

R I S A B R A I N I N

Representation:

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A passionate, innovative artistic leader, freelance director and educator working in LORT theaters large and small for 25+ years. Founded and runs a highly successful, unique play development program. Dedicated to building deep collaborations with artists, audiences and communities alike.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING

The Guthrie Theater	1990-96, 2023
<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>	
<i>Mystery of the Rose Bouquet</i>	
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	
Short Plays: <i>Tone Clusters, The Zoo Story, Naomi in the Living Room</i>	
<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	
AKA: <i>Orwell*</i>	
<i>Fantasio, Marat/Sade, The Sea Gull, K: Impressions of The Trial</i> Tour (AD to Garland Wright)	
<i>Dream on Monkey Mountain</i> (AD to Bill T. Jones) <i>Private Lives</i> (AD to Michael Engler)	
Indiana Repertory Theatre	1997-2023
<i>Frankenstein</i>	
<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>	
<i>Holmes and Watson</i>	
<i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>	
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i> (co-production)	
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	
<i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i>	
<i>Mother of the Movement*</i>	
<i>One Thousand Cranes</i>	
<i>Talley's Folly</i>	
<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	
<i>Noises Off</i>	
<i>Macbeth</i>	
<i>Pygmalion</i>	
<i>The Herbal Bed</i>	
<i>I have Before me a Remarkable Document Given to me by a Young Lady from Rwanda</i>	
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park	2022
<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>	
Seattle Children's Theatre	2022
<i>The Watsons Go To Birmingham – 1963</i>	
Ten Thousand Things, Minneapolis	2021
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i> (on Zoom)	
United Solo Festival, NY	2015-2019
<i>That Wonder Boy*</i>	
<i>"A" Train*</i>	
Pittsburgh Public Theatre	2019
<i>Indecent</i>	

History Theatre, St. Paul	1995-97, 2019
<i>Civil Ceremony* Oh, Pioneers! Gloria, A Life</i>	
American Players Theatre	2000-01, 2018
<i>Uncle Vanya</i>	
<i>The Government Inspector</i>	
<i>Measure for Measure</i>	
Playmakers Repertory Company	2018
<i>"A" Train*</i>	
Syracuse Stage	2017
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i> (co-production)	
Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	2009, 2017
<i>Secret Order</i>	
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	
Swine Palace Theatre	2017
<i>Stupid F***ing Bird</i>	
Elements Theatre Collective	2017
<i>Stupid F***ing Bird</i>	
Denver Center Theatre	2015
<i>Appoggiatura*</i>	
Pacific Conservatory Performing Arts (PCPA)	2014
<i>36 Views</i>	
Mixed Blood Theatre	1993-94, 2008, 2013
<i>A, My Name is Still Alice</i> (co-director)	
<i>Love Person*</i>	
<i>Shiv*</i>	
Alabama Shakespeare Festival	2000, 2012
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	
<i>In the Book Of*</i>	
Clarence Brown Theatre	2011
<i>The Music Man</i>	
Great Lakes Theatre Festival	2004-10
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	
<i>As You Like It</i>	
<i>Othello</i>	
<i>Measure for Measure</i>	
Idaho Shakespeare Festival	2004-10
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	
<i>King Lear</i>	
<i>Othello</i>	
<i>Measure for Measure</i>	
Commonweal Theatre, MN	2009
<i>John Gabriel Borkman*</i> (new adaptation)	
Portland Stage Company	2007
<i>Iron Kisses</i> (area premiere)	
Milwaukee Repertory Theatre	2005-06
<i>The Underpants,</i>	
<i>Intimate Apparel</i>	
Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis	2004
<i>As You Like It</i>	

Shakespeare Santa Cruz	2002-03
<i>The Sea Gull</i>	
<i>Hamlet</i>	
<i>The Emperor's New Clothes*</i>	
Kansas City Repertory Theatre	2000-03
<i>Machinal</i>	
<i>Morning Star</i>	
<i>Indian Ink</i>	
Actors Theatre of Louisville	1996-98
<i>Greater Tuna,</i>	
<i>Lots of Love Gertrude, Ever Thine Thornton*</i>	
*World Premiere	

NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT

LAUNCH PAD Preview Productions, University of California, Santa Barbara	2005-23
<i>She Wolf, Margaret of Anjou</i> by Katie Bender	
<i>Alone, Together: a Zoom Festival of 39 short plays</i> (Artistic Director)	
<i>Abundance</i> by James Still & <i>Auld Lang Syne</i> by Jenny Mercein (Director)	
<i>What Martha Did</i> by Enid Graham	
<i>The Watsons Go To Birmingham --1963</i> by Cheryl L. West	
<i>Staging the Daffy Dame</i> by Anne García-Romero	
<i>The Talented Ones</i> by Yussef El Guindi	
<i>We Want the Funk, a rustbelt lullaby on the one!</i> by Idris Goodwin	
<i>Appoggiatura</i> by James Still	
<i>Untitled IV</i> by Ruth Markofsky by Alison Tatlock	
<i>Entangled</i> by Lila Rose Kaplan	
<i>Biederman's Match</i> by Beau Willimon, music by Michelle DiBucci, lyrics by Portia Kamons	
<i>Kingdom City</i> by Sheri Wilner	
<i>La Niñera: The Nursemaid</i> by Barbara Lebow	
<i>Plumfield, Iraq</i> by Barbara Lebow	
<i>The Dinosaur Within</i> by John Walch	
<i>Melancholy Play</i> by Sarah Ruhl	
LAUNCH PAD Reading/Workshops:	
<i>Amplify Reading Series Festival, 14 new plays</i> (Artistic Director) 2021-23:	
Lisa Sanaye Dring, Yuseff El Guindi, Kareem Fahmy, Keiko Green, Candrice Jones, Rehana Lew Mirza, Milta Ortiz, Eliana Pipes, Jacqueline E. Lawton, Eric Reyes Loo, Caridad Svich, Stephanie Kyung Walters	
Past playwrights: Jami Brandli, Deborah Brevoort, Dan Castellaneta, Mia Chung, Declan Hughes, Arlene Hutton, Franky Gonzales, Deb Lacusta, Barbara Lebow, E.M. Lewis, Melinda Lopez, Joyce Carol Oates, James Still, Cheryl L. West	
Road Theatre Company, New Playwrights Festival	2021
<i>Refugee Rhapsody</i> by Yussef El Guindi (on Zoom)	
Seven Devils New Play Foundry	2021
<i>The Body's Midnight</i> by Tira Palmquist (on Zoom)	
Skylight Theatre, Los Angeles	2020
<i>Dear Auntie D</i> by Michele Willens (on Streamyard)	
Arkansas New Play Festival, TheatreSquared	2013, 2018
<i>The Spiritualist</i> by Bob Ford <i>Staging the Daffy Dame</i> by Anne García-Romero	
The Lark New Play Development, NY	2013, 2016
<i>"A" Train</i> by Annie Torsiglieri <i>Bad Touch</i> by Joyce Carol Oates	
Project Y, NY <i>Above Water</i> by Bob Clyman	2015

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Red Bull Theatre, NY Short New Play Festival
New Harmony Project
The Roof by Suzanne Bradbeer
In the Book Of by John Walch

2013
2005, 2011

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

Founder / Artistic Director, LAUNCH PAD a residency and performance program for new plays at UC Santa Barbara	2005-present
Artistic Director, Shakespeare Santa Cruz	2001-03
Associate Artistic Director, Kansas City Repertory Theatre	2000-02
Associate Artistic Director, Indiana Repertory Theatre	1997-00
Associate Company Director, The Guthrie Theater	1995-96
Director of Apprentice / Intern Program, Actors' Theatre of Louisville	1996
Resident Director, The Guthrie Theater	1991-93

AWARDS / HONORS

Nominee, SDCF's 2021 Zelda Fichandler Award
SDC's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, **Top 10 "Standout Moments" of 2017-18**
For casting an actor on the autism spectrum in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*
SALT Award: Best Director *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at Syracuse Stage
Santa Barbara Independent Award: *Stupid F***ing Bird* at Elements Theatre Collective
United Solo Festival, NY
Best Direction, Best One-Man Show, Audience Award: *That Wonder Boy*
Best Production, Best Encore: "A" Train
Santa Barbara Independent Award: *36 Views* at PCPA
Colorado Henry Award Nomination: Best New Play *Appoggiatura*
Kevin Kline Award
Nomination: Best Director
Winner: Best Ensemble: *Secret Order* at Repertory Theatre of St. Louis
Santa Barbara Independent Awards: *The Dinosaur Within & Timon of Athens* at UCSB
Northern Ohio Live Award: *Julius Caesar* at Great Lakes Theatre Festival
Named "Arts Newsmaker of the Year" by the Santa Cruz Sentinel
Finalist, Alan Schneider Directing Award

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, College of Fellows of the American Theatre since 2020
President (2015-16), National Theatre Conference (NTC). **Member** since 2002. **Board Trustee** for 12 years.
Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) since 1997

EDUCATION

CARNEGIE-MELLON UNIVERSITY, BFA in Acting

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