

Aleta Chappelle **Professional Biography**

After attending AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATRE of San Francisco, Aleta Chappelle became a company member of the NEW SHAKESPEARE COMPANY of San Francisco, performing in Golden Gate Park and touring the United States with three of Shakespeare's plays in repertory along with Bercht's THREE PENNY OPERA. She continued to work in classical theatre as a company member two summer's in a row, at the LOS ANGELES SHAKESPEARE THEATRE performing at the Ford Theatre.

Her career in the film business began when she was hired to work at Francis Ford Coppola's ZOETROPE STUDIOS in the casting department, where she assisted on such films as THE OUTSIDERS, RUMBLE FISH, TUCKER, PEGGY SUE GOT MARRIED, and THE COTTON CLUB. Moving up to Casting Director some of her film credits include; GODFATHER 3, DRUMLINE, MATERIAL GIRLS, NUTTY PROFESSOR, SISTER ACT 2, GUARDING TESS, NEW YORK STORIES-ZOE, BOOMERANG, and RAMBLING ROSE.

On the highly acclaimed feature film MOOZ-LUM, Ms. Chappelle was an associate producer as well as the film's casting director. She also did the New York casting for Sofia Coppola's film SOMEWHERE. Two of the feature films she cast - TRADE starring Kevin Klein and HBO's LIFE SUPPORT starring Queen Latifah, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. She also received two ARTIOS AWARD nominations from the Casting Society of America for both LIFE SUPPORT and INTRODUCING DOROTHY DANDRIDGE, starring Halle Berry.

Ms. Chappelle's feature film directing debut was GOOSED starring Jennifer Tilly, Damon Wayans and Joan Rivers. It premiered on SHOWTIME and enjoyed an international theatrical release. The micro-budget feature film FIRE which she co-wrote and directed, had a limited US, Canada and Caribbean theatrical release, and the film recently sold to SHOWTIME. And her short film A HARLEM FANTASY premiered on PBS as part of their Paul Robeson Gala Presentation.

For the stage Ms. Chappelle wrote and directed the Off Broadway production of THE MARY ELLEN PLEASANT STORY, starring Michael Michelle. Her OFF, OFF BROADWAY production THE CONCEPT OF LOVE starred Julianna Margulies and Veronica Webb. Four years ago she founded and continues to direct the HARLEM CHILDREN'S THEATRE, which presents free performance at Libraries in Harlem. In 2010 she directed Shakespeare's MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and this past summer she directed ROMEO AND JULIET in Tivoli Park, an annual summer event sponsored by the Village of Tivoli, NY.

Ms. Chappelle continues to cast independent and studio films, while her production company has a number of projects in development; the HARLEM CHILDREN'S THEATRE DOCUMENTARY, the feature film projects EXTREMADURAN PORTRAITS starring Danny Glover and OVERTURE starring Kathleen Turner and Evan Ross. She will also direct MACBETH, her modern day adaptation of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" set in the Caribbean and starring Terrence Howard, Sanaa Lathan, Harry Lennix and Blair Underwood. She is currently in pre-production on another Shakespeare film adaptation that she wrote and will direct "ROMEO'S & JULIET'S IN HARLEM."