

Contact

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www.linkedin.com/in/sylviatoystlouis (LinkedIn)
www.instagram.com/sylviatoyindustries/ (Portfolio)
www.youtube.com/user/SylviaToyStLouis (Portfolio)
filmfreeway.com/sylviatoystlouis (Portfolio)

Top Skills

Cinematography
Editing
Experimental Film

Languages

Portuguese (Elementary)
French (Limited Working)
Span (Elementary)

Honors-Awards

National Achievement Scholarship
Golden Leaf for Best Animated Feature Film
Best Fx Design
Gold Award
Femmes Fatales Grand Jury Award

Sylvia Toy

Independent Fine Art Filmmaker
San Francisco Bay Area

Summary

I am a middle-class Black American housewife who greenscreens performance art movies and makes animation in my livingroom. My practice is based on improvisational acting and storytelling.

I have screened internationally in visual arts venues since 2008 & on the film festival circuit since 2014. Special recognition: Senses of Cinema Top Films of 2019; Best Animated Feature Film, Hazel Eye Film Festival (2019); Best Fx Design, FICOCC #13 (2018); Grand Jury Award (2016) & Gold Award (2018), L.A.N.N.E.F.F.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

January 2020, <http://sensesofcinema.com/2020/world-poll/world-poll-2019-part-3/> – 7
August 2019, www.themugwumpcorporation.com/2019/08/five-questions-sylvia-toy_26.html?m=1
June 2018, issuu.com/cine.makers/docs/special.edition/74
July 2017, theheroinejourney2016.wordpress.com/2017/07/15/the-heroines-journey-of-sylvia-toy/
July 2016, medium.com/@12Catwoman/artist-retrospective-the-unsung-genius-of-sylvia-toy-2cc3f1a9bd5e
July, 2011, http://vip.newmediafest.org/?page_id=674

MONOGRAPHY

Aug-Sept 2018, <http://www.visualcontainer.net/sylvia-toy-st-louis-monography/>

I was a Class of 1969 National Merit Finalist and one of two recipients in Lincoln, Nebraska of a National Achievement Scholarship. I received a B.A. (Art/English) from the University of Nebraska/Lincoln in 1974. I received a Certificate in Litigation from the Institute for Paralegal Training in 1980. I worked in the legal profession from 1980-2015.

I was a professionally represented sculptor from 1985-2010. I regularly exhibited and sold work to private collectors. From 1992-2010, my work was featured in numerous major group and solo exhibitions.

I was a self-represented theater artist focusing on solo performance (as "Nena St. Louis") from 1991-2007. Among others, I was booked by Afro Solo Festival, Cultural Odyssey, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, San Francisc), The Wagon Train Project, Lincoln Children's Theater, Brava for Women in the Arts (San Francisco), and Stephanie Weissman (The Marsh, San Francisco). From 1998-2003, I was a Resident Artist in the Artist Residency in Diversity Program at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln. In 1994, my solo performance play, "Essays on Anger and Custard Pie," was selected for the Lorraine Hansberry Theater Emerging Artist (San Francisco) spring showcase. In 1992-1993, I was a Frierson Playwright Fellow at Lorraine Hansberry Theatre (San Francisco).

I was raised and remain a Progressive Democrat since my family's activism in the American Civil Rights Movement.

Experience

Sylviatoyindustries

Filmmaker

September 2007 - Present (12 years 10 months)

San Francisco Bay Area

I am a middle-class, African-American housewife who greenscreens movies and stop-motion animation in my livingroom. I have screened internationally in visual arts venues since 2008 & on the film festival circuit since 2014. I am pleased to have received some special recognition: Best Animated Feature Film, Hazel Eye Experimental Film Festival; Best Fx Design, FICOCC #13; Nominee, Best Editing, Austin Arthouse Film Festival; Grand Jury Award & Gold Award, L.A.N.N.E.F.F.; Hon. Mention/Cinematography & Best Director Nominee, Creative Arts Film Festival.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

August 2019, http://www.themugwumpcorporation.com/2019/08/five-questions-sylvia-toy_26.html?m=1

July 2019 (ongoing), AGITATE:21C Videos at YouTube:
youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF6jWf5H1XJ0lc3N7354pPOrXeJssFa1P
June 2018, issuu.com/cine.makers/docs/special.edition/74
July 2017, theheroinejourney2016.wordpress.com/2017/07/15/the-heroines-journey-of-sylvia-toy/
July 2016, medium.com/@12Catwoman/artist-retrospective-the-unsung-genius-of-sylvia-toy-2cc3f1a9bd5e
July, 2011, http://vip.newmediafest.org/?page_id=674

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Aug-Sept 2018, <http://www.visualcontainer.net/sylvia-toy-st-louis-monography/>

Nena St. Louis

Theater Artist

November 1990 - August 2007 (16 years 10 months)

Touring solo theater artist

Education

Studio of Luis Oropeza

Acting · (1999 - 2001)

Studio of Dr. Lee Strawn

Voice and Singing · (1998 - 2001)

Studio A.C.T.

Acting · (1999 - 1999)

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Bachelor of Arts - BA, Fine/Studio Arts, General