



# 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)

### 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

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

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; and, at Two River, I have also led workshops for adults in Adaptation, Text Analysis, and Directorial Approaches to 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 Artistic Director of the Yale Summer Cabaret, an independent, student-run non-profit theater with a 40-year history where I and my collaborators programmed and produced 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