

ADRIA FIRESTONE

International, award-winning opera singer, musical theatre performer, keynote speaker, university educator and bestselling author.

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

New Jersey City University Department of Music, Dance & Theatre, Adjunct Faculty | 2003–2026

Teach undergraduate and graduate students:

- Applied Voice
- Acting
- Movement for Actors
- Speech for Performance
- Survey of Music

Courses Developed and Taught

- Acting for Singers
- Freedom from Fear: Controlling Stage Fright
- Performance Career Blueprint (based on my book *Career Design & Power Performance for the Emerging Performing Artist*)

TEACHING EXPERTISE

Voice • Acting • Opera • Musical Theatre • Movement • Speech & Diction • Stagecraft • Audition Technique • Performance Psychology • Career Development for Performing Artists • Public Speaking and Presentation

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE

International, award-winning opera singer and musical theatre performer with engagements spanning six continents and major cultural centers worldwide. Recognized for artistic excellence and professional reliability, leading companies have repeatedly engaged Firestone; a distinction reflecting both audience draw and directorial trust. Her portrayal of Carmen in New Zealand prompted the addition of six sold-out performances, moving the company from deficit to profitability.

Selected Distinctions

- Opened the rebuilt Cairo Opera House with Houston Grand Opera as Julie in *Show Boat*
- Command performances for the Queen of Thailand, the Sultan of Oman, and the Cultural Minister of China
- Extensive engagements throughout Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Australia, and North and South America
- Performed for U.S. military personnel during Operation Desert Storm
- Featured vocalist on *John Cage, Works for Piano & Prepared Piano, Volume 4* (Wergo 1659-2)
- Television voice credit for *Family Guy*

SELECTED AWARDS

- Carbonell Award, Best Actress in a Musical (*Man of La Mancha*, Aldonza)
- Carbonell Award Nomination, Best Supporting Actress (*The Threepenny Opera*, Pirate Jenny)
- Woman of the Year, Spoleto Festival, Italy
- First Prize — International Center for Contemporary Opera

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & PLACEMENT

Students mentored by Firestone have advanced to national recognition and premier graduate programs, including:

- Golden Ticket recipient, *American Idol*
- Finalist on *The Voice*
- Teacher of the Year
- First Prize Amateur Night at the Apollo Theater, NY
- Full-tuition graduate fellowships at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and Rice University Shepherd School of Music

MASTER CLASSES, CLINICS & GUEST TEACHING

Presented for universities, arts institutions, and professional organizations including:

- Duke University
- Northwestern University
- National University of Singapore
- Dubai English Speaking School
- Lincoln Center, Meet the Artist
- National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)
- New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA)

PUBLICATIONS & SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTION

- *You Are the Artist of Your Life* (Bestselling Author)
- *Harness Your ZEBRA: Career Design & Power Performance for the Emerging Performing Artist*
- *How to Create a Powerful Presentation in 3 Simple Steps*
- Author, six-part series in *Classical Singer* "The Singer's Addiction"
- Contributor, *Classical Singer Magazine* and *The Huffington Post*

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

National Certified Trainer, *Time to Teach* (Classroom Management)

Certified Rapid Results Coach: life and career development

EDUCATION & ADVANCED STUDY

Advanced Voice & Performance Studies — Conservatorio di Giuseppe Verdi, Milan, Sara Sforini-Sforini-Corti

University of Miami — School of Music and School of Arts and Sciences

Florida International University — B.A., English Literature

Languages Spanish and Italian, professional working proficiency for performance and coaching.

ARTISTIC PHILOSOPHY

Firestone's work centers on developing artists of technical mastery, psychological depth, and professional resilience, preparing performers for sustainable careers in a rapidly evolving artistic landscape.