



SARA HOLDREN DIRECTOR | TEACHER | WRITER

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I am a director, teacher, and writer originally from the Blue Ridge foothills of Virginia. I like to make *big* plays – expansive stories characterized by a company ethos, striking visual worlds, physical and verbal dexterity, a sense of humor and of the otherworldly. I am also the winner of the 2016–17 George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism, and from 2017 to 2019 I served as the theater critic for *New York Magazine* and *Vulture.com*. My work reflects an enduring love of classical texts combined with a deep interest in adaptation and ensemble-driven theater. As a director and a theater educator, I strive for intellectual rigor, physical and emotional courage, and generous creativity – working from a place of informed irreverence and fostering a spirit of joy, experimentation, collaboration, and play.

DIRECTING (selected)

Cymbeline
MIDSUMMER

Three Sisters
As You Like It
Paradise Lost (*A Zoom staged reading*)
Twelfth Night
The Merchant of Venice
The Winter's Tale
Macbeth
The Comedy of Errors
The Diary of One Who Vanished
Orlando
Deer and the Lovers
The Zero Scenario
The Master & Margarita
A New Saint for A New World
Measure for Measure
He Who Gets Slapped
The Tempest
Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2

William Shakespeare, adpt. Sara Holdren
adpt. Sara Holdren & Rachel Carpman from
Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night Dream* & other texts;
adaptation revised by Sara Holdren in 2022
Anton Chekhov, a new translation by Madeleine George
William Shakespeare, adpt. Sara Holdren
Erin Shields
William Shakespeare, adpt. Sara Holdren
William Shakespeare, adpt. Sara Holdren
William Shakespeare, adpt. Sara Holdren
William Shakespeare, adpt. Sara Holdren
William Shakespeare, adpt. Sara Holdren
Leoš Janáček
Virginia Woolf, adpt. Sarah Ruhl
Emily Zemba
Ryan Campbell
Mikhail Bulgakov, adpt. Edward Kemp
Ryan Campbell
William Shakespeare, adpt. Sara Holdren
Leonid Andreyev, adpt. Sara Holdren
William Shakespeare, adpt. Sara Holdren
William Shakespeare, adpt. Sara Holdren

NYU Tisch Grad Acting Program
Tiltyard, Edinburgh Fringe Festival (2022);
Tiltyard, NYC (2016);
Yale Summer Cabaret (2015)
Two River Theater
SUNY Purchase BFA Acting Program
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
Two River Theater
Cleveland Play House / CWRU MFA
Shakespeare Academy @ Stratford
Two River Theater, A Little Shakespeare
Two River Theater, A Little Shakespeare
Cantata Profana
Yale Summer Cabaret
Yale School of Drama
Yale Cabaret
Yale School of Drama
Yale Cabaret
Yale School of Drama
Live Arts / Charlottesville, VA
Four County Players / Barboursville, VA
Live Arts / Charlottesville, VA

TEACHING

The New School Graduate Acting Program (NYC) – Taught acting based in the late-Stanislavsky improvisatory technique of Analysis Through Action.
Primary Stages, Einhorn School of Performing Arts (NYC) – Taught Analysis Through Action for actors, as well as courses for directors in working creatively and confidently with Chekhov and Shakespeare. Worked with students college-aged and up.
Shakespeare Academy @ Stratford (Stratford, CT) – While leading SA@S as AD, I taught courses in Shakespeare's Text and and physical ensemble theater.
Two River Theater (Red Bank, NJ) – My directing work with the high school students of Two River's A Little Shakespeare program involved teaching/actor training; at Two River, I have also led workshops for students college-aged and up in Adaptation, Text Analysis, and Directing Shakespeare.
American Shakespeare Center (Staunton, VA) – Adapted and directed *Romeo & Juliet* for an ensemble of young actors and led physical theater workshops.
Live Arts (Charlottesville, VA) – Adapted and directed *Twelfth Night* for young actors and led classes in Shakespeare's text and physical theater.
• I have also been invited to discuss theater and theater criticism in classes and panels at Yale, Columbia, New York University, Cornell, Loyola University, and Emory University, as well as at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., Theatre Cedar Rapids, Epic Theatre Company, and conferences with the American Theatre Critics Association and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – Shakespeare Academy @ Stratford, Stratford, CT
• In 2019–2020, I served as the AD of this 6-week-long residential summer intensive in Shakespeare and ensemble training for college-age actors. I developed the curriculum, headed the faculty and staff, taught daily classes, and directed in the 2-play repertory season.
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CO-FOUNDER – Tiltyard
• In the summer of 2016 I co-founded Tiltyard, a flexible theater project currently based in Richmond, VA, dedicated to reimagining classic texts.
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – Yale Summer Cabaret, New Haven, CT
• In the summer of 2015 I served as AD of the Yale Summer Cabaret, programming and producing a full summer season of plays and special events.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Yale School of Drama – MFA in Directing, 2015
Yale University – BA, *magna cum laude*, Theater Studies, 2008
Royal Academy of Dramatic Art – Acting Shakespeare Program, 2006

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

2016–17 George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism
Classical Directing Fellowship – The Drama League, 2016
Julian Milton Kaufman Memorial Prize – Yale School of Drama, 2015