



Alexandra Billings

Ms Billings currently plays Davina on Amazon's "Transparent"; winner of 15 Emmy Awards, The Critic's Choice Award, the 2014 Golden Globe Award and the 2014 Peabody Award for most groundbreaking Television comedy. She was nominated for a 2015 SAG Award for her performance, along with the rest of the cast, in the category of Best Ensemble. She is the second transgender actress to play a transgender character in the history of television for her role in: "Romy and Michelle-Behind the Velvet Rope" for ABC Disney costarring Katherine Heigl. Other TV credits include: "How To Get Away With Murder", "Grey's Anatomy," "Eli Stone," "E.R.," "Karen Sisco," "Nurses" and playing opposite Dot Jones in the Ryan Murphy pilot "Pretty/Handsome,".

Alexandra has been acting since 1968 and has performed across the United States in hundreds of plays and musicals. She's played everyone from Mama Rose in "Gypsy," to Mrs. Lynde in "A Doll House." Most every stage role is considered to be a first for a transgender actress. She has appeared at The Steppenwolf Theater, The Goodman Theater, Chicago Shakespeare, The Marriott Lincolnshire, Second City, and The Bailiwick Theater. Her critically acclaimed, one-woman autobiographical show: "Before I Disappear," toured from Chicago to Boston to Los Angeles, and finally, off Broadway at The Producer's Club. She originated the role of Alejandra in "Time to Burn" by Charles Mee at the Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago and toured off-Broadway in the Jeff Richmond and Michael Thomas camp classic: "Hamlet! The Musical!" She has recorded 2 CDs: "The Story Goes On" recorded live at The Theater Building in Chicago in 2005 and "Being Alive," in 2002, which was up for Grammy consideration for Best Cabaret Album of the Year.

She is the recipient of five After Dark Awards and one Joseph Jefferson Award and the MAC Hanson Award for Best Cabaret Artist. She has sung in nightclubs all through the country including Feinstein's, Eighty Eight's and Don't Tell Mama's; in New York, and Toulouse at the Park, Pops For Champagne, The Park West, The Emerald Room and The Gentry; in Chicago. Her life story: "From Schoolboy to Showgirl," for PBS television, was nominated for an Emmy in 2009, for Best Documentary.

In 2016 Ms. Billings finished shooting her first feature film: "Valley of Bones", starring Autumn Reeser, and can be seen in a cameo role in The Duplass brother's latest film "Paddleton" starring Mark Duplass and Ray Romano for Netflix. Last year finished a run of her new autobiographical musical theater piece: "S/He and Me" directed by Joanne Gordon which made its debut at California State University in Long Beach and in the summer of 2017. The following year, in 2018, the show played at the Lily Tomlin Theater in Hollywood at the LGBT Center, for a limited sold-out engagement.

Ms. Billings was inducted into the LGBT Hall of Fame in 2010. In 2014 she moderated a panel At The White House for the Obama Administration. This was an in depth discussion on Transgender Rights in America, and Ms. Billings remains the first Trans person in history to moderate such a panel for a sitting president. She was honored by the Human Right's Campaign in 2016 and presented with their coveted Visibility Award for her advocacy work. She is a long-term AIDS survivor and activist and works with the LGBT community around the world as well as locally in Long Beach through The LGBT Center along with sitting on the Board of directors for Fringe Theater company, a local politically active theatre company dealing with socio-political topics of the day and the current state of our human existence.

Ms. Billings is a Master Viewpoints teacher and has been the Viewpoints Associate at The Steppenwolf Theater since 1994; the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning theater in Chicago and Los Angeles, and has taught Viewpoints in Universities and conservatories across the country since 1996. She matriculated from California State University in Long Beach in 2013 with an MFA in Theater Arts and graduated with honors, giving the commencement speech in 2014 as well as being named Most Distinguished Alum and belonging to Phi Kappa Kappa. Currently you can see her in Amazon's award winning drama "Goliath" playing the Judge in Billy Bob Thornton's life, and recently in the Fall of 2018, she played to critically acclaimed reviews in "The Nap" for The Manhattan Theater Club; which marked the first time a Trans actress was cast in comedy to play a Trans character in the history of Broadway. The play was directed by Tony winning director, Daniel Sullivan.

Currently, she finished filming the final season of "Transparent" which has been turned into a 2 hour, special musical movie event for Amazon Prime and will air in the fall of 2019. She currently makes her Professorial home at The University of Southern California where she teaches Viewpoints to the B.A and M.F.A students.

In 1996, she married Chrisanne Blankenship, her High School sweetheart whom she met in 1976 when they were cast in William Shakespeare's romantic gender bending comedy: "Twelfth Night". They have two cats and live happily and gratefully in a story that continues to be written.