

Robbi Kumalo

Film – Television – Music

An award-winning storyteller, professional entertainer, teaching artist, and producer credited with combining multiple talents to effectively strengthen and assist film, television, and musical productions. Adept production administrator serving as a liaison between artists, production companies, live venues, and record labels. A lifelong learner and supporter of the performing arts, seeking to utilize over 25 years in the entertainment industry in production support roles.

Areas of Expertise

- Production Coordination
- Talent & Management
- Assistant Director (2nd)
- Assistant to Producer
- Project Management
- Artistic Direction
- Talent Acquisition
- Administrative & Office Support
- Public Relations & Marketing

Professional Experience

OWNER/ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, BaliDali Productions, Inc., New York, NY **14 Years**

Production Company providing musical services for an array of events and occasions, producing over 100 live events annually.

Create and produce full theatrical productions for schools, festivals, and Performing Arts Centers providing:

- **Cast and direct** professional actors and musicians
- **Create and develop lesson plans** and study guides for grades K-6 that relate to core curriculum
- **Book engagements** and tours for several artists
- **Market the company** and provide event promotion to enhance brand and awareness of upcoming shows
- **Produce and create** short and long-term school and after-school residencies for integrated arts learning that focus on Drama, Musical Theatre, Character Education, and Puppetry
- **Develop and staff programs** or workshops for discipline-specific learning in the arts
- **Mentor and coach** developing artists
- **Participate in professional development** for the artist
- **Facilitate lifelong learning** in the arts through community arts events, classes, and workshops

VOCAL CONTRACTOR FOR ARIF MARDIN, PRODUCER, New York, NY **7 Years**

The legendary producer/arranger with a career of landmark recordings from Aretha Franklin to the Bee Gees to Norah Jones

Vocal Contractor for several Arif Mardin projects sponsored by Atlantic Records.

- **Provided vocal contracting services** including: auditions; casting; teaching music; leading and co-producing vocal sessions; budget management; and, administration of releases and payments
- **Specialties:** vocals, conducting, production management and scheduling, budgeting, casting, contract negotiation, and working with children

BACKING VOCALIST AND SESSION SINGER, Various Producers/ Jingle Houses, New York, NY **20 Years**

National recording and touring with a variety of producers in New York City, NY.

Supported recording sessions by working in the recording studio, singing advertising jingles, and singing with international bands and artists, quickly and competently learning music and routines. Frequently utilized multilingual language skills.

- **Recorded and toured with:** Aretha Franklin, Eileen Ivers, Arif Mardin, Jewel, Diana Ross, Jimmy Owens, Ashford & Simpson, Edie Brickell, Chieli Minucci, Gino Sitsen, Bakithi Kumalo, John Hiatt, Chaka Khan, Deepak Chopra, Rod Stewart, Mary J. Blige, Daniel Rodriguez, Vieux Diop, Luisa, and Harry Belafonte, among many others.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND PRODUCTION SECRETARY, Night After Night LTD, New York, NY **2 Years**

Artist Management and Production Company of musician, Paul Simon

Utilized multi-lingual skills combined with exceptional organizational and project management talents to deliver effective office management, schedule coordination, and tracking of public relations activities to support fundraising and non-performance related appearances and activities.

- **Provided casting, crew, and facilities** information, administration, and office management support
- **Supported marketing and promotions** activities periodically

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PRODUCTION ASSISTANT AND PRODUCTION SECRETARY, 40 Acres & a Mule Productions, Brooklyn, NY **2 Years**
Production Company of the noted American filmmaker Spike Lee.

Worked under Spike Lee after 'She's Gotta Have It' as Production Secretary/ Assistant, responsible for:

- **Production Secretary:** Answered phones; entered data; arranged lunches, dinners, and transportation reservations; photocopied documents; and general office administration including distributing production paperwork
- **Production Assistant:** On set duties included: acting as courier; assisting in keeping the set clean and tidy; distributing call sheets and health and safety notices; helping to coordinate talent; and performing crowd control at events and auditions

ACTOR/ SINGER, SAG/ AFTRA, Various Locations **20 years**

TV and film credits too numerous to list, but include appearances on:

- The Today Show
- The View
- Regis and Kathy Lee
- 60 Minutes
- CBS Saturday Morning Show (NY)
- The Late Show with David Letterman
- Rosie
- News 12
- Sessions @ West 54th
- VH1 Storytellers
- Oprah!

Professional Memberships

ASCAP, NARAS, SAG, AFTRA, AFM, NYS Arts in Education Alliance, NYC Arts in Education Roundtable, LI Arts in Education Roundtable, and Former Pennsylvania Performing Artist on Tour (PennPAT) Roster Artist

Special Skills

Fluent reading, speaking, singing, and performing in English, Spanish, French, Italian, German, and Zulu.
Puppeteer, piano, and guitar.

Awards

Multiple Parents' Choice Awards - Winning Best Children's Artist for Young Children (2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007) Children's Music Web Award Winner. 2007; and iParenting Media Award Winner, 2007

Board Service

New York Singers Collective, Treasurer, 2006-2008
Greater Port Jefferson/ Northern Brookhaven Arts Council, Advisory, 2000-2005
East Hills Middle School PTA, Hospitality Chair, 2010-2011
Minnesauke Elementary School PTA, Arts-in-Ed Committee, 2002-2010

Education

Bachelor of Arts, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY
Continuing Education: The Lincoln Center Institute for Aesthetic Education, New York, NY; The Tilles Center Institute for Aesthetic Education, Brookville, NY; and Five Towns College, Audio Engineering Certificate, Dix Hills, NY