

# ANNIE G. LEVY

Theatre Maker | Director | Educator | Facilitator of Good Things

Creating theater at the intersections of mythology, science, and history

Writing about cognition, creativity, and curriculum

[www.annieglevy.com](http://www.annieglevy.com)

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## CREATIVE WORKS

**INTERNATIONAL CREDITS - The World Wide Lab (WWL):** The WWL is an international collective of directors that experiment with different models of co-directing to explore possibilities for cross-cultural exchange.

<u>Production</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Playwright</u>	<u>Theatre/Company</u>
The Worth of Women	Actor - Corinna	Moderata Fonte Virginia Cox (trans.)	Kairos Italy Theater

*Seven women debate gender equality, the responsibility of men, and the true worth of women in this adaptation of a 16th-century Venitan text.*

Between Two Breaths (*)	Co-Director	Ensemble Created	Superior Theatre - Thunder Bay, ON
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*Who gets to call a place home? In this community-generated piece, neighbors explore inclusion and exclusion by birthing a shared creation myth for their town.*

In Transit (*)	Co-Director	Ensemble Created	435 Art Zone - Taipei, Taiwan
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*In this site-specific piece that travels across a demilitarized complex, an ensemble attempts to find a personal story to begin to explain a national trauma (in Mandarin).*

The Ecclesiazusae (*)	Co-Director	Aristophanes	Apollon Theater - Syros Greece
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*During a rehearsal for Aristophanes' Ecclesiazusae, the all-male cast must turn to a lowly female production assistant to instruct them on how to be a voiceless female, and she, in turn, demonstrates what true power sounds like (in Greek).*

Young Lear (an adaptation) (*)	Co-Director	Shakespeare	Teatro Due - Rome, Italy
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*In this exploration of intergenerational tension, five adult children wait in a hospital waiting room for news on their dying father and attempt to use the text of KING LEAR to express their anger and their grief (in Italian).*

## **INTERNATIONAL CREDITS - Other**

Looking Up (*)	Director	Carla Cantrell	Edinburgh Festival Fringe - Scotland
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*Using trapeze to expose the attraction and vulnerability, this intimate two-hander aimed to turn the cliché of "running away to join the circus" on its head. Can stability on the ground be as fulfilling as "flying through the air?"*

As It Is In Heaven (*)	Asst. Dir	Arlene Hutton	Edinburgh Festival Fringe - Scotland
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*In this period drama about the Era of Manifestation in the Shaker movement. Serving as the assistant director on the world premiere and NY premiere, this piece was nominated for best ensemble at the Edinburgh Fringe.*

(\*) World Premiere

## **ORIGINAL WORK - warner | shaw**

**METEORITE | DOORSTOP**      **Dir. / Script Architect**      **Ensemble Created**      **LADY FEST @ The Tank - NYC**

*Sylacauga, AL: On November 30th, 1954, Ann Hodges became the only person to ever be struck by a meteorite and live to tell the tale. The virtually unknown story of what happened to Ann and her meteorite is explored in this local, global and celestial tragedy of improbable cataclysms and their sudden insignificance.*

**TREE ARMY: the CCC Project**      **Dir. /Script Architect**      **Ensemble Created**      **Figment Festival & Irondale Center - NYC, DeSoto & Cheaha State Parks - AL**

*Combining historical CCC documents, articles, personal letters, and journals from the members of what was known as "Roosevelt's Tree Army," TREE ARMY: The CCC Project is a new play that explores the process of rebuilding a country. TREE ARMY has received support from The William Froelich Foundation and The Alabama State Council For the Arts and was profiled by American Theatre Magazine.*

**SIX SEEDS: the Persephone Project**      **Dir. /Script Architect**      **Ensemble Created**      **Space on White & the Tank - NYC  
CATNIP Divadlo - Prague**

*This modern retelling of the Persephone myth tests the hypothesis that Persephone's story is the story of every woman growing up. SIX SEEDS was invited to be part of the inaugural season of Theatre at the Tank.*

**DAUGHTER OF THE SUN: the Latvia Project**      **Dir. /Script Architect**      **Ensemble Created**      **Access Theatre & Dixon Place - NYC  
Rose Firebay Theatre - Bloomington, IN**

*Exploring personal mythology and national identity, this piece about the history of Latvia is told through an American woman's obsession with Saule, the Latvian Sun goddess. DAUGHTER OF THE SUN was developed through the Dorit and Gerald Paul Artist-in-Residence at Indiana University and the curated series at Dixon Place.*

## **ORIGINAL WORK - Solo Performance**

**Nurse! (Off-Broadway) (\*)**      **Director**      **Lisa Hayes**      **The José Quintero Theatre (Off-Brdwly)  
Charm City Fringe Festival & other venues**

*Developed from interviews with nurses and other key players in a strike by New York State Nurses Association nurses, the play chronicles the evolution of a strike by revealing the thoughts and struggles of nurses, family members, negotiators, and management.*

**An Inconvenient Poop (\*)**      **Director/Co-Creator**      **Shawn Shafner**      **New York International Fringe Festival  
Flying Solo Festival & other venues**

*As the uptight Dr. Oscar von Shtein begins his thrilling FRED Talk on the Classics, he is interrupted by the mysterious Puru, who unearths the origins of our dis-ease, from communal Roman toilets to the Queen who banished the bowel movement, and exposes how current sanitary practices threaten our health, environment, and 40% of the world still living without safe toilets. The piece received an NYC Fringe Prize for solo performance.*

**And She Bakes! (\*)**      **Director**      **Daliya Karnofsky**      **San Francisco Fringe Festival  
New York International Fringe Festival**

*Originally a youtube series, starring The Bakeress, a tenacious optimist about treats of all kinds, the piece evolved into a deeply personal and deeply tasty look into how one woman turns domesticity and the struggle for independence on its head in the perfect merging of comfort and joy. The piece was a critic's pick in TONY.*

(\*) World Premiere

<b>Eyes, Stones (*)</b>	<b>Director/Co-Adaptor</b>	<b>Elana Bell</b>	<b>The Green Building Westfield State University</b>
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*An adaptation of Bell's Walt Whitman award-winning book of poetry, this piece uses spoken word, dance, and a live soundscape to consider the difficult question of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Her transformative poems and performance invoke characters inexorably linked to the land of Israel and Palestine and examine the complexity of their relationships to the land—as Biblical homeland, Zionist dream, modern state, and occupied territory.*

### **ONLINE THEATRE CREDITS**

<b>Everybody</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Branden Jacobs Jenkins</b>	<b>Emerson Stage</b>
<b>This Golden Day (*)</b>	<b>Co Conceiver and Creator</b>	<b>Timothy Huang, SEVAN and others</b>	<b>Emerson Stage</b>
<b>The Stakeout (*)</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>K. Alexa Mavromatis</b>	<b>Boston Playwright's Theatre</b>
<b>Coronavirus Play Project (*)</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Kate Hamill, Tina Howe, and others</b>	<b>One-Minute Play Festival</b>

### **NEW YORK PRODUCTION CREDITS (selected)**

<b>Bernard Malamud's The Jewbird</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Ensemble Created</b>	<b>Sanford Meisner Theatre &amp; Untitled Theater co #61</b>
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*The tension between the old world and the new world collides in this modern fable, an adaptation of Bernard Malamud's short story. Created with the Northwoods Theatre Company, after its first NY run, the production was invited to be part of Untitled Theater co #61's Festival of Jewish Theatre and Ideas.*

<b>The Skriker</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Caryl Churchill</b>	<b>HERE Arts Center</b>
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*The ancient natural world takes its revenge in this ensemble-driven production of Churchill's dark fairy tale of the damage we do to the earth coming back to haunt us.*

<b>2nd George Sand Invitational One-Minute Play Festival (*)</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Clare Barron, Jen Silverman, Lauren Yee, and others</b>	<b>City Center Stage II - New Georges and The Women's Projects Theatre</b>
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<b>2nd Annual Indie One-Minute Play Festival (*)</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Jessica Luck, Amy E. Witting, and others</b>	<b>The New Ohio Theatre</b>
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*The One-Minute Play Festival is a "temperature check" of a specific community at a specific place and time.*

<b>The B File</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Deborah Levy</b>	<b>78<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre Lab</b>
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*Through a combination of conscious repetition, false narration, and the multiverse theory in particle physics, this piece explores female desires, both known and unrecognized.*

<b>Pumpkins for Smallpox (*)</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Catherine Gillet</b>	<b>Vital Theatre</b>
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*This short play, written and produced in the aftermath of 9/11, tells the story of two young women trying to find their equilibrium again.*

(\*) World Premiere



<b>Antony and Cleopatra</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Shakespeare</b>	<b>The Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center- Tuscaloosa, AL</b>
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*What does the story of Egypt and Rome have to say in Western Alabama? Rebellion, competition, and pride.*

<b>Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner</b>	<b>Assistant Director (Tracy Young, Dir.)</b>	<b>Luis Alfaro</b>	<b>The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, OR</b>
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*What does it mean to be so full that the earth can no longer contain you? A play about bodies, families, and everything that can both weigh us down and force us to fly.*

**NEW YORK WORKSHOP CREDITS (selected)**

<b>When Men Were Men (*)</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Luca Garelo</b>	<b>In Scena! Italian Theater</b>
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*An elderly woman named Giulia Graf hires a private investigator to uncover information on Pietro Montali, a soldier who went missing during the Second World War, in this play which won the 2021 Mario Fratti Award.*

<b>The Man in the Sukkah (*)</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Deborah Yarchun</b>	<b>The Jewish Plays Project</b>
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*Southern Gothic and secular Judaism collide on a former plantation in rural South Carolina where the woods have more ghosts than trees in this tale of intergenerational trauma, buried secrets, and questing for identity.*

<b>Good Lonely People (*)</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Carol Carpenter</b>	<b>Maieutic Theatre Works</b>
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*On election night, the only white Democratic family in a conservative town holds a secret Obama party.*

**GRANTS AND PRIZES**

- TCG Global Connections Grant Recipients (WWL)
- The Alabama Humanities Foundation of the National Endowment for the Humanities - Grant Recipients
- Alabama State Council of the Arts - Grant Recipient
- The William Froelich Foundation - Grant Recipient
- Outstanding Faculty Recipient – The University of Alabama’s Department of Theatre and Dance
- Columbia University’s Kenneth Janes Prize in Theatre

**RESIDENCIES AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- Come to the Table Creative Residency - SPACE on Ryder Farm
- Diversity Fellows Program 2020-2021 Cohort - Emerson College
- Resident Company (WWL) – Superior Theatre Festival, Thunder Bay, Canada
- Rebecca Benson Cultural Arts Fellow – Ramah Wisconsin, Conover, WI
- Resident Company (WWL) – Tarragon Theatre, Toronto, Canada
- Resident Company (WWL) – 435 Art Zone - Taipei, Taiwan
- Resident Company (WWL) – Irondale Center – Brooklyn, NY
- Resident Company (WWL) – Apollon Theater, Syros Greece
- Resident Company (WWL) – Robert Wilson’s Watermill Center
- Dorit and Gerald Paul Artist-in-Residence – Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Uptown/Downtown Exchange Artist – LMCC, Harlem Arts Alliance, and The Field
- Artist Summer Institute Artist - LMCC and Creative Capital
- Elsewhere Resident Artist – Elsewhere Collective, Greensboro, NC
- Spielberg Theatre Fellow - Steven Spielberg Righteous Person Foundation, NYC
- FAIR Assistantship – Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, OR

(\*) World Premiere

## HONORS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Associate Member – Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
- Member – Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab
- Member - Directors Lab North (Toronto)
- Playwriting Judge – Princess Grace Fellowship
- Founding and Contributing Member - The World Wide Lab (WWLab)
- Member - Greater Boston Artistic Director Consortium

## POSITIONS HELD

### **Artistic Director of Emerson Stage, Emerson College**

Senior Artist in Residence

Department of Performing Arts

*Led the artistic vision and administrative functions of Emerson Stage, the production arm of the Department of Performing Arts. Leveraged creative problem-solving skills to align operations with the educational mission of both the college and the department, ensuring innovative and impactful artistic programming.*

- Serve as the public voice of this institution, interacting and collaborating with other internal institutional entities as well as external parties.
- Created, implemented, and now leads the season selection process for the Emerson Stage ten-show season, including launching new work submission processes and consistent playwright outreach for our ten-show season.
- Identify and recruit potential guest directors for Emerson Stage seasons. Serve as the point of contact for all Emerson Stage directors during pre-production, auditions, rehearsals, and performances.
- Oversee and manage three audition and casting processes each year, which serve an average of 200 actors per process.
- Direct one show per academic year and teach three classes per academic year, leading between 50 - and 75 undergraduate students across disciplines.
- Classes created and taught: Undergraduate Directing I - Fundamentals of Directing, Undergraduate Directing II - Directing on the Continuum, Undergraduate Directing II - Further Practice on the Practice, and the HowlRound Theatre Commons seminar (with HowlRound founder Jamie Gahlon).

### **Assistant Professor, The University of Alabama**

Head of the MFA Directing and Stage Management Programs

Theatre and Dance Department

*Led the development, management, and implementation of the curriculum for the MFA Graduate Directing Program and Stage Management Program, as well as the Undergraduate Stage Management Program.*

- Recruited, mentored, and advised graduate and undergraduate students.
- Directed between one and two shows per academic year with full participation in the season selection process.
- Classes created and taught: Graduate Directing Seminar, Undergraduate Directing I, Advanced Undergraduate Directing, and Stage Management I.

(\* ) World Premiere

**Lecturer and Adjunct Professor, Pace University**

Performing Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies

*Created, managed, and implemented curriculum and syllabi for the BA Directing Program, Stage Management Program, and International Performance Ensemble through the Middle State accreditation process.*

- Implemented, coordinated, and led one of the three International Performance Ensembles, a two-year formal studio, during its inaugural rotation.
- International Outreach: Created and maintained contacts with artists, schools, and training programs throughout Western Europe and Russia.
- Interdisciplinary Studies: Collaborated with faculty in other departments (Psychology, Communications) to create integrated, interdisciplinary courses.
- Classes created and taught: Directing I, Directing II, Script Analysis, Stage Management, Ensemble Techniques, and Viewpointing Emotion: Psychological Theory and Theatrical Reality.

**PRODUCING AND CURATION (SELECTED)**

**Founding Member Director - The World Wide Lab (WWL)**

*The WWL is an international collective of directors that **experiment with different models of co-directing** to explore possibilities for cross-cultural exchange.*

- Successfully collaborated on planning and coordinating multiple residencies and festivals, both nationally and internationally, including fundraising, grant writing, and extensive project management.
- Partnered and coordinated with multiple other producers and producing entities, synthesizing and prioritizing various requests, schedules, and budget needs.
- Recruited multiple artists (actors, designers, stage managers) for residencies and festivals.

**Producing Artistic Director - Northwoods Theatre Company – Conover, WI**

*Northwoods is an ensemble group dedicated to creating and nurturing physically based work that is in dialogue with ancient texts and ancestral voices.*

- Founded and produced a yearly residency dedicated to creating new plays relevant to the Jewish experience for an all-ages audience through an open rehearsal process.
- Commissioned and nurtured multiple new plays by both professional playwrights and student playwrights.
- Authored extensive documentation of each residency's achievements and presented it to funders and potential funders.

**Co-Founder and Producing Artistic Director - warner | shaw - New York, NY**

*warner | shaw is a theatre incubator that nurtures pieces inspired by the fragments of collective narrative found in mythology (both public and private).*

- Programmed, produced, and supported multiple readings, workshops, and world premieres of new playwright-driven plays and ensemble-devised works.
- Hired, contracted, and oversaw all actors, designers, management, and tech support for all shows and events, working with theatre unions, rehearsal spaces, and theaters.
- Oversaw multiple successful fundraising campaigns. including fundraising events, grant writing, and crowd-sourcing.

(\*) World Premiere

**Co-Founder, Co-Curator, and Co-Host** - SWEET: Actors Reading Writers – New York, NY

*A monthly literary event where actors perform fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, and writers have their work interpreted and performed by actors. Writers featured included Eileen Myles, Lev Grossman, Teddy Wayne, and Melissa Febos.*

- Created and produced monthly events, synthesizing the needs of two unique artistic mediums.
- Collaborated with the writers to identify needs and then cast actors for their respective pages and facilitated the process between writers and actors.
- Managed the relationship with the performance space, including renegotiating terms of use.

**GUEST TEACHING**

Film Department

Rider University - Lawrenceville, NJ

- Class created and taught: Finding the Story: An investigation into adaptation for film students.

The CONNECT Program

The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art - New York, NY

- Class created and taught: Communication skills workshop for STEM undergraduate students.

In.F.o.Ma.T International Festival of Making Theater

Theatre of Change - Athens, Greece

- Class created and taught: Topics in Creating Devised Theatre and Performance.

Gerald Paul Artist-in-Residence

Ethnomusicology and Theatre: University of Indiana – Bloomington, IN.

- Class created and taught: Topics in Creating Devised Theatre and Performance.

**PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

**Teachers College, Columbia University**, New York, NY

Masters of Arts - Cognitive Studies in Education

Focus of Research: STEAM Integration

**Sarah Lawrence College**, Bronxville, NY

Masters of Fine Arts

Focus: Directing and Social Outreach

**Barnard College, Columbia University**, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts

Major: Theatre (Directing Concentrate) and Minor: Political Philosophy

**ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

- Anti-Racist Theatre: A Foundational Course with Nicole Brewer
- Cultural Equity Learning Community (CELC)
- Frantic Assembly International Summer Training
- Shakespeare and Trauma with Stephan Wolfert of DE-CRUIT®

(\*) World Premiere



- The Alan Alda Learning Center for Communicating Science
- Teaching Artist Project Training through Community Word Project
- Mental Health First Aid Certified through The National Council For Behavioral Health

#### **PUBLICATIONS: CHAPTERS**

- Levy, A. (2019). *The Pedagogy of Co-Directing*. Playwrights Canada Press.
- Goldstein, T.R. & Levy, A. (2017). *The Constricted Muse: Acting and Creativity*. *Cambridge Handbook of Creativity Across Domains*, J. Kaufman, V. Glaveanu & J. Baer, Eds. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

#### **PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

- Levy, A. (2019). "Approaching Analogue Topics with Digital Support: Using Skype to Teach the Staged Reading." *Incite/Insight*. American Alliance for Theatre and Education.
- Levy A (2017). Review of "The Art of Rehearsal: Conversations with Contemporary Theatre-Makers" SDC Journal. Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

#### **NON ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

- Levy, A. (2022). "Step One, Collaborate: Emerson Stage Plans a Season." HowlRound Theatre Commons. <https://howlround.com/step-one-collaborate-emerson-stage-plans-season>
- Levy A (2015) "What I Packed." SDC Journal. Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.
- Levy A (2015). "Peer-to-Peer Learning and Student Leadership." Urban Arts Partnership. <http://blog.urbanarts.org/peer-to-peer-learning-and-student-leadership/>
- Levy A (2014). "Kinesthetic Skills and Emotional Resilience: Some Observations from the Classroom." Urban Arts Partnership. <http://www.urbanarts.org/kinesthetic-skill-and-emotional-resilience-some-observations-from-the-classroom>

#### **IN PREP**

- Levy, A. (In Prep). "Performing the Lecture: Lecture as a Play Structure vs. Pedagogy."

#### **ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

- Invited Participant - Theatre Communications Group National Conference
- Invited Participant – Pilot Berkshire Leadership Summit
- Panelist – Directors Lab North – International Collaboration
- Presenter – SETC – Realism is Not the Default; Approaching Nonrealism
- Presenter – SETC - Creating and Developing a Solo Show
- Presenter – SETC – Theatre Devising Boot camp
- Panelist – SETC – Trends in MFA Directing Programs
- Panelist - International Theatre Conference on Directing and Authorship in Western Drama
- Attendee - Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) Conference