

Hello! Welcome. Make yourself a cup of coffee and stay a while. Thank you for reading my story, it means a lot that you're here.

My name is Tori Bogacki (she/they), and I'm a young artist whose creative work spans many disciplines. I like to consider myself as a true "Renaissance Person."

I was born in Rochester, New York, to my father, a salesman, and my mother, a ballet teacher and artist. I grew up going to dance classes and singing in the choir at Hochstein School of Music and Dance; I always looked forward to any opportunity to get creative. Apart from that, I was a very quiet, gentle natured and sensitive kid, whose time was best spent walking through nature and observing the animals near the big farm where I grew up. I also loved going to the local library and picking out movies to watch- I had a soft spot for "The Muppet Show," and would *constantly* rewatch the episode with Joel Grey. He was one of my favorites, along with Elton John. (*Shocker* that I grew up to be queer!).

I attended High School on a performing arts scholarship at Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women. The school teaches their students how to be fierce, independent, and successful, and functions largely as a college prep. I credit a lot of who I have become to the wonderful teachers I had there. (If any of you happen to be reading this right now: hi, I love you.)

During my time there, I explored my love for theater. I performed both with Our Lady of Mercy's program and the joint program at the boys' school, McQuaid Jesuit. My credits include Rosalind (*As You Like It*), Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*), Margot (*Dial M for Murder*), Medda Larkin (*Newsies*), Sheila (A Chorus Line), Mrs. Krebbs (*Inherit the Wind*), and Mrs. Webb (*Our Town*).

During this same period, I worked with WallByrd Theatre Company under the direction of Virginia Monte. I began working with Virginia as an intern, after having been referred by my vocal coach at the time, Laura Jean Diekmann.

I loved sitting in on rehearsals, excitedly scribbling notes and ideas into my notebook every night as I watched and learned from Virginia. I was then credited in later programs as Assistant Director on the company's production of *Romeo and Juliet* in 2016. I went on to garner a role as one of the Witches in the company's 2017, post nuclear production of *Macbeth*, and to this day it stands as one of my favorite productions I've ever worked on.

In the later part of Highschool, I also worked Producing and Directing original short films, including *Birdsong* and *A Red Ribbon's Artist*. *Birdsong* explores the relationship between mental health and the creation of art, as well as the impact of self isolation on relationships. *A Red Ribbon's Artist* follows the story of a young man who's seeking inspiration for his drawings, and finds an elusive, mystery muse named Fae. I discovered, around this time, that I had a director's eye, and that I not only wanted to be part of stories (acting, performing) but I wanted to craft them myself (directing, producing).

In Spring 2019, I Produced and Directed my first documentary feature film, *Beyond the Ballot Box*. My passion for women's rights and fierce feminism inspired the creation of this film focused on the relationship between the work of Susan B. Anthony and questions of modern feminism in our shared home city. I got the opportunity to interview many of the city's most powerful and influential women, including Reverend Myra Brown and WXXI Reporter and Producer Beth Adams.

I began my career at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY in the Fall of 2019. In my time there, my career in both Film and Theatre expanded greatly, as I began as a double major in Film and Theatre before being granted entrance into the BFA in Drama Performance program in the spring of my sophomore year.

I continued to create short films, including a modern re-interpretation of Singing in the Rain called *Singin' At Hofstra* and a collage-driven film called *Isolation*, which investigates the dynamics between isolation, memory, hope, and the recent COVID-19 Pandemic.

In early college, likewise, I worked with Powerhouse 27 Production Company, under the direction of Carol Cielinski. With her guidance, I got wonderful exposure to working the professional production side of Film and Television. I cherish the skills I learned from her everytime I step onto a set, whether behind or in front of a camera.

In the Fall of 2020, I wrote, directed, and produced *Sonya by the Sea*, a proof of concept for my feature film screenplay of the same title. The film is semi-autobiographical, and follows the life of teen Sonya as she navigates the grief that comes with the death of her father as well as the economic hardships imposed by his death, all while meanwhile pursuing her dream of being a musician. During the pandemic, the film had an online premiere and ZOOM Q+A event.

In 2021, I produced and directed my second documentary feature *Voices of Inspiration*, which had regional premieres at both the Century Club in Downtown Rochester and Rochester area schools. The film was inspired by my work for the nonprofit organization Angels of Mercy, which services women who are survivors of sexual and domestic violence in Upstate New York. For the film, I had the privilege of speaking with women who have been helped through Angels of Mercy, interviewing them about both their past experiences and their newfound triumphs.

My work as a young film director was written up in the New York Youth Collective Magazine *Scramble!* in early 2021.

During college, I not only worked behind the camera, but likewise played roles in many student led short films and television pilots, including: Katherine (*The Elevator*), Stephanie (*Serendipity*), Rakel (*The Big Test*), Angelica (*Dance, Girl, Dance*), and Lily Beaufooy (*Rolling with the Punches*, directed by Rowan Hladik).

I likewise had professional acting opportunities, including: Alison Hart (*A Date for Anya*, directed by Paul Tracy with Westwood Studios) and Carmelina (v.o) (*Made by Immigrants*, directed by Carlo Genarelli).

During my sophomore year at Hofstra, I was granted a coveted spot in the BFA Drama Performance class of 2023.

My Hofstra University Theater acting credits include: The Doctor (*A Quaint and Curious Volume of Forgotten Lore*, written and directed by Mystery Skelton (W.P.)) Cassie (*Rumors*, directed by Chris Dippel), and Gertrude (*Hamletmachine*, directed by Harrison Campbell).

I've had the privilege and opportunity of studying with some of the industry's foremost artists. In the Summer of 2022, I was chosen to participate in a summer Shakespeare intensive at The Globe Theatre in London, studying under James Garnon. I've had a love for Shakespeare since I was in middle school, so the chance to hone my skills in Shakespeare's backyard was truly a dream come true.

Further, I've studied classical voice under both Kelly Nassief and Tammy Hensrud, and have trained as an actor with Chris Dippel, Tatiana Pandiani, and Cindy D. Rosenthal, to name a few.

Apart from my work as a theater and film artist, I've also hosted a mental health based podcast called "Tea Time with Tori." I'm a published author, as my chapbook of poetry *Moonface Child: My Life in Poetry* was released in spring 2021. I'm also an avid photographer, and my portrait photography was featured in *Fortune* magazine as of Fall 2021. Like I said- Renaissance person. My creative interests span across all arenas, and as my highschool English teacher Mr. Baynes once mused about me, "If you're not juggling a million things at once, Bogacki, THEN I worry about you."

In Winter of 2022, I directed Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice*, which was dedicated in memory of my Father, Paul, my Uncle, Mark, and my Grandmother, Zora. This project (seen in my directing gallery) was life changing. The story resonated with me from my first interaction with it, and I felt the pull to present it as I felt that it perfectly captured the experience of growing into young adulthood while carrying a very raw, childlike grief over the loss of a parent. With clearance from the original publishing company to do a cut version of the script, I presented my take on *Eurydice* as part of Hofstra University's student rep.

I also have begun, in the past two years, embarking on a career as a singer, making my Opera Debut as Annio in *La Clemenza di Tito* in February 2023 under the direction of Talia Feldberg (with consultation by Mikhaela Mahony.) I'm currently (2024) in development on a new album of original music.

Most recent creative credits include:

in June of 2023, I participated in the Youth Division of the Spoleto Festival Dei du Monde, directing Arianna Wentworth's new play, *One Little Room*. It was an honor to be the only American team present in the festival!

In February 2024, I made my NYC theatrical debut in the SPF LUV Fest directing Kaitlyn RaBosce's new play, "I Don't" at The Players Theatre.

As of June 2024, I Co-Founded the theatre arts collective “Reverie Arts Collective” and served as director and producer for their pioneer production, *The Goblin Woman* (@thegoblinwoman) by Mackenzie Robin Krestul.

Thank you for reading my story! I hope the coffee was good.

Interested in collaborating together? Let’s get to know each other better!

Email me!

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