

# Disability as an Invitation to Create

Reconceptualizing Radical  
Inclusion

A workshop sponsored by the  
Mid-America Theatre  
Conference Accessibility  
Committee

**23 JANUARY 2023**

6:30 – 8:00 PM Eastern Time



**Terry Galloway**  
Performance Artist



**Dr. Donna Marie Nudd**  
Director and Professor

# Description

Too often, non-disabled people in theater aren't imaginative (or experienced) enough to regard disability as a performance opportunity rather than a directorial obstacle. This workshop will be an intense and informed brainstorming session in which participants will explore creative ways disability has been and can be integrated into productions to invigorate tired old tropes of theater.

Workshop leaders and participants will be sharing examples of successes and failures in integrating disability into theater; talking frankly about disability bias, including reverse bias which sometimes turns accommodation into indulgence. Workshop leaders will be using examples from Actual Lives, a theater workshop exclusively for adults with disabilities in Austin Texas; the Mickee Faust Club a 35-year-old "community theater for the weird, queer and disability community in Tallahassee, Florida; *The Ugly Girl*, a musical tragedy in burlesque that featured four women actor/activists which debuted at Liverpool's DaDaFest; and other examples of recent theater that rose to the occasion (like UK's production of *Wendy Hoose* and *The Government Inspector*) and reconsidering those that did not.

# Bios

Terry Galloway is a deaf, queer, globe-trotting, grunt-work performance artist. She's performed all four of her one-woman shows in a variety of venues from the American Place Theater in New York to the Zap Club in Brighton, England. She writes as well as performs and her articles, monologues, poems and performance texts appear in numerous anthologies about queerness, disability, theater and Elvis. In Austin, Texas, Terry was known for her cross-dressing performances at Shakespeare at Winedale, and at Esther's Follies, of which she was a founding member. She also co-founded Actual Lives Austin and Actual Lives Tallahassee, the writing and performance workshops for adults with disabilities. In Tallahassee, Florida she's best known as Mickee Faust, the cigar-puffing, beer-swilling evil rat (twin to a certain unctuous rodent in Orlando) who heads up the Mickee Faust Club, a LGBTQ+/Disability oriented community theater for the weird community. In addition to theater, the Mickee Faust company produces award-winning radio and video shorts: Faust's most recent video "Isolation" has been featured in disability and queer film festivals around the country.

Galloway herself has received grants and awards from, among others, the NEA, the Texas Institute of Letters, the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, the Theater Communications Group and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Eight years ago she received a cochlear implant that allowed her to hear for the first time since she was nine. Four years later her musical *The Ugly Girl: A Musical Tragedy in Burlesque* debuted at Liverpool's DaDaFest and toured central England with an international cast of women actors with disabilities. In the summer of 2022, she worked with Grammy Award winning composer Peter Stopschinski to adapt her solo show *Lardo Weeping* into an opera that debuted and was later recorded in Austin, Texas; that same fall, *The Cursed House of Ravensmadd*, her co-written queer, feminist, parodic musical take on Victorian gothic novels, debuted in Tallahassee, Fl. She is currently at work on a film adaptation of her memoir, the Lambda Award finalist and winner of the Golden Crown Literary Award, *Mean Little deaf Queer*, published by Beacon Press.

Dr. Donna Marie Nudd is a Professor at Florida State University. Her research and teaching areas are in Performance Studies, Gender and Queer Studies, and Pedagogy. She is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the 35-year-old Mickee Faust Club, a theatre company that focuses on original work (in theatre, cabaret, video and radio). Nudd was the director and dramaturge for three of Terry's Galloway's solo shows that have been featured at over a hundred alternative theatres and universities. Galloway and Nudd live in a 1934 house in Tallahassee, Florida and have two cats, Kenny and Ollie.