

Semina De Laurentis

"You never really arrive. It's always about learning something new and never being afraid to try."

- Semina DeLaurentis

Semina De Laurentis, singer, actress, and artistic/founding director of Seven Angels Theatre, was born to John and Candida De Laurentis in the North End of Waterbury. One of five siblings, her father recognized her vocal talent at an early age. While attending Slocum Grammar School and Crosby High School in Waterbury, she studied locally with Anne Donnelly and then in New Haven with Hilda and Francesco Riggio.

Semina graduated from Southern Connecticut State College studying under former Yale drama coach, Constance Welch. Upon graduation, she became a solo performer on Holland America and Swedish American cruise lines and traveled the world as a concert entertainer.

After eight years, she continued her career as a solo entertainer in New York City for which she received the Manhattan Association of Cabarets Outstanding Achievement Award. She also performed Off-Broadway and toured regional theaters throughout the country.

In 1985, composer Dan Goggin cast her as the original Sr. Mary Amnesia in his new musical, *Nunsense*, for which Semina received the New York Outer critics Circle Award. She was honored to be drawn by Broadway's artist, Al Hirschfeld.

She traveled to California with *Nunsense*. While there, she received the Los Angeles Drama-Logue Award for her performance in *Minamata* at the Los Angeles Theater Center. Semina appeared in television guest roles on *Baby Boom*, *LA Law*, and *Growing Pains*. She has sung the National Anthem for the Dodgers, the Giants, the Oakland A's, and the New York Mets. She filmed both *Nunsense I* and *Nunsense II* with Rue McClanahan and can be heard on both original cast recordings.

In 1990, Semina mounted a production of *Nunsense* for her hometown. Audiences were thrilled and continually asked her what she was planning for her next production. With the question raised; - the Seven Angels (Semina, Theresa De Laurentis, Ellen Guisti-Hamblen, Victoria Stemmer, John De Laurentis, Alan Cipriano, and James Sullivan) - decided to take on the challenge of founding an equity professional theater in Waterbury. In 1991, Seven Angels Theatre became the only new professional arts organization to emerge and thrive in Greater Waterbury in 60 years.



Many groups have recognized Semina's contribution to the cultural life of Greater Waterbury area and the State of Connecticut. Since 1991, she has received the Italian Heritage Award, the Teikyo Post University Community Service Award, the Connecticut Critics Circle Tom Killen Award, the YMCA Women in Leadership Award, the Business Women's Forum Award, the Sons of Italy Award, and most recently the 2002 Anderson's Boys Club Humanitarian Award, and the Connecticut Critics Circle Award as Best Director of a Musical.

Blessed with a "You never know unless you try" attitude, Semina De Laurentis returned to Waterbury to establish a professional theater which, in turn, has not only succeeded in becoming northwestern Connecticut's only award-winning professional theatre, but also has contributed to the cultural well-being of Waterbury and Connecticut.