

## MELIA BENSUSSEN

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### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2008 – present      **Chair, Department of Performing Arts**  
**Associate Professor**  
Emerson College, Boston, MA
- 2007 – 2008      **Interim Chair, Department of Performing Arts**  
**Associate Professor**  
Emerson College
- 2006 – 2007      **Associate Professor, Emerson College**  
Producing Director, Emerson Stage
- 2000 – 2006      **Assistant Professor, Emerson College**  
Producing Director, Emerson Stage  
Emerson College
- Awarded the 2003-04 Norman and Irma Mann Stearns Distinguished Faculty Award*
- 1986 – present      **Free-Lance Theatre Director**  
*Over 80 productions in New York City and nationwide.*
- Winner of the 1999 **Obie** for Excellence in Directing*
- 1996 - 2000      **Head of Directing, Assistant Professor, SMU**  
*Responsible for creating and running MFA in Directing program.*  
*Received NAST accreditation for the MFA program within two years.*
- Recipient of the Dean's Prize, 1997 and 1999.*
- 1998 - 2000      **Artistic Consultant, Shakespeare Festival of Dallas**  
*Forged partnership between SMU and the Shakespeare Festival.*  
*Collaborated on the Festival's restructuring, created a five-year plan, as well as consulting on season scheduling, fundraising, educational programs, casting and marketing.*
- 1997 - 1998      **Artistic Associate, San Jose Repertory Theatre**  
*New Play Festival Artistic Director. Selected and dramaturged new plays, directed workshops, and created a new marketing strategy which succeeded in doubling attendance.*

- 1990 - 1993            **Associate Artist, New York Shakespeare Festival**  
*Produced and directed a season of new adaptations and translations, including works by Brecht, Euripides, Kroetz; translated by Regina Taylor, Arthur Giron, and others.*
- 1986 - 1990            **Associate Director, Festival Latino in New York, NYSF**  
*The Festival produced companies from throughout Latin America and Spain. Responsibilities included providing translations for the written texts produced, as well as serving as simultaneous translator for Festival performances, events and meetings (Spanish/English).*

**PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING**

*Selected credits.*

*Memory House* by Kathleen Tolan **Merrimack Repertory Theatre**, Lowell, MA, October 2012

*The Luck of the Irish* by Kirsten Greenridge, **Huntington Theatre**, Boston, MA, April 2012

*Two Jews Walk into a War* by Seth Rozin, **Geva Theatre Center**, Rochester, NY April 2012

*Twelfth Night*, **Actors Shakespeare Project**, Boston, MA, September 2011

*Kinship* by Carey Perloff (workshop), **New York Stage and Film**, Vassar, Poughkeepsie, NY, July 2011

*Girls Play* by Masha Obolensky, **Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Festival**, NYC, July 2011

*The Awake* by Ken Urban, **Portland Stage Company**, Little Festival of the Unexpected, Portland, ME, May 2011

*Two Jews Walk Into a War* by Seth Rozin, **Merrimack Repertory Theatre**, Lowell, MA, March 2011

*The Luck of the Irish* by Kristen Greenidge (workshop), **Huntington Theatre Company**, Boston, January 2011

*Color of Rose* by Katherine Bates (world premiere), **ArtsEmerson**, Boston, January 2011

*Circle Mirror Transformation*, **Huntington Theatre Company**, Boston, October 2010  
*Elliott Norton Nomination for Best Production, 2010*  
*Ten Best of 2010, Boston Globe*

*The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead* by Robert Hewett, **Merrimack Repertory Theatre**, Lowell, MA, April 2010

*Not Enough Air* by Masha Obolensky, workshop, **The Transport Group theatre**, New York City, February 2010

*Not Enough Air* by Masha Obolensky, **The Nora Theatre**, Cambridge, MA, February 2010  
**Ten Best of 2010, Boston Globe**

*The Leer Sisters* by Lawrence Svirsky, **American Repertory Theatre**, Cambridge, MA,  
November 2009 (workshop)

*Taming of the Shrew*, **Actors Shakespeare Project**, Cambridge, MA, October 2009  
**Ten Best of 2009, Boston Globe**

*Merchant of Venice*, **Actors Shakespeare Project**, Boston, MA, November 2008

*Out of Sterno* by Deb Laufer (workshop), **Portland Stage Company**, Little Festival of the  
Unexpected, Portland, Maine, May 2008

*Three Italian Women* by Laura Maria Censabella (workshop), **Lyric Stage**, Boston,  
April 2008

*Thomas Repair* by Mat Smart (workshop), **Huntington Theatre**, Boston, April 2008

*Thomas Repair* by Mat Smart (world premiere workshop), **Geva Theatre**, Rochester, NY,  
March 2008

*Three Italian Women (Carla Cooks the War)* by Laura Maria Censabella (workshop), **Ensemble  
Studio Theatre**, NYC, March 2008

*The 13<sup>th</sup> of Paris* by Mat Smart (world premiere), **Pittsburgh City Theatre**, February 2008

*The 13<sup>th</sup> of Paris* by Mat Smart (workshop), Momentum Festival, **Pittsburgh City Theatre**,  
June 2007

*Ah Wilderness!* by Eugene O'Neill, **Baltimore Center Stage**, March 2007

*Aunt Dan and Lemon* by Wallace Shawn, **Merrimack Repertory Theatre**, October 2006

*The Graces* by Claire Chafee (workshop, premiere), **New Georges**, New York City, June 2006  
**Funded by a Princess Grace Fellowship Special Projects grant**

*The Scottish Play* by Lee Blessing (world premiere), **La Jolla Playhouse**, La Jolla,  
CA, September-October 2005

*Leap* by John Yearley (world premiere), **Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park**, Cincinnati,  
Ohio, February 2005

*Absence* by Wendy Hammond (workshop), New York City, November 2004

*Oedipus at Palm Springs* by The Five Lesbian Brothers (workshop), **Theatre Offensive**,  
Boston, November 2004

*Yemaya's Belly* by Quiara Hudes (workshop), **Portland Stage Company**, Portland,  
Maine, May 2004

*Hungry Ghosts* by Bill Corbett (world premiere/workshop), **Playwrights Horizons**, New York City, NY, May 2004

*Next Year in Jerusalem* by Ellen Melaver (world premiere/workshop), **Cherry Lane Theatre**, New York City, March 2004

*Something in the Air* by Richard Dresser, **Merrimack Repertory Theatre**, Lowell, MA, March 2004

*Rock Shore* by Lisa Dillman, (workshop) **O'Neill Playwrights Conference**, CT, July 2003

*Diosa* by Edwin Sanchez, **Hartford Stage Company**, Hartford, CT, April 2003

*The Fabulous Invalid*, a new adaptation by Jeffrey Hatcher (world premiere/workshop), **The Guthrie Theatre**/Midwest Playlabs, MN, July 2002

*Whores* by Lee Blessing (workshop), **O'Neill Playwrights Center**, CT, July 2002

*Hearts* by Willy Holtzman, **Long Wharf Theatre**, New Haven, CT, March 2002

*Headlong* by Patty Wettig (world premiere/workshop), **New York Stage and Film**, Vassar, July 2001

*Black Sheep* by Lee Blessing, **O'Neill Playwrights Center**, CT, July 2001

*Life is Short* by Seth Greenland, **Cleveland Playhouse**, Cleveland, March 2001

*Krisit* by Y York, **Primary Stages**, NYC, February 2001

*Hearts* by Willy Holtzman (World Premiere), **People's Light and Theatre Co.**, PA, September 2000  
**Barrimore Nomination for Best Direction and Production**

*Something in the Air* by Richard Dresser, **Bay Street Theatre**, NY, June 1999

*Barefoot Boy with Shoes On* by Edwin Sanchez, (workshop), **Hartford Stage**, Hartford, CT, March 1999

*Turn of the Screw* adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher, **Primary Stages**, NYC, February 1999  
**Winner of the OBIE award for Best Direction**

*Much Ado About Nothing*, **Dallas Shakespeare Festival**, July 1998

*Scotland Road* by Jeffrey Hatcher, **Primary Stages**, NYC, February 1998

*Icarus* by Edwin Sanchez, **San Jose Repertory Theatre**, San Jose, CA, April 1998

*Ambition Facing West* by Anthony Clarvoe, **Rep. Theatre of St. Louis**, September 1997

*Icarus* by Edwin Sanchez (world prem.), **Actors Theatre of Louisville, Humana Festival**, March 1997

*Turn of the Screw* adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher, **Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park**,  
December 1996

*Sabina* by Willy Holtzman (world premiere), **Primary Stages**, NYC, March 1996

*A Dybbuk* adapted by Tony Kushner, **Denver Center Theatre Company**, January 1996

*Sisters Rosenzweig* by Wendy Wasserstein, **Rep Theatre of St. Louis**, October 1995

*Taming of the Shrew*, **Heart of America Shakespeare Festival**, Kansas City, MO, July 1995  
**Best Production of 1995, Kansas City Star**

*Camila* by Lori McKelvey, **Hal Prince Musical Theatre Project**, New York, NY, May 1995

*Marisol* by Jose Rivera, **Denver Center Theatre Company**, March 1995

*Twelfth Night*, **Oregon Shakespeare Festival**, January 1995

*Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel, **Cleveland Playhouse**, September 1994

*Baltimore Waltz* by Paula Vogel, **Berkshire Theatre Festival**, Stockbridge, MA, July 1994  
**"One of the Ten Best Productions of 1994", Berkshire Eagle**

*Oleanna* by David Mamet, **Portland Stage Company**, Portland, ME, February 1994

*Merchant of Venice*, **North Carolina Shakespeare Festival**, High Point, NC, July 1993

*Billy and Bix* by Len Jenkin and Emily Jenkins (workshop), **Sundance Institute**, Utah, July 1993

*Amazon's Voice* by Alan Heinberg (world premiere), **Manhattan Class Company**, NYC,  
January 1993

*The Ugly Duck*, book James Still, music Chris McGovern (premiere), **TheatreWorks/USA**,  
NYC, Nov. 1992

*Camp Paradox* by Barbara Graham (premiere), **WPA**, NYC, October 1992

*Blood Wedding* by Federico Garcia Lorca, translated by Langston Hughes,  
adapted by Melia Bensussen, **Joseph Papp Public Theatre**, NYC, April 1992

*Man, Woman, Dinosaur* by Regina Porter (premiere), **Playwrights Horizons**, NYC,  
January 1992

*Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* by Alan Ball (world premiere), **Manhattan Class  
Company**, Dec. 1991

*Breaking Up* by Michael Cristofer, **Primary Stages**, NYC, October 1991

*A Dream of Wealth* by Arthur Giron (premiere), **South Coast Repertory Theatre**, CA,  
August 1990

*Love Lemmings*, a comedy revue by Joe DiPietro, **The Village Gate**, NYC, February 1990

*The Encanto File* by Rosa Lowinger (premiere), **The Women's Project**, NYC, April 1989

*Yo Siempre Gano!* by Fred Valle, **Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre**, NYC, December 1988

*New Anatomies* by Timberlake Wertenbaker, **Home for Contemporary Theatre**, NYC,  
February 1988

*Why to Refuse* by Eduardo Machado, **Theatre for the New City**, NYC, December 1986

### **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- Broadway World Best Director (Boston) 2010, *Circle Mirror Transformation*
- Princess Grace Foundation Special Grant, 2004-05
- **OBIE AWARD** for Excellence in Directing, New York City, 1999
- Barrymore nomination, Best Director, Philadelphia, PA, 2001
- Dean's Prize, Meadows School of the Arts, 1997 and 1999
- Princess Grace Statuette Award for Excellence in Directing, 1994
- TCG Visiting Artist Grant; Dallas Theatre Center, 1993
- Princess Grace Foundation - USA Directing Fellowship, 1990-91
- TCG Translation Grant for DOSTOEVSKI VA A LA PLAYA by M.A.de la Parra, 1991
- Drama League Directing Fellowship, 1986
- Dorot Research Fellowship, Israel, 1984

### **ACADEMIC PRODUCTIONS**

#### **Emerson College, Boston, MA**

COMMON GROUND, based on Anthony Lukas' work  
(a co-production between Performing Arts and ArtsEmerson)  
Greene Theatre, December 2011

LIGHT UP THE SKY  
Paramount Theatre, October 2010

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM  
The Cutler Majestic, November 2007

CUIDADO! NIJOS TRABAJANDO, a bilingual collaborative theatre work  
based on texts about children at work and child labor laws  
Greene Theatre, April 2007

ADAPTATION, a collaborative project  
based on Megan Marshall's award-winning biography *The Peabody Sisters*  
Greene Theatre, November 2005

ALL OF A KIND FAMILY, adapted by Melia Bensussen from the books by Sydney Taylor,  
Music by Catherine Stornetta, lyrics by Bensussen and Stornetta  
Cutler Majestic, November 2004

THE FABULOUS INVALID by Kaufman and Hart, in a new adaptation by Jeffrey Hatcher  
Celebrating the Cutler Majestic's Centennial, November 2003  
Starring Alice Ripley and Steve Hendrickson

ALICE IN CONCERT, book, lyrics and music by Elizabeth Swados  
A co-production with Roxbury Community College, November 2002  
***NOMINATED FOR BEST DIRECTION, Best Musical, Best Design***  
***New England Independent Critics Association***

JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK by Sean O'Casey  
The Emerson Majestic, November 2001

### **Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX**

AH WILDERNESS by Eugene O'Neill, Spring 2000

SUENO (Jose Rivera's adaptation LIFE IS A DREAM), Spring 1999  
***(Jose Rivera was in residence for this process)***

HOLIDAY by Philip Barry, Fall 1997

AS YOU LIKE IT, Spring 1997

### **University of Missouri/Missouri Rep, Kansas City, MO (guest director)**

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST, April 1994

CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE by Bertolt Brecht, April 1993

### **New York University, MFA Acting Program (guest director)**

TOP GIRLS by Caryl Churchill, May 1987

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

- Fundamentals of Directing (TH 381)
- Advanced Directing (TH 481)
- Graduate Directing I and II (TH 680 and TH 681)
  - TH680 chosen as an "Exemplary WebCT Course", Fall 05
- Adaptation and Collaboration (TH421, TH521)
  - *Common Ground* by Anthony Lukas, core text, Fall 2011

*Directed Studies at both Graduate and Undergraduate levels in:*

- Feminism and Theatre
- Gender and Directing
- Adaptation for the Stage
- Directing the Musical
- The Playwright/Director Relationship
- Community Outreach and Theatre
- Special Studies in Directing

### **SERVICE TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Society of Directors and Choreographers (SDC)

Northeast Nominating Selection Committee

Thesis Reader – Boston University MFA Design Program

NEA On-Site Evaluator.

*Have visited and reviewed professional theatres around the country, since 1990 to the present.*

Princess Grace Foundation, USA.

*Panel member and grant evaluator, 1998 to the present.*

O'Neill Playwrights Center

*Reader and judge for one of the country's premier playwriting development workshops. Read and reported on scripts for the Artistic Director, Jim Houghton, 1998-2003*

### **BOARD MEMBER/CONSULTANT**

The Spencer Cherashore Fund.

*Member of the National Advisory Board.*

Other board members include Jose Rivera, Lee Blessing, and Clinton Turner Davis, among others.

### **SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE**

**Emerson College**

Chair, Performing Arts Department (2007-present)

Administrate and oversee a department consisting of approximately 500 students, 28 full time faculty, 12 staff and 20-30 adjunct faculty, with a \$450,000 annual budget. Performing Arts at Emerson consists of seven different degree tracks, including BFA's in Design/Tech,

Production/Stage Management, Acting, Musical Theatre, and a strong BA in Theatre Studies and BA in Theatre Education.

All initiatives, reorganizations and other changes were possible thanks to the collaboration and support of the PA faculty and staff. My accomplishments over the last four years include:

Oversaw the move into the Paramount, and orchestrated an opening weekend of events highlighting the PA faculty, staff and students, including the commissioning of original work from Boston-based playwrights (the *Pop Up Plays*).

Working alongside *ArtsEmerson* to create positive collaboration experiences for the department: Three co-productions (*Color of Rose*, *Sugar*, and *Café Variations*) have led to more opportunities for faculty, staff and students to work alongside professionals.

Built stronger relationships with alums from the PA program and helped gain over \$175,000 in additional scholarship funds for the department.

Created new positions including a Term Faculty line for Head of BFA Stage/Production Management; an Assistant Production Manager, and Assistant General Manager. Restructured the staffing of the Costume Shop to more successfully meet the needs of the department.

Initiated a NY connection trip for BFA Acting and Musical Theatre Seniors to meet Emerson alumnae working in the theatre industry, creating more informational and work opportunities for our students, while creating a stronger bond with our alums in the profession.

Began producing the BFA Acting and Musical Theatre Showcase as an Alums Presentation in New York City for industry professionals in the fall of 2011.

Creating the Orientation Soiree where first year students were matched with upperclassmen over the summer and were introduced face to face during orientation week.

Oversaw the restructuring of the Acting program and its shift in leadership to emphasize the differences between the curriculum of the BFA in Acting and the BA program.

#### Producing Director, Emerson Stage (2000-2007)

Work during the academic year and during the summer creating and overseeing the Emerson Stage season. New initiatives have included:

- Roxbury Community College co-productions, beginning with ALICE by Elizabeth Swados (see award nominations above), Robbie McCauley's production of THE ME NOBODY KNOWS, and TWELVE ANGRY JURORS, and an in-the-planning-stages 05-06 production of THE EXONERATED directed by Emerson alum and well-known film and stage actor Brent Jennings.

- Creating a new adaptation of the children's classic, *All of a Kind Family*, performed at the Cutler Majestic in November of 2004. Organized efforts to bring in school groups from the Boston area, including inner city and Chinatown vicinity students, providing them with free theatre. Organized inter-denominational conversations around the production for elementary school kids throughout the Boston area, as well as bringing in Temple and Church groups.
- Commissioning playwright Jeffrey Hatcher to write a new adaptation of Kaufman and Hart's *The Fabulous Invalid* to celebrate the centennial of the Majestic. Producing the play starring two professional actors, including Tony-nominee Alice Ripley. Emerson Stage received positive reviews from throughout the region in most major newspapers.
- Trinity Repertory Theatre in Providence, RI: conversations led to the presenting of Trinity's *Christmas Carol* at the Majestic, and Artistic Director Oskar Eustis speaking to our students.
- Selected productions in consultation with Performing Arts Faculty; oversaw the casting process; participated in all design hires, decisions and production meetings; selected student directing projects; oversaw the selection of the New Works scripts, including the Rod Parker Award winner; aided in the pursuing and writing of all grants and development efforts for Emerson Stage; wrote program copy and oversaw the brochure and marketing information for Emerson Stage; attended all Emerson Stage productions.

#### Performing Arts Forums Committee, 00-06

Along with Professor John Bell, sought out speakers to participate in Forums for the Performing Arts Department and the College at large. Speakers included:

- Phylicia Rashad and Ruben Santiago-Hudson
- Lewis Black
- Debra Warner and Fiona Shaw
- James Still
- Kira Obolensky
- David Dorfman
- Brent Jennings
- Bill Irwin
- Martha Clarke
- Robert Woodruff
- Gideon Lester
- Peter Sellars
- Ellen McLoughlin
- Nicholas Martin
- Charles Towers
- Mac Wellman
- Ping Chong
- Erik Ehn
- Brian Dennehy

#### Department Committees:

- Department Promotion and Tenure Committee, 06-07
- Emerson Stage Production Manager Search, 06-07
- Waldman Endowed Chair Search, 06-07
- Theatre Studies Faculty Search, Chair, 06-07
- Theatre Studies Head Search, Chair, 05-06
- Lighting Designer Search, Chair, 04-05
- Emerson Stage General Manager Search, Summer-Fall 2004
- Production Stage Manager Search, Chair, 02-03
- Movement Search Committee, 02-03
- Musical Theatre Search Committee, 02-03
- Department Promotion and Tenure Committee, 01-02
- Acting Search Committee, 01-02

#### College-wide Committees

- NEASC Academic Standards Committee, 11-12
- Academic Affairs Council, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12
- VMA Chair Search Committee, 09-10
- Strategic Planning Subcommittee, Academic Affairs, 09-10
- OPC Chair Search Committee, 07-08
- Karen Finley Residency Planning Committee, 06-07
- CRVE (Common Reading and Viewing Experience), 06-07, 05-06
- Technology Committee, 04-05, 05-06
- Faculty Advancement Grants, 02-05
- College Conduct Board, 03-05

#### Other Service

- Organizing Emerson College's program for the BPL's exhibition, "Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings" with Dean Nunes and President Liebergott, November 2005
- Commencement Senior Show director, Commencement 2002

#### **Advisor for undergraduate and graduate productions.**

##### **Advisor for New Works Festival.**

*Selected student work. Arranged for matchmaking between playwrights and directors, as well as rehearsal and production mentoring for the annual student playwriting festival.*

Advised on **Undergraduate Internships** at Signature Theatre in NYC, the O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and others.

#### **Advisor for 20 undergraduates at Emerson College per semester.**

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

*Shakespeare's Shylock and the Traveling Pound of Flesh, an essay featured in Jews, Theatre, Performance in an Intercultural Context, edited by Edna Nahshon, Jewish Theological Seminary*

To be published by Brill Publishing, date TBD

Featured in *Women Direct Shakespeare in America: Productions from the 1990s*  
Edited by Nancy Taylor  
Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, fall 2004

“*Envoi*” by Melia Bensussen, featured in *LOVE’S LABOUR’S LOST: Critical Essays*  
Edited by Felicia Hardison Londre  
Garland Publishing, New York, 1997

Featured in *Women Stage Directors Speak* by Rebecca Daniels  
McFarland and Co. Publishers, 1996

*Federico Garcia Lorca: BLOOD WEDDING and YERMA*  
*Translations by Langston Hughes (adapted by Melia Bensussen) and W.S. Merwin*  
Introduction by Melia Bensussen  
Theatre Communications Group, New York, 1994  
(still in print, currently – 2011 - in its 8<sup>th</sup> printing)

Articles in *AMERICAN THEATRE*, and *TheatreWeek*, 1989-1991

## **PRESENTATIONS**

The Traveling Pound of Flesh: Merchant of Venice and Circumcision Anxiety  
Jewish Theological Seminary, New York City  
February 2009

Life-cycle Events in American-Jewish Theatre  
Temple Israel, Boston  
January 25, February 1, 2009

Merchant of Venice: A Conversation with Stephen Greenblatt  
Boston, MA  
November 2008

The Artist as Citizen (with Robbie McCauley)  
Stagesource Annual Theatre Conference, Boston, MA  
August 5, 2006

The Scottish Play: From the Page to the Stage  
In the Limelight, Emerson College, Boston, MA  
March 23, 2006

Emma and Gus: A Work in Progress Reading  
Emerson Overseers, Semel Theatre  
March 17, 2006

The Style and Substance of Edward Albee  
Lyric Stage, Boston, MA

March 9, 2006

Working on a New Play: The Director/Playwright Relationship

Ohio University, Athens, Ohio

February 17, 2005

The Fundamentals of Directing

The Open Door Theatre

Acton, MA

June 1, 2002

The Drama League and its Influence on Young Directors

Drama League of New York/Marriott Marquis Hotel

New York City

May 10, 2002

Emerson Stage: A Professional Model within a College

New England Theatre Conference

November 2001

A Woman's Work: A Panel on Professional Women in the Theatre

Dartmouth College

May 2001

Krisit: The Process of the Production

Primary Stages, New York City

January 2001

The Turn of the Screw: Henry James, Jeffrey Hatcher and a contemporary production

Primary Stages, New York City

February 1999

CONFERENCE INVITATIONS

The Annual Design Portfolio Review (Clambake).

A nation-wide gathering of young designers and recent MFA graduates from around the country, organized by Ming Cho Lee.

Recurrent invitee.

American Directors Project

*Theatre for a New Audience, New York, NY*

A workshop for established classical theatre directors led by Cicely Berry, a master artist who is Director of Voice at the RSC in London; November 2000

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Member of SSDC
- O'Neill Playwrights Center

- NEA On-Site Evaluator 1990-2009
- The Drama League of New York (evaluator and panel member)
- The Spencer Cherashore Fund – a national fund for professional actors (board member)
- Villa Montalvo Fellowship Evaluator, 1997-2004
- TCG/NEA Playwright Fellowship Reviewer, 1996-98

### Emerson Faculty Awards

- In the Limelight, Faculty Accomplishment Award, March 2006
- Travel grant to direct Lee Blessing's world premiere of *The Scottish Play* at the La Jolla Playhouse, Fall 2005
- Faculty Advancement Grant, Emerson College, Fall 04 (for 05-06), to support a staged workshop in NYC of *Emma and Gus*
- Travel grant to direct John Yearley's world premiere of *LEAP* at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, January-February 2005
- **The 2003-04 Norman and Irma Mann Stearns Distinguished Faculty Award**, for the writing of *Emma and Gus*, a play influenced by Emma Goldman's correspondence
- Travel grant to direct Richard Dresser's *Something in the Air* at Merrimack Repertory, Lowell, MA, March 2004
- Faculty Advancement Grant, Emerson College, Fall 2001 (for 02-03 year) for work on Edwin Sanchez's *Diosa* at Hartford Stage
- Travel grant to direct Holtzman's *Hearts* at the Long Wharf, New Haven, CT, March 2002
- Travel grant to participate in a forum related to KRISIT, at Primary Stages in NYC, NY. February 2001.

### EDUCATION

B.A. BROWN UNIVERSITY, 1984

*Magna cum Laude*, Theatre and Comparative Literature, with Honors

Thesis Prize in Comparative Literature