



Leslie McCurdy

<http://lesliemccurdy.ca/>

Recipient of the 2014 Elizabeth Havelock Grant from the Windsor Endowment of the Arts, and The 2014 and 2000 Mayor's Awards for "Artist of the Year" and "'Outstanding Performing Artist" of Windsor Ontario respectively. Leslie McCurdy, has forged her career performing internationally as an Actor, Dancer/(Choreographer), and Singer. Also a teacher, with an Honors B.F.A. in dance with teaching certification from the University of Michigan, Leslie served as choreographic and teaching assistant to Judith Jamison of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and was slated to go to New York to apprentice with the Ailey Company when she literally tripped, fractured her hip, and fell into acting. Credits include; Mrs. Barker in *American Dream*; Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*; Risa in *Two Trains Running*; *Nurse Ratchet* in *One Flew*

Over the Cuckoo's Nest; Bobbie-Michelle in *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*; Dorothy in *The Wiz*; Laura McClellan-Williams in *Checkmates*; The Acid Queen in *Tommy*; Fraulein Kost in *Cabaret*; The Coochie-Snoocher in *The Vagina Monologues*, and appearances in ABC's *Detroit 1-8-7*, and several movies, including *Ides of March*, under the direction of George Clooney. Also a playwright, Leslie has, among other things, written two one-woman plays that she has performed for eighteen years touring internationally, with over 100 performances annually. *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman*, her most "famous" play, was a finalist for a Canadian Chalmers Award for Best New Play for Young Audiences and was performed at the 2010 Los Angeles Women's Festival, The 2011 National Black Theatre Festival in North Carolina, the inaugural Living Legacy Series of the DC Black Theatre Festival Washington DC in 2012 and the inaugural Paul Robeson Art is a Weapon Theatre Festival in London England. Her second play, *Things My Fore-Sisters Saw*, was filmed for TV and was premiered on the Bravo Network in Canada in February 2006. A two-person adaptation of that play entitled *Voice of the Fore-Sisters* was commissioned by the Black Theatre Workshop in Montreal Que. for one of its more successful school tours. Leslie also penned a version of Harriet Tubman's story for primary students entitled *Harriet is My Hero* that has quickly come into demand.

Leslie finds time for community involvement in Windsor and often volunteers as a dance and drama teacher and has created and/or worked with several programs focused on providing youth with training in all aspects of theatre performance and production, most recently as Lead Mentor with ACT (ARTS Collective Theatre), as Producer and Co-director of SWAGGOR, (Students with a Genuine Grip On Reality) a youth theatre group she created, and through Learning Through the Arts Programs in schools. She has returned to her dance roots, her first love, and dances with several small companies in Detroit and Windsor. In 2015 she premiered two new shows to rave reviews, "The Shelton Brooks Darktown Strutters Review and Ball" and "Lady Ain't Singing No Blues", a one-woman play about Billie Holiday.