

MICHAEL BARAKIVA

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EDUCATION

THE JULLIARD 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

FOUNDER, September 2021 - Present

THE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE PROJECT (LIP)

A workshop to equip historically excluded artists with the tools to succeed in leadership positions. Secured donations to pay the participants in this program that covers preparation for and securing of first leadership jobs.

FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, 2012 - Present

THE UPSTART CREATURES, NEW YORK CITY NY

Founded a not-for-profit theatre dedicated to epic theatrical feasts that feed bodies and souls, hosting bi-monthly play readings with gourmet multi-course meals, all for free.

INTERIM EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, March 2020 - September 2020

THE HANGAR THEATRE, ITHACA NY

In addition to Artistic Director responsibilities, pivoted our summer season into a virtual season, retaining over 80% of subscribers and 100% of sponsorships. Acting as sole leadership, led 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 #WeSeeYou movement.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, September 2016 - March 2020

THE HANGAR THEATRE, ITHACA NY

Annually produced six mainstage, four second stage, and five children's plays at this 350-seat thrust stage. Hired a fifty-person seasonal team. Created an Artist-In-Residency Series (AIRS) and Young Professional Company, formulated HR complaint process, formed strategic alliances with other local theatres and not-for-profits, expanded artistic programming.

INTERIM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, November 2015 – August 2016

THE HANGAR THEATRE, ITHACA NY

Expanded sponsorships and donors, recruited board members, produced two annual fundraisers, spearheaded recruitment of a twenty-five-member college Lab Company, a five-person intern team, and led the development of marketing materials.

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)

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein by David Catlin

Cleveland Playhouse, Cleveland, 2023 (upcoming)

*Moriarty: A New Sherlock Holmes Adventure** by Ken Ludwig

Cleveland Playhouse, Cleveland, 2023 (co-directed w/Mark Brokaw)

Pleytem Tsuzamen (Refugees Together)* by Josh Waletzky and Jeyn Levison

Theatre Folksbienne, NYC, 2023

In Every Generation by Ali Viterbri

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Mountain View, 2023

Queer Theory by Brooke Berman (workshop)

TheatreWorks Hartford, Hartford, 2022

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

Into The Woods, A Doll's House Part 2, Chicago, Dégagé, A Funny Thing

Happened on the way to the Forum, I Loved, I Lost, I Made Spaghetti

All at the Hangar Theatre, 2016-2019

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

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

*OTMA** by Kate Moira Ryan
Lake George Theater Lab, 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 and later, 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)
Lab Company and School Tour, Hangar Theater, 2003

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

The Pelican by August Strindberg,
*Orilla del Mundo** by Hillary Bell

*The Liddy Plays** by Brooke Berman
The Wedge, 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

She Kills Monsters by Qui Nguyen
SUNY New Paltz, 2020
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 Flamboyan, 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

LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE PROJECT (LIP)

FOUNDER, 2022 - Present

Administered, fundraised, and taught an online eight-week workshop for historically excluded theatre artists interested in transitioning into leadership roles.

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.

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.

WRITING

THESE PRECIOUS STONES

FARRAR, STRAUS & GIROUX: MACMILLAN PUBLISHING, 2023

A contemporary fantasy with queer protagonists that subverts heroic tropes around a hero's non-heteronormative paradigms.

PARADISE LOST, PARTS I & II

COMMISSION BY RED BULL THEATRE COMPANY, 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 w/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.

AWARDS, HONORS, MEMBERSHIPS

- Presenter: Festival de Teatro Universitario, Mexico City, Mexico, 2019
- Artist in Resident: National Puppet Theater in Sofia, Bulgaria, 2015
- Recipient: Drama League New Directors/New Work Grant, 2013
- Granada Artist-In-Residence, UC Davis, 2011
- Society for Directors & Choreographers Member, 2006 – Present
- Freelance Associate, 2000-5: Wendy Wasserstein
- 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

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSIVITY TRAINING

- Implicit Bias Training: SDC, 2021
- Groundwater Arts: Decolonizing Theatre Basics, 2021
- Hollaback!: Bystander Intervention Training, 2021
- Anti-Racist Training: Dr. Nia Nunn, 2020
- Spotlight on AAPI Voices: Producer, 2021 Staging Intimacy: Intimacy
- Directors International, 2019

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Iowa Governor's Conference for LGBTQ Youth (2020)
- Brooklyn Book Fair (2019)
- Springs Writes! Literary Festival (2018)
- Tompkins Count Library Meet The Author Series (2017)
- Pennsylvania Library Leadership Conference (2016)
- Unbound Book Festival (2016)
- McNally Jackson Books LGBTQ YA Series (2015)
- New York Book Expo (2015)