

MICHAEL BARAKIVA

448 West 50th St. #1W NY NY 10019 ♦ 646.246.3668 ♦ mibarakiva@gmail.com

EDUCATION

THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL, NEW YORK CITY NY

- Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Directing, 1997-2000
- Three-year, graduate-level course of study in Theatre Directing under JoAnne Akalaitis, Michael Kahn & Garland Wright

VASSAR COLLEGE, POUGHKEEPSIE NY

- BA in Drama and English, 1997

THEATER ADMINISTRATION

INTERIM EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, March 2020 – Present

THE HANGAR THEATRE, ITHACA NY

In addition to Artistic Director responsibilities, pivoted our summer season into a virtual season, allow us to retain over 80% of subscribers and exceed sponsorship goals by 100%. Acting as sole leadership, lead the Hangar Theatre through the pandemic repositioning and budgeting, as well as articulated anti-racism and DEI response and staff/board work to address the BLM and We See You movement.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, September 2016 – March 2020

THE HANGAR THEATRE, ITHACA NY

Annually produce a five-play mainstage, four-play second stage and five-play children's play series at this 350-seat thrust stage, as well as an original production of *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*. Oversees three full-time employees, as well as the hire of a fifty-team seasonal team, including three directors, twenty designers and thirty actors. Created an Artist In Residency Series (AIRS), and Young Professional Company, formed strategic alliances with other local theatres and not-for-profits, increased Major Gifts line, expanded sponsorships and donors, recruited board members, produced two annual fundraisers, expanded artistic programming, as well as Interim responsibilities below.

INTERIM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, November 2015 – August 2016

THE HANGAR THEATRE, ITHACA NY

Produced a four-play mainstage, four-play second stage and five-play children's play series. Spearheaded the recruitment of a twenty-five-member college Lab Company, a five-person intern team, and led the development of marketing materials.

FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, 2012 – Present

THE UPSTART CREATURES, NEW YORK CITY NY

Founded a not-for-profit ensemble dedicated to creating epic theatrical events that feed bodies and souls, hosting bi-monthly play readings interwoven with gourmet multi-course meals. Responsibilities include choosing and casting the plays, hiring directors, creating the menu, shopping ingredients, recruiting a board, producing an annual gala and feeding our audience members.

NEW PLAY FESTIVAL PRODUCER, 1999-2000

SOHO REP

Produced a five-week, five-play festival of new work featuring works by Neena Beber, Stephanie Fleischmann, Amy Boyce Holtcamp and Peter Morris. Directors included Jesse Berger, Steve Cosson, Will Pomeranz, Lindsay Firman and Suzanne Agins. Responsibilities included season selection, budget creation and running a comprehensive intern program.

READINGS AND WORKSHOP COORDINATOR, 1997

NEW YORK STAGE AND FILM

Produced 10 readings and three workshops over the course of the summer, featuring works by Chris Durang, James Lapine, John Patrick Shanley and Jane Anderson.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING CREDITS (* denotes premiere)

Paradise Lost, Parts I & II (workshop, adaptor and director)

Red Bull Theatre Company, New York City 2021

The Perfect Wedding by Robin Hawdon

Pittsburgh CLO, Pittsburgh, 2018

Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen (workshop)

Upstart Creatures, New York City 2017

Perfect Arrangement by Topher Payne

Primary Stages, New York City, 2015

*Was** by Barry Kleinbort and Joseph Thalken (workshop)

Primary Stages, New York City, 2014

*Hee-Haw The Musical** by Horn, McAnally and Clark (workshop)

Bespoke Theatrical, New York City, 2013

*Never Grimm** by Neil Berg and Jonathan Feldman (workshop)

Leftfield Productions, New York City, 2013

Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward

Syracuse Stage, 2013

*Ezekiel's World** by Jenny Levison (workshop)
JCC Manhattan, 2013

Farragut North by Beau Willimon
Premiere Stages, 2012

The Turn of the Screw by Jeffrey Hatcher
Syracuse Stage, 2011

The Clean House by Sarah Ruhl
Syracuse Stage, 2011

*White People** by Neil Cuthbert
Ensemble Studio Theater, 2011

*Rebel Girls** by Tina Lear and Elise Fodier Edie (workshop)
Collaborative Arts Project (CAP) 21, Professional Company, 2010

*They Float Up** by Jacquelyn Reingold
Ensemble Studio Theater, 2010

*The Usher's Ball** by Fengar Gael
Collaborative Arts Project (CAP) 21, Professional Company, 2010

*Degage** by Mimi Quillin (workshop)
MARS Theatricals at The Flea Theater, 2009

*Booksmart** by Jennifer Joan Thompson
Studio Tisch at NYU, 2009

The Belle of Amherst by William Luce
Lake George Theater Lab at Sembrich Museum, 2009

The Music Man by Meredith Wilson
Nevada Conservatory Theater, 2009
Chosen for "Top 10" by the Las Vegas Sun

Scrooge In Rouge by Ricky Graham
ReVision Theater, 2009

Burn This by Lanford Wilson
Shakespeare Santa Cruz, 2008

*Save The World** by Chris Kipiniak
Roundtable Ensemble at American Theater of Actors, 2008

*The Exchange** by Ursula Rani Sarma (workshop)
O'Neill Theatre Conference, 2007

Performances by Brian Friel
Lake George Theater Lab at Sembrich Museum 2007
American premiere

*Gin! Jazz! Love! Drama!** by Heather Whaley
Lake George Theater Lab, 2007

*OTMA** by Kate Moira Ryan
Lake George Theater Lab, 2006

*psychoPharm** by Shawn Nacol (workshop)
MARS Theatricals at The Sage Theater, 2006

UP by Bridget Carpenter
Oregon Shakespeare Festival, 2006

*The Kitchen Sink Play** by Gabe McKinley
Lake George Theater Lab, 2005

The Seagull by Anton Chekhov (original adaptation)
Roundtable Ensemble at Blue Heron, 2005

*Dark Matter** by Hugh Bush (workshop)
Vineyard Playhouse, 2004

*25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** by William Finn
Original Workshop
Barrington Stage Company, 2004

Welcome To My Rash & Third** by Wendy Wasserstein
Theatre J, 2004
The Kennedy Center, First Ink Series, workshop, 2003
Arena Stage, New Play Reading Series, reading, 2002

*Fatwa** by Anuvab Pal
Alter Ego at NY Fringe Festival, 2004
Alter Ego at Blue Heron, 2004

*2B or Not 2B, Part II** by Jacquelyn Reingold
HB Playwrights Theater Ten-Minute Play Festival, 2004

Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare (original adaptation)
School Tour, Hangar Theater, 2003
Lab Company, Hangar Theater, 2003

A Free Man In Paris & Defusion** by Brooke Berman
Roundtable Ensemble at Mint Space, 2001

The Pelican by August Strindberg (original adaptation)
The Wedge, Hangar Theatre, 2001

*Orilla del Mundo** by Hillary Bell
The Wedge, Hangar Theatre, 2001

*The Liddy Plays** by Brooke Berman
The Rattlestick Theater, workshop, 2001
The Wedge, Hangar Theatre, 2001

The Rabbit Project, based on Beatrix Potter's life
Hangar Theatre, 2001

*Through Fred/Steak Knife** by Stephen Belber
Urban Empire at Studio Theatre, 2000

*Animal Shelter** by Emily Jenkins
Soho Rep, Summer Camp Ten-Minute Play Festival, 1999

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE DIRECTING CREDITS

The First Wives Club by Bloodwood-Thomason, Holland, Dozier & Holland
The Oriental Theatre, Chicago, 2015
Bespoke Theatrical (dir: Simon Phillips)

Dirty Dancing: The Classic Story Onstage by Eleanor Bergstein
Theater am Potsdamerplatz, Berlin, 2009
Resident Director, First National Tour, 2008-09
Jacobsen Entertainment (dir: James Powell)

Seussical, The Musical by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens
First National Tour, 2003-04
Networks Tours (dir: Christopher Ashley)

EDUCATIONAL DIRECTING CREDITS

The Duchess of Malfi by John Webster
North Carolina School for the Arts, Winston-Salem North Carolina, 2017

Spring Awakening by Steven Sater and Duncan Sheik
Syracuse Drama, Syracuse New York, 2013

Stage Blood by Charles Ludlam
Bard College, Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, 2012

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead by Tom Stoppard
UC Davis, Main Theater, 2011

*Zona Rosa** by Michael Barakiva
UC Davis, Wright Pavillion, 2011

*String Theory** by Michael Barakiva, Sarah Braunstein & Amy Boyce Holtcamp
Vassar College, 2010
The Studio at The Flamboyant, 2009

Romeo and Juliet, The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare
McCarter Theater Summer Shakespeare, 2010

The Women by Clare Boothe Luce
Atlantic Theater Acting School at Atlantic Theater Stage 2, 2007

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare
The Academy for Classic Acting (ACA) at The Shakespeare Theatre, 2006

OTMA by Kate Moira Ryan
Vassar College, 2006

The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, 2006

Six Characters in Search of An Author by Luigi Pirandello (original adaptation)
University of Rochester, 2002

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (NYU), DRAMATIC WRITING DEPARTMENT

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, Colloquium, 2015-2016

Devised a class for all incoming freshman, designed to teach them how to begin realizing their scripts as three-dimensional production that will live on a stage. Curriculum consists of a series of etudes employing different elements of live theater.

NATIONAL THEATER INSTITUTE (NTI), O'NEILL THEATER CENTER

VISITING PROFESSOR, Advanced Directing, Spring 2013 & Fall 2014

Created and executed a semester-long curriculum focused on the director's process. The final third of the classes put the students in rehearsal scenarios with professional designers and actors, after which they'd receive feedback and criticism of the work.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT DAVIS

VISITING PROFESSOR, Theater Arts Department, Fall 2011

Taught "Performing Identities," a Core Class for the first year MFA students. Curriculum included plays exploring the nature of identity, as well as artist manifestos. Two 3-hour sessions/week.

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

DIRECTING MENTOR, Theater Department, 2007 & 2009

Self Torture And Strenuous Exercise by Harry Kondoleon

Window by Michael Hilton

Mentored undergraduate directors through rehearsal process.

I.S. 231 & P.S. 19

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, The Sports & Arts in School Program, 2008

How Quezacotl Found The Sun

Ananse The Tricky Spider

Ran a bi-weekly after-school program culminating in a production performed and designed by the middle/high school students.

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

LECTURER, Theater Department, Fall 2002

Topics In Theater

Designed curriculum for and taught bi-weekly, ninety-minute, semester-long class. Topics included directorial vision, casting, modern adaptations, rehearsal technique and collaboration.

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

GUEST LECTURER, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, 2009

Led graduate-level design seminar on collaboration

GUEST LECTURER, Brooklyn College, 2006

Led graduate-level design seminar on *The Seagull*

PRIMARY COACH, MTV's *Made*, 2002

Mentored two high school students through the process of writing, directing and producing their first play.

GUEST LECTURER, State University of New York at Albany, 2001

Conducted three-hour seminar on life after college

WRITING

THESE PRECIOUS STONES

FARRAR, STRAUS & GIROUX: MACMILLAN PUBLISHING (2022)

An urban fantasy novel with a queer protagonist that upends the heteronormativity of the Campbell Hero Journey.

PARADISE LOST, PARTS I & II

COMMISSION BY RED BULL THEATRE COMPANY, NYC (2021)

A two-part adaptation of Milton's epic poem for the stage, to be presented in reading form in April 2021.

HOLD MY HAND

FARRAR, STRAUS & GIROUX: MACMILLAN PUBLISHING (2019)

A stand-alone sequel to *One Man Guy* about betrayal, forgiveness and reconciling sexuality with religious beliefs.

ONE MAN GUY

FARRAR, STRAUS & GIROUX: MACMILLAN PUBLISHING, 2014

A gay young adult novel about coming of age and out in a suburban Armenian-American family, falling in love with New York City, the music of Rufus Wainwright, and for the first time.

THE NATURE OF THINGS

COMMISSIONED BY SLOAN FOUNDATION, 2013

A full-length play, imagining the life of Lucretius, Ancient Roman philosopher/poet and author of *DE RERUM NATURA*.

ZONA ROSA

UC DAVIS, WRIGHT PAVILLION, 2011

Inspired by the life of Dr. Francisco Estrada Valle, a Mexican HIV and AIDs activist who was murdered in 1989.

STRING THEORY (co-written with Sarah Braunstein and Amy Boyce Holtcamp)

PUBLISHED: CONNOTATION PRESS, NOVEMBER 2013

A collection of Ancient Greek myths featuring string, woven together into an evening of theater.

MISCELLANIOUS

LAKE GEORGE THEATER LAB

RESIDENT DIRECTOR, 2005 – 2010

Direct for and advise on the artistic aspect of this theatre company since its inception.

WENDY WASSERSTEIN PRIZE

SCRIPT READER, 2006

Read/recommend scripts for annual female playwright prize

EUGENE O'NEILL NATIONAL PLAYWRITING CONFERENCE

SCRIPT READER, 2005-2006

Read/recommend scripts for new play development forum.

WENDY WASSERSTEIN

FREELANCE ASSOCIATE, 2000 – 2005

Type and research for this multiple Award-winning writer. Projects included librettos, plays, novels, articles and movies.

AWARDS, HONORS, MEMBERSHIPS

- Artist in Residence to National Puppet Theater in Sofia, Bulgaria, 2015
- Granada Artist-In-Residence, UC Davis, 2011
- Society for Directors & Choreographers Member, 2006 - Present
- Phil Killian Directing Fellowship, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, 2002
- Drama League Summer Fellowship, Hangar Theatre, 2001
- David Merrick Prize in Drama, 1999 & 1997
- Lincoln Center Directors' Lab, 1998