

PROFESSIONAL THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, Jan., 2022- July 2022

Players Centre Of Performing Arts, Sarasota, FL

Artistic Director of oldest Arts Organization in Sarasota, and it's only community theatre. Responsible for season planning and all creative events, staffing, budgeting, and producing. Also directed and designed as needed.

ARTS AND CULTURE COORDINATOR, Feb, 2016- 2021

City Of Winona, Winona, MN

Coordinator of all arts and culture initiatives for the city, creation of a strategic arts and culture master plan, formation of an Arts and Culture District to aid in downtown economic development, planning of a performing arts center in the Historic Masonic Theatre, and liaison and program coordinator for the Fine Arts Commission.

MANAGING DIRECTOR, 2013- July, 2016

Great River Shakespeare Festival, Winona, MN

Performed all of the duties of a managing director for the region's premiere professional theater festival, having just celebrated its 12th season. GRSF, with an operating budget of close to a million dollars, was responsible for an arts renaissance in the area, and is poised for a new era of growth over the next few seasons. Managing Director responsibilities include staffing, budgeting, overseeing the development, marketing, and publicity departments, and along with the Artistic Director, planning the season and programming.

PRODUCING DIRECTOR, 1996—2000

The Century Center for the Performing Arts, New York, NY

Helped create and build an Off-Broadway multi-theater arts center off Union Square. Acquired projects and planned programming. Home for Pulitzer Prize play *How I Learned to Drive* and Edward Albee's *The Play About the Baby* among others. Also established and ran workshop for new play development.

CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, 1988—1993

Avalon Repertory Theater, New York, NY

Founder and co-director for five years of a not for profit theater on the Upper West Side of Manhattan dedicated to presenting plays of great language, ideas, and social relevance. Responsible for all administrative and artistic duties, overseeing fifteen productions a year in two separate spaces and a company of fifty resident professional artists and actors.

WORKSHOP DIRECTOR, 1998—2000

forPLAY, New York, NY

Founder and director of a development workshop for new plays on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The group consisted of thirty actors, writers, and directors that presented over forty readings a year of new material.

AUDITION WORKSHOP DIRECTOR AND COACH- 2003-2006

Turner Networks Television and privately

Produced events, led workshops, and coached privately- Audition technique for both stage and on camera. Worked with students of all ages and in conjunction with major casting directors, agents, and producers in New York City. Judged national dramatic scene competition for TNT network.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, Sept 2014- December 2021

Department of Liberal Arts, History of Theatre D2L Digital Class, Fond Du Lac Tribal College, Cloquet, MN

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, Sept 2014- 2019

Departments of Theatre, Arts Administration, Special Project for School of Business, Winona State University, Winona MN

Classes taught: Arts Administration, Arts Marketing, Theater Appreciation, and advisor to student run business-Walkabout Winona. Because of a desire to remain teaching while working full time as a professional theater administrator, taught classes, advised and helped to create the first student run business at WSU leading historic walking tours.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, Visiting, Sept 2011- May 2013

Department of Theatre, University of Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, MN

Classes taught: Directing, Fundamentals of Acting, Acting 1, Introduction to Theater, Elements of Theater, Play Analysis, Special Topics- The Stanislavski System and Anton Chekhov, and Special Topics, Ibsen and the

Birth of Modern Theater

Productions Directed: The Miracle Worker, It's A Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Drama

Workshop/Class Productions Directed: The Three Sisters, Hedda Gabler

INDUSTRY LIAISON, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, Feb 2000-June 2009

Department of Drama, Undergraduate, New York University, New York, NY

Administrative conduit to Performing Arts Industries for largest drama training program in the world.

Responsibilities included directing and producing industry showcases, development of alumni contacts, creating symposiums/seminars, providing professional career guidance and networking, supervising internship programs, maintaining web site, graphic design for special events and promotional materials.

Additional Responsibilities—Auditioning prospective students for 4-year program.

Director Summer High School programs in musical theater, drama, and experimental theater.

Academic advisor to over sixty students per semester.

TEACHING: Playwriting, Acting, Audition Technique, Collaboration for Writers and Actors, Preparing for the Profession, Downtown Theatre, and Theatre in New York

PUBLIC SPEAKING/WRITING/ENGLISH PROFESSOR, 1990—2002, 2009-2011

English and Communications Departments, New York Institute of Technology, New York, NY

Classes Taught—Art of Communication, Public Speaking, Voice and Diction, Technical Writing, Business

Writing, Basic Writing, College Composition, Freshman Success Seminar

Areas of Specialty—Public Speaking, Drama as Literature, Theatre History, Acting, Scriptwriting, Directing,

MASTER CLASS INSTRUCTOR, 1994—1998

Acting and Playwriting—Regional Center for the Arts, Bridgeport, CT

Taught and directed in unique program bringing together high school artists from all ethnic and economic groups with professional instructors to write, produce, and perform original plays

INSTRUCTOR, FEB.—JUNE 1994

Television Production—CBS Network and Television Services Inc., New York, NY

Hired by network and independent company to train employees in all aspects of television production.

Classes included acting for soap opera, anchoring for talk shows and network news

INSTRUCTOR, ACTING AND PLAYWRITING, May—August 1992

Berkley Carroll School, Brooklyn, NY

Teacher of gifted students at high school for arts. Classes included improvisation, theater games, character work, and scene study. Playwriting classes culminated in full production of student authored play

ACTING INSTRUCTOR, 1989—1993

Avalon Repertory Theatre, New York, NY

Teacher of both professional and young artists in all levels of acting.

Classes included improvisation, theater games, character work, and scene study.

Young artists classes included acting and playwriting.

DIRECTING: REPRESENTATIVE PRODUCTIONS

RABBIT HOLE, PLAYERS CENTRE, Sarasota, FL

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, ROCHESTER CIVIC THEATRE, Rochester, MN

ANNIE, ROCHESTER CIVIC THEATRE, Rochester, MN

PETER AND THE STARCATCHER, LACROSSE COMMUNITY THEATRE, Lacrosse, WI

CRIMES OF THE HEART, FOUNTAIN CITY RIVER PLAYERS, Fountain City, WI

THE MASTER BUILDER, *COMMONWEAL THEATRE*, Lanesboro, MN

MISS MYRNA DAVENPORT'S POETRY IN MOTION, *LANESBORO ART CENTER*, Lanesboro, MN

CORONADO, *RENEGADE THEATER*, Duluth MN

EVITA, *DULUTH PLAYHOUSE*, Duluth, MN

GODSPELL, *DULUTH PLAYHOUSE*, Duluth MN

BOEING, BOEING, *DULUTH PLAYHOUSE*, Duluth MN

BLITHE SPIRIT, *CAPE REPERTORY THEATRE COMPANY*, Cape Cod, MA

STONE COLD DEAD SERIOUS, *HAROLD CLURMAN THEATRE*, New York, NY

THE DISTANCE FROM HERE, *THE ADRIENE*, Philadelphia, PA

WHY CLEANING FAILS, *HERE ARTS CENTER*, New York, NY

3 SECONDS IN THE KEY, *PS 122*, New York, NY

SEX AND THE HOLY LAND, *PLAYERS THEATRE*, New York, NY

BODY PARTS, *MANHATTAN THEATRE SOURCE*, New York, NY

TRAVELER WITHOUT LUGGAGE, *CENTURY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS*, New York, NY

A DOLL HOUSE, *CENTURY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS*, New York, NY

INCOMMUNICADO, *NEW FEDERAL THEATRE*, New York, NY

FAHRENHEIT 451, *SYNCHRONICITY SPACE*, New York, NY

CRIMINAL MINDS, *THEATER ON THREE*, New York, NY

THE MOON IN VAIN, *DIXON PLACE*, New York, NY

BEAU JEST, *MOUNT HOLYOKE SUMMER THEATER*, New York, NY

TROUBLE'S CRIB, *PROMENADE THEATER*, New York, NY

SHADE GIRL, *CLUB TROCADERO*, New York, NY

DIRECTING: *PRODUCTIONS AT AVALON REPERTORY THEATER*, New York, NY

TWELFTH NIGHT, WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

PHOENIX TOO FREQUENT, CHRISTOPHER FRY

TRAVELING LADY, HORTON FOOTE

BOY MEETS GIRL, SAM AND BELLA SPEWACK

DARK LADY OF THE SONNETS, GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

A CRY OF PLAYERS, WILLIAM GIBSON

WE BOMBED IN NEW HAVEN, JOSEPH HELLER

THREE SISTERS, ANTON CHEKHOV

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, OSCAR WIDE

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, KAUFMAN & HART

SOMETHING UNSPOKEN, TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK, LADY JOAN LINDSEY

LYSISTRATA, ARISTOPHANES

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, DALE WASSERMAN

PLAYS AUTHORED AND DIRECTED

I BEEN THERE BEFORE, THEATRE DU MISSISSIPPI, Winona, MN

JUDE, SKIRBALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, New York, NY

INCOMMUNICADO, NEW FEDERAL THEATRE- Nominated for three Audelco Awards, New York, NY

CAN'T DANCE, AVALON REPERTORY THEATRE, ART'S CLUB THEATRE, New York, NY

PAS DE DEUX, AVALON REPERTORY THEATRE, RAFT THEATRE, LEE STRASBERG THEATRE INSTITUTE

TROUBLE'S CRIB, THE WEIGHT OF MY HEART, AVALON REPERTORY THEATRE, New York, NY

TRAINING AND MEMBERSHIPS

MASTER OF FINE ARTS, *Directing Program, Brooklyn College, 1998*

3.99 Average. One of six candidates chosen from international search. Classes included theater management with Dr. Stephen Langley, dramatic structure with Lynn Thomson, and directing with Tom Bullard, Evan Yionulos, and Mary Robinson. Full scholarship for second half of the program chosen as most promising director

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS, *Florida State University, 1980*

Completed four year intensive theater arts program in two years and one semester, graduating Summa Cum Laud and Dean's list three times. Minored English literature

GRADUATE, *Burt Reynolds Institute of Theatrical Education, Jupiter Florida*

(Program became an officially accredited MFA program.) Member of first graduating class at professional training institute where performers are given the chance to work with seasoned theater artists

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT, *Uta Hagen's Advanced Scene Study Class. Herbert Berghof Studios, Manhattan*

Member of class for seven years and one of two students awarded scholarship for study during second term. Ms. Hagen was respected as one of the top teachers in the field, the author of two texts on acting used throughout the world, and a member of the Theater Hall Of Fame

MEMBER, Actors Studio, Playwrights and Directors Unit

Selected by invitation only to prestigious acting school where classes are given by many great teachers and artists such as Paul Newman, JoAnne Woodard, and Ellen Burstyn

AWARDS

WINNER BEST PLAY, NEW AMERICAN PLAY FESTIVAL, *Theater Row, New York City*

Author and Director of Pas De Deux, the play selected from over seven hundred submitted as Best Play in 1989 nationwide contest on Theater Row

NOMINEE, THREE AUDELCO AWARDS, *Incommunicado, New Federal Theatre, New York City*

nominated for best director, play, and ensemble production for prestigious award of excellence in New York theatre

REFERENCES

LOCAL (Florida)

Benny Sato Ambush
Artistic Director
Venice Theatre
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Former Executive Director, The Sarasota Arts Council
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Others Available On Request

WEBSITE
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