

RACHEL BLACK SPAULDING

Stage Director, Theater Educator

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DIRECTING (Select List)

Off and Off-Off Broadway:

THE WIDOW OF TOM'S HILL (Aleks Merilo) *Rave Reviews available* 59E59 Theaters, NYC, 2015

- Julie Harris Award

MY PERFECT PET (Jeff Eisenberg, Bruce J. Robinson) *Directed/Choreographed The Playroom Theater, NYC, 2017

Related Directing Engagement - Broadway:

HUGHIE (Eugene O'Neill) starring Forest Whitaker and Frank Wood The Booth Theater, NYC, 2016

- Recipient of Stage Directors & Choreographers Observership with multi award-winning dir. Michael Grandage

Regional Theatre:

MY PERFECT PET The Emelin Theatre, NY, 2018

A PROGRESSIVE MAN (Phoebe Farber) *NJ Theatre Alliance Stages Festival* The Bickford Theatre, 2017

SHIPS (KJ Sanchez) NJ1M Play Festival, Luna Stage, 2015

SEND IT (Clare Drobot) NJ1M Play Festival, Luna Stage, 2015

DISSEVER (Amy Witting) NJ1M Play Festival, Luna Stage, 2015

ENCORE (Tylie Rider) Annual Short Play Festival, Luna Stage, 2017

THE REUNION (Phoebe Farber) Annual Short Play Festival, Luna Stage, 2016

LISTEN TO TAYLOR (Christopher Parker) Annual Short Play Festival, Luna Stage, 2016

AFTERWARDS (Jonathan Elliot) NJ1M Play Festival, Luna Stage, 2015

NOT INCLUDED (Jonathan Elliot) NJ1M Play Festival, Luna Stage, 2015

FROM THE TOP (Phoebe Farber) NJ1M Play Festival, Luna Stage, 2015

SPOUSE'S EYES (Dano Madden) NJ1M Play Festival, Luna Stage, 2015

THE WIDOW OF TOM'S HILL (Aleks Merilo) *Workshop/Performances* The Lab at Luna, NJ, 2014

MAXIMUM VELOCITY (Jonathon R. Citron) Annual Short Play Festival, Luna Stage, 2014

WRITTEN ON HER FACE (Stacie Lents) Luna Stage, New Moon Reading Series, 2009

BOOTH LINCOLN BOOTH (Thom Molyneux) Luna Stage, New Moon Reading Series, 2008

Directing as an Educator:

NYU TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS – GOLDBERG DEPARTMENT OF DRAMATIC WRITING, 2016 – present

- Hired to **direct** numerous works per semester written by grad/undergrad playwrights in the Steinberg Lab Theatre. Program led by Performance Course professors Eduardo Machado, Daniel Goldfarb, and Rinne Groff, students experience what it is like to collaborate with a professional director and to see their work up on its feet with professional actors.

OUR TOWN (Thornton Wilder) Montclair Kimberly Academy High School, 2018

- Production won four awards, including Best Direction, plus received seven nominations - Montclair State University Theatre Night Foxy Awards. (See Awards/Recognitions/Honors Category).

PREMIERE STAGES ACTORS STUDIO at KEAN UNIVERSITY, Pre-College Summer Camp 2019

- **Developed/Wrote** Pre-college curriculum; **Camp Director; Lead teacher; Directed showcase; Managed two teaching assistants/administrators.**

LITTLE WOMEN (Adapted by Scott Davidson) Doris M. Byrne Performing Arts Center, Mount St. Dominic Academy, 2016

- Production received five Montclair State University Theater Night Foxy Award Nominations, two in directorial categories

[Directing Continued...]

Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab 2015:

THE HARD PROBLEM (Tom Stoppard) – Staged Reading – explorative group project with six other directors.

Community New Jersey Companies:

THE REUNION (Phoebe Farber)

Strange Dog Theatre Play Fest, 2015

TEDDY'S RETURN (Jonathon R. Citron)

The Theater Project, NJ, 2015

QUEUE (Jonathon R. Citron)

The Theater Project, NJ, 2014

THE POTENTIAL AMANDA (Eric Alter)

The Grove Street Theatre, NJ, 2011

TEACHING

LINCOLN CENTER THEATER DIRECTORS LAB (LCTDL) 2015

- **Devised and taught** two intensive acting workshops to colleagues utilizing Patsy Rodenburg's Heightened Language and "Second Circle" work. Fellow directors experienced instruction in Vocal Production Techniques, Actor's Movement, Character Development, Delivery of Heightened Language. *[In 2015 LCTDL was under consideration - a second time - for a Special Tony Award]*

PREMIERE STAGES ACTORS STUDIO AT KEAN UNIVERSITY 2019

- **Directed and taught** pre-college summer program, per details in above "Director as an Educator" Category

ROSA PARKS COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Orange, NJ 2018, 2019, 2020

- **Drama Teacher, Director of End of Term Presentation**, Grades 5-7, under Federal Grant through Valley Arts NJ for underserved communities

PRIVATE STUDIO, 2000 – present

- Acting Technique; Dramatic Acting College Audition Prep; Monologue Coaching; Audition Sides; Voice/Song Interpretation; Musical Theatre Audition Prep. Students: Ages 13 – 55 (Professionals/serious students)

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE, 2016, and LUNA STAGE, 2015, 2017

Substitute for Musical Theatre Classes

MUSICAL THEATRE CONSERVATORY, WEST ORANGE, NJ, 2013-present

Lead Dramatic Acting Instructor, Director

- Technique, Scene Study, Voice and Movement for the Actor, Drama games, Improvisation, Audition Technique
- Conceived and directed winter and spring Dramatic Scene Showcases
- Student Age: Teens/tweens

CIRQUE L'ORANJ at The Rosa Parks School, Orange, NJ, Summer 2017

- **Master Instructor/Performance Coach** – taught drama classes, coached performance, and choreographed ribbon dance for final Circus performance
- PacArts is the Arts Education Division of Valley Arts, bringing arts education to underserved communities

BROADWAY BOOT CAMP, LIVINGSTON, NJ; LAURIE BEECHMAN THEATRE, West 42nd St, NYC, 2013-present

Lead Dramatic Acting Instructor, Director

- Technique, Scene Study, Drama games, Improvisation, Hand-to-hand Stage Combat
- Conceived and directed Dramatic Scene Showcases; including facilitation and staging of student devised stage combat scenes
- Student Age: Teens/tweens

[Directing as an Educator continued ...]

GLENFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL: MAGNET FOR THE VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS, MONTCLAIR, NJ, *February – May 2014*

Special Guest Artist

- Staged and choreographed “Magic to Do” from *PIPPIN* for Spring Concert Production

CENTRAL QUEENS Y, FOREST HILLS, NY, *2000-2005*

Program Developer, Drama and Voice Instructor

- Introduced the Drama and Voice Department to the Creative and Performing Arts Division
- Staged children’s play: *THE NORTH WIND AND THE SUN*
- Conceived, wrote, and filmed children’s movie: *THE PEARL NECKLACE*
- Student Age: Early childhood, primary school age, teens/tweens, adults

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/HONORS

2019 Won: “Best Stage Direction”; “Best Production of a Drama”; Two Best Actor Awards (OUR TOWN). Production nominated for four other awards, two in directorial categories – Montclair State University Theatre Night Foxy Awards
 2017 Nomination “Best Stage Direction” (*LITTLE WOMEN*) – Montclair State University Theater Night Foxy Awards
 2017 Nomination “Best in Scholarship & Directorial Insight” (*LITTLE WOMEN*) – MSU Theater Night Foxy Awards
 2016 Recipient of Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation Observership on Broadway, with Michael Grandage
 Honored Commencement Speaker at SUNY Empire - Saratoga City Center, Saratoga Springs, NY, June 2013

ARTISTIC SERVICE

LUNA STAGE, West Orange, NJ

Literary Associate, Dramaturg, and Advisor

2007- 2017

- Charged with reading and evaluating submitted scripts; making recommendations regarding script suitability for Luna’s main stage season, Play Festival, New Moon Reading Series, workshops.
- Attended numerous “in house” readings over the course of each season for play development, often working hand in hand with Luna commissioned playwrights such as Obie award winning Nikkole Salter.
- Attended, directed, and acted in Luna’s monthly public play readings for evaluation and development.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE, Millburn, NJ

2014 - 2015

Adjudicator for nationally recognized *RISING STAR AWARDS*, awarding scholarships and awards for outstanding achievement in all performance and technical categories in a New Jersey High School musical production.

- Attended numerous High School musicals across the state of NJ, and completed detailed written evaluations for the purpose of evaluating and adjudicating talent in all performance and technical categories.
- Attended all-day nomination conference: Reviewed colleague evaluations and videos of performances under consideration, assessed, discussed, defended, and nominated talent in all performance and technical categories.

CLARK UNIVERSITY

2018

- **Adjudicator** Student Playwrighting Contest

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Performer

Broadway, Off Broadway, Regional, Film - Directed by such luminaries as Susan Stroman, Graciele Daniele, Woody Allen, and performed with Roger Daltrey, Hal Linden, Tony Randall, Terrence Mann, Ben Vereen, to name a few. Performance resume and reviews available upon request.

[Other Professional Activity continued...]

PUBLIC SPEAKING COACHING

Owner, Principal Executive Speech Coach

2001-2011: Utilizing theater methodologies, provided coaching in Platform Delivery Skills, Speech Writing, and Presentation Development for corporate executives of corporations, leaders of organizations, lawyers, and professionals in a variety of industries. Clients have included: Millward Brown Optimor; UBS Warburg; Attract Capital, LLC; Bellco Health; Healthcare Distribution Management Association; FirstMark Capital; NEXT Financial; Block and Roos, LLP; among others.

THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL

April 1995 – October 1995

First Assistant to President Dr. Joseph W. Polisi (Temporary six-month maternity leave replacement)

Managed the office of the President at Juilliard. Interfaced with Juilliard School Board of Directors, Department Heads, Administrators, and special project collaborators daily. Assisted Dr. Polisi as an administrator in the development and organization of various theatrical, orchestral, and dance projects.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY (SDCS) - Associate Member

LINCOLN CENTER THEATER DIRECTORS LAB (LCTDL) 2015 – Member

ACTORS EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA) - Member

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD/AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS (SAG-AFTRA) – Member

LEADERSHIP/VOLUNTEER

MONTCLAIR SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEPAC), Montclair, NJ 2006 - 2010

President (Served two-year term); **Liaison** (Served two one-year terms)

SEPAC is a state mandated council charged with advising the Commissioner of Education regarding unmet educational needs of pupils with disabilities within the state of NJ and specifically within the immediate district.

- Interfaced directly and regularly with Superintendent of Schools, Director of Pupil Services, Principals of all eleven schools within the district, and service provider professionals. Worked with district on procedures for distribution of funds concerning special services for students with disabilities.
- Child and Parent Advocate, and spokesperson at town hall and Board of Education meetings regarding annual state program plan, proposed rules and regulations, and annual district budgetary concerns.
- Resided over monthly SEPAC meetings leading topical workshops, open forums, and panel discussions with guest speakers to educate parents and staff, ensuring “best practices” as to the identification, evaluation, and provision of services and resources for students with special needs within the eleven public schools, K – 12, in the Montclair, NJ public school district.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT/EDUCATION (SELECT LIST)

Directing:

THE LINCOLN CENTER THEATER DIRECTORS LAB 2015

- A highly competitive program headed by Anne Cattaneo, Lincoln Center Dramaturg.
- 2015's theme was “Difficult Plays”.
- Co-directed Tom Stoppard's *THE HARD PROBLEM*.
- Observed and participated in additional directing projects including: *WHEN WE DEAD AWAKEN* (Henrik Ibsen), *UNCLE TOM'S CABIN* (Harriet Beecher Stowe/George Aiken), *THE OWL ANSWERS* (Adrienne Kennedy), *TAMPURLAINE PART 1* (Christopher Marlowe), *THE DRUNKEN DAYS* (Sa'dallah Wannous), *LA SEGUA* (Albert Canas), *JEFF KOONS* (Rainald Goetz).
- Devised and taught two workshops at the Lab to colleagues (See Teaching section). Attended and participated in workshops, presentations, and panel discussions given by such luminaries as Andre Bishop, Anne Cattaneo, Bartlet Sher, Adrienne Kennedy, Lynn M. Thompson, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Sarah Benson, and Moritz von Stuelpnagel, among others.

[Professional Training Continues...]

STAGE DIRECTORS & CHOREOGRAPHERS FOUNDATION OBSERVERSHIP CLASS, 2015-2016

- Attended and participated in presentations/panel discussions/events about directing, artistic direction, producing, and design.

SDC OBSERVERSHIP - *HUGHIE* by Eugene O'Neill on Broadway, starring Forest Whitaker and Frank Wood

- Recipient of highly competitive SDC Observership under multi award-winning director Michael Grandage (UK) on his production of *HUGHIE* at the Booth Theatre, NYC, starring Forest Whitaker and Frank Wood. Attended all studio rehearsals, production meetings, tech rehearsals, run-throughs, previews, fixes, opening night. Received ample one-on-one time with Mr. Grandage to discuss and evaluate all aspects of the production specifically; discuss his artistic direction of The Donmar Warehouse Theatre (London); and discuss directing and theatre overall. (Stipend funded by SDCF).

Acting:

THREE YEAR MEISNER CONSERVATORY PROGRAM – WILLIAM ESPER STUDIOS, NYC, Principal Teacher – Bill Esper

PATSY RODENBURG (from Royal National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company, UK)

- *Shakespeare, Heightened Language, Voice, and "Second Circle"*

FAY SIMPSON (Yale Faculty)

- *"Lucid Body", Movement for Actors*

LOYD WILLIAMSON STUDIO, NYC

- *Movement for Actors with Loyd Williamson,*

AMERICAN GLOBE THEATRE CONSERVATORY, NYC

- *Shakespeare – Levels I, II, III with John Basil*
- *Classical and Modern Theatre Scene Study with John Basil*

SCENE STUDY, NYC STUDIOS: *Alice Spivak; HB Studios: Carol Rosenfeld, Rochelle Oliver*PRINCIPAL VOICE TEACHERS: *Bruce Kolb; Phil Hall*PRINCIPAL DANCE TEACHERS: *Maggie Black, Ballet; Ann Reinking, Jazz***Education:**

B.A. in THEATRE, SUNY EMPIRE [With 60 credits transferred from SUNY Purchase/UB combined]

* **Honored Commencement Speaker** - Saratoga City Center, Saratoga Springs, NY, June 2013

References available upon request