

# M E L I S S A F I R L I T

Director, Educator & Producer

Associate Member SDC

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## EDUCATION

2009-2012 **Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts**

MFA in Directing

1999-2003 **University of Hartford, The Hartt School**

BA Theatre, Music Minor West Hartford

## TRAINING

Frantic Assembly Advanced Training, London, England, Fall 2019

St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy, Program Intensive, St. Petersburg, Russia Spring 2004

Royal Shakespeare Company, Program Intensive Stratford, England Fall 2003 and Fall 2001

Institute of Integrative Nutrition, Holistic Health Counselor, New York, NY 2006

National Theater Institute @ The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Semester Intensive Waterford, CT 2001

## DIRECTING WORK

### INTERNATIONAL

*Misterman*

Enda Walsh

Ireland National Tour

Ireland

*Marrow*

Brian Quirk

Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Scotland

### DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

*Jekyll & Hyde*

Wildhorn & Bricusse

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

*Best Foot Forward\**

Lojo Simon

Creede Repertory Theatre

Creede, CO

*With A Song in My Fists\**

Michael, Brown & Maimone

Theatre Row

New York, NY

*Seeds of Change\**

Lojo Simon

Creede Repertory Theatre

Creede, CO

*Albert Porter, Boy Explorer\**

Lojo Simon

Creede Repertory Theatre

Creede, CO

*Aida*

Elton John & Tim Rice

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

*The Trojan Women (Remix)*

Charles Mee

Fort Lewis College

Durango, CO

*The Secret Garden*

Marsha Norman & Lucy Simon

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

*25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County...*

Finn & Sheinkin

The Princeton Festival

Princeton, NJ

*Futurity*

The Lisps

The Zipper Factory

New York, NY

*Under Construction*

Charles Mee

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ

### NEW YORK

*Marrow*

Brian Quirk

Episcopal Actors' Guild

New York, NY

*Goodbody\**

J.C. Ernst

59 East 59th

New York, NY

*I'm Just Fine\**

Nina Mozes

Fringe NYC

New York, NY

*Bubba\**

Michael Thomas Walker

Fringe NYC, United Solo

New York, NY

*Bunting or Flags\**

Frazer Flintman

New Light Theater Project

New York, NY

*Steve Got Raped\**

Sam Gooley

Fringe NYC

New York, NY

*The Squizzinator*

Robert Kerr

Project Y Theatre

New York, NY

*Third Ward Scandal*

Dano Madden

Project Y Theatre

New York, NY

*Annabel Lee\**

Don Nigro

Apothecary Theatre Company

New York, NY

*Someone To Buy It\**

Martyna Majok

EST's Youngblood

New York, NY

*A Nasty Tempered Man\**

Carolyn Moses

DreamUp Festival

New York, NY

*The Death of Evie Avery\**

Sara Farrington

Fringe NYC

New York, NY

*A Nasty Story\**

Sara Farrington

Fringe NYC

New York, NY

*By The Light Of The Silvery Moon\**

Sara Farrington

MidTown Int'l Theater Festival

New York, NY

*The Rise and Fall of Miles and Milo\**

Sara Farrington

Fringe NYC

New York, NY

*Genius Andronicus\**

Lynda Green

Manhattan Theatre Source

New York, NY

\*Denotes World Premiere

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**REGIONAL PLAYS**

<i>5 Times in One Night</i>	Chiara Atik	Mile Square Theatre	Hoboken, NJ
<i>Men on Boats</i>	Jaclyn Backhaus	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>Conspiracy Theory G*</i>	Jennifer Faletto	Denver Center Performing Arts	Denver, CO
<i>Proof</i>	David Auburn	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>The Texas Homecoming Revolution of 1995*</i>	Jennifer Faletto	Best Medicine Repertory	Washington, D.C.
<i>Circle Mirror Transformation</i>	Annie Baker	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>Tuna Christmas</i>	Williams, Sears, Howard	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>Buyer &amp; Cellar</i>	Jonathan Tollins	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>Dracula</i>	Jim Helsing	Mile Square Theatre	Hoboken, NJ
<i>A Few Good Men</i>	Aaron Sorkin	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>Moon Over Buffalo</i>	Ken Ludwig	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>The Pillowman</i>	Martin McDonagh	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>A Picasso</i>	Jeffrey Hatcher	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>Misterman</i>	Enda Walsh	The Dairy Center	Boulder, CO
<i>Red</i>	John Logan	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>SIDD*</i>	Michael Aguirre	New Light Theater Project	Chicago, IL

**REGIONAL MUSICALS**

<i>West Side Story</i>	Laurents, Bernstein, Sondheim	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>Always...Patsy Cline</i>	Ted Swindley	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>A Funny Thing Happened...Forum</i>	Sondheim, Shevelove, Gelbart	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO

**UNIVERSITY**

<i>Stop Kiss</i>	Diana Son	Wagner College	Staten Island, NY
<i>Fabulation, Or The Re-Education of Undine</i>	Lynn Nottage	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Bubba</i>	Michael Thomas Walker	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Machinal</i>	Sophie Treadwell	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>boom</i>	Peter Sinn Nachtrieb	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Any Place But Here</i>	Caridad Svich	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Lone Star</i>	James McLure	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Lost Persons*</i>	Joshua Levine	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Three Patriotic Acts*</i>	Nina Louise Morrison	Columbia University	New York, NY
<i>Fries with That?*</i>	Mike Duffy	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Solitary*</i>	Alex Gherardi	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ

**STAGED READINGS**

<i>Domestic Animals</i>	Jennnifer Faletto	Denver Center Performing Arts	Denver, CO
<i>Christmas Card</i>	Jennifer Faletto	Denver Center Performing Arts	Denver, CO
<i>After Owen</i>	Jay Koepke	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>See in the Dark</i>	Heidi Kraay	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>The Adventure Club</i>	Jennifer Faletto	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>The Juniper Tree</i>	Brian Quirk	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>Canfield Drive</i>	Kristen Adele Calhoun & Michael Thomas Walker	TCG Conference	St. Louis, MO
<i>Canfield Drive</i>	Kristen Adele Calhoun & Michael Thomas Walker	Denver Center Performing Arts	Denver, CO
<i>Shiny Objects</i>	Jennifer Faletto	Amphibian Stage Productions	Fort Worth, TX
<i>How to Hide Your Monster</i>	Heidi Kraay	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>The Empty Orchestra</i>	Ben Verschoor	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>In Search of...Sasquatch</i>	Robert Kerr	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO

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<i>Mary/Hunter</i>	Brian Quirk	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>Not Famous Failing Falling</i>	Dano Madden	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>I'm Right Here</i>	John R. Hagan	Voices Inside/Out	New York, NY
<i>Mr. Black</i>	Greg Paul	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>Snow</i>	Ashley Griffin	Talent on Tap	New York, NY
<i>Oakwoods</i>	Dano Madden	Project Y Theatre	New York, NY
<i>Bad Husband</i>	Dano Madden	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>Wetiko</i>	Greg Paul	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>Heathens</i>	Heidi Kraay	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>Oakwoods</i>	Dano Madden	Artful Conspirators	New York, NY
<i>The Way of Water</i>	Caridad Svich	Mile Square Theatre	Hoboken, NJ
<i>That Stays There</i>	Sara Farrington	The Bushwick Starr	Brooklyn, NY
<i>Thanksgiving</i>	Sara Farrington	Brooklyn College	Brooklyn, NY

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Leah C. Gardiner	Rutgers Theatre Company	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Holiday Jubilee</i>	Marshall Jones	Crossroads Theatre	New Brunswick, NJ

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Artistic Director**                      Resolve Productions                      New York, NY                      2014-Present

Develop work that is challenging, exciting and maintains the collaborative mission of the company.  
 Produced and Directed *Marrow* by Brian Quirk at the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.  
 Coordinated Irish National Tour of 4 venues.  
 Handled travel arrangements for the company to include flights, transportation and housing.  
 Communicated with venues in regards to the show's production needs.  
 Collaborated on press and interview copy and delivery while touring.  
 Produced *Misterman* as headliner for the 2015 Boulder Arts Festival.  
 Facilitated two different successful crowdsourcing campaigns.  
 Led team in set design continuity and aesthetic. Sourced found objects and pieces to build a resourceful world that the play could take place in.

**Artistic Director**                      Thingamajig Playwrights Festival                      Pagosa Springs, CO                      2015- Present

Organize, produce and direct the festival.  
 Compose promotional press material and social media.  
 Secure and coordinate the residency for two professional playwrights.  
 Prepare day to day calendar for festival and all participants.  
 Direct two full length staged readings of guest playwrights for the weeklong festival.  
 Responsible for casting and hiring production team for festival.  
 Responsible for screening the submissions and picking the appropriate plays for the theatre's audience.  
 Design programs for the week's events.  
 Lead post show talkbacks with the audience, playwrights and teams.  
 Developed a Youth Playwrights Festival for aspiring playwrights in the area. This culminated in a professional staged reading of their work.

**Program Director**                      The College of St. Rose Summer Youth Academy Albany, NY                      2012-2019

Run a Broadway Bootcamp program.  
 Re-focused the Mission statement over 8 years, shifting the program into a training intensive for youth ages 12-18.  
 Training includes: dancing, singing, acting, playwriting, stage combat, scene study, improvisation, songwriting, audition technique, ensemble building and performance skills.  
 Coordinate the calendar for the 3 week program.

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Locate and retain teaching artists that challenge and support the students and the mission of the program.  
Choreographer and Director for all performances.

<b>Master Teaching Artist</b>	McCarter Theatre Center	Princeton, NJ	2011-2018
Lead 2 to 12 week classes focused in Musical Theatre, Audition Technique, Acting Styles, Creating a Character, Cabaret, Playmakers. Every class culminated in a performance. Responsible for expanding the students' skill set and their understanding of the material being presented. Foster students' ownership of their work and themselves.			
<b>Consultant</b>	Thingamajig Theatre Company	Pagosa Springs, CO	2015-Present
Collaborate on casting winter and summer seasons with the Artistic Director. Ensure hired artistic and production staff is an appropriate fit for the company. Lead Talkbacks after Opening night performances. Collaborate with Artistic Director on show selection for upcoming seasons. Set up New York audition call and dance callback for Summer Seasons 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.			
<b>Co-Artistic Director</b>	Fine Feathered Friends	New York, NY	2007-2012
Produced and Directed new plays with playwright co-artistic director. Organized production calendar: including full scale productions, workshops, readings, company meetings and events. Led fundraising events for the company to have successful seasons. Produced 8 different pieces at various venues and festivals in the Northeast. In charge of travel arrangements when going out of town for residencies or performances.			
<b>Producer</b>	Jameson Studio Theatre, Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ	2010-2011
Managed the production calendar for 14 shows in the 2010-2011 season. Ran weekly meetings for all shows that were in various stages of production; pre production, production, post mortems. Organized production teams for all shows. Secured rehearsal spaces for each production. Ensured the Jameson Theatre was maintained and ready for the intense schedule. Ran tech schedules, coordinated with stage management teams. Approved and composed promotional press material and social media. Maintained show budgets and theatre's yearly fiscal budget.			
<b>Teaching Artist</b>	Devising Workshop	National Theater Institute, CT	2020
<b>Guest Professor</b>	Directing Workshop	Montevallo, Birmingham, AL	2019, 2015
<b>Teaching Artist</b>	Directing Workshop	National Theater Institute, CT	2019
<b>Guest Professor</b>	Directing Workshop	Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO	2016, 2015
<b>Teaching Artist</b>	Theater Appreciation	Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ	2012
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	Intro to Theatre	Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ	2011
<b>House Manager</b>	Jameson Studio Theater	Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ	2009-2010
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Plays	New York, NY	2007-Present
<b>Company Manager</b>	Tomorrow Mourning Prod.	New York, NY	2004-2006
<b>Intern</b>	National Theater Institute	Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Waterford, CT	2003-2004

## OUTREACH

<b>Choreographer and Movement Director</b>	Princeton Public Schools	Princeton, NJ	2012-2016
Choreographed opening and closing numbers along with any movement needs for the 5th grade Shakespeare program. Rotated among 3-5 different schools each semester, teaching 3-6 classes per day.			
<b>Master Teaching Artist &amp; Director</b>	Dunn Middle School	Trenton, NJ	2014
Led a semester long residency within the music class			

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Along with playwright Jacqueline Goldfinger, interviewed students to share with us stories on who they were, where they live and what they hope to be, which we developed into *Our America* and included text, song and dance.

Incorporated the school band and choir, involving over 120 students.

Served as director, teacher and choreographer.

Developed the semester curriculum

Organized travel for students and their families to attend a special performance at the prestigious McCarter Theatre Center.

**Master Teaching Artist**

Dunn Middle School

Trenton, NJ

2011-2013

Led an after school Drama program.

Taught various workshops in acting, singing, dancing, scene study, poetry, playwriting, improvisation.

Teaching focused on empowering and strengthening the students as artists and more importantly, as people.

**Master Classes**

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, Co

2014-Present

Conducted behind the scenes workshops with the theatre’s patron organization “Friends of the Theatre”

Each workshop and style was based upon the show that was being presented. Ex. When we did *Circle Mirror Transformation* we did a workshop on all the theatre games that are played in the play.

**RESIDENCIES**

Denver Center Performing Arts

Denver, CO

2020

Helena Walsh Voice Studio

Dublin, Ireland

2017

West Kortright Center

East Meredith, NY

2017

National Theater Institute, Eugene O’Neill Theater Center

Waterford, CT

2015

The Dragon’s Egg

Mystic, CT

2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2016

The FAR Space Grant, The Field

New York, NY

2006

Looking Glass Theatre

New York, NY

2007

**HONORS/AWARDS**

Zelda Finchlander Award

Nominee

SDCF

Alan Schneider Director Award

Nominee

Theatre Communications Group

Best Play

*Proof*

Broadway World Denver

Best Small Ensemble of a Play

*Proof*

Broadway World Denver

Best Supporting Actress in a Play

*Proof*

Broadway World Denver

Best Director

*Red*

Broadway World Denver

Best Dramatic Play

*Red*

Broadway World Denver

Best Small Ensemble

*Red*

Broadway World Denver

Best Performance of a Solo Show

*BUBBA*

Planet Connections

Best Director of a Solo Show

*BUBBA*

Planet Connections

Best Variety Show

*BUBBA*

United Solo Festival

Philip J. Levin Scholar

Scholarship Recipient

2009, 2010, 2011

Best Direction, Best Overall Production

*A Nasty Story*

OffOffOffOnline.com

Top Ten FringeNYC shows to See

*A Nasty Story*

The New York Sun

Outstanding Overall Solo Show

*By Light Silvery Moon*

MidTown Intl Festival