

Marsha Jackson-Randolph

Show Director -Walt Disney Parks Live Entertainment, Orlando, Florida

Ms. Jackson-Randolph brought an extensive background in the professional theatre and field of entertainment to her role with Disney. Her distinguished career includes work as a director, published playwright, actor, co-founder of a cultural institution, and arts advocate serving ten years on panels of the National Endowment for the Arts and a host of arts granting foundations. She garnered impressive acting credits abroad and nationally, including her **Broadway debut in 1988**, acting in the play *Checkmates*, with co-stars **Denzel Washington, Ruby Dee, and Paul Winfield**.

The career artist became a Show Director with Disney World in Orlando in January 2006. She has been director for many high-profile ground breaking Disney projects. Among them:

- Director and writer, **The Lion King Concert in the Wild**, a theatrical staging celebrating the 20th anniversary of the film release, featuring celebrated Guests artists including Viola Davis, Joe Morton, Alfre Woodard, and Brian Stokes Mitchell.
- Director, **Disney's Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey and Essence Magazine**, an initiative creating dream come true and life changing experiences for 100 high school age youth since 2008.
- Director, **Un Sueño Hecho Realidad Quinceanera**, the first Walt Disney World dream come true quinceanera week-end for Latinas and their families.
- **Show Direction, EPCOT Park (May 2016-present)** with responsibilities including collaboration with Executive leadership in development and direction of entertainment programming.
- **Show Director, Disney's Animal Kingdom Park**, (January 2008-2016) development of entertainment programming for the park, including six years leading the production team for **"Finding Nemo the Musical"**, a lavish stage production based on the Disney-Pixar film, "Finding Nemo"
- Director of the media roll-out for **Princess Tiana** in conjunction with the preview of "The Princess and the Frog" for the National Association of Black Journalists.

Prior to coming to Disney her other career highlights included:

- Co-founder and Artistic Director for Jomandi Production, for over 20 years one of the premiere producers of new theatre works and artists; Jomandi was featured twice Off-Broadway and two years at Lincoln Center.
- Director of over 75 productions including *Checkmates* with Carl Gordon, *Higher Ground* with Whitman Mayo, *Black Nativity*, *Having Our Say*, *Fences* and *From the Mississippi Delta*.
- Guest director for major regional theatres and showcases including The Studio Theatre in Washington, Mixed Blood Theatre of Minneapolis, The National Black Theatre Festival, Pittsburgh's City Theatre, The Springer Opera House of Columbus, Georgia, and for colleges and universities including Florida A&M and Clark Atlanta University.
- She is a playwright of numerous works, including "Sisters" presented Off-Broadway by the Joyce Theatre, with support from the NBC New Voices Program. She worked extensively in the regional theatre field, including over 10 years as a panelist for several programs of the National Endowment for the Arts,

Her awards and career recognition includes:

- Recognition by The Washington Theatre Society in ceremonies at the Kennedy Center, with a Helen Hayes nomination for Best Director.
- Audelco Award nomination for her directorial work in New York.
- ABC New Talent Development program, selected for the competitive program to develop screenplay on the life of Sam Cook.
- Ms. Jackson-Randolph, a magna cum laude graduate of Smith College is also a graduate of Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Among her greatest and most fulfilling rewards, **Ms. Jackson-Randolph** is a single mother of a gifted son, **Aaron James**, who will enter the highly competitive Ringling College this fall, where he will pursue his dream to be an animator. For someone who views helping others as a spiritual calling---Marsha lives a dream come true every day!