

# 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 Directing under JoAnne Akalaitis, Michael Kahn & Garland Wright

### VASSAR COLLEGE, POUGHKEEPSIE NY

- BA in Drama and English, 1997

## THEATER ADMINISTRATION

### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, December 2023 – March 2026

#### CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE (CPH)

Functioned as co-CEO of this 11M premiere regional theater, annually producing six mainstage plays/year, overseeing all artistic and administrative initiatives, assisting on all major fundraising efforts, acting as liaison to major donors, creating a national network for co-productions, and overseeing three employees directly and 200 indirectly.

### FOUNDER, September 2020 – December 2023

#### 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 – 2023

#### 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 fundraiser, .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)

- Freak The Mighty\** by Anthony Drewe and Ryan Fielding Garrett  
Cleveland Play House, Cleveland 2026 (upcoming)  
Seattle Rep, Seattle 2026 (upcoming)
- The Christine Jorgensen Show\** by Donald Olson  
59E59, New York City, 2024  
HERE Arts Center, New York City, 2025  
Cleveland Play House, Cleveland, 2025
- Fiddler on the Roof* by Bock, Harneck, and Stein  
Cleveland Play House, Cleveland, 2025
- Pride and Prejudice* adapted by Kate Hamill  
Cleveland Playhouse, Cleveland, 2024
- Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* by David Catlin  
Cleveland Playhouse, Cleveland, 2023
- 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  
*25<sup>th</sup> 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 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**

### **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

## AWARDS, HONORS, MEMBERSHIPS

- Panelist: ATCA at the Artistic Leaders Summit, Milwaukee, WI 2026
- 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**

- Greyt Big Talk (2024)
- 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)