

# the drama league

DIRECTORS  
PROJECT

25  
YEARS

## DIRECTING TODAY – AND THE NEXT 25 YEARS

“The 25th anniversary brings new attention to the mission of the Directors Project – the opportunities it provides to young talent, the accomplishments of our 237 alumni, and the huge impact it has had upon the American Theatre and the entire entertainment industry. Because theatre has changed dramatically in the past 25 years, I wanted to not only celebrate what we’ve achieved, but to look ahead to what the directing profession might become during the next quarter century. From that idea, our symposium was born.”

--Artistic Director **Roger Danforth**

At The New School for Drama

151 Bank Street, NYC

Saturday, May 16, 2009

### **3.) New Companies/New Forms**

*Lane Savadove\**, Moderator

Rachel Chavkin\*—Artistic Director, The TEAM

Rachel Dickstein\*—Artistic Director, Ripe Time

Kristin Marting—Artistic Director, HERE

Alex Timbers\*—Artistic Director, Les Frères Corbusier

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**1:00 – 2:15pm LUNCH**

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### **2:20pm – Articulating & Sustaining Your Artistic Mission**

*Michael Goldfried\**, Moderator

Steve Cosson—Founding Artistic Director, The Civilians

Roger Danforth—Artistic Director, The Directors Project

David Diamond—Career Coach for theatre artists

Rebecca Holderness\*—Director and Professor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Jim Nicola—Artistic Director, New York Theatre Workshop

### **3:30pm – Break Out Sessions**

Discuss “Artistic Mission” and its significance to the next 25 years of directing...

### **4:00pm – Re-Group**

All groups return to the theatre for discussion feedback and sharing.

### **4:40pm – Final Remarks**

Roger Danforth—Artistic Director, The Directors Project

### **5:15pm – Social Hour at Automatic Slims (corner Bank & Washington Sts.)**

*\* Denotes Directors Project Alumni*

#### **ALUMNI PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Roger Danforth, Artistic Director; Lydia Fort, Michael Goldfried, Mahayana Landowne, Debbie Saivetz, Daniela Varon, Andrew Volkoff

#### **ALUMNI FACILITATORS AND HELPERS**

Corey Atkins, Stephanie Gilman, Lauren Keating, Lane Savadove, Miriam Weiner

#### **DRAMA LEAGUE ‘BACKSTAGE CREW’**

ChiChi Anyanwu, Melanie Hopkins, Zach McCoy

#### **DRAMA LEAGUE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

CeCe Black, Chair; Jano Herbosch, President, Board of Directors;  
Cass Adelman, Michelle Ciulla Lipkin

Julia Hansen, Founder, The Directors Project

#### **NEW SCHOOL FOR DRAMA STAFF**

Robert LuPone, Director; Robert McAlpin, Managing Director; Tim Capalbo, Production Supervisor;  
Todd Philips; Julie Watson

## SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS

**Zakiyyah Alexander** is a writer and actor. She is the author of: 10 THINGS TO DO BEFORE I DIE (Second Stage Uptown), SICK? (Summer Play Festival), THE ETYMOLOGY OF BIRD (Hip Hop Theater Festival, Providence Black Repertory Theatre), BLURRING SHINE (Market Theater, Johannesburg), SWEET MALADIES (Rucker Theatre), something new, and (900). A resident member of New Dramatists, and a graduate of the Yale School of Drama (MFA in playwriting), she is currently on faculty at Bard College where she teaches undergraduate playwriting. Zakiyyah is a native New Yorker and was raised in Queens and Brooklyn.

**Rachel Chavkin** is the Artistic Director of the TEAM ([www.theteamplays.org](http://www.theteamplays.org)) and a freelance director working in New York. With the TEAM she has created and directed a number of works including ARCHITECTING (2008 Edinburgh Fringe First, co-produced by the National Theatre of Scotland) and PARTICULARLY IN THE HEARTLAND (*Time Out New York* Top Ten 2007, 2006 Edinburgh Fringe First). Current projects: THE AMERICAN CAPITALISM PROJECT (working title) with the TEAM, a new play with Steve Yockey for NYU's Grad Acting Program, and CANARY, a new musical by Molly Rice and Ray Rizzo. Classic Stage Company Artistic Associate, New Georges Affiliated Artist, Drama League Directing Fellow, WP Lab 08-10.

**Steven Cosson** is the founding Artistic Director of The Civilians. With The Civilians: co-writer and director of THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY (Humana Festival, Center Theatre Group, Studio Theatre, Vineyard Theatre); co-writer and director of BROOKLYN: AT EYE LEVEL; co-writer/director of PARIS COMMUNE (Public Theater's Public LAB series); writer/director of GONE MISSING (Barrow Street Theatre - New York Times' Top 10 of 2007); writer/director of (I AM) NOBODY'S LUNCH (Edinburgh Fringe Festival - 2006 Fringe First); director of CANARD, CANARD, GOOSE?. His productions of The Civilians' work has also been produced at A.R.T., Actors Theatre of Louisville, La Jolla Playhouse, HBO's Aspen Comedy Festival, The MoMA, and London's Gate Theatre and Soho Theatre, and many others. Cosson has directed and developed new plays at theaters including Hartford Stage, Soho Rep, O'Neill Conference, and New Harmony Project. He won an Obie in 2004 for the work of The Civilians.

**Roger Danforth:** Artistic Director of the Directors Project since 1996. Previously: Cleveland Play House, Associate Producer and Acting Artistic Director, 1988-95; Manhattan Ensemble Theater, WPA Theatre & Westbeth Theater Center. Current: consulting associate artistic director of Urban Stages, where he directed the American premiere of THE OXFORD ROOF CLIMBER'S REBELLION. Directing: Cleveland Play House - 12 plays and workshops including THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER, THE HEIDI CHRONICLES, THE MISANTHROPE, BOY MEETS GIRL (with Jane Krakowski), world premiere of JUNGLE ROT (American Theatre Critics Assn New Play Award; published in *Best Plays of 1995-1996*). Regional directing - Capital Rep, Kennedy Center, Florida Studio Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, InterAct Theatre. NYC directing: EST, Mint Theatre, Keen Company, Blue Heron Theatre, York Theatre Company, David Van Vleck's FOUR BEERS, and ALL MY SONS at NJ's Two River Theatre (Star-Ledger: "One of the 10 Best Productions of 2006"). Producer/director of Drama League's Annual Benefit Gala. Directing faculty: Marymount Manhattan College & O'Neill Theater Center Puppetry Conference. Theatre Adjudicator: Michigan and Pennsylvania Arts Councils. MFA in Directing from the School of Theatre at Florida State University.

**David J. Diamond** is a Career Coach for Theatre Artists, a writer and producer. He co-organizes the La MaMa International Symposium for Directors and Playwrights Retreat. He works with the U.S. Army as an adjudicator and mentor director on Army bases in Europe and was part of the U.S. delegation to the ITI World Congress in Madrid. David presents the workshop "Directing Your Theater Career" at Yale School of Drama, Carnegie Mellon, California Institute for the Arts, Fordham, and Columbia (where he was an Adjunct Professor), among others. He is Co-Editor of Stage Directors Handbook-1st Edition and writes for American Theater Magazine. Contact at: [ddjdstar@gmail.com](mailto:ddjdstar@gmail.com); website: [www.daviddiamond.com](http://www.daviddiamond.com).

**Rachel Dickstein** is a writer, director, and founding Artistic Director of Ripe Time. For Ripe Time she has devised, choreographed and directed the world premieres of the critically acclaimed FIRE THROWS (based on Sophocles' Antigone) at 3LD, BETROTHED (based on texts by Jhumpa Lahiri, Chekhov and Ansky) and INNOCENTS (based on Wharton's THE HOUSE OF MIRTH and adapted with Emily Morse) at the Ohio Theatre. Other Ripe Time projects include THE SECRET OF STEEP RAVINES at P.S. 122, THE HOLY MOTHER OF HADLEY NEW YORK by Barbara Wiechmann and co-produced with New Georges at the Ohio Theatre, and THE PALACE AT 4 A.M. (based on works by Poe and Sophie Calle) at HERE. Other recent directing projects include IN WHAT LANGUAGE? at the Asia Society, REDCAT and PICA; and Ellen McLaughlin's version of THE TROJAN WOMEN at Fordham University. NEA/TCG Director's Fellowship, Drama League Fellowship. B.A. Yale University.

**Jason Eagan** is the Artistic Director of Ars Nova, a development space for emerging artists creating new theater, music and comedy. Ars Nova productions include TWO GIRLS FOR FIVE BUCKS, JOLLYSHIP THE WHIZ-BANG, FROM UP HERE, BOOM, AT LEAST IT'S PINK, FREESTYLE LOVE SUPREME, and THE WAU WAU SISTERS. For more information visit [www.arsnovanyc.com](http://www.arsnovanyc.com).

**Oskar Eustis** is the Artistic Director of The Public Theater and has worked as a director, dramaturg, and artistic director for theaters around the country. He has been Resident Director and Dramaturg (1981-86) and Artistic Director (1986-89) at the Eureka Theatre Company in San Francisco, Associate Artistic Director at L.A.'s Mark Taper Forum (1989-94), and Artistic Director at Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, Rhode Island (1994-2005). In 2005 he took the helm at The Public. Throughout his career, Mr. Eustis has been dedicated to the development of new plays as both a director and a producer. He has directed the premieres of Paula Vogel's THE LONG CHRISTMAS RIDE HOME (Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Production), HOMEBODY/KABUL (Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Production), and Rinne Groff's THE RUBY SUNRISE, as well as world premieres of plays by David Henry Hwang, Emily Mann, Suzan-Lori Parks, Ellen McLaughlin, and Eduardo Machado. He commissioned Tony Kushner's ANGELS IN AMERICA at the Eureka Theatre Company in San Francisco and directed its world premiere at the Mark Taper Forum. While a professor at Brown University he founded and chaired the Trinity Rep/Brown University Consortium for professional theater training. He received an honorary doctorate from Brown in 2001 and currently serves as Professor of Dramatic Writing and Arts and Public Policy at New York University.

**Carl Forsman** is the Artistic Director of New York's Keen Company and Vermont's Dorset Theatre Festival. Keen Company, a New York theater devoted to the production of sincere plays, was recipient of a 2005 Drama Desk Special Award, "for moving and enlightening audiences with plays that build upon our theatrical heritage," and a 2008 Village Voice Obie Grant. Directions for Keen include the world premiere of his own adaptation of BEASLEY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, the American premiere of Conor McPherson's THE GOOD THIEF (Obie & Drama Desk nominations), Thornton Wilder's THE HAPPY JOURNEY TO TRENTON AND CAMDEN (Drama Desk Nomination, Best Revival) and John van Druten's VOICE OF THE TURTLE (Drama Desk nomination, Best Director). Other credits include Michael Murphy's SIN (A Cardinal Deposed) (OBIE Award, Production; Drama Desk nominations) and Tina Howe's translations of Ionesco's THE BALD SOPRANO & THE LESSON (Atlantic Theater Company). At the Dorset Theatre Festival he oversees THE KAUFMAN COLLECTION, DTF's commitment to produce all the stage comedies of George S. Kaufman. He teaches at NYU/Atlantic. Drama League Directing Fellow. BA: Middlebury College, MFA: University of Minnesota.

**Rafael Gallegos** is Team Captain/Artistic Director of ConLab and the Artistic Leadership Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop. He recently worked with the new music ensemble Alarm Will Sound and was a member of the 2008/9 Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab. Rafael has assisted John Jesurun, Chuck Hudson and Moises Kaufman. Training: University of New Mexico. Follow Rafael on Twitter: [twitter.com/rafaelgallegos](https://twitter.com/rafaelgallegos)

**Robert Marx** has been director of the theatre program at both the National Endowment for the Arts and the NY State Council for the Arts, executive director of Lincoln Center's NY Public Library for the Performing Arts, and Vice President of the Samuels Foundation in NYC. He has co-produced Off-Broadway with Music-Theatre Group and Theatre for a New Audience, and worked with theatres, opera companies and international festivals in Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Chicago, Avignon, and Salzburg. Marx's essays on theatre and opera have appeared in many national publications, including the *New York Times* and *American Theatre*. Since 1995, he has been a featured intermission commentator and Opera Quiz panelist on the Metropolitan Opera's radio broadcasts.

**Davis McCallum** directed the world premieres of Itamar Moses' *BACK BACK BACK* (The Old Globe), Chuck Mee's *QUEENS BOULEVARD* (Signature Theater Company), and Quiara Hudes' *ELLIOTT: A SOLDIER'S FUGUE* (P73; 2007 Pulitzer Finalist). Classical credits include *THE BELLE'S STRATEGEM* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *JANE EYRE* (The Acting Company), and *HENRY V* (the Guthrie). Upcoming: *PUNKPLAY* by Greg Moss for Clubbed Thumb, and Tom Stoppard's *ARCADIA* for Chautauqua Theater Company. Drama League Fellowship (2001), NEA/TCG Career Development Program (2007-9).

**Emily Morse** is a multi-faceted theatre artist in her eighth year at New Dramatists as the Director of Artistic Development. Her work, and that on which she has collaborated, has been produced at a variety of venues in NYC and regionally. She is an artistic advisor for New Georges and Todd Mountain Theatre Company, and LCT Directors Lab alumna, NYTW Usual Suspect, LMDA member, and a Talking Band Board member.

**Itamar Moses** is the author of the full-length plays *OUTRAGE*, *BACH AT LEIPZIG*, *CELEBRITY ROW*, *THE FOUR OF US*, *YELLOWJACKETS*, *BACK BACK BACK*, and *COMPLETENESS*, the musicals *REALITY!* (with Gaby Alter), and *FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE* (with Michael Friedman and Daniel Aukin), and various short plays and one-acts, several of which are collected in the complete evening *LOVE/STORIES (OR BUT YOU WILL GET USED TO IT)*. His work has appeared Off-Broadway and elsewhere in New York, at regional theatres across the country and in Canada, and is published by Faber & Faber and Samuel French. He has received commissions from The McCarter Theater, Playwrights Horizons, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, The Wilma Theater, South Coast Rep, Manhattan Theatre Club, Lincoln Center, and The Goodman Theatre. Itamar holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU and has taught playwriting at Yale and NYU. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild, MCC Playwrights Coalition, and is a New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect.

**James Nicola** is the Artistic Director of New York Theatre Workshop.

**Diane Paulus:** Is Artistic Director of the American Repertory Theater. Recent work: The Public Theater's revival of *HAIR* at the Delacorte in Central Park, now on Broadway; *KISS ME, KATE* at Glimmerglass Opera; *LOST HIGHWAY*, ENO co-production with the Young Vic. She is creator/director of *THE DONKEY SHOW*, a disco adaptation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" which ran for six years Off-Broadway, and toured internationally. Opera: *DON GIOVANNI*, *LE NOZZE DI FIGARO*, *COSI FAN TUTTE*, *TURN OF THE SCREW*, all three Monteverdi operas - *IL RITORNO D'ULISSE IN PATRIA*, *L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA*, *ORFEO* - at Chicago Opera Theater. M.F.A. in Directing from Columbia University's School of the Arts.

**Mark Subias** lives in New York. He represents writers and directors.

**Alex Timbers** is Artistic Director of Les Freres Corbusier. Recent Directing: *BLOODY BLOODY ANDREW JACKSON* (Public LAB), *PETER AND THE STARCATCHERS* (Disney Theatricals/La Jolla), *THE LANGUAGE OF TREES* (Roundabout), *DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION* (Les Freres), *GUTENBERG! THE MUSICAL* (Drama Desk nom.- Best Director of a Musical), *HELL HOUSE* (Drama Desk nom.- Unique Theatrical Experience), and *...SCIENTOLOGY PAGEANT* (OBIE Award). Alex is currently developing a half-hour comedy pilot for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox.