

Broadway Rose Theatre Names New Executive Director

Broadway Rose is thrilled to announced the appointment of Meredith Gordon as the company's new executive director. She will assume the role on October 2, 2023.

As the company's audience returns to pre-pandemic attendance figures, the addition of the executive director position is timely. Meredith will play a pivotal role in preserving financial stability and shaping the future of Broadway Rose.

"I have known Meredith for more than 20 years, during which time I have followed her educational and professional achievements," said Producing Artistic Director Sharon Maroney. "As we plan for Broadway Rose's future, I believe Meredith's experience and fresh perspectives will undoubtedly contribute to our theatre's ongoing success."

As Executive Director of Broadway Rose Theatre, Gordon will be responsible for overseeing the administrative, financial, and operational aspects of the theatre company, ensuring its smooth functioning and growth. She will collaborate with Artistic Director Sharon Maroney and Managing Director Dan Murphy on strategic planning and resource management to support the artistic endeavors of the theatre. Additionally, Gordon will cultivate relationships with donors, sponsors, and community partners, actively engaging in fundraising efforts and promoting the theatre's mission.

Welcome Meredith!

Meet Meredith



Meredith received her Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theater from the University of Northern Colorado and performed with many local theatre companies, including Broadway Rose, before hanging up her tap shoes to start a family. Her last time on stage with BRTC was in 2008, when she played the role of Fantine in *Les Misérables*.

Meredith Gordon comes to Broadway Rose with an MBA from Willamette University and 15 years' experience developing community partnerships, raising critical funds, and managing board leadership for mission-driven organizations. She conceptualized and launched young professionals' boards for SMART Reading and Boys & Girls Aid, respectively, and led the campaign committee for Portland Community College Foundation's \$30 million *Campaign for Opportunity*. She serves as a founding advisor for the FLIP Museum, a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to re-establishing a children's museum in the Portland metropolitan area.

Meredith is married to her elementary school crush, Nate; they have a son, Westley (10), daughter, Alexandra (8), and a cat named Cupcake.

How will your experience and background serve Broadway Rose?

"I've had a unique career path that makes me distinctly suited for this work.

While I began my career as a musical theatre performer, I ultimately decided that the lifestyle and the "grind" wasn't for me. But passion for the craft gets in your bones — it never goes away. I understand the thrill of the stage and, more importantly, I know how hard these artists work onstage and off to bring productions to life for their audiences.

For the last 15 years, I've focused on a career in nonprofit development. I found that not only do I enjoy it, I'm good at it! I've had the privilege to work for wonderful homegrown Oregon-based organizations: SMART Reading, Portland Community College Foundation, the FLIP Museum, and Boys & Girls Aid. I've found immense satisfaction in growing authentic relationships to help advance community impact.

This summer, I completed my MBA with honors from Willamette University. The individuals I admire most in the not-for-profit sector are business savvy; there are nuances to nonprofit work, of course, but at the end of the day it's a business. I got my Master's in Business so I could be better equipped to lead a great company like Broadway Rose."

Why are you looking forward to being the Executive Director at Broadway Rose?

"This is a full-circle moment for me! The opportunity to lead an organization that promotes the love and sharing of art in the community — with a theatre on whose very stage I sang and danced many years ago — brings all of the pieces together for me.

I look forward to being in an artistic environment on a daily basis again — being around the creativity and magic, and watching it all come together from a metaphorical front row seat. Selfishly? I'm thrilled that I get to unabashedly nerd out on musical theatre in the name of my job! It's like coming home."

What are your impressions of Broadway Rose?

"My first impression of Broadway Rose was as a performer where I witnessed and experienced the company's artistic integrity and professionalism firsthand: from the first round of auditions to closing night. This company provides opportunities for artists to grow their craft, showcase their talent, and connect with others in their community — and they do so in a way that leaves each artist feeling valued for their contribution.

Broadway Rose understands what it means to be a pillar in its community, and they take very seriously the responsibility that comes with that. Sharon and Dan live in Tigard; they frequent Tigard businesses; they assume civic duties and nurture relationships in the community around them.

As a nonprofit professional, I see Broadway Rose as grassroots at its finest. I've always had immense respect for their story: evolving a "what if" into something that makes arts accessible in a previously underserved area and provides reliable employment for many. Sharon and Dan have done that one authentic relationship at a time, one earnest ask at a time."