



RANA CARISA STRAZZA

TALENT OVERVIEW



FIRST
MAGNITUDE
FILMS

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2026



BIOGRAPHY

A MULTI-HYPHENATE CREATIVE

A producer, director, and production designer, Rana has industry-acclaimed credits in televised and large-scale events for Bravo Media, TIME Inc., NBC Universal, SONY, The WEBBY's, MLB, FOX, The Public Theater, and the Tribeca Film Festival. An award-winning, classically trained vocalist, composer, actor, writer, and former model for Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren, she has workshopped with Sundance Films Director's Lab under [Carlin Glynn](#), and performed and directed Off-Broadway. She has trained in NY with celebrated director [Travis Preston](#) at the New School during its collaboration with The Actors Studio, and in LA with Emmy-winning director [Joan Darling](#). Rana was Artistic Director of Manhattan's developmental theater the Birdhouse Players and the Aerie Rep, directing all creative departments of main stage productions and training hundreds of actors to careers in the arts (including her own children). Rana is also co-founder of The [Sled](#), a non-profit providing crisis support for housing-insecure NYC public school students and their families. She has been awarded distinctions for her charitable work by NYC's Dept of Ed, Project Open Arms, and the [NY Stock Exchange](#).

- 1 PERFORMER**
- 2 PRODUCER**
- 3 DIRECTOR/WRITER**
- 4 PHOTOGRAPHER**
- 5 PHILANTHROPIST**

1 PERFORMER

➤ Actor

Off-Broadway: Cloud Nine (Betty/Ms Saunders, Atrium Theater), The Me Nobody Knows (Ensemble), Guys and Dolls (Sarah Brown, Hudson Guild and Phoenix Theater, Denver). NY/Regional: Frankenstein (Mary Shelley, Theater for the New City); Our Town (Emily), Manny and Jake (Manny), Baby (Arlene), Aria da Capo (Corydon) at Lisner Auditorium, DC); Odd Couple (female, Vera), Pajama Game (Babe) and title roles of Cinderella, Peter Pan, and Annie, at Gate and Theater Three, Long Island, NY.

➤ Vocalist

Coloratura soprano: Rigoletto (Gilda), Marriage of Figaro (Susanna), Don Giovanni (Zerlina), ONLI and Opera Alive!. In recital: repertoire Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Bellini and classical art songs performed throughout DC, NY., ONLI. Rana has fronted King James' Big Band playing DC's most prominent venues for statesmen and world leaders and was awarded Outstanding Vocalist at Syracuse International Jazz Festival. A singer/songwriter, she has played original music at Arlene's, The Cutting Room, NYC cabarets, and CBGB's.

➤ Composer

Rana has composed and recorded original and commissioned works, arranged compositions for discography, and produced and recorded her solo album titled, Violet. Her original composition, The TinyTilda's Lament (for which she penned a comedic skit) was performed by the Broadway stars of Matilda the Musical at 54 Below under her direction and with her choreography. Rana is currently writing music, lyrics, and book for a new musical titled, Spindlequick.

➤ Choreographer

Trained in jazz and musical theater styles by Jamie Chandler Torns, Rana has choreographed revues, concert pieces, and three main stage musicals:

The Sound of Music
(Birdhouse Players, NY)

Once on This Island
(Birdhouse Players, NY)

The Cabinet of Dr Caligari
(CBGB OMFUG)



STAGE TWO

↗ Performer to Producer

While performing as Sarah Brown in a western tour of *Guys and Dolls*, producers of the musical sought to honor a colleague who had recently lost a battle with ovarian cancer. Rana volunteered to chair the effort, producing a gala in her honor to benefit the [National Ovarian Cancer Coalition](#). Coordinating not only logistics and travel of NOCC members and administrators from across the country to Denver, Rana endeavored further to raise awareness of the newly-national organization by branding and executing the NOCC's national quilt campaign, its gala fundraiser, and an accompanying benefit concert, *Spotlight on a Cure* (at which she also performed).

It was the first event Rana produced in what would ultimately become the second stage of her creative career.

2 PRODUCER



➤ EVENT/PERFORMANCE PRODUCTION

Incorporating under Deccan Design Prods, Rana professionally produced and conceptually designed large-scale private and corporate events, concerts, and theatricals. She formed professional partnerships with world-renowned floral designer Michael George (under the banner, Deccan George), and creatively directed projects for Empire Entertainment for over a decade. These events and their associated corporate campaigns were recognized with industry awards and acclaim, elevating clients' global brands and raising expectations for immersive, inventive functions. With acquired expertise and her lifelong performance skills, Rana then forged a developmental theater, recruiting her team of technical professionals and Equity creatives to annually stage main stage musicals and plays, while offering conservatory training in acting, improv, voice, music production, and recording in off-seasons.

WORLD RENOWNED EVENTS



Public Theater Gala in Central Park; MLB All Star Parade on 6th Ave; Time 100 Gala at Jazz at Lincoln Center; Keep a Child Alive Gala at Hammerstein Ballroom



HEADLINERS / KEYNOTES





**FIRST MAGNITUDE
FILMS / SORRELINA
PRODS.**

New York City-based, independent film company illuminating female narratives and creatives, First Magnitude Films - and partner LLC, Sorrelina Prods, became a SAG signatory in 2025.



**DECCAN DESIGN /
DECCAN GEORGE /
EMPIIRE ENT.**

Corporate and Private event production for, among many others, FOX, TIME Inc, NBC Universal, Blackstone, SONY, Bravo Media, the Webby Awards, Tribeca Film Festival, The Public Theater.



**THE BIRDHOUSE
PLAYERS / AERIE
REP.**

A developmental theater company, The Birdhouse Players and its professional wing, The Aerie Rep, staged thearicals, concerts, artistically trained and cultivated talent for professional representation for nearly a decade.



3 DIRECTOR

Rana privately trains, coaches, and prepares actors, vocalists, and art students for college, performing arts school, and professional auditions and artistic application portfolios. She offers self-tape services and direction for professional actors by referral and has frequently consulted casting directors and talent representatives on prospective clients.

↗ CREDITS

As Artistic Director of The Brdhouse Players

Annie, Guys and Dolls, The King and I, Oliver!, Once on this Island*, The Sound of Music*, West Side Story, Thornton Wilder's Our Town

**Also Choreographed*

Off-Broadway and NY

Thornton Wilder's Our Town (St Clement Theater, NY)

The Field Trip (Judson Theater, NY)

TinyTlidas' Lament (54 Below)



3 WRITER

Eligible for initiation into the WGA, Rana has worked as a copyeditor, lyricist, songwriter, sketch writer, and book editor. Her musical, Spindlequick, a collaboration with US TODAY best-selling author Lea Nolan, is in development. Also in developments is her feature length, semi-autobiographical screenplay, Tocca Ferro, after positive reviews by The Academy Nicholl Fellowships, FinalDraft's Big Break, and The Writer's Lab.

↗ ANY WAY YOU WANT ME



In PreProduction: Shoots Fall of 2026
Writer/Director: Rana Strazza
Cinematographer: AA Scott McClellan
Production Designer: Frankie Williams

↗ TOCCA FERRO



In Development, Final Draft Big Break Quarterfinalist

Big Break
SCREENWRITING
CONTEST

4 PHOTOGRAPHER



STUDIO PORTRAIT / HEADSHOT

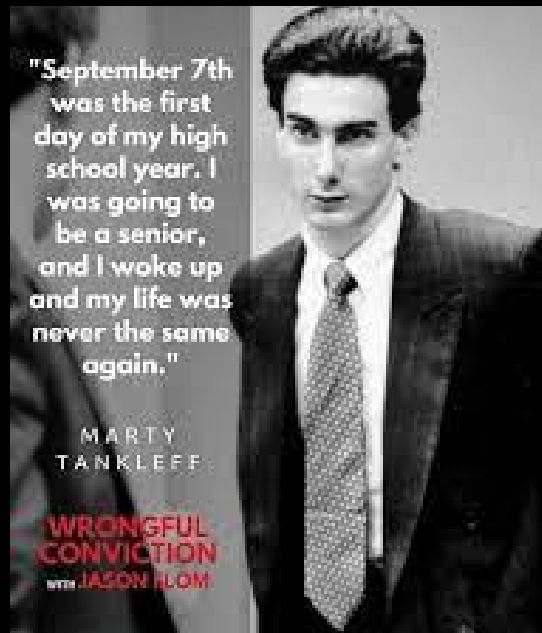
Trained in her family's darkroom by her father - a US Army and professional photographer - Rana's keen eye has professionally captured architecture, landscape, and studio portraiture for performance artists, exhibition, and commission.





WWW.THESLED.ORG

5 PHILANTHROPIST



CONVICTION

Rana's extraordinary experience with the Tankleff case was formative and profound. It inspires her commitment to serve those in need and to pursue justice and dignity through year-round charitable work.

↗ Social Justice to Service

In 2003, blockbuster new exculpatory evidence surfaced in the case of Marty Tankleff, who was convicted in 1990 for the murders of his parents. But the Suffolk County DA refused to investigate the new evidence and aggressively opposed a hearing. A public pressure campaign was undertaken by Soury Communications in coordination with his lawyers. Rana (now a producer who had previously worked two years as a paralegal at Clifford Chance) joined the four person PR team, and worked pro-bono over the next 5 years on the public campaign to Free Marty. She brought invaluable insight and a ready, intricate, and direct knowledge of the complicated case: Marty Tankleff was Rana's high school boyfriend. At 15 years old, her careful, real-time study of presented evidence and witness testimony led her and her family to support his innocence through his convictions and incarceration.

Team Tankleff's PR effort's led CBS 48 Hours to produce five full shows on the Tankleff case; their coverage was joined by every major local and national news outlet, from the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, CNN, to The Oprah Winfrey Show. James Gandolfini became spokesman for a cause that reached media, supporters, and the legal community in 5 continents. The campaign to Free Marty succeeded. After 17.5 years of wrongful imprisonment, he was exonerated and released in December 2007. His lead counsel immediately asked Rana to produce a NYC gala to celebrate his freedom. The following September, she staged "Marty Gras" - a riff off the Free Marty Campaign - at NYC's Angel Orensanz Foundation. Covered by the media, the gala featured catering by supporter and morning news anchor, Rosanna Scotto's family restaurant, appearances by James Gandolfini and Innocence Project co-founder Barry Scheck, and performances by the star of the 2007 remake of Hairspray, Nikki Blonsky and Rana, herself (accompanied by notable New Orleans's jazz band leader, Bill Malchow).



THE SLED

*The Sugarplum Sled*TM

Co-founding the Sled in 2019, Rana has served thousands of New York public school students and families who are temporarily housed or living below the poverty line. Year round, the Sled provides urgent, specifically requested emergency needs within 2-3 days upon referral from school and welfare officials. During the holidays, the Sled delivers thousands of the exact, hoped-for holiday gift wishes requested by students who would otherwise go without. Featured on NBC, CNN, CNBC, and WPIX, the Sled and Rana has been awarded for service from the DOE, Project Open Arms, and the NYSE.

250 + Fed weekly

50 + NYC Shelters assisted

3000 + Individual crisis requests

13,000 + Specifically requested Gift Wishes fulfilled

\$750,000 + Additional dollars raised

PRESS AND DISTINCTIONS



THIRD ACT

Cinema Copacetic

With a passionate work ethic, and an ethos for creative collaborations that yield lasting professional partnerships, Rana has amassed skills and expertise in career capacities both above and below the line, and in front and back of house. Her artistic vision has been proven and rewarded across some of the world's biggest stages and her field experience allows her to competently improvise when necessary to get the job done - on budget and on time. After the recent, successful launches of her two greatest productions (her adult daughters, Nixie and Fina) - Rana Carisa Strazza is ready for her third act.

With First Magnitude Films, Rana seeks to present compelling narratives - films that just happen to highlight confident female characters - that are shot with her keen eye for composition within worlds built on her high-end aesthetic. Her wide range of professional, performance, and life experience provides deep resource for her directorial approach, while her steadfast pursuit of prevailing justice sways her to chase happy endings. She seeks to produce cool, emotionally authentic, heartfelt projects that leave audiences with a pleasing, satisfying sense that, despite its travails, Life is meant to be lived to its fullest: Cinema Copacetic. The vibe of a stylish coloratura who swings the blues.

Please contact Rana for further information, inquiry, and/or mutual inspiration.



THANK YOU.

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