlds, History of Fashion I & II, Art and War, Contemporary Performance, and numerous performing and fine art courses.
- Developed and implemented innovative performance pieces that integrated multiple art forms.
- Completed a culminating project under professor mentorship.

January 2016 – December 2017

PPA Professional Diploma of Cake Design & Sugarcraft

Peggy Porschen Academy, London, U.K.

- Mastered all 5 mandatory courses:
 - Cake Decorating Techniques - July 2016
 - The Business of Wedding Cakes - January 2017
 - Baking Layering & Icing - March 2017
 - Handcrafted Sugar Flowers - July 2017
 - Tiered Wedding Cakes - July 2017

Work Experience

January 2025 - Current

Musical Theater Instructor

Puretone Academy

COLUMBIA, SC

- Currently volunteering to develop and implement a “musical theater” curriculum for Puretone Academy where students are introduced to the elements of theater in an interdisciplinary setting.
- Through creative processes, I lead a class of students in writing a storyline and screenplay, composing music, creating choreography, and acting which will ultimately be presented as a performance.
- Students learn fundamentals of theater including set design, lighting, sound, and costume design.

August 2023 – May 2024

Director of Online Student Advocacy

Arizona State University

WEST VALLEY CAMPUS, AZ

- Addressed student challenges and concerns of ASU online students.
- Met regularly with ASASU leadership and staff advisors to discuss and implement projects.
- Advocated for online students and encouraged participation and conversation amongst the online student body.
- Served as the Chair for the Online Student Advocacy Committee (OSAC) which consisted of all online Directors and Senators bi-weekly meetings with members of the Council of Presidents and ASU advisors.

January 2005 - Current

Owner, Designer

Maddy’s Girl

COLUMBIA, SC

- Successfully maintain and develop a boutique style children's apparel brand.
- Produce hand-made clothing and accessories for children.
- Develop and maintain website according to the changing needs and trends of the fashion and social networking community.
- Design and produce children’s costumes for theatrical productions
- Design and produce spirit clothing and accessories for DODEA elementary schools.

Work Experience (continued)

February 2014 – January 2019

Owner, Designer

Maddy's Girl Bavaria Storefront

GRAFENWÖHR, GERMANY

- Opened and maintained a brick & mortar boutique in the heart of Bavaria Germany
- Produced and sold unique children's clothing and accessories.
- Provided custom birthday attire for young children and coordinating attire for their party guests and family.
- Earned a "Grand Diploma in Cake Decorating and Sugarcraft" at Peggy Porschen Academy in London, U.K. in order to fulfill German requirements for a baking license so that I could provide my customers with coordinating cakes and pastries for their events.

February 2011 – February 2012

Production Assistant / Pattern Manager

Scollon Productions

WHITE ROCK, SC

- Assisted with daily operations of the sewing room.
- Maintained inventory of fabrics, furs, and patterns.
- Reverse engineered outdated mascots for clients to produce new patterns.
- Met with upper management daily to collaborate on projects.
- Worked in each department of production as needed.

January 2000 – February 2003

Systems Analyst II

City of Alexandria Circuit Court Judges

ALEXANDRIA, VA

- Maintained data integrity, network security, and system stability on all CJIS within the Courthouse, Probation and Parole, Public Defender, Sheriff's
- Department, Police Department and Women's Shelter.
- Maintained professional relationships with clients to improve their work-flow on a daily basis.
- Co-authored database automation project to improve the overall CJIS.

April 1994 – February 1997

74B Information Systems Operator – Analyst (Now 25B)

U.S. Army Signal Corps

FORT LEE, VA

- Supervised, installed, operated and performed unit level maintenance on multi-functional/multi-user information processing systems, peripheral equipment, and associated devices in mobile and fixed facilities.
- Performed analyst functions; constructed, edited, and tested computer system programs.
- Conducted data system studies and prepared documentation and specifications for proposals.

Projects in Progress

February 2024 - Current

Pointé de Couture - the Popup Book

Authoring, book publishing

Developing popup book that illustrates the story within my short film and is suitable for children

January 2024 - Current

Puretone Academy

Directing, Teaching

Developing curriculum for musical theater classes for children ages 7 to 17 that incorporates themed elements as provided by students and staff.

February 2025 - March 2025

The Power of Flowers

Music Composition, Arrangement, Collaboration

A song written for "I Have a Dream" where the lyrics were largely crafted by my students from a poetry exercise during our musical theater class. The duet performance is done in speak-singing with musical accompaniment.

December 2024 - Current

La Rouge

Screenplay writing, music composition, acting, costume design directing

Currently developing screenplay and planning for the sequel to Pointé de Couture

Completed Projects

February 2025 - March 2025

Blooming Voices

Music Composition

A song written for "I Have a Dream" to express the main character's desire to learn to sing while the "Fairy Godmother" teaches her how it is done.

PURETONE ACADEMY

Columbia, South Carolina

[Link](#)

October 2024 - November 2024

Calash Bonnet and Cape (dDupioni Silk)

Costume design

18th century calash bonnet for Pointé de Couture and La rouge

[Link](#)

Completed Projects (continued)

January 2022 - December 2024

Pointé de Couture

Director, Music Composer, Set Designer, Graphic Artist, Costume Designer, Actress, Post-production

A musical retelling and deconstruction of Charles Perrault's classic tale of "Cendrillon" or "Cinderella" without the magic. Rose, a dressmaker, frustrated with her designs being accredited to a "Fairy Godmother", seeks to be acknowledged as her childhood friend Ella has used Rose's designs to achieve her personal goals of becoming a princess.

[Link](#) | [Website](#)

February 2022 - November 2024

All Wrapped Up In It

Music Composition and Lyrics

[Link to Orchestral Version](#) | [Performance](#) (sung by Teddi B.)

November - December 2023

Chromesthesia

Performance Art - Poetry, music composition, experimental coding

A performance art piece featuring music poetry that explores chromesthesia and other types of synesthesia (such as tactile-visual synesthesia and touch synesthesia). It has been performed and recorded in Touch Designer and features interactive/reactive particles that react to touch and sound through movement and color.

[Link](#) | [Orchestration](#)

June 2024

The Perfect Human (Reimagined Performance)

[Link](#)

May 2024

Godmom

Performance Art - Poetry, musical arrangement, costume design

A satirical performance illustrating the outdated and unrealistic concept of fairy godmothers as popularized by Charles Perrault, and its negative impact on society, especially young girls who feel pressured to pursue perfection to please, appease, or attract the attention of men.

[Link](#)

March 2021 - November 2024

Rose's Monologue

Music Composition, Acting

Music composition written primarily in PreSonus Notion for *Pointé de Couture* which conveys the characters disdain for events that took place at Versailles.

[Orchestration](#) | [Performance](#)

Completed Projects (continued)

June 2023

Chasing Poppies

Visual and Performing Art (Acrylic painting, floral arrangement, and music composition)

An acrylic painting of a familiar landscape between Grafenwöhr and Eschenbach, Germany where I spent the summer learning about poppies. The painting is accompanied by a short music composition (attached via a recorded sound module) that illustrates how as I foraged several poppies, the petals would begin to fly away leaving me with a handful of stems until I finally learned the correct procedure.

[Link](#) | [Link](#)

February 2023

What's Color Got To Do With It?

Directing, Writing, Acting, Set Design, Costume & Makeup Design

A performance art piece consisting of poetry, music, and movement. The performance explores racial stereotypes and color theory cohesively by exploring the psychological effects of different colors while bringing attention to bias and racism, metaphorically. This piece speaks to all people as I will be representing multiple ethnicities as fundamental colors of the spectrum.

[Link](#) | [Video](#)

January 2023

Light a Fire They Can't Put Out

Graphic Design/Composite Image

Composite image meant to convey how fueling our passions and ideas by taking action to fulfill them, may prompt others who are threatened by our talents to diminish our radiance or reduce our volume. They are never successful, because our passions are deeply rooted within us and cannot be removed or minimized by others. Although this image is a depiction of me, it applies to all artists.

[Link](#)

October 2023

Une histoire au passé : Mon voyage le plus inoubliable

Creative Writing, French Language Proficiency

Comical short story written in French about my summer adventure to Italy with my niece.

[Link](#)

January 2024 - April 2024

Robe à la française (dorée)

Costume Design and Production

Designed an 18th century robe à la française in gold for the 2024 Grand Masked Ball (Le Grand Bal Masqué)

Orangery of the Château de Versailles

Versailles, France

Completed Projects (continued)

March 2024 - May 2024

Robe à la française (bleue)

Costume Design and Production

Designed for the 2024 Grand Masked Ball (Le Grand Bal Masqué)
Orangery of the Château de Versailles
Versailles, France

February 2013- May 2013

Ursula

Costume Design and Production, Ursula (Octopus style costume)

Designed for the May 2013 performances of “Little Mermaid, Jr.”
Vilseck High School, Vilseck Germany

[Link](#) | [Link](#) | [Link](#)

February 2013 - April 2013

Ariel

Costume Design and Production

Dress designed for the May 2013 performances of “Little Mermaid, Jr.”
Vilseck High School, Vilseck Germany

[Link](#) | [Link](#) | [Link](#) | [Link](#)

March 2013

Sebastian’s Claws

Costume Design and Production

Designed for the May 2013 performances of “Little Mermaid, Jr.”
Vilseck High School, Vilseck Germany

[Link](#) | [Link](#) | [Link](#)

April 2013

3 Costumes for Scuttle and two seagulls

Costume Design and Production

Designed for the May 2013 performances of “Little Mermaid, Jr.”
Vilseck High School, Vilseck Germany

[Link](#)

February 2013 - April 2013

King Triton’s Skirt

Costume Design and Production

Designed for the May 2013 performances of “Little Mermaid, Jr.”
Vilseck High School, Vilseck Germany

[Link](#) | [Link](#) | [Link](#) | [Link](#)

Completed Projects (continued)

July 2013 - August 2013

Archery Princess

Costume Design and Production

Renaissance-style tutu dress features a stretchy lace ruffled peasant top beneath a custom tailored corset with a layered tail. The full tulle skirt has a removable train and adjustable waistline.

Pressath, Germany

[Link](#) | [Link](#) | [Link](#)

November 2013

Little Red Riding Hood

Costume Design and Production

Costume design and production, Little Red Riding Hood photoshoot by Winter's Splendor Photography Pressath, Germany

[Link](#) | [Link](#) | [Link](#) | [Link](#) | [Link](#)

Awards & Affiliations

December 2024

Outstanding Undergraduate Award

ASU New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

https://youtu.be/T8AYy2PuU40?si=psbZi_IKXrD2Bixl&t=2068

<https://news.asu.edu/20241212-arts-humanities-and-education-embracing-creativity-and-lifelong-learning-asu-online-grad>

December 2024

Moeur Award

ASU Alumni Association

https://graduation.asu.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/ASU_FALL2024_DayofWEB_LINKS.pdf

December 2024

Summa Cum Laude

Since 2024

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

Arizona State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 2024

Languages

- English (Native Proficiency)
- French (Intermediate Proficiency)
- German (A1 Beginner Proficiency)

Trademarks & Copyrights

February 2012 - Current (Filing)

Maddy's Girl Trademark

United States Patent & Trademark Office

Registration Number 4224991 (Since July 2012)

https://tsdr.uspto.gov/#caseNumber=85546633&caseSearchType=US_APPLICATION&caseType=DEFAULT&searchType=statusSearch