

SARA HOLDREN DIRECTOR | WRITER | TEACHER



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I am a director, writer, and teacher originally from Charlottesville, Virginia. I like to make *big* plays — expansive stories characterized by a collaborative 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 both intellectual rigor and physical ferocity, informed irreverence, and a spirit of joy, collaboration, and play.

DIRECTING (selected)

Twelfth Night
The Merchant of Venice
The Winter's Tale
Macbeth
The Comedy of Errors
The Diary of One Who Vanished
MIDSUMMER
Orlando
MIDSUMMER

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
Leos Janacek
adpt. Sara Holdren & Rachel Carpman
Virginia Woolf, adpt. Sarah Ruhl
adpt. Sara Holdren & Rachel Carpman from
Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night Dream* & other texts
Emily Zemba
Ryan Campbell
Mikhail Bulgakov, adpt. Edward Kemp
William Shakespeare, adpt. Sara Holdren
Leonid Andreyev, adpt. Sara Holdren

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
Tiltyard
Yale Summer Cabaret
Yale Summer Cabaret

Yale School of Drama
Yale Cabaret
Yale School of Drama
Yale School of Drama
Live Arts / Charlottesville, VA

ASSISTANT DIRECTING

Carmen
Love's Labour's Lost
Macbeth
A Streetcar Named Desire

dir. Louisa Proske
dir. Kathleen Marshall
dir. Brian Kulick
dir. Mark Rucker

Heartbeat Opera, NYC
The Old Globe, San Diego, CA
The Old Globe, San Diego, CA
Yale Repertory Theater / New Haven, CT

TEACHING

Shakespeare Academy @ Stratford (Stratford, CT) — I teach text and ensemble workshops at SA@S, where I'm currently Artistic Director.
The New School Graduate Acting Program (NYC) — Taught acting based in the late-Stanislavsky technique of Analysis Through Action.
Primary Stages, Einhorn School of Performing Arts (NYC) — Taught three semesters of Analysis Through Action at ESPA.
American Shakespeare Center (Staunton, VA) — Adapted and directed *Romeo & Juliet* for an ensemble of young actors and led workshops.
Live Arts (Charlottesville, VA) — Adapted and directed *Twelfth Night* for young actors; 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, and Cornell, as well as at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., and conferences with the American Theatre Critics Association and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR — [Shakespeare Academy @ Stratford, Stratford, CT](#)

- I currently serve as the AD of this 6-week-long residential summer intensive in Shakespeare and ensemble training for college-age actors.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CO-FOUNDER — [Tiltyard, NYC](#)

- In the summer of 2016 I co-founded Tiltyard, a Brooklyn-based theater company devoted 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