

A. G. LEVY

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POSITIONS HELD

Assistant Professor, The University of Alabama (August 2016 --)

Head of MFA Directing and Stage Management Programs

Theatre and Dance Department

- Created, managed and implemented curriculum and syllabi for the MFA Graduate Directing Program, the MFA Graduate Stage Management Program and the Undergraduate Stage Management Program
- Direct between one - two shows per academic year and full participation in the season selection process
- Classes created and taught: Graduate Directing Seminar, Undergraduate Directing, and Stage Management.

Lecturer and Adjunct Professor, Pace University (2009 -- 2016)

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

Adjunct Professor, Westchester Community College (2007 --2010)

Theatre Department

- Introduce students to a variety of acting techniques, concepts, master teachers and improvisation work. Select class scene work to introduce student to some of the highlights of American Drama.
- Advised students on four-year theatre programs in the metropolitan area for matriculation.
- Classes created and taught: Acting I, Acting for the Non-Major.

EDUCATION AND GUEST TEACHING

The CONNECT Program (September, 2015)

The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art

- Class Taught: Communication skills workshop for STEM undergraduate students

In.F.o.Ma.T International Festival of Making Theater (June - July, 2014)
Theatre of Change - Athens, Greece

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

Gerald Paul Artist-in-Residence (January, 2012)
Ethnomusicology and Theatre: University of Indiana – Bloomington, IN.

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

PRODUCING AND CURATION (SELECTED)

Founding Member Director

The World Wide Lab (WWL)

2010 –

The World Wide Lab is an international directors' collective that experiments with different models of co-directing.

Resident Artistic Director

Northwoods Theatre Company – Conover, WI

2005 - 2015

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

Co-Founder and Producing Artistic Director

warner | shaw - New York, NY

2010 – 2014

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

Co-Founder, Co-Curator and Co-Host

SWEET: Actors Reading Writers – New York, NY

2009 – 2014

Sweet! Actors Reading Writers is a monthly literary event where actors perform fiction, non-fiction and poetry, and writers have their work interpreted performed by actors. Writers featured included Eileen Myles, Lev Grossman, Teddy Wayne, and Melissa Febos.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

Teaching Artist – Every Day Arts in Special Education (EASE)

Urban Arts Partnership – 2007 - 2015

Every Day Arts in Special Education (EASE) is a 5-year professional development project that uses art activities to improve students' communication, socialization, behavioral, academic and arts skills. EASE is funded by an Investing in Innovation (i3) award from the US Department of Education.

- Training teacher in EASE methodology and curriculum through ongoing professional development, both in the classroom and through workshops.
- Creating and editing curriculum for the EASE program.
- Overseeing school sites in District 75 and assisting in data collection.

Teaching Artist — New York City Student Shakespeare Festival (NYCSSF)
Creative Arts Team (CAT) — 2010-2012, 2016

Founded on the belief that Shakespeare is best learned in the act of performing his words, CAT's NYCSSF has provided young people and teachers with a chance to create their own work of original theatre using Shakespeare's text and to perform their work on an off-Broadway stage.

- In-class mentoring of participating classroom teachers and their students in creating original pieces of theatre, inspired by a Shakespearean themes, characters, or collections of scenes.
- Facilitate three professional development-training workshops.
- Assist in coordinating final festival of performance.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Masters of Arts

Cognitive Studies in Education

Focus of Research: STEAM Integration

Thesis: Using Theatre to increase motivation for STEM subjects in college populations

Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY

Masters of Fine Arts

Focus: Directing and Social Outreach

Thesis: Caryl Churchill and the Staging of Feminine Desire

Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts

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

Thesis: Theatre as a Tool of Non-Violent Protest

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Shakespeare and Trauma with Stephan Wolfert of DE-CRUIT®
 - A training program to reintegrate military Veterans using classical actor training.
- The Alan Alda Learning Center for Communicating Science
 - A multidisciplinary approach to science communication using theatre and improvisation with STEM PhD candidates.
- Teaching Artist Project Training through Community Word Project
 - A comprehensive training and internship program designed to prepare practicing artists to bring their craft to the classroom.

PUBLICATIONS/ IN PREP

- Levy, A. (In Prep). “Performing the Lecture: Lecture as a Play Structure vs. Pedagogy.”
- Levy, A. (In Prep). “Acknowledging Demeter: The Persephone Myth in the age of #Metoo.”
- 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. (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.
- Levy A (2017). Review of “The Art of Rehearsal: Conversations with Contemporary Theatre-Makers” *SDC Journal*. Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.
- 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 Skill 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>
- Levy A (2014). “Using Theatre to Think About Process vs. Product.” LearnNow.org [http:// learnnow.org/topics/arts/using-theatre-to-think-about-process-vs-product](http://learnnow.org/topics/arts/using-theatre-to-think-about-process-vs-product)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Participant – Pilot Berkshire Leadership Summit
- Panelist – Directors Lab North – International Collaboration
- Presenter – SETC – Realism is Not the default; Approaching Non-realism
- 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

As a theatre-maker, my work revolves around mythology, scientific breakthroughs, and historical turning points. As a director, I am drawn to works that are theme driven with a healthy dose of spectacle and that take risks with language. My work with new plays focuses on finding the inherent physical vocabulary of the story and my work with established scripts involves finding the mythological, historical and scientific elements in the text itself.

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>
Between Two Breaths (*)	Co-Director	Ensemble Created	Superior Theatre Festival - Thunder Bay, ON

Who gets to call a place home? In this community-generated piece, neighbors explore inclusion and exclusion through 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

<u>Production</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Playwright</u>	<u>Theatre/Company</u>
Looking Up (*)	Director	Carla Cantrell	Edinburgh Festival Fringe - Scotland

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. Director	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.

ORIGINAL WORK - warner | shaw

warner | shaw creates theatre inspired by the fragments of collective narrative found in the changing of the seasons, the cycles of the moon, stories of gods and goddesses and famous first encounters. Exploring the extremes of every small story, we create theatre that resonates on both intimately personal and universally epic scales.

(*) World Premiere

<u>Production</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Playwright</u>	<u>Theatre/Company</u>
TREE ARMY: the CCC Project	Director/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	Director/Script Architect	Ensemble Created	Space on White & the Tank - NYC CATNIP Divadlo - Prague
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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	Director/Script Architect	Ensemble Created	Access Theatre & Dixon Place - NYC Rose Firebay Theatre - Bloomington, IN
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Exploring personal mythology and national identity, this piece about the history of Latvia is told through an American woman 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

<u>Production</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Playwright</u>	<u>Theatre/Company</u>
Nurse! (Off-Broadway) (*)	Director	Lisa Hayes	The José Quintero Theatre (off Broadway) Charm City Fringe Festival & others venues

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

An Inconvenient Poop (*)	Director/Co-Creator	Shawn Shafner	New York International Fringe Festival Flying Solo Festival & other venues
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As the uptight Dr. Oscar von Shtein begins his thrilling FRED Talk on the Classics, he is interrupted by the mysterious Puru. From communal Roman toilets to the Queen who banished the bowel movement, The Puru unearths the origins of our dis-ease 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
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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.

Eyes, Stones (*)	Director/Co-Adaptor	Elana Bell	The Green Building Westfield State University & other venues
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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 examines the complexity of their relationships to the land—as Biblical homeland, Zionist dream, modern state, and occupied territory.

(*) World Premiere

NEW YORK PRODUCTION CREDITS (selected)

<u>Production</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Playwright</u>	<u>Theatre/Company</u>
<i>Bernard Malamud's</i> The Jewbird	Director	Ensemble Created	Sanford Meisner Theatre & Untitled Theater co #61's

The tension between the old world and the new world collide in this modern fable, an adaptation of Bernard Malamud's short story. Originally created with the Northwoods Theatre Company, after it's first NY run, the production was invited to be part of Untitled Theater co #61's Festival of Jewish Theatre and Ideas.

The Skriker	Director	Caryl Churchill	HERE Arts Center
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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.

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

The B File	Director	Deborah Levy	78th Street Theatre Lab
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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.

Pumpkins for Smallpox (*)	Director	Catherine Gillet	Vital Theatre
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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.

Circumcise Me (*)	Associate Director (Sam Gold, Director)	Yisrael Campbell	Bleecker Street Theatre
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In this one-man show, adapted from the author's stand up, Campbell attempt to discover if he will ever truly belong in and to his adopted tribe.

REGIONAL CREDITS - Northwoods Theatre Company

The Northwood Theatre Company is an ensemble group dedicated to creating and developing physically based new work that is relevant to the Jewish experience for an all-ages audience through an open-rehearsal process. During its ten year run, where Levy served as the producing artistic director, NTC created work by adapting short stories and poetry, devising, and commissioning new work.

<u>Production</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Playwright</u>	<u>Theatre/Company</u>
AMANUENSIS (*)	Director	Lauren Feldman	NTC

For this commissioned piece, artfully told through the eyes of three sisters over the course of the seven years that their father spent writing *Paradise Lost*, AMANUENSIS, imagines the poet Milton's relationship to his kept-barely-literate daughters while he was blind and outcast.

(*) World Premiere

Do We How? (*) **Director** **Deanna Neil** **NTC**

For this commissioned piece, exploring personal responsibility in the larger conversation of environmental impact, a family gets stuck while hiking in the desert.

Sharon Is My Name (*) **Director** **Daniel Kelley** **NTC**

For this commissioned piece, adapted from Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, a precocious outcast tries desperately to make a case for the heroic actions of Shylock and, in the end, is forced to confront her own confusion of justice vs. mercy. The play asks: Why do we return to the things that hurt us?

The Last Jew of Kabul (*) **Director** **Mark Goldsmith** **NTC**

For this commissioned piece, exploring competition and stubbornness within a vanishing community, two men get the wrong idea about tradition and prioritize winning over surviving.

Higgs/Job (*) **Director** **Ensemble Created** **NTC**

This devised piece uses the discovery of the Higgs Boson and the trials of the biblical Job to explore how we attempt to make order out of chaos.

The Underwater Palace (*) **Director/Adaptor** **Ensemble Created** **NTC**

This highly physical adaptation of the Kabbalistic folktale is an allegorical take on the exquisite beauty of the quest for knowledge.

REGIONAL CREDITS - Other

<u>Production</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Playwright</u>	<u>Theatre/Company</u>
Breakfast At Tiffany's	Director/Adaptor	George Axelrod	The Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center

This adaptation of the original screenplay explored the many sides of Holly Golightly and ultimately asked the questions: What does it mean to be Holly Golightly and who gets to be Holly Golightly?

Is My Verse Alive?	Director	Steve Burch	The Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center
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This play uses the letters and poems of Emily Dickinson and her ongoing correspondence with the writer and abolitionist Thomas Wentworth Higginson to tell the story of how Emily's poems ultimately found their way into the world.

Antony and Cleopatra	Director	Shakespeare	The Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center
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What does the story of Egypt and Rome have to say in Western Alabama? Rebellion, competition, and pride. Roll Tide!

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner	Assistant Director (Tracy Young, Director)	Luis Alfaro	The Oregon Shakespeare Festival
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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)

The Man in the Sukkah (*)	Director	Deborah Yarchun	The Jewish Plays Project
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What does it mean to take someone into your home? 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

(*) World Premiere

questing for identity.

Good Lonely People (*) **Director** **Carol Carpenter** **Maieutic Theatre Works**

On election night, the only white Democratic family in a conservative town holds a secret Obama party. But when their gay daughter arrives from the city for the celebration, they discover they are split on a California issue that hits close to the core, raising questions about their own sense of "family."

UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC THEATRE (selected)

<u>Production</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Playwright</u>	<u>Theatre/Company</u>
Sense & Sensibility	Director	Kate Hamil (adaptation)	Department of Theatre and Dance (UA)
Vinegar Tom	Director	Caryl Churchill	Department of Theatre and Dance (UA)
Caucasian Chalk Circle	Director	Bertolt Brecht	Department of Theatre and Dance (UA)
The Philadelphia Story	Director	Philip Barry	Department of Theatre and Dance (UA)
Waiting for Lefty	Director	Clifford Odets	In.F.o.Ma.T International Festival
Fat Men in Skirts	Director	Nicky Silver	PACE School of Performing Arts
The Higgs Boson Project (*)	Director/Script Architect	Ensemble Created	PACE School of Performing Arts
Cloud 9	Director	Caryl Churchill	PACE School of Performing Arts

RESIDENCIES AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 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
- 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
- Playwriting Judge – Princess Grace Fellowship
- Founding and Contributing Member - The World Wide Lab (WWLab)

GRANTS AND PRIZES

- TCG Global Connections Grant Recipients (WWL)
- The Alabama Humanities Foundation of the National Endowment for the Humanities - Grant Recipients (twice)
- 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

REFERENCES

Anne Cattaneo

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Lauren Feldman

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