

MELIA BENSUSSEN
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member SDC
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DIRECTOR

Selected credits

Faithful Cheaters by Deborah Salem Smith **Trinity Repertory Company** Providence, RI May 2017

Precious Little by Madeleine George **Nora Theatre** Cambridge, MA March 2017

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen **Huntington Theatre Company** Boston, MA January 2017

The Winter's Tale **Actors Shakespeare Project** Cambridge, MA December 2015

Oceanside by Nick Gandiello **Merrimack Repertory Theatre** Lowell, MA February 2015

BADASS New Work from **Sleeping Weazel** Boston, MA March 2015

Awake and Sing by Clifford Odets **Huntington Theatre Company**, Boston, MA November 2014

The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov **Actors' Shakespeare Project** Boston, MA February 2014

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**, Rochester NY, April 2012

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

Kinship by Carey Perloff (workshop), **New York Stage and Film**, Vassar College, 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

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, **The Nora Theatre**, Cambridge, MA, February 2010
Ten Best of 2010, Boston Globe

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

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

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

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**, NYC, 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 2005

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

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 College, 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
Barrymore 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**, Harford, 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**, Dallas, TX, 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

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

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, November 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**, December 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
- 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

EDUCATION

B.A. BROWN UNIVERSITY, 1984

Magna cum Laude, Theatre and Comparative Literature, with Honors
Thesis Prize in Comparative Literature